

Support the Roller Skating Museum to preserve history of sport

By James Vannurden

As we turn the calendar over to another new year at the National Museum of Roller Skating we want to thank everyone who supports the museum. First, we are thankful for the current members of our museum; your support is vital. Second, we invite non-members to consider joining our great museum. The National Museum of Roller Skating is the only institution in the world dedicated to the preservation of the sport of roller skating.

As an interested patron in the history of roller skating, we know you will appreciate the benefits museum membership. As a member, you will receive a bi-monthly e-newsletter with updates on museum news along with additional parts of the collection not necessarily seen during a visit. A one year subscription to USA Roller Sports Magazine is included with membership. Also, our website allows members to access past magazines and programs, such as Skate and the National Championship programs, with a special username and password.

Our museum is also recognized at an international level. We consistently see global visitors when they are in our area. Twice now we have hosted a doctoral candidate from Germany whose dissertation compares American and German roller skating and how it has affected each societal structure.

The museum contributes resources for national publications. We regularly write articles for magazines such as Rinksider and Roller Skating Business. Other publications reach out to our museum seeking coverage of our facility for their magazines. Some examples include American Road and Trailer Life. National Public Radio (NPR) even visited the museum for audio footage of one of our tours. Both ABC Sports and ESPN showcased the museum during Nebraska Cornhusker football games.

There are many examples of what the museum can do for you. As a research facility, members can access our archives by direct contact through in person research or by indirect contact through assistance from the curator. We are also a safe place to protect family histories and share them with the public.

One local member of our museum relayed us her interest in roller skating as a theme for Christmas. She wanted to know what items, specifically photographs or postcards, we might have depicting a Christmas scene with Santa Claus. After some research in our archives, we stumbled upon an image from 1875.

Another member wanted some information or pictures from his childhood rink in Massachusetts. After combing our archives we found a few mentions of the Bal-A-Roue rink from Medford. Included in our collection were a few photographs,



The museum building in Lincoln, Neb.

programs from the rink hosting an invitational or other competition, an admission ticket, and a colorful rink sticker.

All of these reasons plus many others demonstrate how important and critical our museum is to the public as a whole. We are the only location around the world to preserve the history of roller skating. Your museum membership helps to ensure that the history of Roller Skating is preserved. So go to our website, www.rollerskating-museum.com and click on the "join" tab

to register online, select your appropriate level, and pay through PayPal. We hope you will continue to support the National Museum of Roller Skating by starting your membership today.

Visit the museum at:
48th and South Streets,
Lincoln, Nebraska
Museum hours: Mon.-Fri., 9-5
Admission: FREE!
www.rollerskatingmuseum.com



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