

# 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 Convention a hit

Wow! The 73rd Annual Roller Skating Association International Convention and Trade Show was the place to be. Held at The Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas, it was like the old days. Attendance was up, with the Trade Show selling out all 105 booths. I think Chris Voyle's Astro Carpet display was very good, as was Sure Grip's Safari display. Everybody went over to the Quick & Crispy booth - it was the only place to pick up free samples of franks and other finger foods.

Southeastern Skate Supply had a table with one of every wheel they sell.

port all of their many projects and displays throughout the year. Many thanks to all who supported this fundraiser and to Annelle Anderson and Linda Miner who kept the entire raffle under their control.

On a serious side, the Legal seminars were top notch events. I think this convention will be remembered as a "business is better this year than the year before" event, with even more business to come in the 2010-2011 season.

Next year's convention will be held in Orlando, Florida. The Wyndham Orlando Resort Hotel is the venue. The dates are as follows: Conference - May 1-4, and Trade Show May 3-4. There are

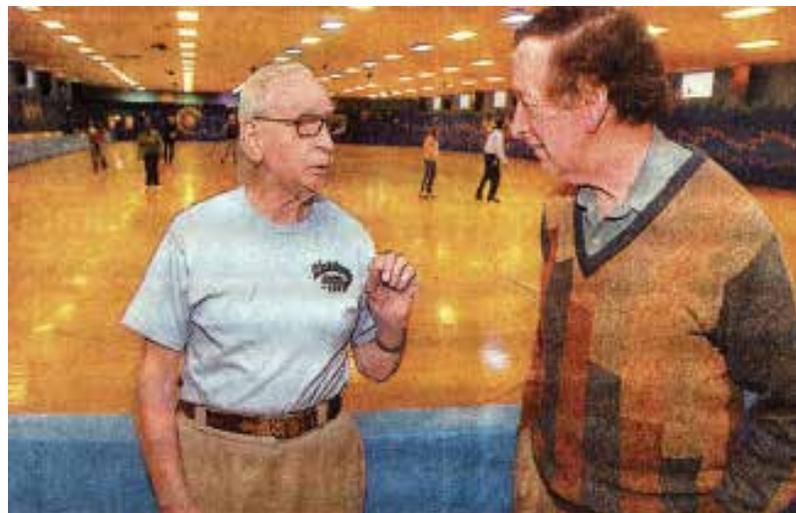
two rinks in Orlando - Universal Skating Center and Skate Reflections in Kissimmee - plus the Semoran Skateway in Casselberry. All are within a half-hour drive from the Convention. Plan to attend if you really want to know what's going on in the skating world.

## Happy 95th to Harry Corson

Who's the oldest employee still working in a roller rink? I think it's my friend - and friend to all - Harry Corson. A few years back Harry won one million dollars in the pick-six lottery. Well he was back to work the next day at the Rendfrey's

Holiday Skating Center in Delanco, N.J. On Tuesday April 15 we had a 95th birthday party for Harry at the Holiday Rink. The staff decorated the snack bar just for him. This night is the regular Organ Roller Dance session, with Ralph Brown at the organ. About 300 people attended this special party.

Harry retired from Campbell's Soup years ago. He drives to the rink twice a week to work in the snack bar making



Harry Corson, left, chats with Chester Fried about nearing his 95th birthday.

pizza and serving hot dogs and soda. Harry worked the floor as a guard until he was 83 and his knees gave out. He has been working at Holiday for 23 years. Plus, he worked at Riverside Rink, as it was called before it became Holiday. He also taught Roller Derby in the 1940s.

Harry started skating in 1932 and retired from wheels in 1984. Although he would put them on from time to time until he was 90. Over the years he has donated many items to the National Museum of Roller Skating. Before I left for the RSA Convention he gave me some money for the Museum raffle tickets.

Thanks Harry. You're the best!

## Car hops are back

Both fast food burger restaurants Sonic Drive-ins and Ruby's are hiring roller skating car hops. Sonic had a national ad campaign featuring four roller skating employees. Sonic had car hops years ago. Now they've added roller skates - nationwide.

## Free publicity continues at Moonlight

Once again Dominic Cangelosi's Moonlight Rollerway in Glendale, Calif., has helped our sport by gaining thousands of dollars worth of free advertising. In April, Ashton Kutcher and Demi Moore skated a session at Moonlight Rollerway. A few days later they were on Jay Leno's show. Jay asked what they had been doing lately, and they mentioned they roller skated at the

Moonlight Rollerway.

A few days before they came to Moonlight Rollerway, Michael Jackson's kids attended a birthday party there. Plus, the new Fox channel hit "Glee" shot an episode there and was shown with the skating a few days later.

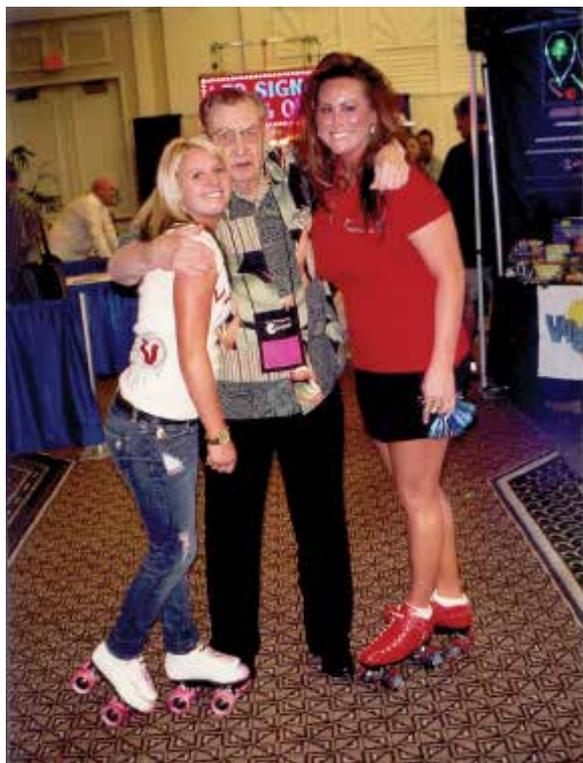
## Former Olympic Committee head dies at 89

Juan Antonio Samaranch, the former head of the International Olympic Committee from 1980-2001, has died at age 89. As a young man in Spain, he played Roller Hockey. Former Rinksider owner Irwin Rosee knew him very well. He always thought that Samaranch would help roller skating take its place in the Olympics. But that was not to be. During his tenure he helped the Olympics to be awarded lucrative deals with NBC T.V.

## New 'Titans' book ready for sale

Be sure to order the new book, *Titans and Heroes of American Roller Skating*. It's written by George Pickard, whom I consider one of the best writers of our Roller Sport. The book can only be ordered through the National Museum of Roller Skating. It's priced at \$20 plus \$5 priority mail shipping. It's a must-purchase item. And guess what? I'm in the book. What an honor!

To order, contact The National Museum of Roller Skating, 4730 South Street, Lincoln, Neb. 68506. Phone: 402-483-7551.



Chuck Kurp of Coppell, Texas, poses with Lonna Kissling and friend.

They had over 100 different wheels. So much for knowing the names of all the wheels we were able to recite years ago!

Terry Maxwell and family supplied lights and sound at the Trade Show and the special dinner events. Their Audio Lite Company display showed how, with their lights, you could update the look of your skating center overnight.

The National Museum of Roller Skating held their annual raffle to sup-