



WEBFOOTER EXTRA

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OAKS *Park* RINK



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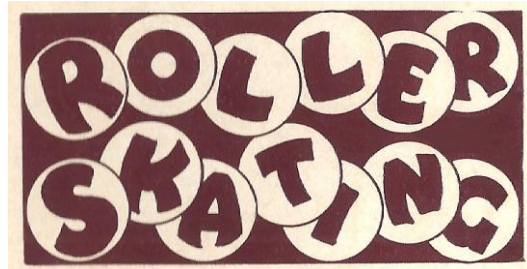


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OAKS PARK SKATING RINK

113 YEARS OF FUN



Since Oaks Amusement Park opened on May 30, 1905, the Skating Rink at Oaks Park has been open for business, year-round for 113 years.



Interior view of the Oaks Skating Rink, circa 1930.



One of the most popular "Rythm Boys" (organists) on the "Mighty Console Organ" at Oaks Rink, Buck Nye. His motto: "You name it, I'll play it." His music was broadcast on KWJJ.

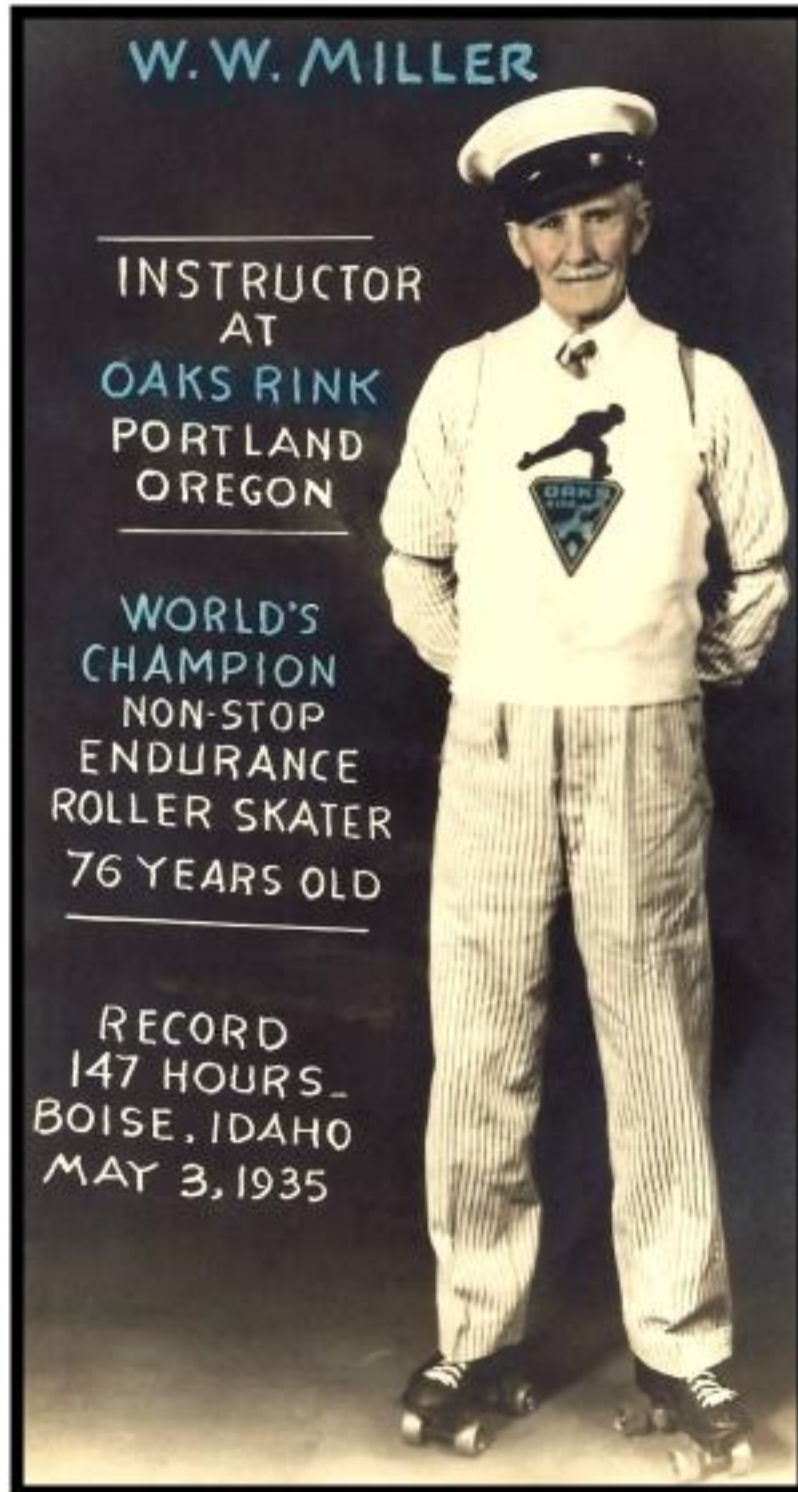


Here is a vintage shoulder patch for Oaks Roller Rink.



OAKS PARK ROLLER RINK
1948 Pacific Coast Regional Championships

Oaks Roller Rink was the site of the Pacific Coast Regional Skating Championships in 1948.



Walter W. "Dad" Miller came to Oaks Park as a skate instructor in the fall of 1933.

Two years later, he would be crowned the World's Champion Non-stop Endurance Roller Skater at the age of 76 after skating for 147 hours at a competition in Boise, Idaho on May 3, 1935.



In the 1950s, elaborate musical productions were held at the Oaks Rink including this scene from “Swingin’ in Rhythm” from 1952.



Another view from “Swingin’ in Rhythm” from 1952.



One of the young stars from "Swingin' in Rhythm," John Gustafson, who at age 8 was the first skater to get all gold medals.

John Gustafson went on to own a skating rink in Auburn, Washington. His brother Rick Gustafson became well-known in local political circles.



Young Larry Nelson had a significant part in “Swingin’ in Rhythm” in 1952.



More young skaters performed in “Swingin’ in Rhythm” in 1952.



Another young couple performs in “Swingin’ in Rhythm.”

Over the years, Oaks Park Skating Rink was referred to as the “West’s Largest Rink” and the “Largest Roller Skating Rink in the Northwest.” It is also referred to as one of the oldest skating rinks west of the Mississippi. At times, they promoted the Oaks Rink as having four skating floors: the main floor, a beginner’s floor, a “sensational Wave” section and an area for speed skaters. Being located next to the Willamette River, the Oaks Rink has been flooded at least three times. To minimize damage to the hardwood floor, they developed a unique way of floating the floor when the water rises.

Beginning in the 1930s, The Oaks also boasted that they had the “World’s Largest Pipe Organ.” For the 50th Anniversary of the Oaks in 1955, they installed the “largest organ in the United States.” It was moved from the Broadway Theater in Portland and placed above the center of the huge rink floor. “The new Oaks Rink Organ has 1,242 pipes, 2,525 magnets, 4,700 pouches and 500,000 feet of wire.”

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