

# 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 Rinksideer to help keep readers current.**

## RSA Convention Highlights

Wow! How wonderful was the 75th Anniversary Roller Skating Association Convention and Trade Show? The trade show was a sell-out. All booths were taken with unique as well as standard items. The new Crazy Skates from Australia were there in association with David Ripps Skates U.S., and Wayne's Western Wheels

The Rendfrey family owns the Holiday Skating Center in Delanco, N.J. One of their employees just retired. Nothing special about that? Oh yes there is! You see, Harry Carson just turned 97 years old. Harry started working at the old Holiday rink, The Riverside Rink, when it opened in 1971. Harry worked the floor as a guard until he was 83. He then worked in the snack bar serving drinks, coffee and pizza, always

music by his friend Ralph Brown, and a weekend session. Harry's son still drives him down to visit the rink.

Another special item about Harry: Twenty years ago he won one million dollars in Atlantic City. He chose to spread out the payments over a twenty year pay-off. How about that! He was around to accept the final payment.

I have known Harry for 40 years. He's a very special friend! I hope to write about his 98th birthday party next year. The Rendfrey family, Doris, Sue and Ted, Todd and Meghan McDonald, are proud of their very special employee.

## Starstruck at Moonlight

Once again, Dominic Cangelosi's Moonlight Rollerway in Glendale Calif., is the scene of a Hollywood rental. The cast of Johnny Depp's new movie Dark Shadows rented the rink. Also, Steven Spielberg's Dream Works shot some scenes at his rink. The new film in the making called Mockingbird shot scenes inside and outside. They needed a rain scene, so a truck used a large hose fifty feet up in the rinks parking lot spraying the actors below.

Kevin Frazer, star of television's Inside Edition, also skated a Moonlight skate session with friends.

Another new movie, called "The Rink," is going to be filmed. It's about an old rink and a family member who wants

to fix it up. Dominic, whose rink is one town over from Hollywood, charges \$800 a day. That's standard pay for any venue in the Hollywood area.

Also at Dominic's rink, Mandy Moore celebrated her 28th birthday, along with her husband Ryan Adams and pal Minka Kelly. They were there for a few hours on a Saturday night and just blended in with the local crowd.

## New rinks opening 'round the globe

Several new rinks are opening, some with bowling centers inside. One such rink is going up in Werner Robins, Ga. It will be called Rigbeys after it's owner Steve Rigbey. The rink will have 10 bowling lanes.

Savannah, Ga. will also be the site of a new rink with a bowling center as part of the master plan.

The San Francisco Bay Area will have a skating center in the near future, as will Charleston, W Va. – that rink will be named Southridge Grand Prix and Family Fun center.

With a new owner and some renovations, Firerest Roller Rink in Tacoma, Wash., has reopened. It's now called Rollin' 253 Skate and Community Center. Bruce Bodine is the new owner. He spent \$30,000 for 300 new rental skates.

On the international front, there will soon be a new rink in the African country of Kenya.



**Incoming RSA President Tina Robertson cuts ribbon to open doors to the Trade Show at the 2012 RSA Convention.**

showcased their standard plates and wheels with a high leather western boot.

Everybody liked the electric roller skate the size of a golf car in the lobby. Carpets, Sound Systems, Insurance, Lazar Tag, and the always busy Quick and Crispy food sample's were a treat. U.S.A. Roller Sports and the Museum had televised skating on their monitors in front of the trade show.

But the seminars were the heart of the convention. Bill Carlsons's U-Profit was good, as always. Risk Management with IALDA was a must attend. Matt Weinland manned the Roller Skating Rocks' booth, sharing marketing strategies with attendees and signing them up for the "Roller Revolution". JBL Trinity Group was the place to go for insurance coverage.

The Convention started with a golf outing and ended with the President's Dinner and National Museum's Raffle. It's a must attend for all rink operators. In just four days you learn many ways to increase your skating center's business. The Rio was a great place to hold this special 75th Anniversary Convention. Next year it's on to Reno, Nev.

**Longtime Holiday Skating Center Employee retired – at 97**

greeting people with a smile. Every year the Rendfrey family gives him a party and cake. This year it served a dual purpose.

Harry worked two sessions a week: the Tuesday night session with live organ



**Harry Carson, 97, recently retired from Holiday Skating Center in Delanco, N.J.**