

To 20 million
skating enthusiasts,
there's nothing like

ROLLING ALONG!

by Leland and Rita Puttcamp



Exuberance of youth is magnified on wheels, and the earlier they learn the sooner they develop confidence.

Ah! But roller skating, like life, has its ups and downs. Serious injury, however, is rare in this sport.



MAN DISCOVERED the wheel many centuries ago—but it has never given him so much fun as it does today!

With 20 million Americans patronizing the nation's roller-skating rinks, the one-time childhood diversion has become a wholesome and pleasant recreation for every member of the family.

The moment she puts on her roller skates, Sis casts reality aside and for an hour or two she is a prima ballerina, gracefully gliding her way through a throng of admirers. Her beau is transformed into a dazzling knight errant. And

even Grandfather recaptures the foot-loose fancies of youth.

Probably the most dedicated to being "good skates" are the youngsters who do dances and figures on wheels. They devote long hours to mastering this art, studying and practicing continually.

Visit a rink almost any evening and you'll see young couples perfecting their tango, hardly conscious there are other skaters on the floor. Long-legged lads will be trying jumps, squats, and whirls.

The best products of America's 4,000 family and neighborhood rinks go on to match their prowess in a

series of competitions sponsored by the Roller-Skating Rink Operators of America. These will be climaxed by the American Amateur Roller-Skating Championships to be held in Cleveland in July.

Competing for trophies will be 1,200 finalists from every state as well as from Canada, Alaska, and Hawaii. And typical of their enthusiasm is the story of 16-year-old Bobby Smith, who hitchhiked 2,500 miles from his home in Louisville, Ky., to enter last year's championships in Oakland, Calif.!

The advent of roller-skating as a healthy family sport dates back to

1937, when a group of rink operators in Detroit organized a trade association. They adopted reforms such as regulations on dress and behavior, which eventually won approval of the pastime from even the most particular parents.

The newest offshoot of the sport is roller-hockey which, while not as rough as ice hockey, requires the same fast footwork. There are five players to a team instead of six, and a ball is used in place of a puck.

But whether you're a roller-hockey fan or just an I-haven't-fallen-once-tonighter, you can roll up a lot of fun on wheels!



Once out of novice stage, roller skater can try free-wheeling acrobatics. Many develop real grace at it.