

ZAMBONI® NEWS LETTER



25th ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



1974 — Zamboni® No. 4, a Model B, rejuvenated and resurfacing at Paramount Iceland.

THE ODESSEY OF NO. 4

Twenty-five years have elapsed since Frank Zamboni completed his first successful Ice Resurfacer in 1949. These 25 years have witnessed a tremendous change and growth in ice skating and Frank J. Zamboni & Co. is pleased to have been a part of this expanding industry.

Time has certainly flown by since 1949 and an incident that occurred last year helped bring back memories of the earlier years of resurfacing machine development. In June, 1973, we received a phone call from

Ted Dunn of the Los Alamos Skating Association in New Mexico telling us that their Zamboni® machine was involved in a fire at their rink and they required assistance in rebuilding it for the coming skating season. When we realized that their resurfacer was the fourth machine that Frank had built and, up until the fire, was to our knowledge the oldest unit in regular operation, we decided that we ought to obtain it, rebuild it and reconstruct the story of its much-travelled history.

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Norda and Frank Zamboni Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary!

In noting the 25th anniversary of our business, another memorable milestone was reached last year when the Zamboni family celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of Frank and Norda Zamboni. Hosted by their three children, thirteen grandchildren and many other family members and friends, Frank and Norda shared this happy occasion in good health and in grateful appreciation of the many expressions of congratulations received from their friends around the world.

C. R. Mueller Celebrates Anniversary ...

This seems to be a banner time for anniversaries so we are pleased to note that our Michigan service representative, C. R. Mueller & Co., is celebrating 100 years of continuous service. We congratulate them on this achievement and we look forward to many more years of cooperative efforts to furnish quick and efficient service on our Zamboni Ice Resurfacers.

(Continued from first page)

The first few Zamboni Ice Resurfacers were:

Unit	Model	Delivered	Purchaser (Disposition)
No. 1	A	1949	Iceland, Paramount (Dismantled)
No. 2	B	1950	Pasadena Winter Garden (Dismantled)
No. 3	B	1951	Sonja Henie Ice Revue (Unknown)
No. 4	B	1952	Ice Capades

The No. 4 machine was delivered to the Pan Pacific Auditorium on May 6, 1952, and was used in the Ice Capades show for the first time two days later. It was then shipped to Atlantic City, New Jersey, where it began a ten month tour of 22 cities in the United States, as well as appearances in Toronto and Montreal. When travelling between cities, the conditioner was lifted into the snow tank by a chain hoist and the machine was then driven into a railroad baggage car. Its operator and chief mechanic was Robert Skrak, who also skated in the show and demonstrated the machine in various arenas when requested to do so. Bob operated the No. 4 machine and its replacement No. 16 for many years and is presently the General Manager of the Iceland Skating Arena in Berkeley, California. Between May and July of 1953 the machine was again in Los Angeles and received a complete factory checkup prior to rejoining the show again in Atlantic City. The 1953-1954 Ice Capades Show again trouped No. 4 in the United States and Canada and the machine made its last show appearance in May, 1954, at the Denver Stockyard's Stadium. Ice Capades took delivery of the first Zamboni Model E machine in July 1954 and No. 4 was traded in on this new machine.

Following factory renovation, the No. 4 was sold to the Iceland Skating Arena in Albuquerque, New Mexico. W.C. "Bill" Snelson had a fire at his original Albuquerque ice arena in 1953 and decided to rebuild at another location. He was able to reopen in November 1954, and did so with the recently rebuilt Zamboni No. 4. The machine was operated by Bill Snelson and Mack Griffin at this rink until it closed in August 1960. Much of the equipment, including the Zamboni, was then sold to the Los Alamos Skating Association, whose development is an interesting story worth telling.

During World War II, Los Alamos, New Mexico (present site of the Los Alamos Skating Association), changed dramatically. From a private ranch-school for boys, it grew into a super-secret city of 15,000 scientists, technicians and military personnel with the assignment of unlocking the secret of atomic power and harnessing it as a weapon. Located at 7100 feet on the sunny mesas and deep, eroded canyons of the northern New Mexico Jemez Mountain range, the Los Alamos community had to make the best of local recreational opportunities. This included a 60' x 110' oval ice rink in nearby Los Alamos canyon, which was created by flooding and damming a tiny canyon creek. Its buildings consisted of two 14 foot square shacks and a woodburning, pot-bellied stove. Its Skating Club subsisted on a meager budget which basically relied on a 100-plus enthusiasts at \$1.00 per season membership fee.

The creation of the Atomic Energy Commission in 1947 made Los Alamos the world's foremost research and development laboratory in nuclear weaponry and it also diversified its interest into many peaceful uses of nuclear energy; including solutions to the world's energy crisis. With this change, Los Alamos became a normal community with families instead of G.I.'s. The old ranch-school skating oval was enlarged to a hockey rink of 78' x 178' in 1950 and was moved 800' down Los Alamos canyon to find better shade. Another rebuilding in 1959 made the rink 90' x 210' and it now featured a 20' x 100' wing of an old dormitory at the rink site. The non-profit Los Alamos Skating Assn., in spite of their limited funds, became interested in acquiring a Zamboni. Through the travels of their amateur adult hockey teams they became familiar with the Jeep-mounted ice making machine. The rig intrigued the Los Alamos players because their open rink was maintained through snow, unseasonable rain and excessive weekend use, with an army-surplus Fordson tractor, brush and lots of volunteer labor.

May 1961 prompted high hopes when a decision was reached in Albuquerque to convert Bill Snelson's rink to uses other than skating. Although stymied at first by a lack of funds and their policy not to borrow, the Association remained hopeful and on a Friday in August received a phone call saying they could have the machine and other rink equipment not attached to the building for their original offer of \$1,500. The one stipulation was — that everything they wanted had to be removed by 6 p.m. the following Sunday. On Sunday, a caravan of Los Alamos hockey players and figure skaters (in a variety of vehicles) descended from the Jemez Mountains and arrived at the Albuquerque rink at dawn after a 2-hour, 98-mile trek. Fifteen hundred dollars changed hands about noon and by mid-afternoon the caravan replete with rubber floor tile, old rental skates and other rink paraphernalia "took to the hills". Earlier in the day, Association



1973 — Machine awaits repair after Los Alamos fire.



1952 — No. 4 with Donna Atwood and Bob Skrak.

president Wally McCracken departed in the Zamboni driver's seat with pick-ups fore and aft to begin their 20-mile an hour return to Los Alamos. The Los Alamos rink had its Zamboni!

Through twelve skating seasons the machine operated faithfully and diligently. At 1 o'clock on a cold Sunday morning in February last year Ted Dunn was awakened by a fire call from the ice rink. By the time he arrived, the garage which housed the Zamboni and their old Jeep-plow was in flames. A loft above the machine also stored such inflammables as rubber flooring and hockey sticks. Amid the smoke and flames, the old Jeep was driven out the door onto the ice. The firemen were about ready to give up on No. 4 when Ted asked to give one more try to removing it from the burning garage. Soaked by the fire hoses, he re-entered the garage, threw a dampened canvas over the engine and after having to quickly tighten the battery terminals, got the engine started. Signaling to the firemen to push the burning loft up, he drove out the door, carrying burning hockey sticks, part of the garage door and other debris with him.

As a point of interest, No. 4 has been rebuilt to its original condition, 22 years young and hopefully its travels are not yet complete.

ZAMBONI NEWSLETTER

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Rolba Company Limited – Zamboni's Representative in Europe



The Rolba SNOW-BOY, a light rotary plow.

Uniquely, our European distributors of the Zamboni Ice Resurfer, The Rolba Company Limited of Zurich, Switzerland, is also celebrating its 25th anniversary in 1974.

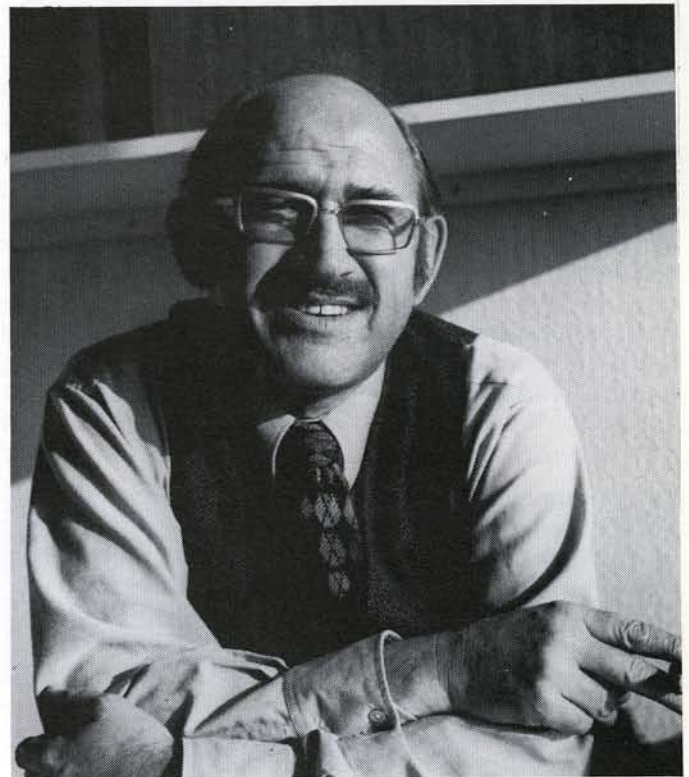
Founded in 1949, ROLBA today is synonymous throughout the world for efficient snow clearing equipment. Rolph Baumann, its Swiss founder and from whom Rolba derives its name, became intensely interested in snow apparatus soon after World War II and acquired the exclusive rights to manufacturing and selling a new revolutionary snow cutter and snow blower that had just been developed. This rotary snow plow was initially a small walk-behind machine for



Popular Rolba R-1200 is fully hydraulic.

foot paths and small parking areas. As time progressed, Rolph soon began building larger, self-propelled machines. Subsidiary Rolba companies were founded in France, England, Austria, Germany, Sweden and Holland and licensed agreements concluded with the USA, Canada and Japan. Rolba rotary plows were technically improved year by year and became a world wide success for every kind of snow clearing job under all conceivable operating conditions.

The widespread and well-organized international Rolba group was the ideal partner for Frank Zamboni when, in 1960, he was looking for a European distributor for his famous ice resurfacing machine. An extremely close feeling and business connection has developed between the Zamboni and Rolba families, which has no doubt contributed in a large way the success of the Zamboni Ice Resurfer in European markets. With their combined celebration of their 25th anniversaries, Frank J. Zamboni & Co. and Rolba Company Limited see in this coincidence many more years of friendly and fruitful association.



Rolba Founder and President – Rolph Baumann



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