

CHESTER D. FRIED
72 Colfax Street
South River, New Jersey 08882-1811
(732) 254-8889

Vice President
National Museum of Roller Skating

R.S.A.
Att: Melissa Gibson.

1/5/01

Hi:

Here's the Sissy Pin Story.

When a skating professional has a winner at the U.S. Amateur Confederation of Roller Skating Nationals, they receive a Sissy Pin for their efforts. This award has been going on for years, but nobody questioned where the name Sissy came from. Last week, George Maass, skating professional at the Holiday Skating Center in Delanco, New Jersey, called me and asked that question. Where did the name Sissy come from? George just received his first Sissy pin. His skater Ethel Pizzullo, had won Nationals in Veterans Solo Dance. I thought for a second, and could not come up with the answer for him. I really did not know. So much for being the Vice President of The National Museum Of Roller Skating. I told George I would get back to him on this matter. I thought of only four people that would know this. George Pickard, in Lincoln, NB, Jim Turner, author of The History Of Roller Skating book. Or perhaps Bert Anselmi, President of the National Museum Of Roller Skating, and perhaps Bob LaBriola, a legend in the sport of roller skating. I called George Pickard first, and Mr. Roller Skating came up with the answer right away. He is amazing! It seems Vernon Fowlkes, founder of the Fomac Wheel Company in 1949, came up with the idea, along with his associate Cecil Davis, to present the winning professional with an award. Their skater received an award, why not the professionals? Cecil Davis won the 1949 Senior Pairs title, along with his partner Phyllis Bulleigh. Cecil's daughter's nickname was Sissy. So that's the name they choose for the pin. The name stuck. And that's a true story, for the record.

Chester Fried

Chester Fried

Monterey

