

SKATERS ON PARADE

Arena Gardens Roller Skating Club of Detroit

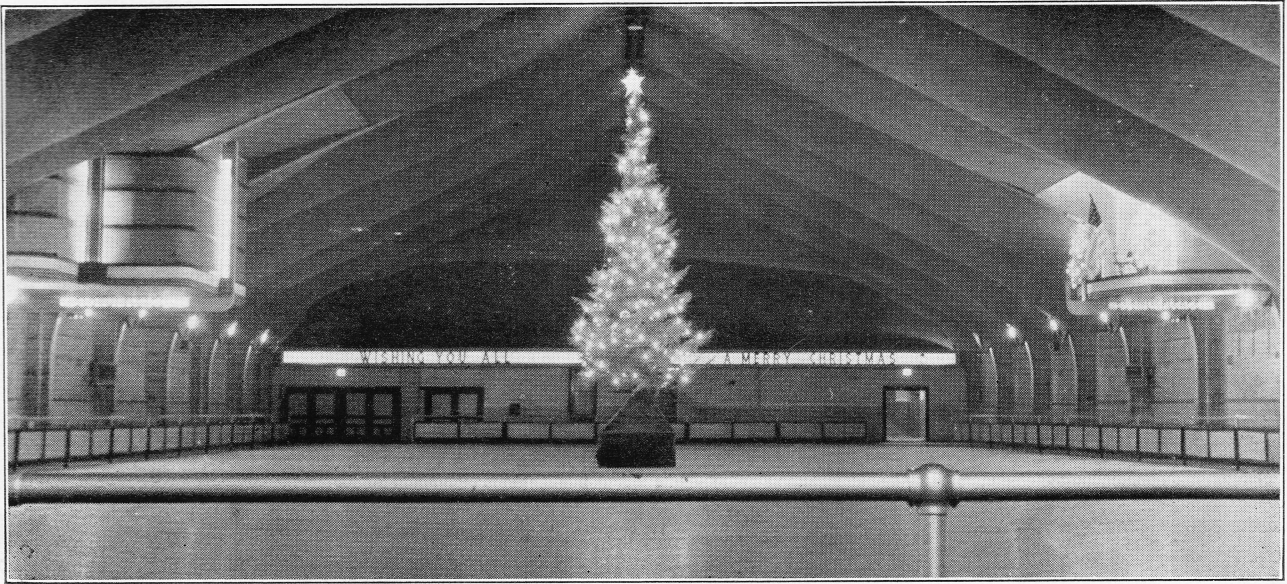
1941-42 Year Book



The Arena Gardens,
its management and
affiliated clubs,



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



AT CHRISTMAS . . . this year more than ever before, we think of those skaters who have passed through our doors and who have skated at the Arena during the months and years past.

Now we find many of the men in the uniform of this country's armed services and those of the nations with whom we are allied in the struggle to defend our shores against the aggressor.

This year will bring sorrows as well as the joys we have known in past years. It may come to pass that men who have skated at the Arena with you and me will come to skate no more. This, we pray, will not be the case, but in the great game we must all stand the chance of losing as well as emerging victorious.

So . . . to those men who have laid aside their skates to help defend America we sincerely dedicate this Year Book . . . Thumbs up, boys!

“SKATERS ON PARADE”

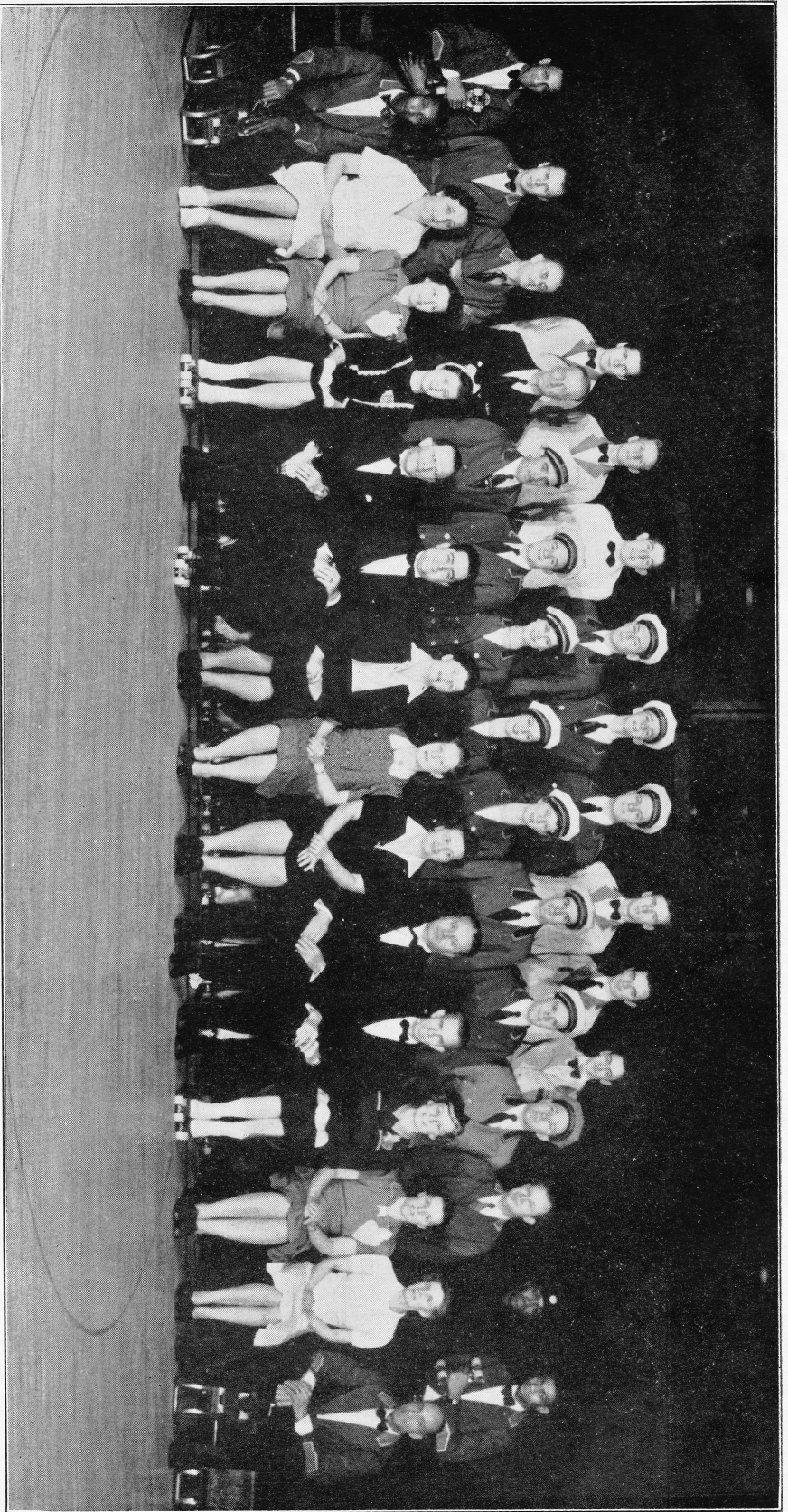
The 1941-1942 Year Book of the
**ARENA GARDENS ROLLER SKATING
 CLUB of DETROIT**

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**ARENA GARDENS 5795 WOODWARD AVE.
 DETROIT, MICHIGAN, U. S. A.**

Photographs in this issue by
 Ralph Kramer Bert Emanuel
 Edw. W. Smith (Skating Review) Time Magazine
Cover designed and executed by
 Ralph Kramer R. D. Martin





THE STAFF THAT SERVES YOU . . .

(Front) Left to Right: Sam Lee, Mrs. Ebel Pellman, Miss Martina Marvel, Miss Irene Seifert, Russell Bice, Robert D. Martin, Mrs. Alma Brown, Mrs. Marjorie McLauchlen, Miss Helen Wolds, Fred A. Martin, Jesse E. Bell, Miss Luella Uhley, Mrs. Eleanor King, Mrs. Elda Hill, Herman Thompson.

(2nd Row) Left to Right: Clarence Thompson, Robert Clergy, Eddy Martin, George Shuler, Romeo Diotte, Robert Miller, Miss Mable Osborne, Miss Virginia Keller, Miss Charlotte Wangenheim, Virgil Carrington, Robert Stanton, Earl Dunn, Earl King, Charles McIntosh, Arthur Wallace.

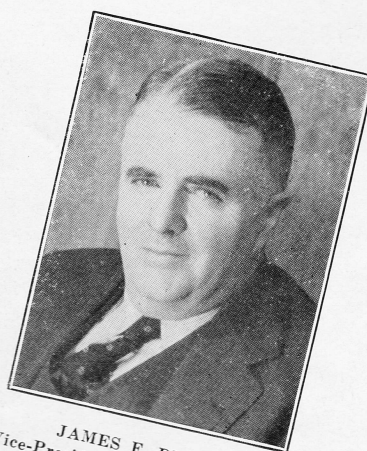
(3rd Row) Left to Right: James O'Hara, Philip Peterson, Raymond Kelly, Richard McLauchlen, Claude Buckner, Roland Martin, Victor Harrington, James McDonald, Richard Martin.
Not in photograph: Irma Lettaert, Dayton Bakewell, Charles Studekum.



MRS. MARIE WEISSMULLER
President



FRED A. MARTIN
General Manager



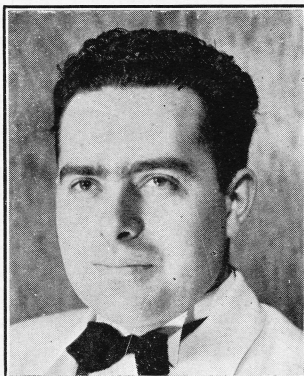
JAMES F. DUFFY
Vice-President and Legal Counsel

WEISSMULLER SPORTS ENTERPRISES, INC.

**ARENA GARDENS MANAGEMENT
AND KEY STAFF**



EARL (MICKEY) DUNN
Chief of Staff



ROBERT D. MARTIN
Asst. Mgr. and Head Professional



MRS. ELIZABETH SUMMERTON
Bookkeeper



JESSE E. BELL
Skating Party Representative



EDDY MARTIN
Skate Department



MRS. ELEANOR KING
Refreshment Fountain

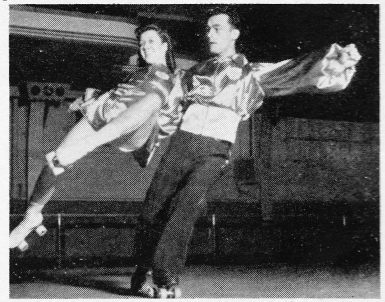


EARL KING
Skate Sales Department

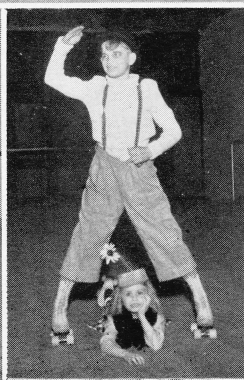


DFSC CARNIVAL

Last January, the DFSC held its most successful carnival. "Fun Valley" was without a doubt in the sense of the word . . . a Bulls-eye! The members had fun too . . . Fun . . . and an income that added to the RSROA Amateur Fund. There were some outstanding numbers, as there is in every carnival at the Arena but every member of the club and some who were not even members, the parents, friends, and Detroit's Public all helped to make this show a grand success. Here are a few impressions of the Carnival



of 1941-'FUN VALLEY'





SKATING IS FUN

By FRED A. MARTIN, *General Manager, Arena Gardens*

SKATING is Fun . . . If it were not, we might not even be looking at the old dry pen etching which is reproduced on this page, for the "old-timers" would have given it up long, long ago. Yes, Skating is real fun for your father's father and mine (not to mention grandma, good old soul) skated in the "gaslight era" and long before.

Since the old Dutchman put the wooden spools on the weird contrivances that he had fashioned to fasten them to his wooden shoes and bump-

bumped down the cobblestone pavements of old Holland we have had roller skating. It was started to be an imitation of ice skating . . . but, my, oh my, how roller skating has come to its own.

The sport is recognized by world governing bodies . . . skaters of note come from all walks of life (and all ages). More and more, the sport-craving public is turning toward the sport of roller skating and the rinks themselves are becoming truly the boast of the old-timers . . . "Roller Skating Palaces"!

I close this item and wish to leave the thought in your mind that this beloved sport of ours is not a new idea . . . not a new fad . . . not a passing fancy of the public, a la pee-wee golf, but definitely a year-in-and-out sport to be followed for life. Let's all plan to skate like that grand old man of skating here in Detroit, Capt. Jack Miner. He skated until he passed on and that was beyond four score years.



Above . . . Roller Skating in the old Exhibition Building at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1890. Note the Military Band in the background . . . and the gas lighting. This was before the days of central heating, hence the heavy clothing . . . and toppers.

From an old print, permission of the Richardson Ball Bearing Skate Co., of Chicago, Ill.



PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND TEACHERS



Above . . . This photograph was published in *TIME* (Nov., 1940) and shows Bob and Marge Martin (now McLaughlen) in their capacity of teaching skating.

WITH some fifteen professionals employed, the Arena Gardens ranks high on the scale of American rinks. Nine of the professionals are qualified to teach skating at present and others will be added to the list as they attain their test medals and serve their apprenticeship periods.

You can rest assured that, regardless of what branch of skating you might wish instruction in, the Arena can serve you creditably. Greatest demand, of course, is skate dancing and straight or "pleasure" skating (as though all skating is not pleasure). If you wish figure skating or speed skating instruction, professionals are available to serve your needs.

Not only private lesson instruction is available, for the beginner is given help and advice at every evening session in the Practice Rink on the Cass Avenue side of the Arena. A professional is always on duty there to help you.

Of course, there are the Skate Dancing Classes which are held on Wednesday and Thursday evenings before the regular session hours, too. These classes cost you no more than your regular skating admission for the evening.

Members of the Detroit Figure Skating Club are given Figure Skating instruction as a part of their club activity, and the members of the Speed Skating Club are likewise instructed in their chosen sport.

THE life of the roller skating pro today is more than "just skating around" as so many persons think. The young pro and even those who are high on the scale must spend a certain amount of time in study and practice to be alert to new ideas and techniques.

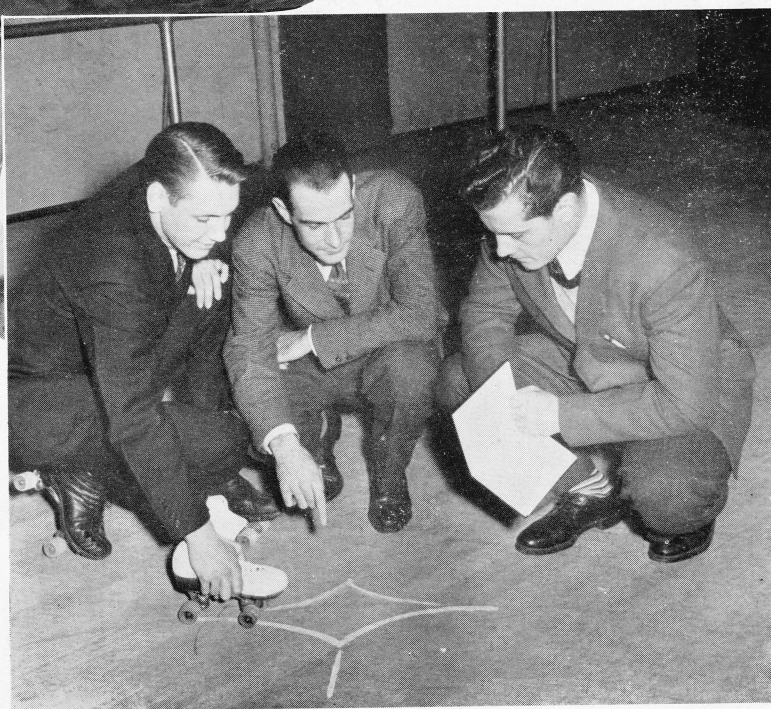
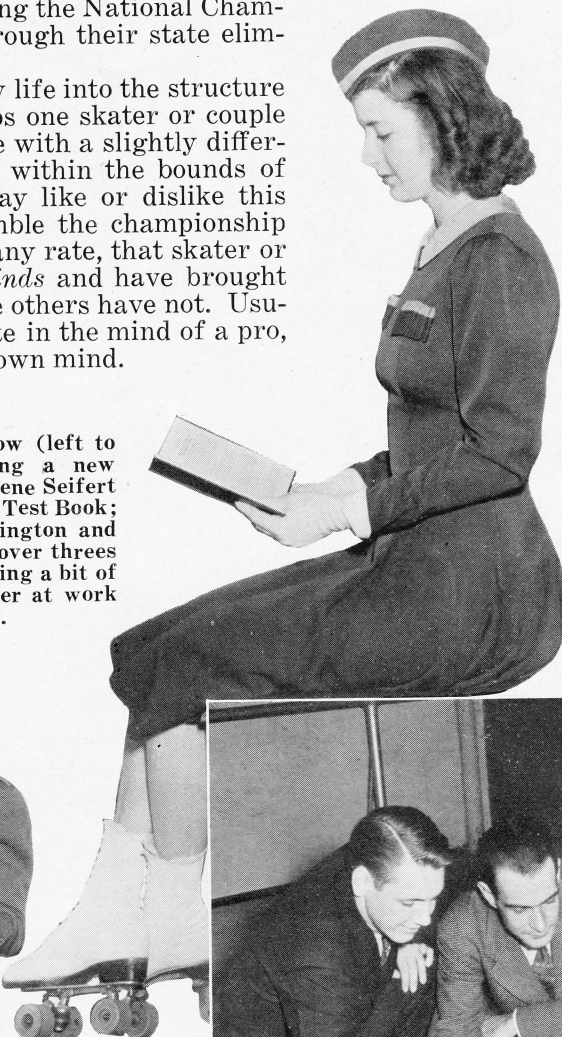
On many sides is heard the scream . . . "there you go changing that dance again." No. Definitely, No. The dance never changes but certainly the style used in skating the dance *does* change.

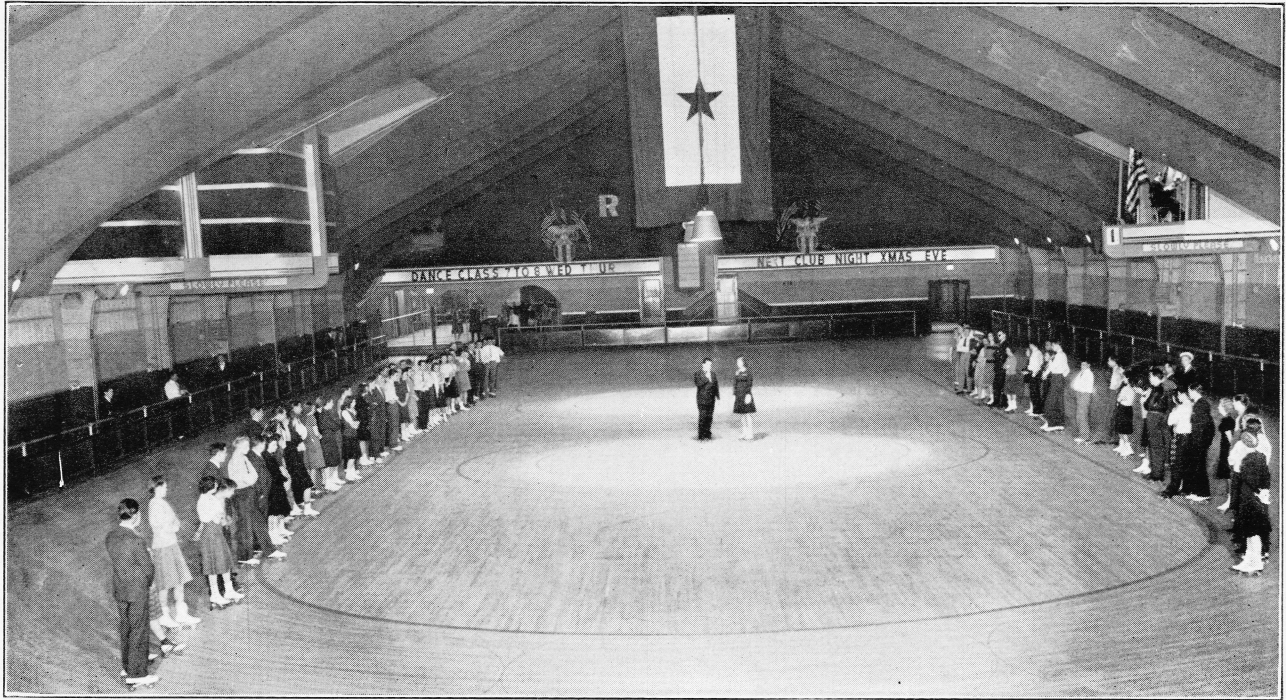
Is that a good idea? Yes, it is and here is an excellent reason why . . . Each year new skaters tackle the big job of entering the National Championships and must go through their state elimination contests first.

These skaters inject new life into the structure of our skating and perhaps one skater or couple will *treat* a figure or dance with a slightly different attitude, still keeping within the bounds of propriety. The judges may like or dislike this *style* . . . that is the gamble the championship skater must take. But at any rate, that skater or couple have *used their minds* and have brought to light something that the others have not. Usually all such ideas originate in the mind of a pro, sometimes in the skater's own mind.

The pictures on this page show (left to right) Romeo Diotte assisting a new skater in the Practice Rink; Irene Seifert at study in the new Gold Medal Test Book; Dick McLaughlen, Virgil Carrington and Roland Martin in a discussion over threes and brackets; Luella Uhley giving a bit of help and advice to a new skater at work on backward skating.

PROFESSIONALS MUST STUDY, TOO

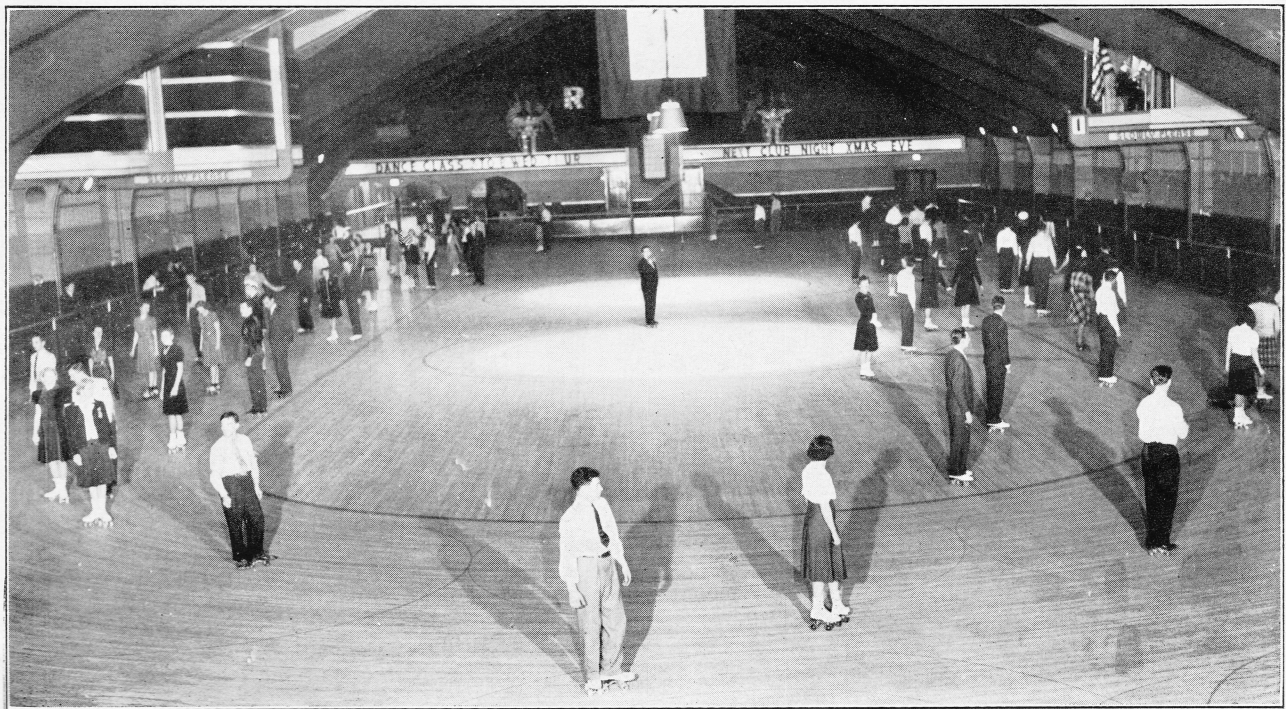




SKATE DANCING CLASSES

FOR six full years the Arena Gardens has featured two skate dancing classes weekly. These classes have been held on Wednesday and Thursday evenings between 7 and 8 p. m., just prior to the regular evening session.

Thousands of Detroiters have learned to dance on skates here. On this page is shown a typical Wednesday night class in one of the elementary dances. We invite your attendance—learn to dance!



“HELEN GREETSS YOU”

... Now meet Helen Wolds, club membership secretary, who presides over the beautiful club booth in the lobby. Her job is to answer your questions and make you feel at home as well as sign up the new members, etc.



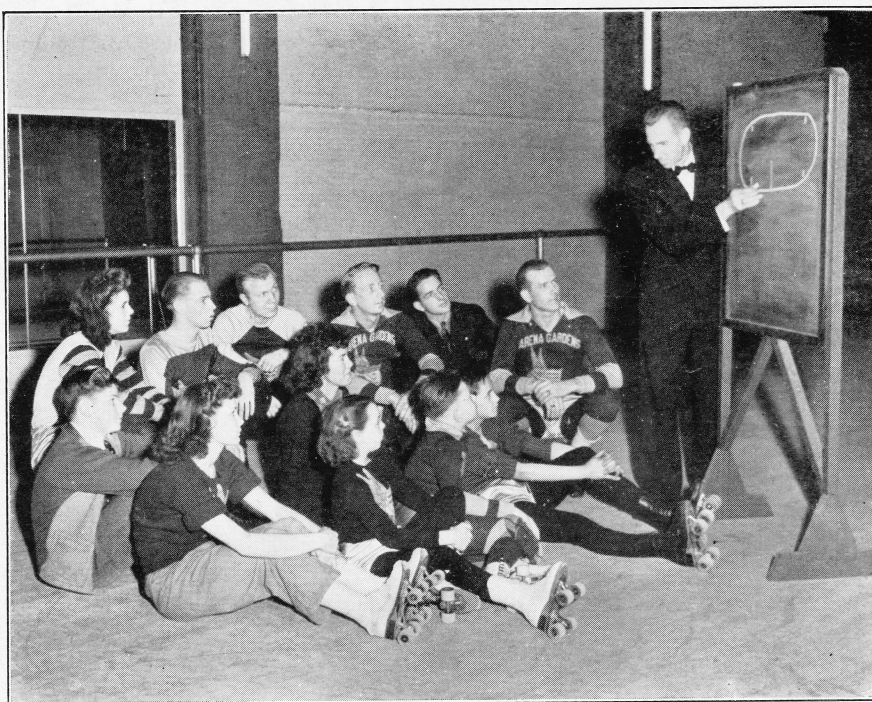
“FIGURE SKATING”

Bob Martin, head pro, has the responsibility of seeing that all classes and lessons are held as scheduled. A teacher of top rank, he holds American, Canadian and British Test Medals. For five years he has been National Chairman of the RSROA Figure Skating Committee, and had the job of compiling much of the vast amount of material now available in the Test Books of that association.

CLUBS AT ARENA GARDENS



Jesse Bell, pro, instructs some members of the Arena Gardens Speed Skating Club before a blackboard.



Irene Seifert instructs a member in the simple technique of skate dancing.

THERE are seven clubs quartered at the Arena Gardens, each specialized to some particular function. We shall name them and define them here for you.

The Arena Gardens Roller Skating Club of Detroit . . . the parent club. A club especially for the casual or pleasure skater and for the skater who cannot spend much time in the pursuit of the sport. Over twenty thousand persons have registered with this organization since the Arena opened six years ago.

The Children's Safety Club . . . in which all youngsters under fourteen may register. They skate on Saturday afternoons and enjoy a special program which is designed just for them. Races, games, a few simple dances and a lot of fun.

The Sunday Matinee Club . . . for the teen-age skater who is above the children's club age and yet too young to skate with the adults. This club enjoys privileges on Sunday afternoon sessions.

The Arena Gardens Speed Skating Club . . . as the name designates, for all speed skaters. The club meets at present on Sunday mornings very early under the direction of Jesse Bell, Speed Club Pro. Their meetings are really drill and instruction classes. The club has produced some excellent skaters and a number of champions.

The Detroit Figure Skating Club . . . figure skating and dancing in club sessions and during practice time. Under the direction of Bob Martin, club pro and others of the pro staff. There are three age groups, Junior, Teen and Senior. All members are given work within their abilities. This club is and was always, since its organization five years ago, the premier Roller Figure Skating Club of America.

FEATURED ORGANIST...

...RUSSELL BICE

FAST becoming one of skating's great name organists, Russell Bice, who has been with us at the Arena Gardens since one month after the rink opening in November, 1935, is a person dear to the hearts of all Detroit skaters.

His even tempo and excellent arrangements of all the tunes necessary to carry out the complicated program at the Arena seem to make the sessions go quickly. Dances are really enjoyed here. Even those who attend from other cities note that the tempos seem so smooth that skating becomes practically effortless here.

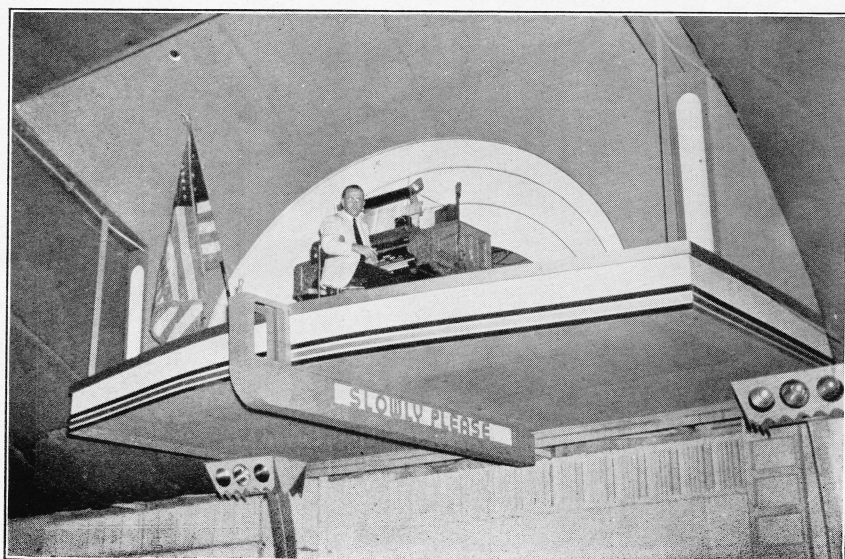
Russell has "cut" a number of skating records, too. In full accord with the music copyright owners, these records help the smaller rinks to have some of the programs used in the big rinks and help give the skaters who live remote from the "key rinks" a chance to enjoy the dancing.

The secret of his success? Well, it's pretty hard to say, but Russell is definitely not a "two-fisted organist" . . . you know, the boys who "bat" the keyboard. A light, easy touch and religious use of the metronome is all that we can attribute that certain "something" to. Naturally, a grand musical knowledge and education and a fine, even disposition have a whole lot to do with it also.

With the musical department under his direction, we can safely say that it is one of the especially outstanding features of Arena Gardens.



Russell at home at his beloved Hammond. He spends many hours of practice at the console and works out most of the music which he plays for the Arena programs long before you hear it.



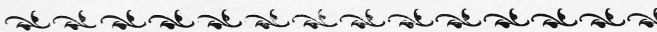
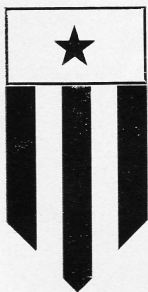
Russell Bice at the console of the Arena Gardens Mighty Grand Wurlitzer Pipe Organ. It is the music of this giant organ that keeps the skaters rolling along and happy. Most rinks cannot afford the costly installation of these giant skating organs, but here we are lucky to have a fine instrument for a fine musician.

OUR NATIONAL



MISS MELVA BLOCK, who at 17 attained the highest individual honors in Roller Figure Skating . . . the 1941 United States Senior Lady Figure Skating Champion. Melva has been skating just three years. Her advance has been spectacular to date. She is an accomplished ballet dancer and ice skater but looks forward to becoming a professional roller skater. Her greatest desire now is to become the Lady Champion of the world. Member D. F. S. C.

MISS DOROTHY LAW, 14, 1941 National Junior Girls' Speed Skating Champion. Dorothy holds medals in all types of competition and it may be said that she is a true "all-round" skater. "Dottie" has a great future in roller skating. She is being watched as a possible threat in the Novice class this year into which she has just advanced. Member D. F. S. C.

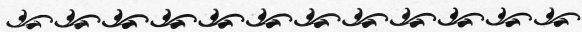


OWN CHAMPIONS

Here we have a photograph of ANN MANION and WALTER STOKOSA, just after they had skated their final pair-skating exhibition together in New York recently. Walter is in the Army and was on furlough for a few hours before he sailed for a foreign post with his unit. Ann was appearing with "A Night of Champions" amateur exhibition tour in the city. Walter "hung up" his skates just after this picture was taken . . . we hope that he wears them again . . . soon, and returns safely.



At the left is the presentation of the V. J. BROWN CHALLENGE TROPHY which is symbolic of the National Senior Pair Skating Championship, to Wally and Ann by Fred Martin, in his capacity as Secretary-Treasurer of the RSROA. This was one of the happiest moments in the lives of all three. Their terrific pairs program was the final figure skating event at Cleveland and literally "stopped the show." The presentation was made only minutes later. Both skaters are members of D. F. S. C.



STATE SPEED WINNERS

COMPLETING an excellent although small speed meet for the State Titles of 1941, Champions were, left to right, Gene Bell, Juvenile Boys' Class B; Jimmy Godfrey, Juvenile Boys' Class A; Verna Picton, Senior Ladies; Harry Lindbergh, Senior Men; Dorothy Law, Junior Girls; Roy Booth, Junior Boys; Eleanor King, Juvenile Girls' Class B.

Speed Skating has flourished at the Arena Gardens just as have all the other branches of the Roller sport. Each branch is given its own club and pro to encourage and coach the skaters.

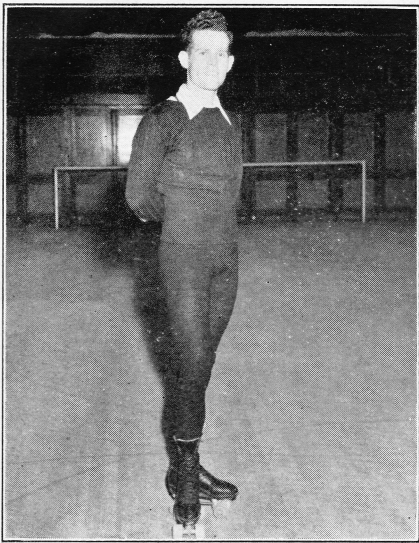


JUNIOR FIGURE CHAMPS



PLACE winners of the Michigan State Junior Figure Championship for 1941 were Harry Allen, 3rd; George Pat Bergin, 2nd; Douglas Breniser, Champion (2 years); Margaret Williams, Champion; Dorothy Law, 2nd; Rose Martin, 3rd.

Doug and Margaret were three-way Champs this year with gold medals in Figures, Pair Skating and Skate Dancing. They placed second in the National Junior Pair Skating Championships of 1941.



Bruce Towle, the skater who finally beat the master—Stokosa. At 20, Bruce has been skating just two years. He is 1940 Michigan Senior Man Figure Skating Champion and Runner-up in this year's National. While he looks forward to the Nationals with high hopes, Bruce rather expects that he will follow Wally into the Army.



Jack Weir and Janet Yearick, twice Michigan Senior Skate Dancing Champions (1940-1941). They are also Michigan Novice Pair Champs and National Runner-up Pair in that class. Both are Silver Dance Medalists and both hold Figure Test Medals. Jack is a National Judge and a high test Judge in Figures and Dance.



Winners Three! Probably the only time in a decade that one single club will capture all three places in a National Senior Event. In this case it was the 1941 National Senior Ladies . . . left to right, Eldora Andrews (now Best) 2nd; Melva Block, Champion; Ann Manion, 3rd. In the Michigan meet, Melva and Ann just reversed places.

. . . TITLES . . .

First and Second Ladies' Novice Figures for Michigan (1941), Florence Brierly and Marion Weissmuller. Marion captured the Runner-up position in the National meet also. Marion has won in other branches of sport, too—notably swimming, at which she excels.



John Prendergast and Marilyn Hill, who teamed to form a successful Championship couple for the 1941 Michigan Novice Skate Dance Title. Both are new to competitive skating and this year have found other partners for their respective tries in the Senior Class.



Junior Runner-up couple in the Michigan Skate Dancing Championships. Patricia (Pat to you) Hill and Don Martin. Both skaters have excellent prospects before them in the coming season. They had tried before to win competition places but unsuccessfully till now.



AFTERTHOUGHTS



BRIGHT STAR SHOWS HIS "ARENA" JACKET

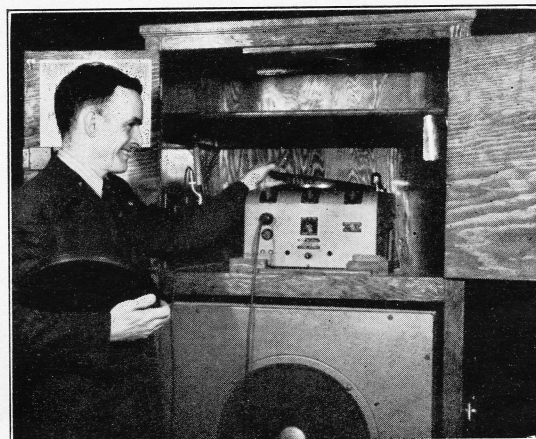
Fred Murree, "Bright Star" to you and me, at 81 years is still going strong. The Dean of American Skating sends his regards and thanks with a picture of himself in the new white buckskin jacket given him by the Arena Club and Employees at his last birthday which was celebrated here. Happy Skating, Fred!

DFSC WILL RECEIVE BALLET TRAINING

Miriam Hopper, a member of the DFSC, has taken over a class in teaching ballet to the girls and ladies of the club. These private DFSC lessons take place immediately after the club session every Sunday. Miss Hopper will also be available for private instruction. For information please inquire at Club Desk.

THE MUSIC MAN

Ray Shiels . . . often heard and seldom seen member of the DFSC who cares for the transcriptor that pounds out those "free skating" records. His pride and joy is to see the skaters enjoying themselves to the music he helps produce.



DFSC CARNIVAL ANNOUNCED

The 1942 Carnival of the Detroit Figure Skating Club will take place at Arena Gardens on January 27th and February 3rd. It is entitled "Stars and Stripes."



THEY SING THOSE NUMBERS FOR YOU

Jimmy Burton and Marge McLauchlen, who have sung so many times this year for you. Those Waltzes and Trios with the vocal refrains have been rendered by these skaters. You will hear many more voices this coming year as other skaters are auditioned. Give all of your songsters a big hand, skaters . . . they try hard to please you.

BILL AND HUGO PASS SILVER TEST

Bill Best and Hugo Laine passed their Silver Medal Figure Skating Tests on Wednesday night, December 10th, to become the seventh and eighth skaters in this country to attain the test on Rollers. Both tried last year and failed to make the grade. This alone should encourage others who have failed tests. Congratulations, Boys!

Arena Gardens Weekly Schedule

Monday

WRESTLING.

Tuesday

OPEN for Practice 4 till 6 p. m. Evening Session 7:30 till 11:00.

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 9 a. m. till 5 p. m. 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 4:15 to 6:00 p. m. Practice time from 6:00 to 7:45 p. m. Evening Session from 8 to 12.

Sunday

SPEED CLUB Practice 7:00 a. m. till 9:00 a. m.
SENIOR D.F.S.C. Session 10:00 a. m. till 12:00 noon. Matinee Session from 2 till 4:30 p. m. Practice skating 5:30 till 7:30 p. m. Evening Session from 8 till 11:30.

PRICE SCHEDULE

Evenings

Members TOT. 50c
Adm. and Skat. 44c — Fed. Tax 6c

Guests TOT. 60c
Adm. and Skat. 54c — Fed. Tax 6c

Saturday Matinees

Children TOT. 15c
Adm. and Skat. 13c — Fed. Tax 2c

Teens and Adults TOT. 28c
Adm. and Skat. 25c — Fed. Tax 3c

Sunday Matinees

Everyone TOT. 28c
Adm. and Skat. 25c — Fed. Tax 3c

Practice Time

By the Hour 15c

The above prices include all services.



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.



NOTICE: The Management wishes to comply with all city ordinances and state laws, therefore, No Child under 16 years of age may skate during an evening session unless accompanied by parent who is also skating.

V FOR VICTORY

..... means that skates, boots, and all athletic equipment must be deferred "for the duration" when and where necessary.

We shall do our best to serve you during the emergency.



THE SKATERS' SHOP

(in the lobby)

A R E N A G A R D E N S