

Collection #
P 0856

INDIANA ROLLER RINK STICKERS

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Processed by

Matt S Holdzkom
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 upright graphics folders

COLLECTION DATES: Circa 1940s-1960s

PROVENANCE: National Museum of Roller Skating, 2004

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Riverside Amusement Park Photographs (P0718); Nyona Lake Skating Rink advertisement (Broadside collection, GV859 .N96 1940)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2004.0418

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Though it has its origins in the 18th century, roller skating first became popular in the 1850s in Europe. After some technological improvements to the skates, it boomed in popularity in the 1880s. However, it was not until the 1930s to the 1950s that roller skating would enter its “Golden Age.” In the 1940s, roller rinks had a feature section in *Billboard* magazine. By the end of that decade, an estimated 5,000 rinks were in operation across the United States.

Beginning in the 1930s, roller rink operators promoted their businesses by designing stickers intended for application on skate cases. Skating enthusiasts began collecting the stickers and in 1948, a group of them in New York formed the Universal Roller Skating Sticker Exchange (URSSE). An estimated 8,000 unique designs were created worldwide. International stickers were especially desirable to URSSE collectors.

Skating began to decline in popularity in the 1960s. Despite a resurgence in the 1970s from roller discos, the age of roller rink stickers had passed. The URSSE held its last convention in 1989.

Sources:

Anika Burgess, “When Local Roller Rinks Had Their Own Collectible Stickers,” Atlas Obscura, <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/roller-skating-rink-stickers>. Accessed 13 April 2023

“Roller skating” and “Golden Age of Roller Skating,” Wikipedia, Accessed 13 April 2023

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of 23 (some duplicates) stickers and decals from various roller rinks in Indiana. Most of the stickers have collectors' names stamped or written on verso. They have been arranged alphabetically by city.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Alexandria (Skateland)

Cedar Lake (Crescent)

Chesterton (Atlas)

Columbia City (Happy Valley)

Fort Wayne (Bell's, Riverview)

Gary (Jacks)

Greensburg (Tree City Roller Drome, Club 46)

Indianapolis (Riverside)

Michigan City (Rainbow)

Mishawaka (Bock's)

Noblesville (Rainbo)

Rochester (Roll Arena)

Seymour (Rok-Sey)

Silver Lake (Silver Lake)

Valparaiso (Swartout's)

CONTAINER

Graphics:
Folder 1

Graphics:
Folder 2

Warsaw (Crystal)

Graphics:
Folder 2

West Baden (Butler's)

Graphics:
Folder 2

Yorktown (Rollerbug)

Graphics:
Folder 2