



Rolling Through Time

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Official Newsletter of:

National Museum of Roller Skating

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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

Art Show.



"Things Speak: Storied Objects from Lincoln Collections" opened Sept 16 at the Sheldon Art Museum in Lincoln, Nebraska. The exhibition features items that present a story. The exhibit is designed to be a diverse and unique presentation that conveys the importance of storytelling while also showcasing the cultural depth of Lincoln's public collections. Twelve museums are featured:

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia
Frank H. Woods Telephone Pioneer Museum
Great Plains Art Museum
International Quilt Study Center and Museum
The Kruger Collection
LUX Center for the Arts
Museum of American Speed Smith Collection
The National Museum of Roller Skating
Nebraska Capitol Collections
Pioneers Park Nature Center
Sheldon Museum of Art
University of Nebraska State Museum

The opening reception, also on Sept 16, featured well over 100 people who turned out to view the new exhibition. Opening remarks by the Sheldon Museum curator preceded the unveiling. Guests were then welcomed to observe and enjoy the twelve different exhibits on display.



View of Exhibit

Major funding for the "Things Speak" exhibition was provided by Humanities Nebraska and The Nebraska Cultural Endowment.



Skates on Display

We used two skates for the exhibition: a Vineyard A model Winslow wooden skate from the 1880s, and a "Flying Scout" model 101 Chicago metal street skate from the 1930s.

The Samuel Winslow Skate Company manufactured this "Vineyard" line of roller skates. This model, comprised of a wooden plate with wooden wheels, did not yet possess loose ball bearings, which would revolutionize skating just years later. The skater attached his/her own saddle shoes to the skate via leather straps. The "Vineyard" skate was the most popular skate produced during the 1880s. Various models, each with slightly different trucks, were made. This model "Vineyard A" was manufactured in 1881.



Winslow Skate

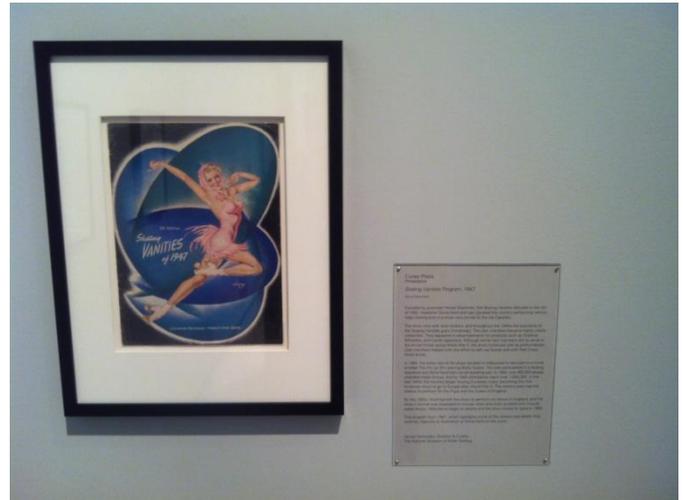
This "Flying Scout" model number 101 below was a boy's street skate from the 1930s. Leather and canvas straps secured the skate to the foot. The adjustable toe-clamp provided a customized fit for this single action skate. The wheels promoted the slogans "Chicago Flying Scout, Choice of Champions" and "Chicago Flying Scout, Speediest." Not limited to the confines of the roller rink, this outdoor model gave a boy the freedom to skate as fast and as far as desired.



Chicago skate

These skates symbolize the two variations of roller skates common during the first 100 years. Wooden skates dominated the industry first in the 1800s before metal plates became the norm.

Another piece includes a 1947 Skating Vanities original program. Featuring show headliner Gloria Nord on the cover, this issue represents the height of the traveling roller skating show during the late 1940s.



Vanities program

Finally, the museum exhibited a common roller skate case. Enveloped with rink stickers, this aluminum skate case represents one of the most popular eras for roller skating during the 1940s and 1950s.



Experiencing the exhibit

The items chosen speak to an era that accepted the idea of a sport and leisure activity that called out to everyone for a good time.

Participating in the exhibition is another way that the National Museum of Roller Skating shares our collection with others and expands our scope to other venues.

"Things Speak: Storied Objects from Lincoln Collections" at the Sheldon Art Museum in Lincoln, Nebraska will run through the 8th of February.

New and Renewing Members

Randy Ray
Cynthia Gates
Cecelia Kelley

Advice from Chicago Roller Skating Company 1940s



10 or 45 degree action?

Because of past experience it is the opinion of the Chicago Roller Skating Company that the 45 degree skates are more durable and therefore, more suitable for general rink use and equipment. Various tests have been made using both 10 degree and 45 degree action skates and accounts kept with respect to the repairs necessary to keep each in operation. It has been proven to our satisfaction that the 45 degree skate is at least one-third less expensive to operate than the 10 degree.

However, skating includes aspects other than the mere opening and closing of the rink doors and the maintenance of floors and equipment. In many instances customers feel more satisfied with the action derived from 10 degree equipment. This is particularly true when the majority of the skaters are primarily interested in skate dances. For this reason, perhaps, the majority of privately owned shoe skate outfits sold through rinks or stores are equipped with 10 degree action skates. There are sections of the country however, in which only 45 degree action skates are used and the results seem comparable. It is therefore, a matter of personal opinion as to the selection of private equipment for each individual skater.

To Parents

Start your children in a sport which they may enjoy and in which they may participate for their entire lifetime. Beginning out of doors on the sidewalks, skating provides easy exercise which develops physical poise and strengthens leg, arm, and back muscles while stimulating deep breathing in fresh air. In later years rink skating offers year 'round activity under ideal surface conditions coupled with good fellowship and accompanied by delightful rhythms in music orchestrated especially for use in conjunction with skating.

To Rink Owners

Keep your skaters happy

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!

