

ROLLING *along*

By Chester Fried



Long-time roller skating enthusiast Chester Fried is the vice president and a founder of the The National Museum of Roller Skating. We count on him at the Rinksider to help keep readers current.

Roller derby goes Broadway and Lego!

Roller Derby has left the track and hit the stage. Off-Broadway's Atlantic Theater Company's premier of "The Jammer" held a limited engagement Jan. 9-Feb. 22. It is a play about professional roller derby in the 1950s in Brooklyn, N.Y. and tells the story of Jack Lovington, a Brooklynite looking to join the Brooklyn Brown Devils. Little does he know, his life is about to be turned completely upside down. The show includes original music and sound design by Broken Cord. (For some insider Broadway scoop on the "players," go to: <http://www.broadway.com/> and search "jammer".



Lego introduces its new Series 9 Minifigure: Roller Derby Girl!

Roller derby gets another nod this winter as Lego introduces a roller girl figurine. That, along with the 2011 release of the Wii video game Jam City RollerGirls, shows that roller derby is hot and only getting hotter!

Merrily we roll along

That's what this 1911 post card states. And that's what rink owners might be saying about their pro-shop sales in the 2013 skating season. Holiday skate sales were up all over the country, and it's carrying into 2013. In the history of roller skating there were never so many types of skates available in your skate catalogs. Artistic, Hockey, Jam, Roller Derby, Speed, Indoor, Outdoor and Recreational. The choice is yours!

Highlight on George and Gladys Werner

Many old time rink owners and skate supply owners will remember New York's George and Gladys Werner. Skating Roller Dance, they won the National Championships back in 1941, 1942 and 1946. They skated at Mineola Rink in Mineola, N.Y. From 1943-45, George was a Bomber Pilot in World War II. After winning in 1946, they became top coaches at the Mineola Rink for many years. They were elite pros and made many champion skaters over the years. Their daughter Cheryl was a National champion.

George and Gladys moved to Palm City, Fla., a few years back. Gladys is now 88 and George 89. They just celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary. Best wishes to these icons of our roller sports.

Roller Jam update

As of January 2013, Roller Jam in Staten Island, N.Y., is still closed. They are the only rink on the east coast that had very

heavy damage from Hurricane Sandy. FEMA was NOT helpful. Their insurance company called it an "Act of God."

They did not have the very expensive coverage that would have covered ocean water damage. If you would like to help Rollerjam USA get back on their feet, you can send a check or money order made payable to: Rollerjam USA to: Rollerjam USA, 236 Richmond Valley Road, Staten Island, NY 10309, or call to contribute and ask for Grace at 732-780-5118 or 917-418-1968.

Skating says 'goodbye' to Ed Moyer

Edward Moyer Jr. has passed on. Along with his late wife Edna, he was the owner of the Semoran Skateway in Casselberry, Fla. His daughter Deborah will continue running the rink. His son Doug is a skating teacher and rink organist. Ed ran a first-class rink for many years. I always made sure I skated there on my visits to Florida. Ed will be missed.

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