

The roller skate craze

As if bicycles weren't enough of a menace, roller skates also became popular at the turn of the twentieth century. The first roller skates had been invented in the 1700s, but in 1863 James Plimpton invented the four-wheeled skate that allowed skaters to turn corners. By the 1880s roller skates were being mass-produced.

In 1907, William N. Selig filmed a variety of people going about their daily lives, all wearing roller skates.

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On the web

National Museum of Roller Skating

<http://www.rollerskatingmuseum.com/>

The National Museum of Roller Skating in Lincoln, Nebraska, has online exhibits about the past and present of roller skating.

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