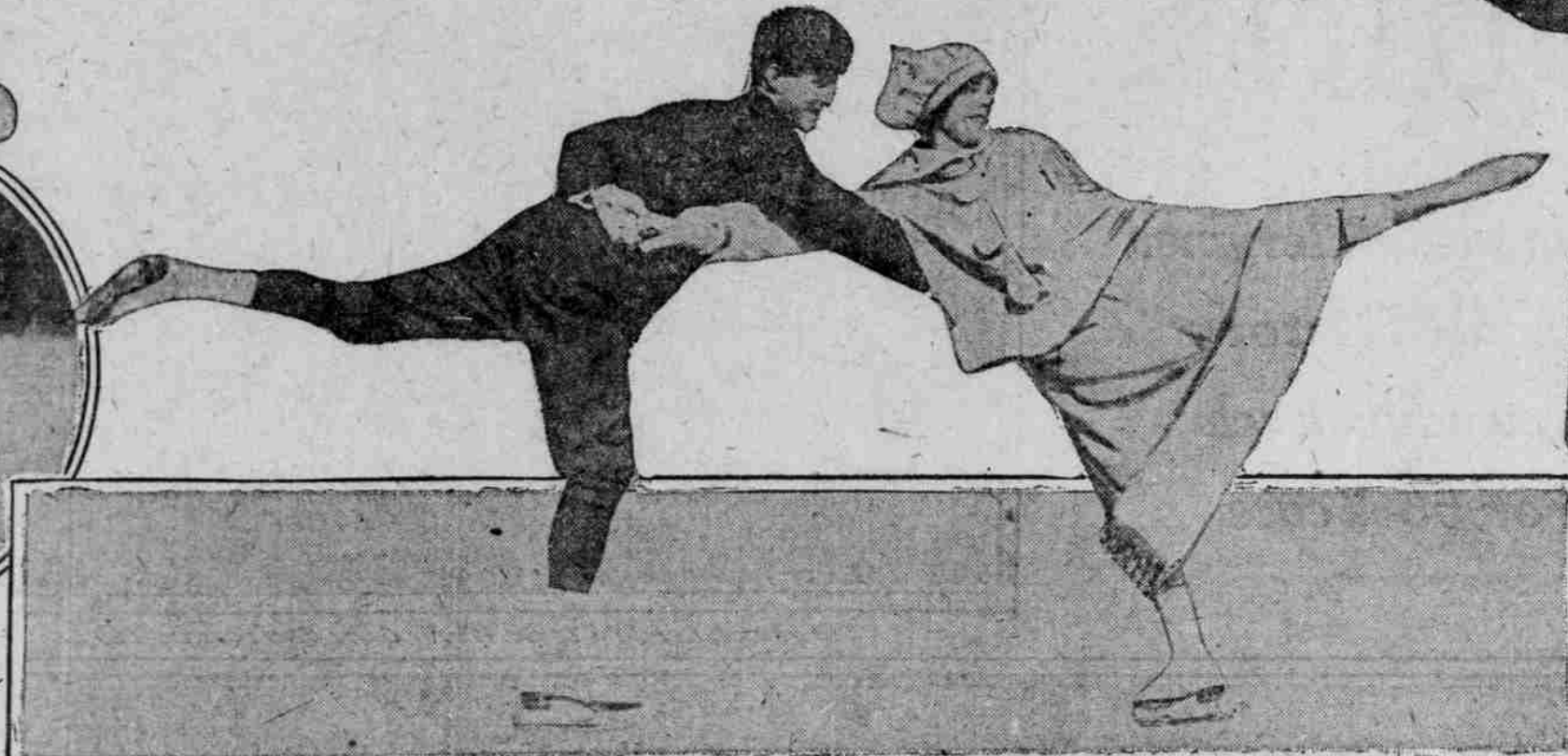


Have Skate Athletics Gone the Limit?

Here Are the Actual Photographs of Some of the Amazing Acrobatic Feats Demanded by the Newest Craze in Ice Skating.



Miss Roy Fink Showing Some of The Fancy Steps Performed Closely After The Tango.



Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fink Doing The Double Spread Eagle.



The High Kick And The Spins Are Quite Possible Now on Skates.



The Backward Curve.



Miss Romaine in a Toe Spin.

ideal place for skating in the out-of-door, permits all sorts of freak movements without real jeopardy of life or limb.

After all, the ice itself never caused a fall. It was some rut or hidden twig or frozen ripple. These are the causes of the stumblings and trippings that often mar the great, pure sport with accident and death. In the great ice palaces these things rarely, if ever, occur. And skillful skaters

plan of this paradox. Summer models are designed in Paris in December, and the reversal of the seasons south of the equator makes these seemingly premature creations fitting attire in Buenos Aires in January and February when they reach the beau monde of that distant metropolis.

JUST about three weeks ago cable dispatches from Europe announced the introduction of a fantastic new style of ice skating at Berlin and Christiania and at St. Moritz in Switzerland. It was called "jazz" skating, because no other name seemed applicable. You simply jazzed there once you glided. The old-fashioned figure 8 was discarded in favor of flying leaps, toe glides and semi-somersaults.

And now look at the result! Miss Marjha Johnson, champion woman skater of the world, came here from Sweden with prophetic visions of a jazz skating craze running rampant on every ice skating rink on the American continent by the end of January. Miss Johnson's predictions were all right as far as they went. But they scarcely went far enough.

In the race for the extreme, jazz was left far behind. Skate athletics won first prize. The photographs reproduced on this page will afford a very good idea of what skate athletics really means.

To be a skate athlete you have got to combine all the natural grace of a born skater with the flexibility of a contortionist and the fearlessness of a structural iron worker. Then, either alone or with a partner, you select a substantial sheet of smooth ice and proceed to imitate some of the astonishing stunts photographically presented herewith.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fink and Mr. and Mrs. Barkus are among the most proficient exponents of skate athletics in Chicago. In other cities where ice skating is popular or possible both professional and amateur skaters are taking to athletic stunts with a readiness which prompts a question as to the whereabouts of the limit, if there is one.

A Skater's Repertoire.
Ice skaters who went in for jazz stunts and then progressed to ice athletics declare that the latter provides more thrills to the square inch of ice than one could ever extract from simple old-fashioned skating and the doing of figure 8s.

The ice spin is one of the most picturesque figures for the novice to start with. From that you advance by easy stages to spread eagles, backward glides, the hop, skip and jump, the "Mercury" glide and a dozen other equally outlandish figures which one short season ago were not even thought of.

"Exhibition and acrobatic skating is all right in a way," said Miss Johnson, the champion, in discussing the development of the new skating craze. "It is beautiful to look at," she continued, "but this sort of skating is not to my mind as graceful and artistic for the amateur skater as the more classic kind done to waltz music or the two-step."

Other skaters who have gone in for ice athletics are inclined to differ with Miss Johnson. Miss Romaine and various other well-known exponents of ice skating believe that it is possible to do a toe spin, leap, glide and even the spread eagle with even more artistic grace than a straightforward glide.

Be that as it may, the fact remains that never before in the history of skating was there such skating as there has been this season. The wild abandon which prompted the attainment of the "limit" in dressing and in dancing seems to have spread to skating. Clothes display called for the introduction of styles which would have called forth considerable comment a few seasons ago. Dancers progressed by easy stages from the polka and waltz to the two-step, the bunny hug, the grizzly bear and then to the tango and the shimmy.

And now skaters have suddenly fallen into line by discarding the time-honored glide for jazz and for skate athletics.

Of course, there must be a limit somewhere, even to this kind of skating. The question is whether the limit has been reached already, and if not, what kind of new and even more astonishing skate athletics the next season will bring.

Returning again to that stunt, the "figure 8." The past generation and one might truthfully say, the past generations, considered themselves quite "some pumpkin" if they could

master that stunt. The young girls used to sit on the bank of the old mill pond and "o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o" when the village cut-up scratched the "8" on the surface of the frozen pond. But now—

The village cut-up who can't pick up his partner and whirl her about as if she were a doll and perform stunts that maintain him seemingly miraculously, at impossible degrees and angles, isn't a cut-up at all and that's all there is about it. And the stunts that the girls do completely eclipse anything that the champion man skaters of the country could do in the not long ago.

One of the favorite stunts is a wild sort of dance in which the man and woman, skating toward one, take on the appearance of the letter H when their outer legs are on the ice and their inner ones are in air, and look like an umbrella caught in a wind storm when the reverse situation is in effect. Nor is this feat done when the skaters are going slowly. They are traveling at top speed and how they maintain their balance and prevent a fall that might easily be fatal is one of the questions and at the same time one of the thrills that arise as the result of the new craze for skate athletics.

Some of the Thrills.

Likewise, it used to be held quite a feat for a skater to be able to lift one foot and speed across the ice on one steel. But now the girls look with contempt upon such a stunt and, as pictured on this page, raise the foot off the ice as high as their heads and sometimes higher, and freedom to do this acrobatic act being given by the bloomers and new fashions for women which have banished corsets and such things to the past.

Another favorite act is the so-called sail-boat glide, only performed when there is a stiff breeze. The skirt worn by the fair skater nowadays is quite wide at the bottom and not altogether short enough to be called a bloomer skirt. Consequently, with one leg up and outstretched and a strong breeze assist it quite readily performs the function of a sail and, propelled by the wind, the fair sportswoman is driven across the ice much as an ice boat. Quite handy, too, they say, it is, for all they have to do in order to

reef is to drop their leg and resume the natural skating position.

But these new stunts were not born in the wilds of the country on the too-often rippled surface of the frozen mill-pond. They were conceived and

perfected in the ice palaces of the big cities of this country and Europe.

BUENOS AIRES IS DESCRIBED AS CITY OF SUPERLATIVES

Capital of Argentina Is Greatest of Spanish-Speaking Metropolises, Having Nearly Three Times as Many Inhabitants as Madrid.

BUENOS AIRES, capital of Argentina, which recently attracted world attention by withdrawing its representatives from the league of nations assembly, and third city to be visited by Secretary of State Colby in his trip of courtesy to South America, is the subject of the following bulletin issued by the National Geographic society from its Washington, D. C. headquarters:

"Buenos Aires is not merely the capital and chief port of a South American republic. It is a world center—a city of superlatives, contrasts and paradoxes.

"Its population of close to 2,000,000 makes it, by a wide margin, the metropolis of South America and the southern hemisphere. It is the greatest of Spanish-speaking cities, having nearly three times as many inhabitants as Madrid. It is greater than all Latin cities except Paris. In the new world it shares third place with Philadelphia, only New York and Chicago surpass it. And now that Petrograd and Moscow have shrunk, while Berlin and Vienna are marking time, it probably ranks or soon will rank as the sixth city of the world, led only by the two metropolises of Europe, the two of North America, and Tokio in Asia.

New Yorkers Feel at Home.

"This great city is the focus of the culture, thought, politics, economics and social life of Argentina as well as the funnel through which pour the millions of pounds of dressed meats and the millions of bushels of

wheat which make up the contribution of the republic to the hungry peoples of the old world. In its general aspect it is a combination of New York and Paris. Its language is the language of Spain, but many other things—Spanish, have been thrust aside. Its inhabitants would laugh at the idea of a mid-day siesta—so generally observed in most Spanish-American countries. The obsession of 'mañana' has been discarded; the people of Buenos Aires live in the throbbing present, going strenuously about their business in streets whose bustle and whirl are as balmy to the heart of the homesick New Yorker who feels that after all he cannot be far from Broad and Wall or Forty-second and Broadway. Subways, commuters and taller buildings than can be found in any other city in South America heighten the illusion.

"The rapid development of Argentina has made innumerable fortunes, and the stream of gold has been poured lavishly into the lap of Buenos Aires. In no other city, perhaps, can one see so strikingly displayed the evidence of extreme opulence. And while a large proportion of the populace is fairly well to do, marked contrasts are not lacking, especially in the case of many of the recent immigrants who live in squalid hovels on some of the outskirts of the city.

"In progress and the possession of vision the people of Buenos Aires are unsurpassed even by the restless builders of North America's greatest cities. For centuries after its estab-

lishment Buenos Aires was without a port. Ships anchored miles from the shallow, sandy shore and all freight was handled in lighters. Within the last 25 years the municipality has constructed the largest artificial docks in the world. These provide adequate facilities for the thousands of ocean vessels and coasting craft that put in its port annually.

"The narrow checkerboard of streets in the business center which the colonial Buenos Aires bequeathed to the world-city of today has been a constant embarrassment in the face of the demands of modern business. The municipality has widened some of these narrow ways at a cost of many millions of dollars, into stately and handsome avenues, and is carving other arteries of traffic diagonally through the 'closely packed squares.'

"In the newer parts of the city streets of ample width and numerous broad avenues have been laid out. Many of the avenues are lined with the costly palaces of Argentina's multi-millionaires. It is in this part of the city and in such semi-business avenues as the tree-rimmed Avenida de Mayo with its mile or more of fine hotels, clubs, cafes and business buildings de luxe, that Buenos Aires reminds the traveler of Paris. The comparison is forced on the observer again when he drives in the afternoon through Palermo park, the Bois de Boulogne of Buenos Aires, and becomes a part of the seemingly interminable procession of smart equipages bearing their throng of well-dressed men and women.

Ahead of Parisiennes in Fashions.

"The men of Buenos Aires are up-to-date in all things; but their women are even ahead of the times. They wear the latest Paris creations even before they are donned by the Parisiennes themselves. Climate must be given its rightful place in the ex-

planation of this paradox. Summer models are designed in Paris in December, and the reversal of the seasons south of the equator makes these seemingly premature creations fitting attire in Buenos Aires in January and February when they reach the beau monde of that distant metropolis.

"Buenos Aires is in the south latitude corresponding to that of Charleston, S. U. north of the equator, and has a climate somewhat like that of the country between Charleston and Norfolk, though drier. Something more than half the population is made up of Argentines. The two most important remaining factors are Italian and Spanish immigrants. There are relatively small numbers of British, North Americans, French and Germans, and a sprinkling of many other peoples."

Berlin Has "Tag Days."

"Berlin—'Tag days' have been instituted in Berlin and other cities to raise money for the relief of children and indigent mothers, of whom it is said the American Friends service committee (Quakers) alone are feeding 684,000 daily. In Berlin the Quakers are issuing rations daily to 150,000 mothers and children. The number is reported increasing as the winter advances.

AMERICAN AT VIENNA AFTER DECADE SHOCKED BY MISERY

Tragic Effects of World War Seen on All Sides and Nowhere Is There Anything Approaching Happiness.

VIENNA, Jan. 29.—One American business man who has just revisited this city was so surprised at the changes that had taken place in the once gay Austrian capital that he declared "the panorama of misery" he witnessed here was the greatest shock of his life.

Henry Barna of St. Paul, Minn., last visited Vienna ten years ago, when, as he said, there was "great fun" here. Now he has returned and spent about two weeks, long enough, he says, to know what he is talking about.

"I never dreamed," said Mr. Barna to an American Red Cross representative here, "that Vienna would show such tragic effects of the war. I have been in nearly every capital of Europe since the armistice, but nowhere have I seen such wholesale misery. Everything is out of joint. Everything is uncertain. Food is scarce, and fuel still more difficult to obtain. I don't suppose anyone can be happy in a sea of misery like this.

"Why, there isn't a smile, much less a laugh, in that crowd," referring to the people in the hotel in the Ringstrasse. "They seem so sad and dull-eyed. These Viennese, who were so gay when I was here before. 'Everybody seems to be carrying something.' Those little bundles are scraps of food which they have received from some more fortunate neighbor or relief agencies. There's

a man in a fur coat carrying a handkerchief full of food. He wouldn't be seen doing that when I was here last. He would be too proud."

Mr. Barna told of a visit he had made a few days before to the Wienerwald, a great forest, an hour's street-car ride from the center of Vienna, where he saw a sight which he likened to a nightmare. The people were allowed to go there for wood and were emerging from the forest, their backs heavily laden with the packs of fuel.

"There were hundreds of men, women and children," he said, "their clothing soaked with the cold rain, and they were filling along the roadside in an almost unbroken line, all headed for Vienna, stooped from the weight of 60 or 70 pounds of wet wood. Sixty pounds was their allowance, but I was told that many slipped by the inspectors with more than that.

"There were many sorts of persons in that line which has been stretched along that road for more than a year. I saw a woman of evident gentle birth, in a fur coat, probably the last vestige of her wealth, bent over under the weight of her pack, trudging along beside a former officer in the Austrian army who still wore his gray coat and cap. Then came children of the very poor with their little feet protruding from their worn shoes. It was very wet under foot and at their every step one could hear the water oozing from their shoes."