



Rolling Through Time

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Director and Curator

Official Newsletter of:

National Museum of Roller Skating

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[@rollersk8museum](https://twitter.com/rollersk8museum)

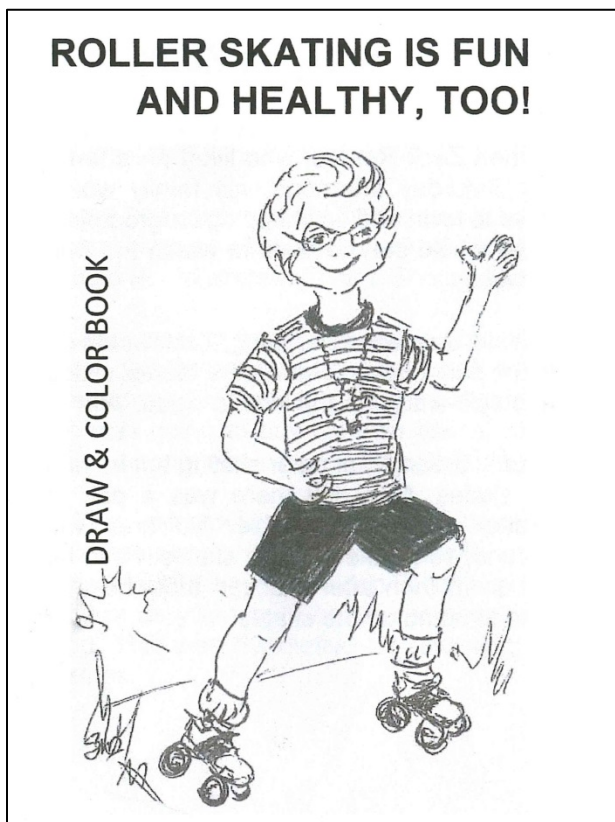
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Who We Are

The National Museum of Roller Skating is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located in Lincoln, Nebraska and the only dedicated roller skating museum in the world. We are committed to the preservation of the history of roller skating. With over 50 display cases, the museum educates the public on all aspects of roller skating, which dates back to the first patented skate from 1819.

Curator's Corner

Roller Skating Coloring Book Distributed Locally



Local roller skating enthusiast Jack Schubert has created and is distributing a roller skating themed coloring book. With the help of his son, Schubert hopes to reach as many kids as possible.

The goal of his small coloring and drawing book is to boost interest in roller skating at a local level. Inside there are step by step instructions on how to draw your own boy or girl on roller skates. After printing off enough Schubert plans to give some copies to the museum to help distribute among the youth of Lincoln, NE.

Social Media and the Museum

Our Twitter Account: [@rollersk8museum](https://twitter.com/rollersk8museum)

The museum now has 134 Twitter followers. Many of the interested parties are roller derby teams. Domestic teams litter our page. Examples include the Mad Rollin Dolls from Madison, WI to the Vice City Rollers of Miami.

We also have many followers from outside of the United States. Some of our international followers from the United Kingdom include the Haunted City Rollers from Derby and the Jersey Royal Rollers from the Channel Islands. Both the Southern France team Roller Derby Toulon and Association Rouen Roller Derby from Northern France also follow our updates.



When sharing information via social media, we receive the most feedback when posting pictures. The above photograph of an older couple skating generated the most attention on our social media this year to date, both through Twitter and Facebook.

While providing information about our museum is always a top priority on social media, we are also able to follow other groups, teams, and corporations and learn information about other sects of the roller skating industry.

Social media is a give and take instrument used by the museum to further explore and expand the reaches of roller skating to the public as well as to educate the masses on the continued history of our sport. This important and free media outlet only enhances the overall visibility of the museum. Follow us today.

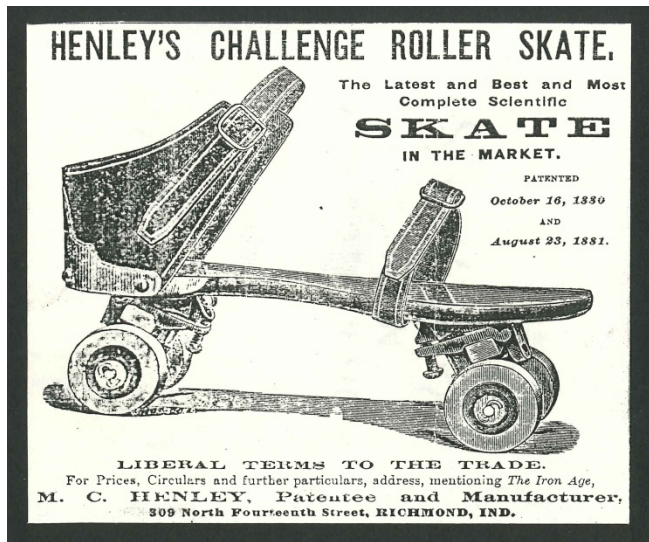
New and Renewing Members

Marie Walker

Featured Story Henley Skate Company

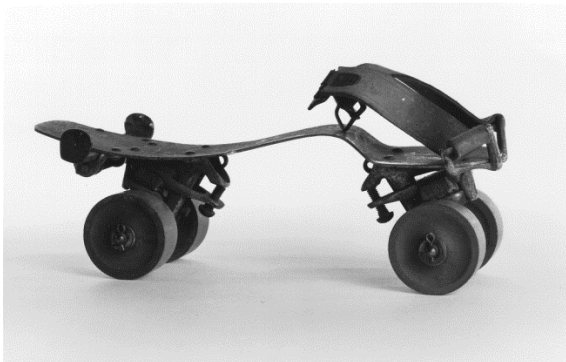
The Henley Skate Company founded in 1881 by Micajah C Henley in Richmond, Indiana made many revolutions to the industry of roller skating. Henley opened his first factory in a barn behind his home at 201 North 14th Street. After multiple relocations due to expansion, the company finally built a large brick building which later became the Indiana Tool Company.

Skate manufacturing became very popular in Richmond with the addition of four other manufacturing companies, mainly Phillips Merchant Company. But by 1886, only the Henley Company was listed in the city directory. And after 1888, the Henley factory had no local competition.



Henley advertisement, 1880s.

Henley began improvements on his skates right away. Three of his main ideas helped to revolutionize roller skate manufacturing. First, he experimented with lighter wheel materials before finally deciding on Turkish boxwood. Importing this type of wood for the wheels, Henley proved to have a more durable and profitable wheel than others on the market.

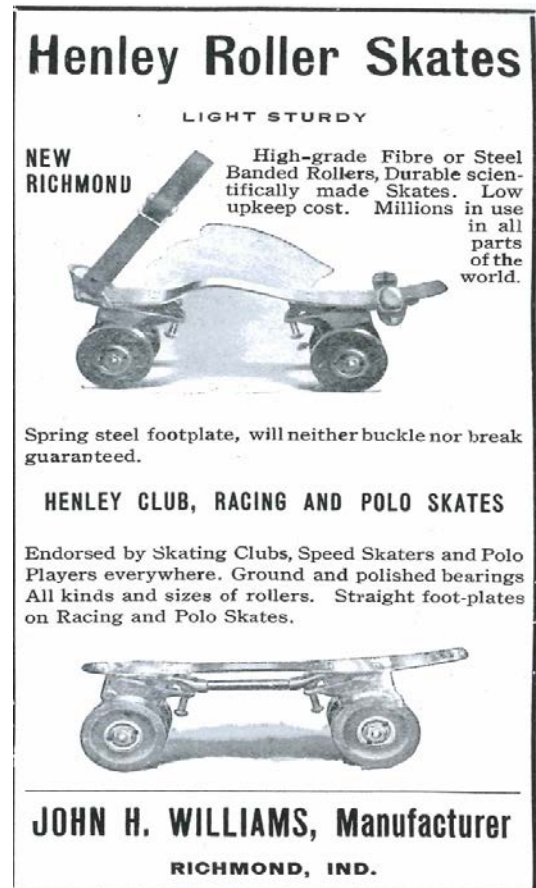


Henley skate, 1880s

Next, Henley replaced the wooden bottoms and straps with metal spring-arched footplates and clamps fastened with a screw, much like the modern "kingbolt". This

enabled the skater to adjust the performance to suit the skater. He gained a patent for this improvement in 1881, a year after its invention. This arched plate is the most easily recognizable feature of a Henley skate.

And finally, Robert Henley, nephew of Micajah, developed a ball bearing skate. The ball bearings were substituted for the Babbitt bearings. This idea came from the safety bicycles that rivaled roller skates for mass popularity in the late 1890s. This revolution catapulted Henley skates over their competition and sales soared to record heights.



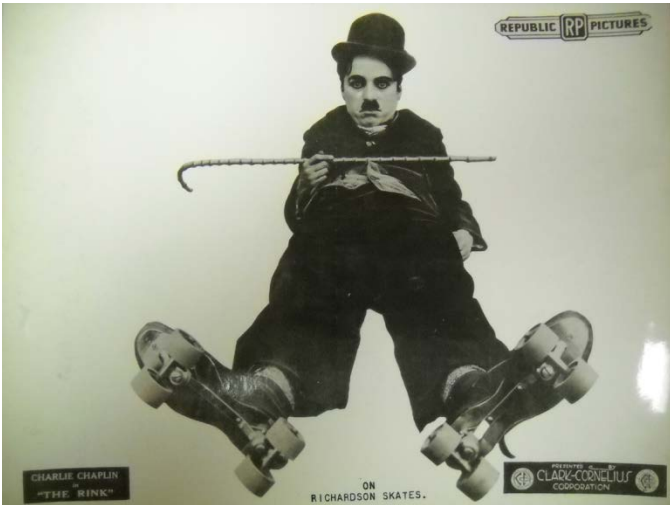
Henley advertisement, 1890s.

When Micajah Henley retired from managing the company in 1915, his brother-in-law John Williams took over the business. Manufacturing of the Henley skates continued until a few years before World War II; no skates were made during the war, as they were not listed as essential products.



Our museum uses a Henley skate in the official logo.

Earliest Roller Skating Movie *The Rink*



Charlie Chaplin played a clumsy waiter by day and a graceful roller skater by night in this 1916 film. While skating one day Chaplin meets a young woman whom later on invites him to her birthday party, a skating engagement. It is here where Chaplin meets another man vying for her attention. A skirmish occurs and Chaplin escapes just in time to avoid the police.

While many moviegoers were surprised by Chaplin's skating aptitude, he previously participated in a skating act where he learned his skill of falling for comic relief.

Museum Raffle

PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE
 Price \$50. Three prizes will be awarded based on total amount sold.
 First ticket drawn receives 5% of total ticket sales.
 Second ticket drawn receives 10% of total ticket sales.
 The third and final ticket drawn receives 35% of the total sales.
 Total prizes are 50% of ticket sales.

Drawing to take place, Wednesday, May 13, 2015, at the RSA International Convention, South Point Hotel, Casino & Spa, Las Vegas, Nevada during the President's Dinner.
 Ticket holders need not be present to win. All proceeds benefit the museum.

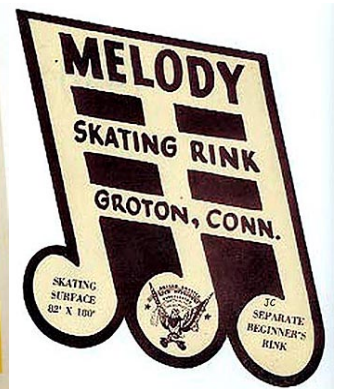
The National Museum of Roller Skating is a publicly supported, charitable organization.

Every year the museum hosts a raffle as the prime fundraiser for the year. This year, as a sales incentive, the raffle will be conducted on a 50/50 split of the proceeds. Three winners will be drawn at random and awarded a split of the total sales. The third place winner receives 5% of the total sales, second place receives 10%, and the grand prize winner receives 35% of the total sales. **The grand prize winner should easily receive over \$5,000.**

To purchase a raffle ticket, please contact the museum. All proceeds go to preserving the museum.

Rink Sticker Collection

The museum has an extensive collection of roller skating rink stickers. Many skating rinks used to produce stickers as both an advertisement and fun way to for skaters to interact with one another, comparing the different location in which they skated. These were even traded as collectibles both informally and formally, under the Universal Roller Skating Sticker Exchange founded in 1948. Each newsletter, we will feature different rink stickers. Here are a few examples of the numerous stickers in the collection and on display at the National Museum of Roller Skating.



Thanks for supporting the museum!

