



Rolling Through Time

By James Vannurden

Director and Curator

Official Newsletter of:

National Museum of Roller Skating

4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506

(402)483-7551 ex. 16

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

Bi-Monthly

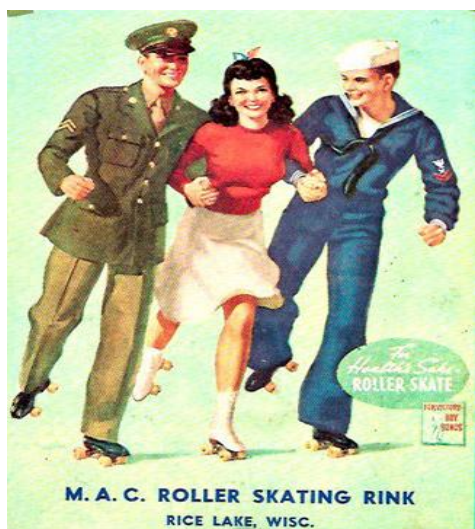
May 1, 2014

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

New Display



Whether on leave or during active duty, many skaters in the military continued their passion while in service to our country. There were multiple spots on both the Pacific and European theaters where roller skating was permitted during World War II. Back home, many American rinks allowed free admittance for military personal. Today roller skating can be found on foreign and domestic military bases.



Dale Campbell in Afghanistan

Derby Donation

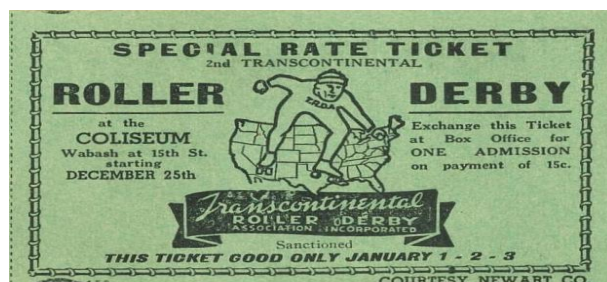
Recently the museum received an email from the son of derby participant Frances Mason. He shared with us some photographs from his mother's time in early roller derby. Most of the photographs were dated from a competition in Louisville in 1935.



The donation consisted of digital photographs like the one above showing Frances with her teammate Clarence. We received ten such team photos from this Louisville event.

While the majority of the focus shifts towards the first Transcontinental Roller Derby hosted in Chicago in 1935, there were addition derbies at various locations in the years to follow before rules shifted to the point system. These events are often times overlooked but also very important. Now the museum better represents the Louisville race.

The remainder of the donation included newspaper articles as well as an image of the ticket below.



Lillian Franks

In a letter accompanying her 1984 donation, Mrs. Nona Iannotta detailed some of the story of her grandmother's time as a roller skating entertainer in the early twentieth century. Lillian Franks and her father Charles teamed up forming the skating duo "The Franks". They became one of the greatest skating acts during the Vaudeville Era.

Hailing from Chicago, they started on the road in 1905. Their early travels turned into a successful tour of both the United States and Canada. They expanded into world exhibitions beginning in 1908. The following is recorded from Iannotta's letter to the museum:

Charles Franks had been in a skating act with a woman named Nellie Reynolds. He later taught Lillian to skate and they became a duo. They travelled with my great-grandmother, Margaret O'Neil Franks, all over the world.



The Franks in 1916

They were an attraction at the opening of a brand new skating rink in San Francisco in 1906 on the very night of the infamous earthquake. They had been staying in a rooming house on the corner of Van Ness and Market Street which was destroyed in the earthquake. They fled across the bay to Alameda by ferry and later returned to claim their

costumes and skates from the rubble. The new skating rink was also destroyed in the earthquake.

"The Franks" appeared in Cuba, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Austria, and all over South America.

While in France, in 1914, they ran out of money and had an engagement to appear in Italy. The landlord let them take one costume each and skates and they left their trunks and Mrs. Franks in France intending to send for her later, when they reached Italy and got an advance for their engagement. During the train ride there, Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated and World War I broke out. They were rerouted to Geneva and could not return to France because the borders were closed.



Charles and Lillian had to leave from Geneva for the United States without Mrs. Franks, who was afraid to travel home alone because of so many ships being sunk by German U-Boats. She remained in France and worked with the Red Cross and she died of Spanish Influenza in Bordeaux, where she was buried.

Upon returning to the states, "The Franks" skated in Vaudeville as long as it lasted. When she (Lillian) skated, she raced on skates, used unicycle skates and stilts 14" high.

New and Renewing Members
Robert Alsted

Rink Photo

Hudson Roller Rink East St. Louis, IL



Museum Raffle

Time has come again for the annual museum raffle. Tickets will be drawn on May 7 during the President's Dinner at the Roller Skating Association Convention in Las Vegas, NV.


**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ROLLER SKATING
2014 RAFFLE**

Please print or type

Purchaser _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone # (____) _____
Email _____
Ticket Seller _____

Ticket Number D-248

PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE
Price \$50. Total of \$10,000 in cash prizes. Grand prize \$5,000!
Drawing to take place, May 7, 2014, at the RSA International Convention, Rio All Suite Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada during the President's Dinner. Ticket holders need not be present to win.
All proceeds benefit the museum.



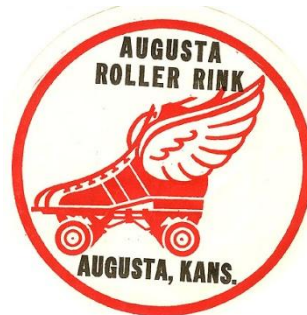
The National Museum of Roller Skating is a publicly supported, charitable organization.
PLEASE RETAIN THIS TICKET STUB.
It must be presented to claim a price. Use the back of this ticket to list the names of those sharing it with you.

Tickets are \$50 each. Cash prizes range from \$100 to the **grand prize of \$5,000.**

All proceeds go to general funding for museum operating expenses. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and a major source of income for the museum. Please consider purchasing a raffle ticket in support of the museum. Please contact the museum by phone at (402) 483-7551 ex. 16 if interested. Thank you.

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!

