

**ARENA GARDENS
ROLLER SKATING
CLUB *of* DETROIT**

**1940-41
YEAR
BOOK**



The Arena Gardens,
its management and
affiliated clubs,



are members of the
Roller Skating Rink
Operators Association
of the United States

1940 - 1941 YEAR BOOK

of the
**Arena Gardens Roller
Skating Club of
Detroit**

●
FIFTH EDITION

Published in the interests of roller skating and the promotion of the sport to higher standards.

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Published by the
Weissmuller Sports Enterprises
Incorporated

ARENA GARDENS
5795 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

FRED A. MARTIN, General Manager

●

Edited by R. D. MARTIN

Associate

ISOBELLE FRASER

Photographs

RALPH KRAMER

D. W. GRAY

A. H. WEIR

ARCHIE E. EWERS

GEORGE W. SMITH

BERT EMANUEL

of "Skating Review"

of "Nation's Skater"

●

THE COVER

An Airbrush illustration symbolizing roller skating's prominence of the day "in the spotlight."



INTERESTING NOTES

THE Arena Gardens, situated as it is in Detroit, at Woodward and Hendrie Avenues, is almost at the geographical center of the city. Transportation from all parts of town centers just above or below the rink, giving the public ample convenience. The Arena also maintains a parking lot adjoining the building for those who drive.

A schedule of hours of skating is maintained from 9:00 a. m. till midnight every day except Monday. On Tuesday, because of the sports attractions which are held regularly on Monday nights, skating hours are scheduled from 4:00 p. m.

Skating parties, held by the various organizations, churches and schools, are featured on Tuesday evenings. This night is set aside for this purpose. The regular musical program is continued on these nights for many club members and their guests also attend.

Skate Dancing Classes have been featured for six seasons. Never has the Arena Gardens missed a single class as scheduled. At present, Wednesday evening classes are devoted to the teaching of elementary dances and Thursday evening classes to advanced dances.

These classes are held between 7:00 and 8:00 p. m. and do not interfere with the conduction of the regular session. They are also free of additional cost, being included as a service on that evening's admission. Thousands of Detroit skaters have learned to dance on rollers and dancing has become a definite part of the regular sessions because of its popularity.

Friday evenings are "Collegiate Nights" with a musical program designed to please the skaters who are yet in Colleges, Junior Colleges and Senior High Schools.

Saturday and Sunday have become days that are "one continuous skating session." All day long there is some activity with a club group, practice, or a regular session occupying the rink.

Private lessons are another attraction at the Arena Gardens, for the professionals engaged are among the best available in this country. Lessons may be arranged by the Club Secretary at your convenience.

There are two "specialized" clubs taking part in the weekly program. They are the Detroit Figure Skating Club, an organization of three age groups, Junior, "Teens" and Seniors, which engages in Figure, Dance and Pair Skating. It is recognized as one of the leading roller skating clubs of its kind in America. Its members have captured more places in competition than any other club, and its history ranges back to 1936, making it the first roller figure club to be organized on this side of the Atlantic.

Our next club is the Arena Gardens Speed Skating Club, consisting of some forty speed skating enthusiasts of all ages. This group, as its name implies, engages strictly in speed skating for the sport and competition involved. It has also been highly successful in its history and many national champions have come from its ranks.

These notes are given so that you might better understand the facilities which are placed at your disposal by the Arena Gardens. With practice time daily, at your service and the conveniences of the various groups, there remains no reason why you should not become a first class skater.

In this Year Book you will read of each group and service. Please recall that such cooperation has made Detroit outstanding in roller skating. While individual skaters have gained fame through the winning of Championships or by virtue of their ability, such cases are really a small percentage of the Arena skaters.

Our whole work and plan is to bring enjoyable, life-long skating to a large number of sports loving people—"those who engage in sport for the love of it."



GREETINGS

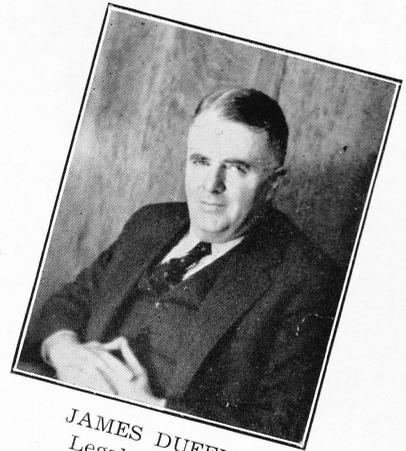
from the Officers of the
WEISSMULLER SPORTS ENTERPRISES, INC.
ARENA GARDENS



MRS. MARIE WEISSMULLER
President



FRED A. MARTIN
General Manager



JAMES DUFFY
Legal Counsel

IN BEHALF of the Officers of the Weissmuller Sports Enterprises, Inc., may I extend our Company's sincere greetings to all of our patrons and to the members of our Clubs and wish you all a Merry and Happy Christmas.

We thank you for your patronage during the season just past and hope that the year of 1941 brings you much happiness, good health and prosperity.

Skatingly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred A. Martin".

GENERAL MANAGER.



Arena Gardens Rink Staff



MRS. ELIZABETH
SUMMERTON
Bookkeeper



MRS. VERA WILSON
Cashier



MISS HELEN WOLDS
Club Membership Secretary



EDDY MARTIN
Head Skate Room Man



JESSE E. BELL
Party Representative
Speed Club Professional



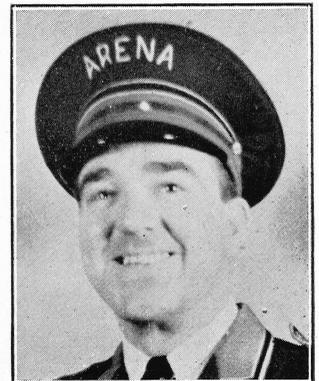
EARL KING
"The Skaters Shop"



DWIGHT M. GRAY
Electrician



MRS. ELEANOR KING
Refreshment Fountain



WM. S. WILSON
Doorman

Music and Its Relation to Skating

Introducing Russell Bice, Featured Organist

LONG before the present-day knowledge of musical tempos had been practiced, the Arena Gardens used a metronome for its organist to guide his numbers. When Russell Bice came to the Arena in December of 1935 he found that the first request was to play all music against a metronome.

Russ remarked, "Well, I'll try, but it has been a long time since I've played to one of those things." The awkwardness of playing with a mechanical tempo soon wore off and Mr. Bice learned why the "Met" was a real necessity.

He found that by glancing at the skaters, he would fall into tempo with their movement and that almost every roller skater was "anticipating the beat" (hurrying). As the process set up an endless chain . . . the faster the skaters went, so went the music, so went the skaters, etc.

It was found that the musician did a better job when he forgot the skaters entirely and allowed them to follow his music.

Strange to say, the tempos of that past year in three cases were within four beats of our tempos today and one was exactly the same as it now is. New types of music have been inaugurated (for skating) since that time, they were namely, the slow fox-trot, the schottische, the tango, and last the blues.



It is very true that music is not entirely necessary to skating. No. That is perfectly right, but on the other hand a meal without salt is rather flat, don't you think? As for the bass note (beat) of the music, it might be just as well to go back to the savage stage and beat a drum for time but neither you nor I, after skating to the lovely waltzes and other spirited numbers offered via the mighty Wurlitzer Pipe Organ at the Arena by Russell Bice would get the "kick" out of skating that we now do.

(At left) **MR. BICE** at the console of the Arena Gardens Mighty Wurlitzer Pipe Organ. The console platform is situated some twenty-five feet above the heads of the skaters and commands a view of the entire skating surface.

Professional Teachers

PPRIVATE instruction at the Arena Gardens has been under the direction of four professionals during the past year. These skaters have spent countless hours in study to prepare themselves for the intense teaching required in the sport today.

R. D. Martin, head professional, has had a teaching career covering some seven years and was one of the "original thirteen" who pioneered in the international style of skating here at Arena Gardens five years ago. He holds the RSROA Silver Skate Dance Test Medal, RSROA Bronze Figure Skating Test Medal, NSA (Great Britain) Bronze Figure Skating Test Medal and a Canadian Silver Dance and Bronze Figure Medal.

Marjorie Martin, although teaching for only three years, has already gained a secure place in the hearts of the skaters. Concentrating especially on skate dancing, her advice and instruction has been in constant demand. She holds the RSROA Silver Skate Dancing Test Medal, the RSROA Junior Figure Test and a Canadian Bronze Skate Dance Test Medal.

Mildred Brown, also a teacher of only three



MARJORIE and BOB MARTIN



MILDRED BROWN and CLARENCE GERITY

years' experience, has been another to select the skate dancing instruction as her forte. Continual work with local skaters has brought her the reward of their confidence. "Millie" has strived for a better understanding of dancing and holds the RSROA Silver Skate Dance Test Medal.

Clarence Gerity, youngest of the professionals in point of service, has gone far during the past season. Coming to the Arena four years ago as check room captain, he last year saw fit to join the floor staff. His years in the check room allowed little skating but he learned to dance and that has since paid him dividends for he holds his RSROA Bronze Skate Dance Medal and is now preparing to take his Silver Test.

This section of the Year Book is devoted to private instruction. Many, many skaters have availed themselves of instruction during 1940 and the crowd is growing for skaters everywhere are striving to improve. "A lesson each month" is a thought borne in the back of many a mind. We suggest that you give it consideration for lessons are not costly. Twenty minutes of instruction may be had for as little as fifty cents and in any circumstance would not amount to more than a dollar. These are small amounts when GOOD skating is your goal.

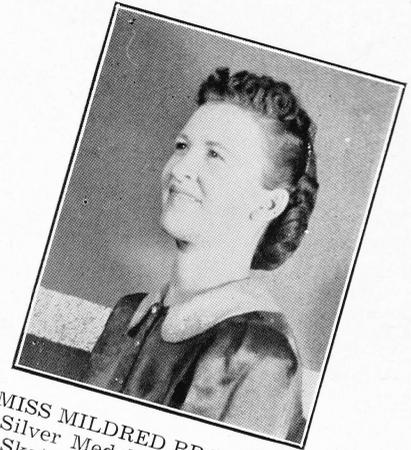
Arena Gardens Professional Staff



MISS LUELLE UHLEY
Silver Medalist in
Skate Dancing



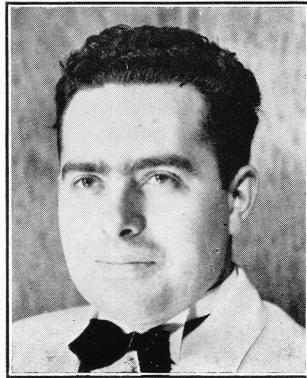
MISS MARJORIE MARTIN
Silver Medalist in Skate
Dancing



MISS MILDRED BROWN
Silver Medalist in
Skate Dancing



CLARENCE GERITY
Bronze Medalist in Skate
Dancing



R. D. MARTIN
Head Professional — Silver
Medalist in Dance, Bronze
in Figures



EARL "Mickey" DUNN
Captain of Floor
Staff



JAMES COSTELLO
Professional



RICHARD McLAUCHLEN
Bronze Dance Medalist



JOHN McLAUCHLEN
Professional



R. GEORGE DIOTTE
Professional

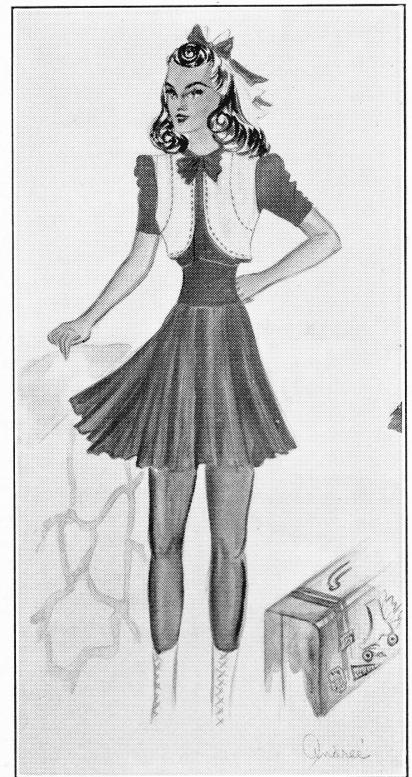
FASHIONS ON ROLLERS . . .

By Judy



A lovely tree green woolen with very full skirt, knee length. Trim is a just visible piping of Chinese red. Cut to allow maximum freedom of movement. Novelty four-button front with hidden zipper.

For the girl with "curves." Princess cut grey sheer woolen. Trim in mauve. Simple lines here will slenderize.



A real figure skating ensemble for rollers. A deep red and light powder blue combination that will warm the heart of every skater. Short ultra-full skirt set off by the smart bolero. Hair ribbons match.

WE are thrilled to note that the best of the shoppes are listing Roller Skating fashions this season. Some three years ago when we predicted this in the Year Book and the DETROIT ROLLER SKATER, some thought that Detroiters were a little extreme. Yet . . . here it is!

The Arena Gardens Skaters Shop can supply lovely costumes and dresses for skating (practice or session) this year. Many intriguing patterns have been displayed from time to time in the lobby and for those who prefer the ready-to-wear skating clothes, Hudson's, Healy's, Demery's, Crowley-Milner's and most of the better shops in town are now stocking them.

We suggest that you choose wisely, for the club does not permit dress lengths to go above the knee during the regular sessions. If you can wear the shorter clothes, they *are* nice for practice hours, however.

We picture here several thoughts in skating fashions of this season as sketched for the Detroit Theatrical Costume Company, makers of the dresses for the Arena Gardens Skaters Shop and also designers for the DFSC Carnivals, by Andree.



Children's Safety Club

OUR Gang? Yessir! We proudly assemble a most representative crowd of young skaters on Saturday matinees. The Arena Gardens Children's Safety Skating Club "gangs up" on us promptly at 1:00 p. m. every Saturday. All ages . . . from 3 to 16, they spend a safe, energetic two and a half hours on the little rollers.

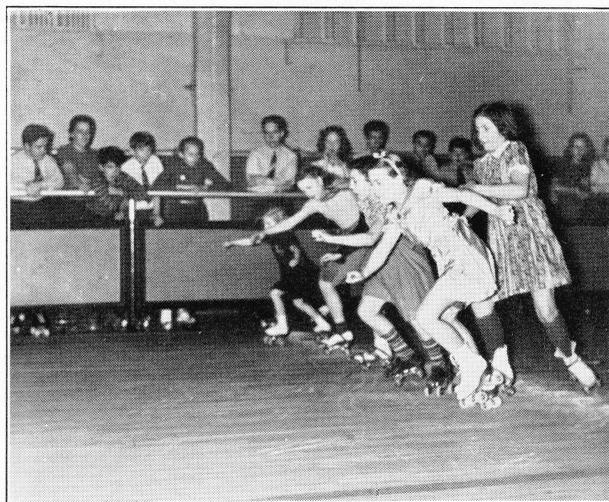
That they come from all parts of Detroit is the most surprising thing. One young lady comes from Birmingham and is "not fit to live with" if she misses a Saturday. Another twelve-year-old boy comes from out beyond St. Clair Shores. East side, west side . . . very few neighborhoods are not represented.

Not a few of the youngsters are accompanied by their parents who enjoy watching the constantly changing picture of the kids on the rink.

Their program? Yes, indeed! They have a regular series of numbers (just like the grown-ups) and in addition, during the middle of their session, a special half-hour of fun.

This begins with five skate dances. Yes, we mean skate dances, for the smaller members of your family and mine have become wise to the fact that they are fun. Following the dances, we hold a "Stop and Go Skate" with prizes to the winners. This is always a very popular number because the fellow who does not skate any too well has just as much chance to win as the good skater.

Next comes the races for the various age groups. First, for little girls (under ten years old) and for the

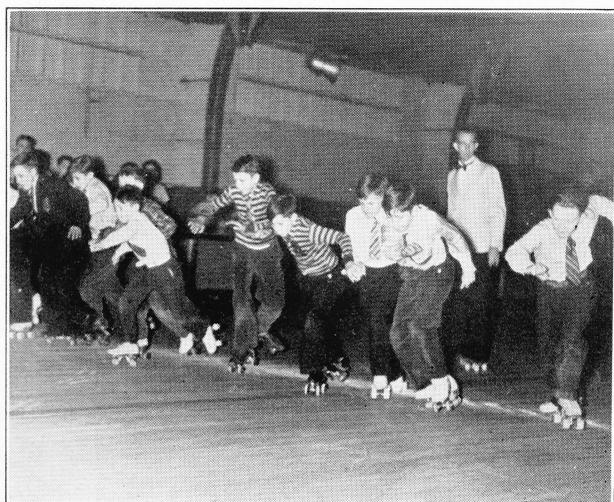


Ten to twelve-year-old girls scramble for a start in their Saturday Matinee Race

little boys of the same age. Then the "mob scene" races for the girls and boys between ten and twelve years old. Here is the real representative group. They constitute the average in attendance.

Last, races are held for "Juniors" . . . skaters twelve to sixteen years. Soon they will be "graduating" to Sunday afternoon sessions and will leave their places open for other youngsters.

The "Junior" age is the smallest group in attendance on the Saturday session and consequently the program is not arranged particularly for them but to the youngsters of Grammar School age, it is a glamorous and wonderful time . . . just for them.



Gangway! Watch these fellows show their heels to the slower boys!

RSROA Pro School

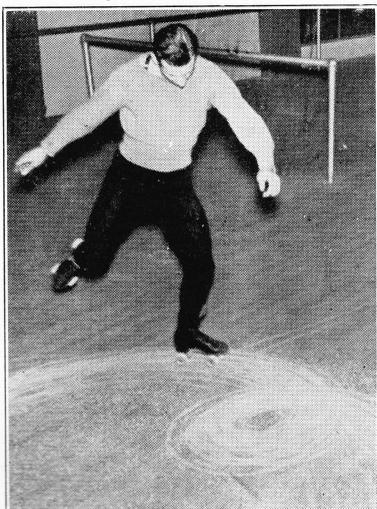
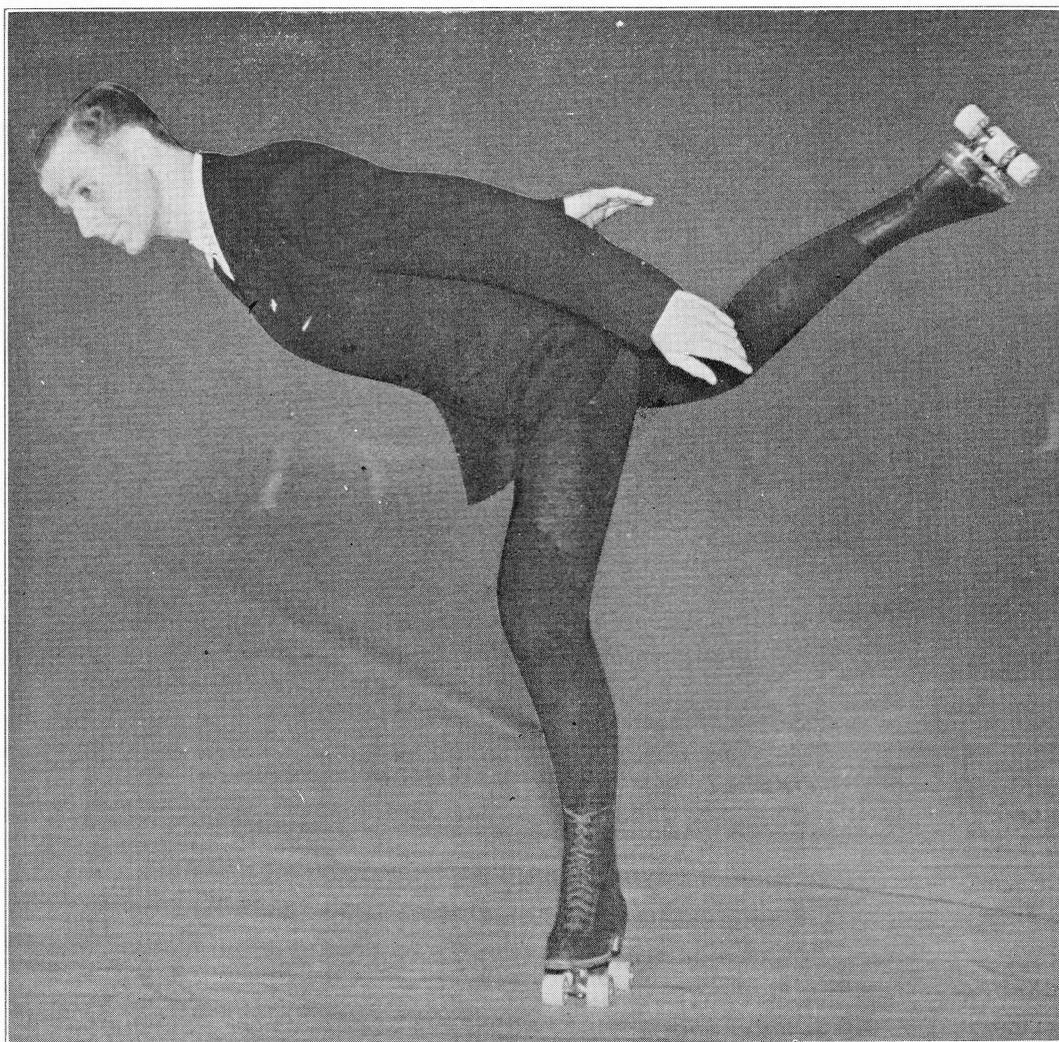
During the two weeks from September 7th to 21st this season, some seventy-five professionals, active with R. S. R. O. A.

rinks, attended the first Professional School in roller skating at the Arena Gardens. Their work was a huge success and they took a wealth of knowledge home with them.

It was not all work, however, for among other matters they saw the Ford Plant and Greenfield Village while here. The illustration shows the group near the glass blowing exhibit in Greenfield Village.



CHAMPION OF THE UNITED STATES



WALTER STOKOSA, twice Senior Roller Figure Skating Champion of the United States (1939-40), 23, retiring, highly athletic, ice skates . . . and does well at it. Skate dances very well but does not follow it. Is afraid that other types of skating will interfere with his figures. Holds the Second Test in Figure Skating, is not too interested in going further till he is sure that he deserves it. Works for a living and asked for the night shift so that he might practice skating days. Walter is the type of skater who is "dynamite to skates" . . . for some reason is forever breaking parts. Learned to skate at the Arena some five years ago. Joined the figure group during its second season. (Many of us remember him as a struggling beginner . . . how time flies.)

(At left) Stokosa practising at loops. His flowing movement perhaps can be likened to that of Robin Lee of ice fame more than any other living skater.

CHAMPION OF THE UNITED STATES



VERNA PICTON, Senior Lady Roller Speed Skating Champion of the United States (1940), 21, enthusiastic, effervescent, athletic girl, did well in high school sports, Canadian extraction (maybe that's the reason she skates so well). Is usually the center of a crowd. Holds the RSROA Bronze Speed Skating Test. Would like to take her Silver but has no direct plans for the future. In her own words . . . "a working gal." Is one of those lucky people who can dissolve ten pounds or so when she goes into training. Skate dancer . . . would like her Dance Test as much as the speed but won't let it interfere with her first love—speed. Stepped out on rollers the night Arena Gardens opened its doors. Has consistently won places during her whole career. Plans to skate for life.

Four Brand-New

Dancing on rollers has become by far the most important branch of the sport. We have a repertoire of more than two hundred "possible" routines which have all been tried and found satisfactory. Of these many steps, the Test Dances will always remain supreme but dances of the "exotic" type as shown on this page will be skated "for sport."

10	4	LOB	LADY MOHAWKS TO OPEN POSITION	ROB	LOB		
	3					MOHAWK	
	2						ROB
	1						
9	4	LIB	RIF				
	3			ROB			
	2				ROF		
	1					LOB	
8	4	ROF	ROB				
	3			RIB			
	2				LOF		
	1					LOB	
7	4	LOF	ROB				
	3			LIB			
	2				ROB		
	1					ROB	
6	4	ROF	ROB				
	3			LIB			
	2				ROB		
	1					ROB	
5	4	LOF	ROB				
	3			LIB			
	2				ROB		
	1					ROB	
4	4	ROIF	ROB				
	3			LIB			
	2				ROB		
	1					ROB	
3	4	ROB	ROB				
	3			LIB			
	2				ROB		
	1					ROB	
2	4	LIF	ROB				
	3			LIB			
	2				ROB		
	1					ROB	
1	4	LOF	ROB				
	3			LIB			
	2				ROB		
	1					ROB	

ROCKER BLUES
BY A. G. WEIR

SAME AS MAN'S STEPS

OPEN POSITION MAN ON LEFT.

(Above) THE ROCKER BLUES. To be skated to a real "Blues" number at 92 tempo. Composed by "Jack" Weir, one of the outstanding amateur roller dance technicians in this country.

(At right) THE SHADOW FOX-TROT. To be skated to 92 tempo. Composed by Lloyd Young, a partner of the first roller skate dancing champions of the U. S. This is another unique dance and provides a complete separation of partners at one point.

		REPEAT - FROM "START"						
7	4	18	RIF	REMAIN IN OPEN DANCE POS.				
	3				17	xf LIB		
	2						16	ROB
	1							
6	4	3	HAND IN HAND POS.					
	3			14	ROB			
	2					SHADOW SKATING		
	1						COUPLE MUST RELEASE HOLD HERE... MAN MOVES TO BACK OF LADY.	
5	4	13	LOB					
	3			12	RIB			
	2					11		LIF
	1						10	
4	4	9	LOF					
	3			8	ROF			
	2					7		LOB
	1						6	
3	4	3	HAND IN HAND POS.					
	3			5	LOF			
	2					4		RIF
	1						3	
2	4	2	RIF					
	3			1	LOF			
	2					A Run		
	1						START - MAN TO LEFT OF LADY	
1	4	1	LOF					
	3			OPEN DANCE POSITION.				
	2				1	LOF		
	1						1	LOF

REMEMBER?

WHEN Arena opened in November 1935 it was with a shake of the head from other rink operators who considered it folly to expect to make a paying institution out of one that spent so much money to beautify the rink, to uniform the professionals, to furnish the best possible in good music, good floor, and good management. Old-time skaters insisted it would never pay to regulate the dress of skaters nor to bar paying skaters from entering the rink if they did not conform with the dress rules.

These and many more revolutionary changes in the roller skating business in this country caused old-time skaters to shake a finger of disapproval—but to the pleasure of all, Detroit skaters were educated to appreciate the new standard. This primarily is the reason for the success of our rink.

Many visitors from other cities have thrown aside their doubts and now have themselves spent considerable in educating their skaters to the Arena level.

Remember? When Arena opened—it was to the average skater. We were criticized for giving a whole number a night for Circle Waltzers—about six couples at that time. Remember how we watched any woman who could skate backwards, and if she had her own skates we were certain she was a “Pro.” Then remember those first classes on Wednesday and Thursday nights when Fred Martin personally taught us the Two-Step and Waltz . . . then the acme of skate dancing. Remember those first Figure 8’s when we had no figures, didn’t know the circles should be equal . . . any shape was all right just so we got back to our star on the floor—often we got back to the wrong star, but that was a try, too. Tracing? The word was not in our vocabulary.

Remember how the bug got us and we started coaxing for “between session time”—and got it . . . and those first skaters who later made up the nucleus for what became the Figure Skating Unit of the Arena Gardens Roller Skating Club . . . now the Detroit Fancy Skating Club. . . Remember that first amateur show in November 1937 . . . how we worked into the wee hours of the night. . . Remember that dressing room (the Press Room)—recall with a smile those costume change arrangements—and how lovely the costumes were—and the roses of appreciation presented to us the last night of our show and that Sunday afternoon dinner and gardenias at the Casa Loma—historic in the rise of roller dancing. Remember how pleased folks were and how many new members joined our Club to learn better skating—and then Mr. Martin took the “Show” group to see a Sonja Henie exhibition.

Remember how excited we were after that, wondering why those same routines couldn’t be accomplished on rollers—and how we went into the libraries of the city—of the nation—for roller routines and found none—so we took ice skating figures and dances, studied and worked over diagrams and figures to come up with our own set-up and a book to tell what we had discovered to the roller skating world.

Then the following March (1938) remember that Perry Rawson successfully invited the Lidstones and Billy Watson, champions from England, to participate in our exhibitions . . . and how much we learned! Then that ballet of forty skaters and the work preparing them . . . and what a time we had with the boys who didn’t want to wear skating tights.

Remember . . . the RSROA had been organized. Visitors were coming from all parts of the country and Canada to watch our Sunday morning figure skating session. The Club became the Detroit Figure Skating Club . . . the center for good skating in the country . . . and national headquarters for figure and dance. . . Remember those trips we used to make while other rinks were organizing their figure and dance clubs—and how they would come visit us for help in their work. . . Then that first National Roller Figure Meet held at Arena with over twenty states represented . . . and how proud we were that our skaters took nine of the possible twelve places that year . . . but how we realized it was a fight for skating rinks were being built in Cleveland, Dayton, New York, Pittsburgh—and all parts of the country to Seattle, Washington—and remember how the following year the Nationals were held in the Civic Auditorium in Cleveland, Ohio . . . one of the largest auditoriums in the country and it was filled with roller skating enthusiasts. . . Remember how the ice skaters once shook their heads—and now they still do and wonder how it all came about—many of them among our number.

And now, remember, we are recognized throughout the world; books of roller instruction in figures and dance have been published; we have been interviewed and photographed by the leading publications of America; have reached the highest organized level in roller skating that we know of; and have made what was once exhibition skating a level of the average skater. Yes, now we look out on our skating surface, see even tiny tots doing difficult roller routines and hundreds of regular skaters well educated in better skating and so we remember—when folks thought it fantastic to dedicate a whole ten minutes to those half-dozen Circle Waltzers.

THOUGHTS WHILE ROLLIN'



WHAT'S this we hear—Ruth Kramer was seen in the rink the other night? And Red Farmer who has not been here in over a year, and Archie McCart dropped in to look over the gang and so muchly admired that very shiny, very black hair (Melva Block)—and that same night we spotted Bob Marker who looks fine with his added pounds as he was showing his stuff a bit for his “News Hiker” friends. Not to mention Eddie Theiner, Happy and Tom of stage fame and others.

It's true, Mary Fish is wearing a diamond—he's not a skater, but we wish them a lot of luck.

A telegram: Hollywood, California—“Need 25 words to fill telegram words CAN'T EXPRESS OUR SPEECHLESSNESS SAY HELLO TO OUR FRIEND IF YOU CAN FIND ONE. Bob and Bill”—and we know that's Bobby Paul and Bill Maloney.

Quietly—Dick Huffman and Mary are skating the Novice Contest together—but does that keep her out 'til 3:30 A. M.?

They were sitting there—in the Figure Club Lounge Rooms, listening to that swell radio Mr. Martin gave the kids for Christmas. Who? Why Shirley Goldman and she was feeding oranges to Archie Ewers. Tish!

Congrats—Doodles King and Ray Gene Bell took and passed their Junior Bar Test. Doesn't that make some of you older skaters feel like it's high time you settle down to some skating?

Sooooo, Victor Litke was seen acting as referee for Al Ewers and Terry Merrick. They were tiffing over our tiny sweetheart Kunnie Mae Williams.

Yes, I promised I wouldn't print Ed Murphy—but I didn't say anything did I? 'Cept he was best man when Doris Kenyon and Bill Barron were married November 30th, and is now a proud member of the DFSC.

She won five dollars—she got a skate with a guy named Davis—or Avis. Why, Peggy!

Print it in the paper? Not me, but I didn't say a word about the Year Book. And we did hear that Ray Sheils was roller skating the other day.

Girls—don't stand in front of those beautiful lights on the front of the Club Desk. Must I say why?

Mr. “Pop” Gardner of Lansing hid his skates on the Club Desk recently—then went back to Lansing. We mailed the skates.

Of our Old Skaters did you know Bob Burton, Milton Hibbs are in the Army, Mac Wingate is in the Marines, Joe Thomas, Armand Johnson and Dick Baker are in the Navy. To them all and to those going into the Service in the near future, we wish the very best of luck and happiness and say “Look us up” when you're in town!

She's working—“Spider” Shirley Hill—and in the Order Dept. at J. L. Hudson during the Christmas Season. That's swell!

Two new skaters this year—“Curley” Shieve and Bea Schneller. They say they are NOT going steady, but we see them together most of the time—and we see a lot of new skaters—all the time! Hope they get as much kick out of skating as we old-timers do.

And Osborne Sanderson is back again—regularly. Who is that lady who takes up so much of your time, Sandy?

Bud Lowell—he's spending so much time on aviation, guess he just hasn't much time—but we know he hasn't forgotten us entirely.

“Ducky”—we ask you, who is “We Three”—and why worry so much when Madeline keeps a close eye on B. F. Ed Morgan. That's the way of the world!

So, Frank Cathbert and Jean Schoessel have joined that 3 A. M. class! Whatso!

And it's Carl Schoessel and Winnie Court on that “steady” list these days.

So “Bunny” Meeker awent ice skating and upon turning a Three has put his leg in a cast. Stay in your own element next time, Bunny!

Dorothy—we thought you were attached—what's this we hear about being too tired to skate—or do you like to sit out with someone else?

Now, dear skaters, once again I close my Thilly-thaying-thumpin'-thoughts and wish I could send you each a great box simply dripping with good wishes and a card on the side that might say—

*'Taint what it is that really counts,
Nor how much the value of it 'mounts,
It's that the sentiment's sincere,
For a Big Merry Christmas*

AND A

PROSPEROUS

NEW

YEAR!

—Judy.

... Is There a Short Cut to Skate Dancing?

By *H. D. J. White*

LEARNING school figures is often supposed to be a necessary preliminary to free skating. This is only partly true. Those who go straight to free skating without troubling with figures are liable to have gaps in their abilities. By skating school figures the body becomes accustomed to all the possible basic movements and ways of twisting the body. Ability to use the full range of twisting possibilities is obviously an advantage.

On the other hand the aim of a figure skater is to make a pattern on the ice. The kind of exact accuracy of tracing demanded in figures simply does not exist in free skating. Free skating is not primarily concerned with any mark left on the ice. Brackets, counters, rockers, can be done with a technical change of edge upon which no judge at the side is in any position whatever to pass a sure judgment. A free skater is in any case entitled to skate intentionally a rapid change-three without being marked down for a missed counter.

Purity of tracing enters into free skating only as part of the layout of the programme, but the latitude possible in skating the same curves in the same programme on different occasions is so wide, relatively to school figures where the aim is no deviation at all, that for all practical purposes comparison is impossible.

The chief conscious aim of the school figure skater is at present completely irrelevant for free skating.

It is a well attested educational maxim that the

of the National Skating Association of Great Britain, Vice-President of the I. E. V., World Ice and Roller Judge—on the inadequacy of the School Figure Course to provide the necessary foundation for Skate Dancing and Free Skating. His remedy.

Reprinted with permission of the National Skating Association of Great Britain. There is no short cut to skating. Mr. White's scheme is a close substitute. From his suggestions dance-minded enthusiasts may devise a time-saving solo practice routine. From his analysis, school figure devotees are put on early notice concerning what additional take-offs and movements they will need for dancing and free skating. A careful study of Mr. White's article now will prevent disappointment later on. Destructive criticism is plentiful; constructive criticism is rare. Mr. White's article is a most excellent example of constructive criticism.

PERRY B. RAWSON.



Presentation of the RSROA Scroll to Mr. Rawson, Cleveland, April 1940.

are no three-circle figures in the new basic schedule. The whole system can be confined to two circles only. Those who have attempted to practice three-circle figures on a crowded rink will appreciate the immense advantage of eliminating that third circle. This far greater adaptability of the new system, making its

learning of one ability is not furthered by the learning of some other ability.

The effort to learn school figures is of no direct help in learning free skating and is probably a hindrance.

Having reached the above conclusion I set myself to invent a system of figure skating which would have from the very start only the aim of preparing the skater for free skating, pair skating and dancing.

The exposition of the new system is not written for beginners, for whom there is a different approach; it is written for those who have at least done some work towards their third-class International Style Test.

For those who approach this new system from the old, the principal key to it is to start the figure not from the "centre" but from the position known as six o'clock or half-way round. Whereas the unit of the old system is a circle, the unit of the new is a half-circle. The result of this change is to free the skating of figures from confinement to a patch. The new is far more malleable than the old system: one single circle even being enough for some of the figures; while the majority of them can be done "in field" or "round the rink." Moreover, there

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

THE SKATERS SHOP

IN a small room just off the main entrance lobby you might note a showcase lined wall and a stocky, blond-haired chap with a southern accent fitting boots to a number of customers. Earl King, in charge of the Skaters Shop, rises to have a few words to say about "who buys skates and what they want."



The Skaters Shop grew from a demand and an idea. Insofar as we know, it is the only one of its kind in America. Hundreds of sales each month made the Shop a necessity. The idea was to better serve the skating public with their needs.

The Shop sells skates, boots, accessories, clothing necessities and men's and ladies' skating garments. It also serves to answer countless questions pertaining to all sports. Some three thousand pairs of skates

and boots were sold there last season . . . and this year looks even bigger.

Does the public want a low-priced outfit? Not on your life! They demand the best. Not one skating outfit in fifty sold over our counter runs less than ten dollars.

Boots, yes, baby sizes from 8 to 3, ladies' sizes from 1 to 10, men's sizes from 5 to 12, and all in stock ordinarily. What kind of wheels? Usually ten to one for maple.

The highest priced outfit? We can get one for you at \$60.00. Astounded! . . . people won't buy one! I'll bet you on that one. They will and do.

Well, that's all we have room for now, but drop in and see us next time you need skates or skating equipment, we will be happy to serve you.

Is There a Short Cut to Skate Dancing? (CONTINUED FROM PRECEDING PAGE)

practice possible under much wider conditions than the old system, is naturally a strong practical point in favour of its adoption.

Skating is fundamentally a mode of progression. The old figure system sacrificed progression to geometry. In the new figure system, the skater feels all the time he is moving in much the same style as if he was free skating. There is no anxious wondering if there is enough way on the skates to carry back to the centre. For there is only half-a-circle to go after a change of edge or a counter or a rocker; and only a quarter-circle before and after threes and brackets. The general effect is to speed figures up to such an extent that the result approximates to the requirements of free skating. Not only is the skate quicker over the ice, but the movements of the body have to be made much quicker. There is less time to prepare for a turn and less time to get ready for the next stroke. The effect of all this quickening up is a feeling of exhilaration conspicuously absent from the old system, but a very essential ingredient of free skating.

It is, however, in the range of the simple strokes that the new system is so vastly superior to the old. The old system teaches only the strokes from one foot to the same edge and mode of progression on the other foot—and these are seldom used in free skating. This inadequacy of the old school figures in the most elementary necessity of all, an all-round development of strokes from one foot to the other, is most deplorable.

In the possible strokes from forward to forward the old school system only gives us RFO-LFO and

RFI-LFI: but of importance to free skating are RFO-LFI and RFI-LFO. These latter can be skated in a single circle, but it is better to combine all the forward to forward strokes in the following figures of the new system: Stand at one end of your "eight," (1) skate RFO for a half-circle to the "centre"; (2) LFO for a half-circle to the other end of your "eight," (3) RFI for a half-circle back to the "centre," (4) LFI for a half-circle to where you started from. Repeat three times. Stop. Start the reverse way round thus, LFO-RFO-LFI-RFI-LFO etc.

In the possible strokes from forward to backward the old school system gives no training whatever. In the old terminology these strokes are Mohawks, RFO-LBO, RFI-LFI, and Choctaws, RFO-LBI, RFI-LBO.

Similarly in regard to the strokes from backward to backward the old school system provides only for BO-BO and BI-BI, whereas the new system includes BO-BI, BI-BO, and also the backward and forward strokes, BO-FO, BI-FI, BO-FI, BI-FO.

Hence out of sixteen possible plain strokes (more if all possible crossed steps are included) the old school system only provides training in four of them. Since each stroke must be done on the other foot, the actual strokes to be learned are thirty-two, out of which the old school system teaches only eight.

This new system of skating figures is also more of a help than the old in learning dancing. It might be adapted so that certain basic dance steps could be learned and practiced solo as part of the acknowledged training of a figure skater.

DFSC "Teens" and Juniors

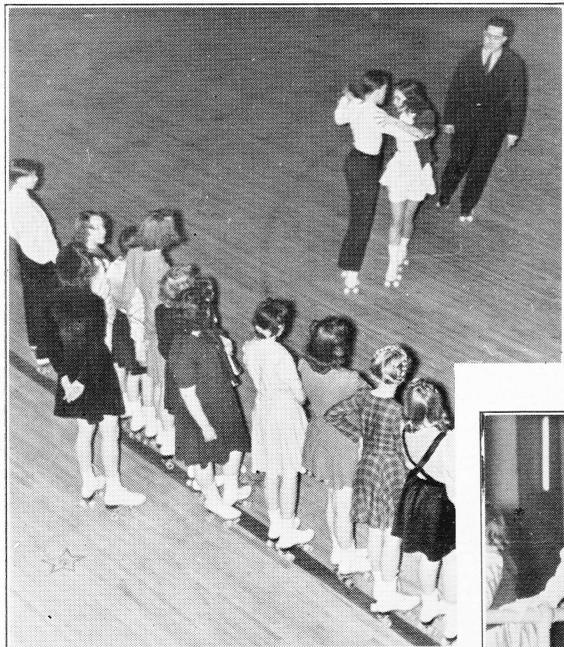
IF the adults are interested and energetic figure and dance skaters, words absolutely fail us when we come to these two younger groups in the Detroit Figure Skating Club. Organized last season as a class to augment the senior group, they have grown to full-fledged club groups of their own and promise good skating and fine competition in the future. Their programs, which fall on Saturday mornings at 10:30 and Saturday

afternoons at 4:15 are alive with interest and since so many of the youngsters are in relative stages of advancement, their groups are easily taught as a whole.

A full two-thirds of the groups have already passed their Junior Bar Figure Skating Tests or their Bronze Medal Skate Dance Tests or both. One skater has her Silver Dance Medal and six others are preparing to take the same test. Four skaters intend to take their No. 2 Bar Figure Skating Test in the early spring. This is full evidence of their interest and proficiency.

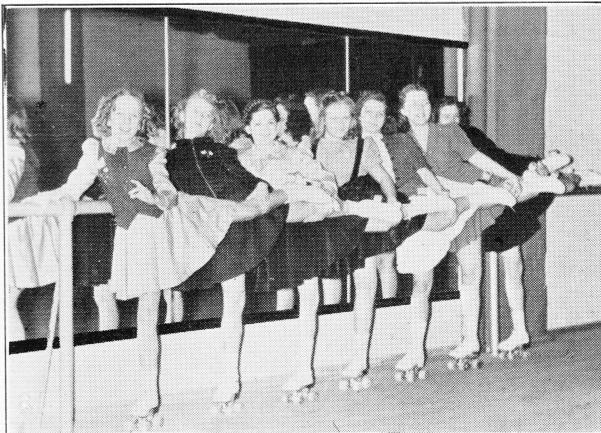
They have done well in competition. Consistant practice has developed good sportsmanship and we might suggest that the "Teen" group in particular be watched closely

when the Novice Contests take place this year. The Junior Club includes some 14 children who are 6 years or under. Little Kunnie Mae Williams, who is six, is the youngest skater to yet hold the Junior Bar Test, being only six when she passed.



(Above) Class instruction for the "Teens." Technique receives full attention here.

(Right) Eight "Teen" girls try out form before the practice mirror in the Instruction rink.



The Refreshment Fountain

WITHOUT doubt the most popular corner in the Arena. It is here that the tired and hungry and thirsty go for their intermissions. There is nothing like skating to raise that great big appetite and there is nothing like wholesome refreshment to satisfy that craving.

Although the accompanying illustration shows only the younger crowd at the fountain, they are by no means the most regular customers. These are the Juniors of the DFSC who have just completed their session and the resulting rush took place the other Saturday noon hour.

Many skaters not only patronize the Fountain after skating but lots of them come right from work for their skating and indulge in a light lunch before skating.

From "just a coke" to light lunches and warm drinks, the Arena Gardens Refreshment Fountain stands ready to serve you from 11:00 a. m. till closing at night.

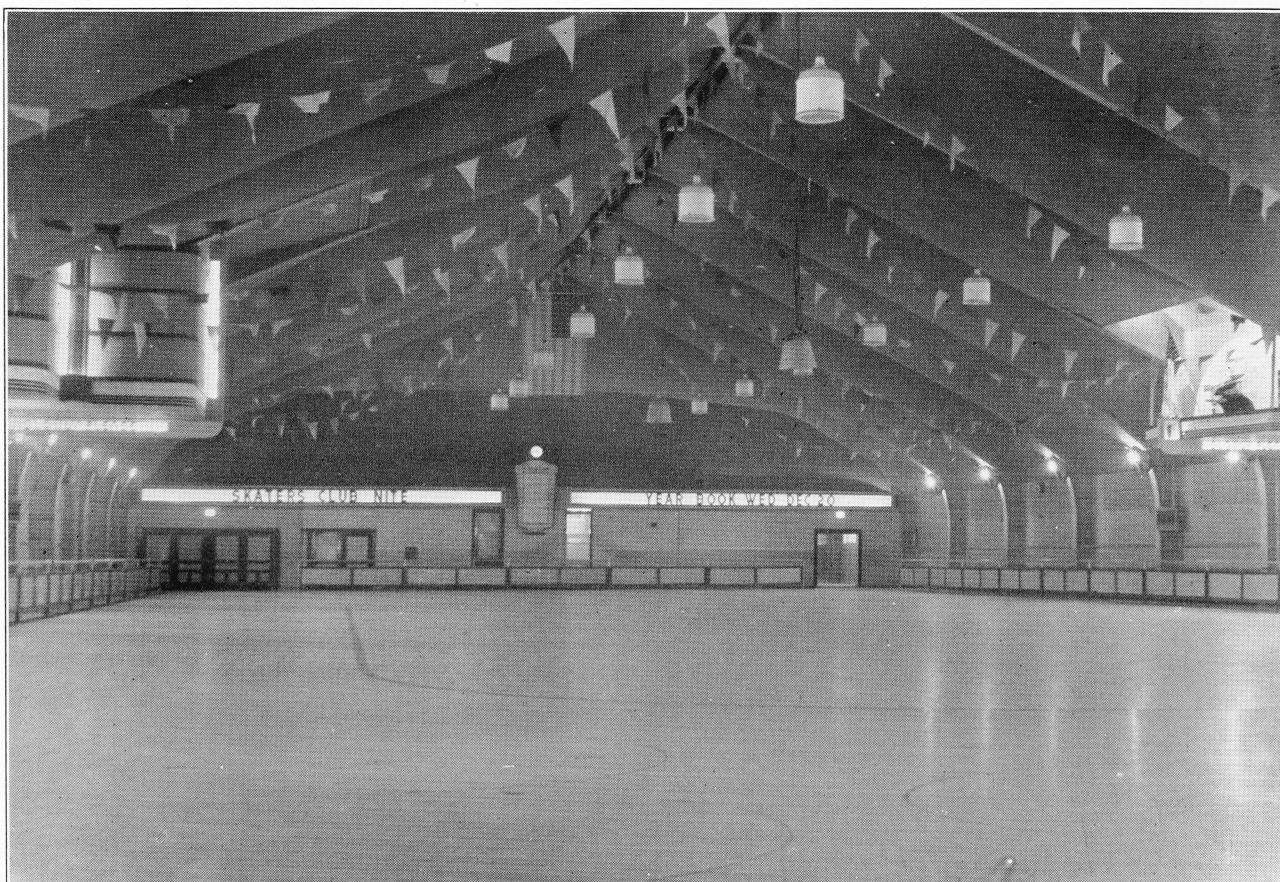


Your Club

EVERY function from the front lobby to the back door is arranged for your comfort and pleasure. The headquarters for the Arena Gardens Roller Skating Club is situated at the beautiful Club Booth in the front lobby. MISS HELEN WOLDS, membership secretary, reigns supreme at this post and greets everyone on their way in.

Below is a view of the great floor as seen in holiday dress last winter. Almost 24,000 feet of *unbroken floor space* is here at your disposal. Another 4,000 feet of floor is now available in the Instruction Rink.

The Arena floor is probably the busiest Club in the U. S. with hours daily from 9:00 a. m. till Midnight. Fifteen hours daily of skating and all this floor help to make Detroiters among America's best skaters.



Arena Gardens Speed Skating Club

HERE is a group which combines personalities if there ever was one. A compact Club of speed enthusiasts under the direction of Jess Bell that meets the year round and brooks no foolishness on the part of its members.

This is a hard sport. It is the most exacting of the roller sports. Going at the great speeds required of top competitors, mistakes are sometimes cruel to the skaters.

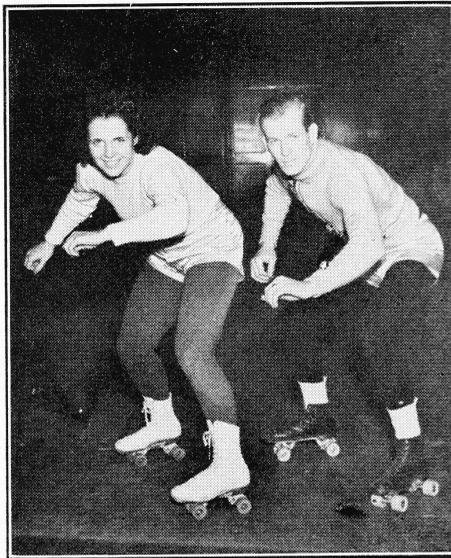


Girls train, too. Verna and teammates grind off a few long laps to build "wind."

They are bound by iron-clad rules to certain practices and cautions which, if broken, mean disqualification for the violator. These have proven a boon to roller speed skating for the amateur for they "clean up" the sport of mean tricks and give the skaters a chance for more speed.

The titles are beginning to fall. When the RSROA took

over the governing of roller skating, roller speed skating had more champions per capita than all of the other sports put together. When a skater won a race, he immediately annexed the title of "World Champion." Every whistle stop and crossroad had its own "Champion." But that is all gone now. Honest time and distances are giving skaters something to skate against.



Leading Lights. VERNA PICTON, National Champion and HARRY LINDBERGH, runner-up National 1940, outstanding skaters in the Speed Club.



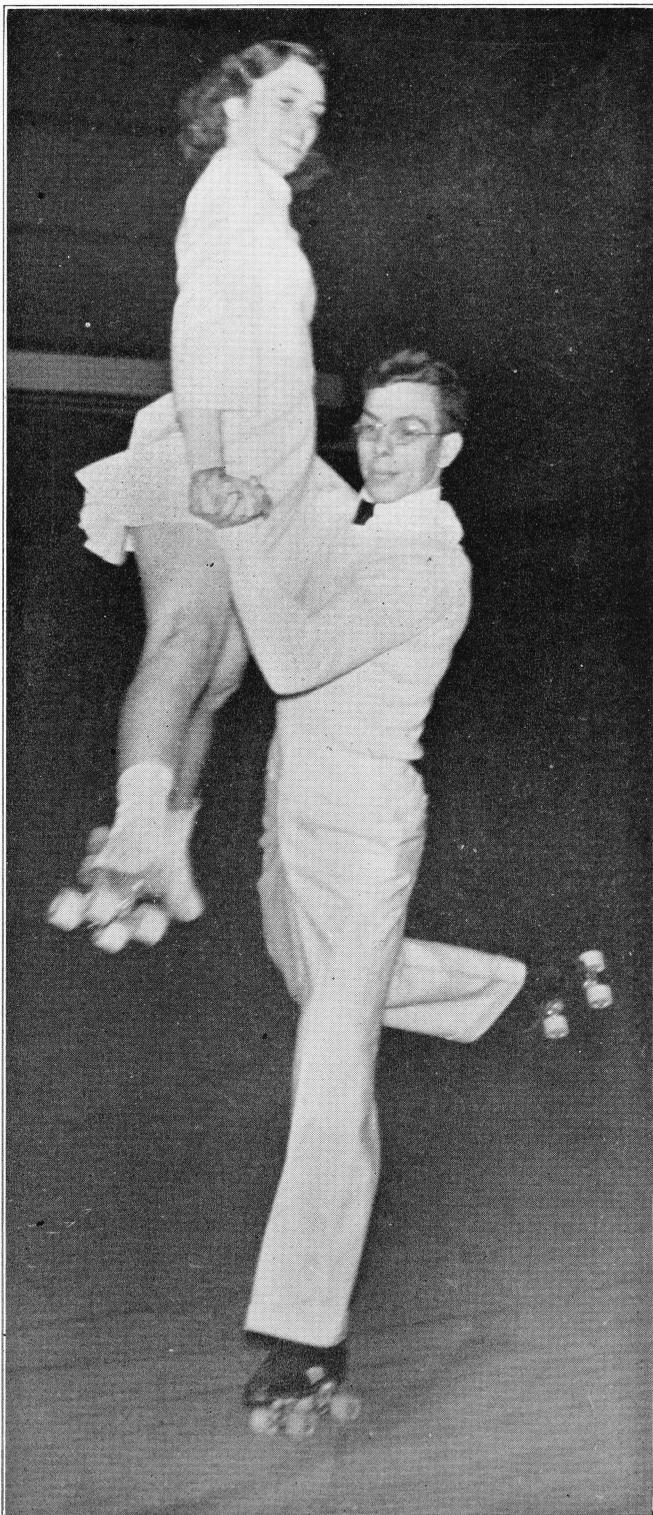
The boys hit a corner led by "CURLEY" FARMER, one of the Club Pros and a hard taskmaster

Verna Picton, 1940 U. S. Amateur Lady Champion, and Harry Lindbergh, runner-up National 1940, are the leading skaters of the Speed Club. Harry is married to Virginia Hancock, former title holder. Neither of these skaters is a "kid," contrary to common belief. Harry is 24, Verna 21.

Other members are Shirley Hill, Johnny Matkovich, Norman Archer, William Hartens, Henry Lemming, Johnny Steele (National Juvenile Champion 1940), Jaqueline Jarchow, Joseph McNorgan and Walter Grubb. Still others have also come into this group in recent months.

Meetings are held six times monthly after the evening session.

PICTORIAL REVIEW



MISS ELDORA ANDREWS and BILL BEST, who won the 1939 U. S. Pair Skating Championship. Eldora holds the 1940 Michigan Senior Ladies Figure Title. In the 1940 Pairs for Michigan, they finished second, Billy skating in spite of a serious knee injury. The effects of skating this meet forced him out of National Competition for the year and consequently they dropped the National Title undefended.

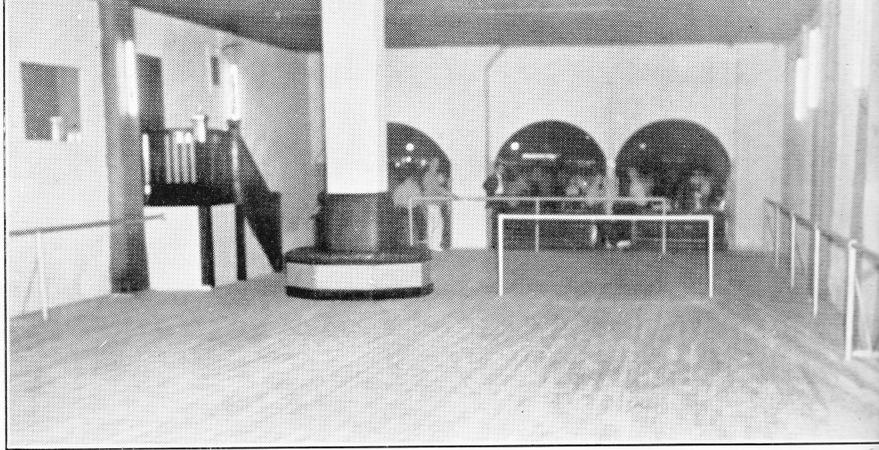


MISS JANET YEARICK and A. H. "JACK" WEIR, 1940 Michigan Senior Skate Dance Champions. They won their first title in this contest beating out their perennial opposition, **Lloyd Young and Miss Virginia Mount** by less than one tenth of a point. "Jack" is also a committeeman on the National Skate Dancing Committee of the RSROA this year.

MARGARET WILLIAMS and DOUGLAS BRENISER, both 11 years old are members of the "Teen" D F S C and Michigan Junior Skate Dance Champions for 1940.

Doug is also Junior Figure Champ for the State and Margaret runner-up. Both hold runner-up medals in the 1940 Nationals for Juvenile Speed. Doug has both of his Bronze Tests, Figures and Dance. Margaret is the youngest skater in the U. S. to hold the Silver Skate Dance Test Medal. She, like Doug, also holds the Bronze in Figures.

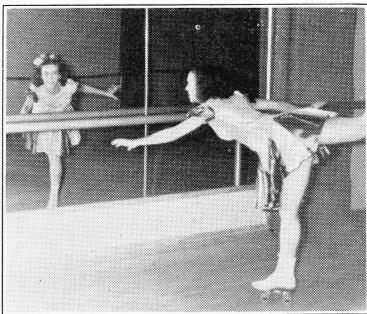




(Above)
The new
Instruction Rink.
4000 feet
of floor space
to serve
practice needs.



(Left)
He says "hello"
and also
"good night."
BILLY WILSON
on duty at
the door.



(Above left) **VIRGINIA MOUNT** and
LLOYD YOUNG, 1939's National Dance
Champions, show an exhibition run-off.

(Below left) **JANE AMMALA**, seen
at practice; (top) she spirals before
practice mirror; (lower) a smooth toe
spin.



(Below) The **CLEVELAND CIVIC**
AUDITORIUM, scene of the 1940
and the projected 1941 National Champion-
ships. It seats 6,500 for the events.





(Above) **PERRY B. RAWSON**, highest authority on skate dancing in U. S., visited Detroit early in December. Shown here with **MARGE** and **BOB MARTIN**.

(Below) Phenomenal success has attended **MELVA BLOCK'S** skating career. She has developed remarkable free skating ability during her two short years of skating, and last year captured second place in the National Novice Ladies' Figures.



(Above) **JANE AMMALA**, National Senior Lady Figure Champion in 1939, dropped one place to runner-up in 1940 after giving a creditable contest for the place. Jane married Bob Ammala, pro, last season and looks forward to the day that they might teach together. This illustration shows a Paulsen toe-stop.

(Below) RSROA officials attend the Arena fall opening preview. (Left to right) **WALTER E. KIEFER**, Saginaw; **FRED H. FREEMAN**, Boston, new RSROA President; **VICTOR J. BROWN**, Newark, Past President of RSROA, **FRED** and **BOB MARTIN**.



RSROA TESTS PASSED BY ARENA SKATERS - 1940

Junior Figure Skating Test

Joseph O'Doherty
Edward Morgan
Milton Hibbs
Vlady Regentik
Nora Zdan
Archie E. Ewers
Joanna Kozey
Elwood Compton
Mary Bubb
Madeline Eastland
Joseph Stokosa
Dorothy Law
Patricia Hill
Rose L. Martin
Richard Martin
Margaret Williams
Gloria Black
William Martin
Beverly Kuhle
Douglas Breniser
Peter Breniser
Betty Cruden
Paul Ruggirello
Carl Mathews
Lyle Cole
Louise Moore
Kunnie Mae Williams
Mildred Brown
Isobel Hodgins
Raymond Gene Bell
Eleanor King
Albert Ewers
Edna Faulkner

Bronze Medal Figure Skating Test

Lillian Schroeder
Archie E. Ewers
Nora Zdan
Jack Taylor
Marion Weissmuller
Madeline Eastland
Joseph O'Doherty
Joseph Stokosa
Melva Block
Margaret Williams
Edward Morgan
Peter Breniser
Carl Mathews
Rose L. Martin
Dorothy Law

Billie Celmer
Patricia Hill
Joanna Kozey
Albert Ewers
Kunnie Mae Williams

Second Bar Figure Skating Test

Eldora Andrews
Carl Mathews

Third Bar Figure Skating Test

Eldora Andrews
Mrs. Jane Ammala

Bronze Medal Skate Dancing Test

Joseph O'Doherty
Archie E. Ewers
Ruth Odian
Edward Morgan
Mildred Brown
Robert Burton
John Prendergast
Mrs. H. V. Heard
Marion Weissmuller
Clarence Gerity
Milton Hibbs
Adele James
Sylvia Jacoby
Kathleen Hanson
Mrs. Wilma Brett
Richard Martin
Rose L. Martin
Margaret Williams
Dorothy Law
Peter J. Rudish
J. V. Johnstone
Douglas Breniser
Peter Breniser
Roland Martin
Patricia Hill
Donald Martin
Peggy Mattice
Helen Odian
Lillian Schroeder
Melva Block
Shirley Goldman
Runelda Hills

Harvey Allison
Louise Moore
Gloria Black
Betty Cruden
William Martin
Eileen Stiegler
Mrs. H. G. Salsinger
William Veal
Warren Knopsnider
Marilyn Hill
Robert M. Johnson
Lorraine Steffen
Doris King
Richard McLauchlen
Kay Evanoff
Laura Hellinck
Virginia Klimowska
Eleanor Patryjak

Silver Medal Skate Dancing Test

R. D. Martin
Marjorie J. Martin
A. H. Weir
Janet Yearick
Lloyd G. Young
Virginia Mount
Madeline Eastland
Archie E. Ewers
Ruth Odian
John Prendergast
Geraldine Compton
Milton Hibbs
Mildred Brown
Luella Uhley
Orletta Zimmerman
Hugo O. Laine
George Brett
Robert Burton
Melva Block
Edward Morgan
Douglas Orr
Margaret Williams

Bronze Medal Speed Skating Test

Marvin Salzwedel
Verna Picton
Norman Archer
Harry Lindbergh
John Matkovich
Clarence Farmer

Arena Gardens Weekly Schedule

Monday

WRESTLING.

Tuesday

OPEN for Practice 4 till 6 p. m. Evening Session 7 till 10:30.

Wednesday

OPEN for Practice 9 a. m. till 6 p. m. Class in Elementary Skate Dancing from 7 to 8 p. m., no extra charge. Evening Session 8 till 11:30.

Thursday

OPEN for Practice 9 a. m. till 6 p. m. Class in Advanced Skate Dancing from 7 to 8 p. m., no extra charge. Evening Session 8 till 11:30.

Friday

OPEN for Practice from 9 a. m. till 1 p. m. Matinee Session 2 till 4:30 p. m. (full organ musical program.) Senior D. F. S. C. Session from 6 to 7:45 p. m. Evening Session 8 till 11:30.

Saturday

JUNIOR D. F. S. C. Session 10:30 a. m. till 12:00 noon. Special Children's Matinee Session from 1 to 3:30 p. m. D. F. S. C. Teen Group Session from 4:00 to 6:00 p. m. Practice time from 6:00 to 7:45 p. m. Evening Session from 8 to 12.

Sunday

SENIOR D. F. S. C. Session 10:00 a. m. till 12:00 noon. Matinee Session from 2 till 4:30 p. m. Evening Session from 8 till 11:30.

PRICE SCHEDULE

Matinees

Members	TOT. 25c
Admission 15c — Skating 10c	
Guests	TOT. 30c
Admission 15c — Skating 15c	
Children (Except Sat.)	TOT. 20c
Admission 10c — Skating 10c	

Saturday Matinee

Children

Members—Safety Club	10c
Guests	15c

Practice Time

By the Hour	15c
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Evenings

Members	TOT. 40c
Admission 20c — Skating 20c	
Guests	TOT. 53c
Admission 20c—Skating 30c—U.S. Tax 3c	

Special Events

Halloween, New Year's Eve, etc.	
Guests	TOT. 64c
Admission 20c—Skating 40c—U.S. Tax 4c	
Club Members—Regular Price	



RULES OF DRESS

GENTLEMEN—Skating is permitted in business suit. Coat may be removed providing party is otherwise attired in unobtrusively colored shirt and tie or in sport shirt. Suspenders, sweaters, polo shirts, jackets and uniforms other than those of active U. S. Services are not permissible.

LADIES—Skating is permitted in your choice of dress providing the costume skirt reaches to the knees. Slacks, beach pajamas, riding breeches, etc., are not permissible.

AT YOUR

Service



**THE MOST COMPLETE
ROLLER SKATE SALES ROOM**

Featuring

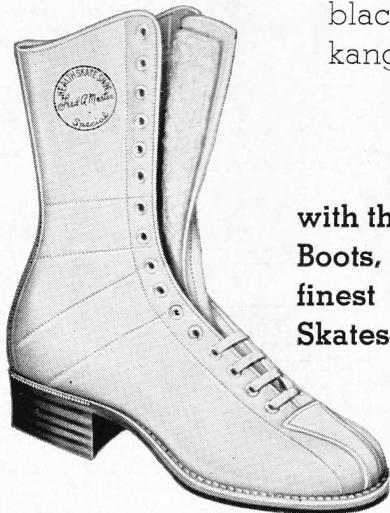
Fred A Martin

SPECIAL BOOTS

by ATHCO

For Men, Ladies and Children

in white, beige and brown elk, white bucko,
black calf and black genuine
kangaroo leathers.



**COMPLETE
OUTFITS**

with the "Fred A. Martin" Special
Boots, in combination with the
finest of American-made Roller
Skates—

\$8.50 TO \$35.00

ARENA GARDENS SKATERS SHOP

— IN THE LOBBY —

OPEN ALL THE YEAR ROUND
