

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.



RSA's executive Director Jim McMahon (kneeling) and RSA Board President Tina Robertson (standing toward center), along with RSA delegates, cut the ribbon to open the 76th Annual RSA Trade Show.

Love is in the air

Especially at the 76th Annual Roller Skating Association Convention and Trade Show held in Reno, Nev., May 5-8 at the Silver Legacy Resort and Casino. Love of Roller Skating brought rink operators, skate manufacturers, insur-



Rink operator JoAnn Honniger of Interskate Roller Rink in Lewisville, Tex., was able to get what she wanted - a roller skating doll for her grandchild at the RSA Convention and Trade Show silent auction.

ance and legal seminars, sound and lights to make our rinks look and sound good. We have never had such a wide variety of skates, wheels and boots from which to choose.

The RSA Board's President Tina Robertson and Executive Director James McMahon were kept busy making sure everything ran O.K. and on time. Plus our queen helper Annelle Anderson was busy all five days to help attendees get where they needed to go for seminars and meetings.

The trade show was a big draw, with many booths and the silent auction. The big Museum Raffle sold a magic 444 tickets with the help of RSA board member Frank Cernik who made a special pledge to purchase another \$50 ticket for every ticket sold, up to 100. Well, we reached 100 and Frank paid his \$5,000 donation. The Museum's Director and Curator James Vanurden was really pleased. It was a special occasion.

A side trip to the Roller Kingdom Rink was fun. And, yes, Tina Robertson and Charlene Conway can skate very well. Special awards were given to Linda Minor, Life Member; Bill Carlson, Lifetime Achievement Award; Douglas Warren, Victor Brown Opera-

tor of the Year; Andrew Moul, Robert Moul and Gary Miller, Innovative Rink Operators of the Year award; and Jimbo Hefner and Nancy "Cookie" Crumbac, Attaway Award.

On thing I noticed, many of today's rink owners are much younger, and also former skaters. I grew up in New York City. Most rink operators like Vick Brown, Marvin Facher, Henry Abrami, Al Kish, William Kaster were business men. Nothing wrong with that. They did and still are doing a great job. But more and more younger former skaters seem

to have a dream to operate a roller rink someday. And they are!

There was so much to do. It was really like being in college again - seminar here, demonstration there. For those who missed this great event, next year's Convention will be back to the Rio Hotel in beautiful Las Vegas, Nev.

Collecting roller skating memorabilia is a great hobby

I'm a collector of roller skates, books about skating, and anything relating to our roller sport. How to get started for your own collection? Flea markets, antique stores, Salvation Army stores and Ebay are great for antiques and collectibles. I also have pickers that know I buy skating related items. Record stores, book stores and even garage and estate sales have many collectible items. Sometimes even oldtimers who can't skate anymore may be glad to sell their skates.

You can also contact James Vanurden, director and curator of the National Museum of Roller Skating in Lincoln, Neb. (phone 402-483-7551, ext. 16 or email directorcurator@rollerskatingmuseum.com). He has post cards and posters that are copied from original items. Those could decorate your rink. You will enjoy your new hobby.

Let your bumper sticker do the talking

My friend Peggy Flefle makes roller skating-themed bumper stickers (shown at bottom of page.) She also happens to have the old fashioned metal skate keys. To reach her, phone 201-575-6873 or email pegas2sk8@aol.com.



These popular bumper stickers pretty much say it all, don't they?