

THE RAGE FOR THE ROLLER SKATE

A Pastime of World-Wide Popularity is Enjoying a Tremendous Vogue Just Now, and Plattsmouth is Right in the Swim.

Plattsmouth in common with the rest of the country is in the throes of a growing roller skating craze. From the mysterious absurdity which abandoned fads the roller skate emerged into new life four years ago and daily is gaining in popularity. Promoted by Young America, its fascinations are appealing to all ages, and is evidenced by the kids, who are seen on the streets occasionally, occupying the principal portion of the sidewalks.

The roller skating fad attacks the country periodically. The history of the pastime includes "craze of 1841," "the craze of 1866" and even more remote dates distinctly marked by a national or international indulgence in the sport.

The Beginning of Roller Skating

Roller skating has an existence dating as far back as 1819, when it was invented by a Frenchman. The first roller skates were very crude, weighing perhaps five pounds, and having rollers an inch and a quarter wide and about two and a half inches in diameter. From 1820 to 1874, however, hardly a year elapsed without a roller skate being patented which was an improvement upon its predecessor, and by 1876 it had reached such a state of perfection that in minor details only was inferior to our present day skate.

The roller skate owes its existence principally to one man—W. F. Plimpton an Englishman, who made at least a dozen improvements on the skate and did more than any other to bring it to its present condition.

The roller skating craze first appeared in England in 1864. Its vogue did not confine itself to children and young people, but took hold of middle aged and elderly persons as well. The following extract from the London Society of 1875 may give an idea to what extent this was true:

"The rollers have a fascination for all ages and even under the greatest disadvantages. This is not so remarkable with proficients who can but hobble like cats in pattens. We have seen ladies of a good half hundred persevere through all the fatigues of the goose step (a style of skating of that period) with a degree of energy worthy, if possible, of a better cause. We have seen ladies of a 'certain age'—that is certainly aged—with some twelve stone to carry on the wheels, thinking it never too late to begin; we have seen one grandmother and several gentlemen of three score years and ten, who seemed to us, Tristram Shandy says of aged-students, as if they were qualifying to practice in the world to come."

Not only was roller skating indulged in by young and old alike, but it soon became the principal pastime of London high society, and numerous skating clubs were organized. The craze soon spread to other cities and every town of importance throughout England had its skating club. By 1867 it became almost more popular than dancing and the newspapers and fashion plates were filled with the "latest" in skating costumes.

In the early '40s skates were used by ballet dancers and proved a great success; in fact the opera "Les Plaisirs de l'Hiver," which was produced at Her Majesty's theatre, London, owed its success to its ballet of roller skates.

Restaurant Waiters on Skates.

In Berlin, in 1851, some skating waitresses, dressed in fancy costumes and moving on wheel skates, were introduced into the beer houses of that city, as an additional attraction to the soldiers, students and other frequenter of the Kneipe. It is strange that this idea has not been copied by some of our modern caterers. Who can tell but that it might solve the quick service problem, and it would undoubtedly add amusement to cafe patrons to see their waiter or waitress doing fancy "stunts" on their skates while carrying their longed for dinner.

Will Build a New Home.

This morning Henry Born came in and took out a load of lumber and the carpenters, who will begin on the new residence which Mr. Born is building on his farm west of the city. Henry is going to have a house which will be both comfortable and commodious. Baxter Smith and Herman Teiketter are doing the work, having just completed the home of Ed Treitsch, just south of the farm of Mr. Born, where they are now working.

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In 1866 the roller skating "fever" broke out in Australia and soon spread to the United States and Canada. New York and Cincinnati were the first to get the craze, other cities soon followed and by 1868 almost every city and town of the United States was in the midst of a roller skating craze, known in skating history as "The craze of 1866."

The rink of the New York Skating association was the first in America. Roller skating in those days confined itself solely to rinks. This, however, is not hard to understand and as the roads and sidewalks in those days were not what they are at present.

The skaters of that day were by no means behind us in rink skating as they were thoroughly acquainted with the waltz, three-step and polka. They also indulged in "skating" of which the modern skater is unacquainted, namely, the grand march, which was skated in much the same manner as at a ball.

One of the most recent forms of roller skates is the two-wheeled variety, the wheels made of hard rubber. This skate was much used on streets and roads, but a more recent ball bearing skate has proved more satisfactory for this line of sport.

A Motor Skate the Latest.

The very latest is the motor roller skate, invented by M. Constantini of Paris, who has perfected many devices for automobiles. The skate is run by a gasoline motor. The use of the rubber wheels is to give it a very smooth running movement. On the back of each skate is a small sheet iron box which contains the battery and spark coil. From this box a pair of wires protected by rubber tubing passes up to the leather belt which the skater wears, and upon this belt is placed the switch by which one is able to make or break the ignition circuit when one wishes to start or stop the motor or to regulate its speed. On the back part of the belt is fixed a small gasoline tank which feeds the motor. Each motor weighs 8.8 pounds and contains one-fourth of a gallon of gasoline for every thirty-five miles traveled. The weight of the skates complete is 13.2 pounds and can run from three to twenty-five miles an hour. M. Constantini has given the new skate a very thorough trial and it has proved to be a success.

Since 1866 the roller skating craze has appeared at intervals, only to die out again. The most recent of these previous to the present one was in 1884, but it soon shared the fate of its predecessors. Strange as it may seem, the craze visits all countries at the same time. At this moment skating rinks are flourishing in England, Australia and France.

The present craze started in 1904. How long it will last no one can tell, but if it continues to grow as it has in the past year or so, it may be a common thing to see business men skating to work in the morning and women out shopping on their "rollers."

NEBRASKA IS GOING SOME

Nearly Two Millions Paid Out for Automobiles Alone.

A special from Lincoln says: "The people of this state have spent for automobiles in the last twelve months in the neighborhood of \$1,841,000—enough money to wipe out the state debt. This is basing the total on an average price of \$1,400 a car, and that is the figure given by a local dealer, who says the cars he has sold this summer averaged that price. But cutting down the average price paid to \$1,000, it would make a total of \$1,315,000 paid out for new automobiles between April 26, 1907 and April 25, 1908.

The records in the office of the secretary of state show that between the dates mentioned there were registered 1,315 automobiles; during the year from April 25, 1906 to April 25, 1907, there were registered 640 machines, or less than one-half the number registered the year previous when there was no bank flurry. The law requiring automobile owners to register them went into effect July 1, 1905, and at the close of business April 25, 1906, there were registered 659 machines; a year later there were on file 1,299 registers, while at this time there are 2,614 automobiles registered.

During 1908 up to April 25, there were registered 470 automobiles, while for the same time last year there were registered 211. That the bank flurry failed to injure the automobile trade is shown by the monthly registrations, as follows: October, 88; November, 72; December, 32; January, 59; February, 39; March, 141; April up to 26th, 231."

Suggestion to the City Council.

The contract for the lowering of the streets and doing the repaving, which is to be let by the city council next Thursday, at the meeting which is to be held at that time, it should be understood that preference be given to Plattsmouth labor. Considering the stringency of the times, the lack of steady employment now, and during the past winter, it has placed many a laboring man in a position that the little work which this contract will afford, would be of great benefit to them, as it would carry them over to a time of better employment. Were it so that there was a scarcity of labor to bid had it would be different. But as it is now there is plenty of labor and that which can do the work and who are desirous of an opportunity to earn a dollar.

In the letting of the contract the council should insist on the observance of the giving of Plattsmouth men the preference. From this place comes the money to pay the contract and to this place should return the amount paid for wages. It is a matter which should be looked after, and not allowed to slip away unnoticed.

A Reminiscence of Former Days

Says the Lincoln Herald: Wednesday was Arbor Day and the observance of it called forth many incidents in the life of J. Sterling Morton, founder of the day. Most people who know anything of the life of Morton believe he was always a democrat but such is not the case. In 1884, when Ben Butler of Massachusetts was candidate for president on the greenback ticket, Morton was candidate for governor of Nebraska on the same ticket and L. C. Pace of this city for lieutenant governor. J. M. Patterson of Plattsmouth, Capt. W. H. Ashy of Beatrice and Dr. H. S. Aley of Cedar county were presidential electors on the same ticket. We have one of the old tickets in our scrap book and it is an interesting souvenir.

Returned From The West

Ed. Fitzgerald returned home last evening from a trip to Bridgeport, where the Slater-Fitzgerald Stock company have their ranch and where he conveyed the new manager, W. H. Lair. Mr. Fitzgerald says that there is a tendency towards a scarcity of water in the western portion of the state. While in the west he was in the city of Gering, and there met Rev. D. A. Youtzy, whom he reports as preaching good sermons and selling land.

J. L. Burns Discharged.

In the case against J. L. Burns by state, charging him with selling intoxicating liquors without a license and on Sunday, was tried in county court today. County Attorney C. A. Rawls prosecuted, while A. L. Tidd defended, and a large number of witnesses were summoned. In the summing up of the issues the judge discharged the defendant, as it was only proven he sold cider, and that was made from apples as one testified who furnished it, and the defendant was accordingly discharged.

Departs for South Dakota.

Fred Hesse departed this morning for Gregory, S. D., where he will accept a situation and make his home there with the intention of filing on a homestead when the Tripp county reservation opens this summer. There being no call for employment here, he thinks he can do as well at that place as here and be in position to know what is developing in respect to the land question, and take advantage of the opportunities offered.

BOHEMIAN TURNERS ANNUAL EXHIBITION

By Courtesy of the Order at Omaha and South Omaha Was Held Here Saturday Evening.

This annual exhibition comes every year just before the district tournament, for the states of the west, which is composed of Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, North and South Dakota and Colorado, and this year is held at Omaha. The meeting of last Saturday consisted of a very interesting program, which was as follows: The opening number was the address of Joseph Mik, training master, which was about fifteen minutes in length, and in which he took up the good features of the turning classes, showing a better development of the physique and a more evenly balanced man throughout.

This talk was very interesting and instructive. The next to follow, was the young boys' drill in calisthenics, and was put through by a class of twelve, after which was a calisthenic drill by the Omaha, South Omaha and Plattsmouth members combined and about 25 in number.

Plattsmouth and South Omaha then performed on parallel bars, while Omaha did some feats on the horizontal bar, with South Omaha and Plattsmouth following on the long horse, and Omaha on the double bars. The came the most difficult feature of the evening when Omaha performed on the side horse, they did this nicely. Then followed an address by Frank Riho an instructor, and Frank Schlatinsky of Omaha, who has been the instructor for the classes here, also instructor of the western division.

The District tournament, will be held in Omaha, on the 31 of July and the 1st and 2nd of August.

The program was followed by a dance, in which all who participated, thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The class here to take part in the exercises were, V. Pilney, Robert and James Rebal, Chas. Harroba, R. Holly and Louis Jarand, the later of which was not present being in South Dakota.

SPENDS YEAR IN GERMANY

L. G. Sharpe Returned From a Sojourn of More Than a Year on the Continent

Going to the continent some fourteen months since in the interest of a certain German syndicate which were introducing some American machinery in the factories of that place, L. C. Sharpe prolonged his stay from time to time until his absence from home extended to over a year. He had only expected to have stayed for a few months when he departed, but finding much to do in the matter of his mission he continued there until but a few weeks since. He was with the manufacturer of certain machinery, among which was the construction of some can-making machines, a number of which were made and with prospects for a number more. In conversation with Mr. Sharpe he said to a reporter of this paper that he was pretty well pleased with Germany, and while it did not anywhere compare with America, but considering the money stringency which now exists here, he noticed there was a little freer circulation in the old country than here. The people are very well satisfied there and do not feel so anxious to go ahead as here; they are not of that restless nature which is characteristic of the American. While the wages are smaller than the workman draws in Germany their living expenses also are lower, and consequently the people are as well satisfied. In returning from the east Mr. Sharpe says that he notices the marked change from the time when he departed for Europe, over a year ago. He will remain in the city for the present and make his home here, caring for his mother, who has been alone during his absence. Mr. Sharpe disposed of his business in Omaha some time since at this time in not interested in any manufacturing enterprises in that city.

HE DELIGHTED HIS AUDIENCE

Address of Will C. Ramsey Proved Very Interesting to All Attendants at the Presbyterian Church Sunday Evening.

At the Christian Endeavor last evening at the Presbyterian church, Will C. Ramsey gave the second address on the work of Josiah Storey, entitled the "Challenge of the City," taking up the third and fourth chapters. The subjects of which was the "City in Modern Civilization," and the "Factors of the Problem."

The first, "The Place of the City in Modern Civilization," as the city, numbers more than the rural in population, its influence is felt more strongly than that of the county, from the fact that it is more pronounced by the population being more concentrated. He said that a new patriotism was growing, and with every year was showing itself more and more in which the christian spirit denominated. The unselfishness of many in the struggle towards the better and a higher life, which is to be the object resulting from the struggles through which the civilized society of the present day is passing. While the worst element predominates in the selections and the worse element of society can be controlled for the placing in the way of the world's progress for a better condition; this element, the saloon, was being gradually eliminated, and as an instance he cited a certain person who had recently gone out of the business in this city, who has said that, within three years it would be a question of getting a license to conduct a business in this city or state. Under the head of "Factors of the Problem" he cited environments as one of the strongest factors for determining the future life and character of a person, and while this was so he said that there were people who arose above the environments and become greater even by the hindrances placed in their way. As an instance of the influence of environments, he cited the case of the present King of England and Emperor of Germany, they both having an English mother and a German father, but one having been raised in England was an Englishman, while the other being raised in German was a German. Thus showing that environments was the chief factor in the making of the character which should dominate the future life. The environments which go to make up influences which are to determine the future of the country as it bears upon the character of the citizens which it is making, are the home, the street, the school,

the industry, amusements, and the church. Regarding this, the speaker said that the home was the unit upon whose welfare depended the success or failure of the state. The home is governed by three laws—Love, Service and Sacrifice—and in the home, as we look at it, we find these three laws governing, where the best results are to be attained. New York City was used for an example to illustrate what conditions obtained there and what an influence those conditions exerted upon society. The tenement house, with its thousands of people in one building and numbers in one room; in many instances in a small room, not larger than 12 by 18 feet, as many as a dozen to twenty people lived without a single window in some instances and very impure air, bad sanitary conditions, and much worse social conditions. The influence of such home associations were of the worse character, and in New York City alone there dwell under such circumstances as much as two-thirds of her population, of over 2,000,000 people, more than the population of anyone of 35 states of the Union. These surroundings showed that over 35 per cent of the population of that portion of the city died with the dread disease consumption. The next influence was the street, which was the play ground of the children with its contaminating characteristics. Then school statistics filed showed that on entering school the boys were blessed with 85 per cent good health and at the time of graduation it had been reduced to 35 per cent, while they after having left school again returned to 70 per cent, thus sustaining a loss of 15 per cent which was not recovered. In the case of the girls their state of health was only 73 on entering and on graduation was as low as 17, and only attained a per cent of 35 after having left school, thus being only about one in three healthy women after having passed through the New York schools. The remainder of the influences were not given, as the meeting was closed a little early in order to allow those there to attend the union services at the Christian church.

Clinton G. Wood favored the meeting with a solo, "Thy Will Be Done." The subject to be taken up at the last meeting of the Endeavor will be the two following chapters. Subjects treated will be "The People," and "The Message of Jesus."

TWENTY THOUSAND FOR BRYAN

State Poll Shows That the Peerless Has the State-Republicans Appeal to Taft for \$150,000

A special to the World-Herald from Lincoln, under date of April 23, says: "Mystery and alertness and anticipation have been manifested among the faithful machine lieutenants since the silent and clammy meetings of the executive committee of the republican state central committee at the Lindell hotel last Wednesday evening.

"Taft has been called upon to grease the wheels. Furthermore the republican national committee will also have to grease the wheels and it will take about \$150,000 to do the lubricating.

"In order that these things might be discussed safely and secretly no reporters were admitted. The basis of the demand for cash is the assertion of the executive committee of the effect that a quiet poll shows that the state is for Bryan by about 20,000. Work must be begun early. It was whispered at the meeting that the Taft promotion fund has grown from \$500,000 to \$800,000 and part of this money might be very profitably be used in Nebraska. Then Taft, for the patriots conceded that he will be the republican nominee would not be at a disadvantage in Bryan's state.

"Money, brains, organization and effort—it will take all these asserted the republican counsellors. The barrel cus-

todians will be so advised. It is expected that a noticeable effect of this advice will soon be detected and the state committee will be amply supplied with funds."

Learn Them Better

The following from the Nebraska City News is applicable to Plattsmouth as well, and some people in this city should be made to know that they are liable to a fine every time they do so: "People lay nice sidewalks at great expense and take pride in them and there are some people who seem to have no regard for the property or rights of others and drive over and break up these walks. There is an ordinance against driving over sidewalks under any circumstance and an enforcement or two would cause these people to not only respect the law, but regard the rights of others as well as their property."

Death of J. W. Toland

J. W. Toland passed away at Aurora, Nebraska, on Tuesday, April 21, 1908, after serious illness of several weeks of asthma and lung trouble. The deceased was one of the pioneer citizens of Cass county, and for many years a citizen of Greenwood. He removed about fifteen years ago with his family to Aurora, where they have since resided. The funeral of Mr. Toland occurred Thursday, April 23, from his late home in Aurora.

The Riley Hotel is having a retaining wall placed at the rear of the building to keep the dirt from washing in on the pavement at the kitchen door.

Journal Office Removed.

Our friends will please bear in mind that the Journal has been removed to its own home in the west one-third of the Waterman block, where we will be glad to meet all our patrons, and especially those who desire to pay their subscription or are in need of job work, our facilities for which are unequalled by any print shop in Nebraska. Come and see us when you want the best.