

# Rivervu Roller Rink

Iterations



ED GREGORY

# Rivervu Roller Rink

## Iterations

Gleanings from local newspapers

The **NORTHFIELD** Press

and

**Greenfield** Newspapers; via

Old Fulton New York Post Cards (fultonhistory.com)



For the Newspapers; Search: **Rivervu** (other related)

In the Text block, each entry is linked to the **PDF** that will reach the specific newspaper article. the **PDF** follows the date of publication.

ED GREGORY footnotes

February, 2024



## Rivervu



The Connecticut River, looking east from  
the rear of the former Rivervu property.  
c1990s.                      courtesy Janice Bordeaux Fuller

## Rivervu DIRECTORY

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## Gallery 21



Jerry Tibbetts and Betty Swhela  
'roll' at the Rivervu. c1960s  
courtesy Wayne G. Perkins

July 7, 1939

Northfield MA Press 1939-1941 00062.pdf

### Rivervu Rollerway (Formerly Mayo's Point)

Skating every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday Evenings  
Also Saturday and Sunday Afternoons Special Kiddies Matinee Every Saturday and Sunday,  
15c Special for the Gentlemen Every Wednesday night and Sunday Afternoon, 25c Friday  
Night, Chocolate Night Saturday Night, Door Prize Night

Skate for exercise; skate for health, by paying a visit to the recently opened Rivervu Rollerway located at Turners Falls — new floor, new music, and new skates assure you of a real evening's enjoyment. Under popular direction of "Chick" Redmond and associate, formerly at the Gables Skating rink.

Roller skating once a very popular sport of yesteryear, has within the past few years again regained its NATIONAL popularity. This most enjoyable sport appeals to both young and old and on the floor of the newly remodeled Rivervu Rollerway will be found roller skating enthusiasts of all ages.

The introduction of feature nights has done much to enliven a real interest with the roller skating enthusiast. In keeping with a high plane of management, "Chick" Redmond, and associates have left nothing undone to provide the people of these communities with all that is best in this sport. Every Wednesday and Friday evening for the next eight weeks has been given over to a two-step and waltz skating contest. Each of these nights eliminations will be made and those showing the most promise will be selected by the judges to compete in the finals at which time several prizes will be awarded—pair of shoe skates, etc.

Clubs and organizations will also find the Rivervu Rollerway facilities unexcelled.

June 21, 1940

Northfield MA Press 1939-1941 00177.pdf

### Rivervu Ballroom

Skating every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday Afternoon and Evenings. Special Kiddies' Matinee. Every Sunday, 15c; Special for the Gentlemen Every Wednesday night and Sunday afternoon, 25c; Friday night, Chocolate Night.

Skate for exercises; skate for health, by paying a visit to the ever popular Rivervu Ballroom located at Turners Falls. Fine floor, entrancing music, and good skates assure you of a real evening's entertainment. Under popular direction of Chick Redmond and George Merriam.

Roller skating once a very popular sport of yesteryear, has within the past few years again regained its national popularity. This most enjoyable sport appeals to both young and old and on the floor of the Rivervue Ballroom will be found roller skating enthusiasts of all ages.

The introduction of feature nights has done much to enliven a real interest with the roller skating enthusiast. In keeping with a high plane of management, Chick Redmond and George Merriam have left nothing undone to provide the people of these communities with all that is best in this sport. Remember Saturday night is dance night.

Clubs and organizations will also find the Rivervue Ballroom facilities unexcelled. For rates and particulars write 380 Davis St., Greenfield, or Phone 9496.

May 10, 1947 [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1947 - 1578.pdf](#)

### [T. F. Roller Hockey Opener Tonight](#)

TURNERS FALLS—The world's roughest sport, roller hockey, will be played at the Rivervu rink tonight at 8 when the Franklin Colonials and the Algonquin, club clash in the 1947 season opener.

Manager Ray Sullivan of the Colonials announced today that Larry Patterson, 220-pound defense man, will not be able to play tonight. Lineups follow:

COLONIALS—Banash, lw; Gellett, rw; Sullivan, c; Czui, ld; Luippold, rd; and Prokovich, g.

ALGONQUINS—Duda. lw; Collins rw; Pollard, c; Desautels, ld; Cadran, rd; and Casey, g.



6.15.1946

January 31, 1950 [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1950 - 0386.pdf](#)

### [Plan Benefit at Turners Falls Rink](#)

TURNERS FALLS—The march of dimes will receive aid, Saturday when a special benefit program will be presented at the roller rink on the Millers Falls road.

Gerald Perkins, rink manager,<sup>1</sup>said local talent will be included in the show. The feature will be performed by a group of amateurs from Springfield. Mrs. Perkins, who manages the rink while her husband is away on business, said some of the Springfield skaters have won first in national competition. Both free style and dance skating will be included in the Saturday show. The high school band twirlers and drummers will take part. Mrs. Perkins said the event will be at 9 p.m. and all proceeds will go to the march of dimes.

Special invitations have been sent to pastors of all churches and selectman.

October 20, 1951 [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1951 - 4308.pdf](#)

### [Reception for Turners Couple Attended by 350](#)

TURNERS FALLS—About 350 relatives and friends attended the; reception for Mr. and Mrs. Alfred T. Guilbault in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary at the Rivervu Bali room Saturday evening.

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<sup>1</sup> My parents bought the rink from a Ray Schwartz in 1949, who had bought it from a Richard Wellman in 1947. Wayne Perkins.

**Oct. 24**

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1951 - 4236.pdf](#)

### **Benefit Show**

Farren Memorial Hospital Donation Day in the schools will be Friday. Miss Helen E. McGillicuddy co-chairman, announced today. She also announced the Rivervu Rollerway, managed by Gerald Perkins will have Donation Day tonight when all proceeds will go to the hospital.

Taking part in an exhibition will be Beverly Ellsworth of Charlemont, Janet Holden of Greenfield and Henry and Dana Haffke of Springfield, all outstanding amateur skaters. In addition, there will be skating for patrons Perkins said all proceeds will into the hospital fund.

**March 31, 1952**

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1952 - 1262.pdf](#)

### **Seven County Youths Pass Test**

TURNERS FALLS—Seven county youths, pupils at the Rivervu Rollerrink here, passed the dance bar test at the Bal'aroue rink in Medford yesterday.

The youths, ranging in age from 10 to 19, were taken to Medford for the test by Gerald Perkins, manager of the Rivervu and also instructor at the rink.

Passing the test were Beverly Levinsky, 13, Greenfield; Edward Jacobs, 17, Greenfield; Robert Fournier, 15, Greenfield; Sylvia Grant, 18, Bernardston; and Claire Rivert, 19, Carol Dejnak, 10, and Phyllis Koch. 15, all of this town.

Perkins explained the test is one of five designed to examine skill of skaters. As in other skating competitions, the entrant is marked on a system whereby he actually is skating against perfection.

Perkins also announced plans are being made for an open competition for all roller skaters in the county. The Rivervu will award trophies to the winner in both girls' and boys' divisions. Further plans will be announced.

**April 28**

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1952 - 1715.pdf](#)

TURNERS FALLS—County-wide roller skating championship races at the Rivervu Roller Rink Wednesday will feature the week's social activities here.

Gerald Perkins, proprietor of the Rivervu rink, has, announced he will provide two trophies for the county championships, one for girls, and one for boys. Two races will be run off Wednesday, the first at 8 p.m. and the second at 10. Youngsters with amateur skating cards are eligible and no affiliation is necessary.

**May 5**

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1952 - 1843.pdf](#)

### **Greenfield Girl Wins Rink Award**

TURNERS FALLS—Janet Holden of Greenfield swept from last place to first in the girls' division while Edward Jacobs of Greenfield was strengthening his hold on first place in championship finals at the Rivervu Roller Rink last night.



Miss Holden was credited with 25 points for her night's work, giving her a grand total of 90. Claire Rivet, who scored 20 points Wednesday, failed to show up for the finals last night. Had she been present, with the commanding lead she had built up she would probably have been crowned the champion.

Others scoring points were Rosemary Paradise, from 15 to 20; and Phyllis Koch, from 7½ to 17½. Carol Dejnak slipped on the last lap and her score remained at five.

Jacobs skated to 40 points last night to clinch easily the county championship for boys, 70 to 35 over Sonny Fredette. Fredette made 20 points last night.

Mgr. Gerald Perkins will award a trophy to the girl and boy winners when they arrive. Perkins said the trophies were shipped once but arrived in damaged condition and now must be shipped again.

**May 16** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1952 - 2011.pdf](#)

### **Test Skaters Tuesday Night**

TURNERS FALLS—Dane and Henry Haffke of Springfield, professional roller skating judges, will be at the Rivervu Roller rink Tues day night to test any skaters with an amateur card who care to compete. Proprietor Gerald Perkins announced today.

Perkins said he expects 10 or 12 youngsters who skate at the rink to take the tests and explained anyone in Franklin County will be welcomed as they have the amateur card. Parents and friends of the skaters have been invited as guests of the management. There will be no other skating that night.

Tests will be given for figures and free style and will be Nos. 1 and 2 tests only. Persons passing the first will be awarded a bar and the second, a bronze medal. As in all other racing tests, the contestants compete against perfection.

Perkins awarded bars last night to the following who passed the first test in Boston recently. Robert Fournier, Edward Jacobs and Beverly Levinski of Greenfield. Sylvia Grant of Bernardston and Carol Dejnak, Phyllis Koch and Claire Rivet of this town.

January 6, **1953** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1953 - 0051.pdf](#)

### **Miss Holden President of New Rivervu Club**

TURNERS FALLS—The new Rivervu Figure and Dance Club was formed at the Rivervu Rollerway it was announced last night.

Miss Janet Holden was elected president of the new organization, Nancy Bezio, vice president. Miss Phyllis Cooke, secretary, and Miss Claire Rivet, treasurer.

The aim of the club will be to bring the young roller skaters together each week where they will find pleasure in skating and making new friends. Lessons will be given by owner and operator of the rink, Jerry Perkins. Next meeting will be Thursday at the Rivervu rink.



March 5

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1953 - 2102.pdf](#)

### [Rivervu Skaters Lose First Match by 7 to 5](#)

TURNERS FALLS—The Rivervu Figure and Dance Club lost its first match to the Pittsfield club, 7-5. at Pittsfield Tuesday night. Miss Janet Holden, president of the local club, won the only laurels for Rivervu with her partner, Ed Jacobs. The next match will be Wednesday at the Rivervu Rink, where the local club hopes to tie the four game series. Members' new uniforms will be completed with beanie caps.

March 25

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1953 - 2367.pdf](#)



### [Final Skate in Turners Tonight](#)

TURNERS FALLS—The finals Named to the April program dance competition meet between the Turners Falls Rivervu Figure and Dance Club and the Pittsfield club will be tonight in Turners Falls. All members should be at the rink between 7:30 and 8 for pictures.

Pittsfield has won the previous meets, although Edward Jacobs of the local club, free style stylist, won over Pittsfield's Billy Doyle.

9.14.1953

Oct. 28

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1953 a - 1820.pdf](#)

### [Rivervu Roller Rink Has Renovations](#)

TURNERS FALLS—In preparation for the roller skating season which is now getting into full swing. Prop. Gerald Perkins of the Rivervu Roller Rink reported today completion of renovations to the property. Included in the new interior are multi-colored fluorescent lights, loud speakers to give music a deeper tone, a new ceiling and color scheme. In addition, the roof has been repaired and the floor reseated with a plastic compound.

The ceiling is of wall-tile 90 by 52 feet. The new speakers, set into the ceiling, are made of plywood. The walls are of a reddish-orchid hue and the window sash is a deep green. The green window replaces an aqua color watt with black border.

There are 25 lights, three gold lights on each end and a large star-shape light in the middle. The lights are green, blue, red and gold.

A Halloween costume party is planned for Friday at the rink and a Sadie Hawkins Night Nov. 14, complete with Marryin' Sam. There will also be a Thanksgiving party.

Perkins said he also plans this year a roller-skating Rink Operators Association exhibition utilizing local talent. Another feature of the rink is Adult Night every other Monday. On that night, no one under 21 years of age is permitted on the rink.

March 20, 1954

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1954 - 1288.pdf](#)

### **Skating Rink Affords Free Transportation**

Free bus service from Greenfield to Rivervu Roller Skating Rink in Turners Falls was announced by Gerald Perkins, manager-owner, today.

The round-trip service will be provided on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights each week, with Lee Goodman of Gill, floorman at the rink, driver of a chartered GMTA bus.

Greenfield's trip will begin at Four Corners, starting at 6:45 on Wednesday and Sunday and 7:15 on Friday and Saturday. It will swing down Federal to the Community Y, retrace on Main to Conway, north to Silver, then to Turners Falls and via Third Street to the rink. Pickup will be made anywhere along the route by signaling the driver, Perkins said.

Return trip will leave the rink at 10:40 each Wednesday and Sunday and 11:10 on Friday and Saturday nights.

Aug. 5

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1954 - 5897.pdf](#)

### **Sea Scouts, Girls Skate in Turners**

TURNERS FALLS—A combination dancing and roller skating party for Sea Scouts and Girl Mariners in Western Massachusetts took place Tuesday at the Rivervu Rink here. The local unit, Sea Hawk, was host to the 100 girls and boys taking part.

Committee members serving under Skipper Bert Hubbard were James Reipold, John Bowe of Greenfield and Russell Webster.

Sept. 21

### **Form Roller Skating Club Turners Falls**

TURNERS FALLS—The Turners Falls Roller Skating Club formed here Saturday with Bob Tibbetts as president.

Bob Seibert Was elected vice president and Loretta Griswold. Secretary-treasurer. Meetings will be on alternate Fridays.

Four classes are planned — beginners, figures, free style and advanced — all under direction of Gerald Perkins, professional skater at the Rivervu Rollerway here.

Weekly dues will go towards a trip to a state competition next spring. Plans were made for four parties during the year.

Persons wishing to join may do so by contacting Miss Griswold 447 Davis Street, Greenfield.

Members are: From Turners Falls. Peter Mesic. Betty Lonergan, Alice Sierakoski, Ethel Engelhard, Ernest Yukl, David Barnes, Robert Leighton, Jerry Tibbitts and Jean and Pat Brozo; from Northfield. Diane Coutu and Francis Burdock; from Athol Joseph Lapinski.

From Gill. Dolores Kendrow and Golria Goodwin; Erving, Barbara George and Louise Woodbury; Greenfield, Donald Apple, Warren Pervere, John Hull, Douglas Cousineau and Kathy Belden; Amherst. Bill Bates and Guy Wicksall; Colrain, Jane York and Kathy Cobum, and Bernardston, Pat Grant.

March 25, 1955

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1955 - 1285.pdf](#)

### [Roller Rink Show Next Week](#)

TURNERS FALLS—A roller skating show will, be presented Wednesday at 8 p.m., at the Rivervu Roller Rink on Millers Falls Road.

Prop. Gerald Perkins said today three national champions from Springfield, members of the Rialto. Skating Rink in that city; will be on hand. They are Peter Gullo and Alan Zickewitz, 9 juvenile champ; and Joyce Rancore, 5, diaper champ. The rink will be open to skating starting at 7 and will continue after me show.

Local skaters taking part, all Rivervu talent will be; Janet Fortin, who will skate with her father. William Holden; Marie Barbara, free style; Richard Bezio., Gerald Tibbetts, Warren Pervere, Gerald Perkins. Jr., Guy Withers. Katherine Corbin, Linda Pollard, Francis Pollard, Alice Sierakoski and Betty Lonergan, chorus.

A similar show is planned April 15, Perkins announced.

April 3, 1956

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1956 - 1425.pdf](#)

### [Turners Girls in Rink Event](#)

TURNERS FALLS—Ten Turners Falls Girl Scouts who have passed skating badge requirements or are working toward it will participate in an open house program for parents at the Rivervu Roller Rink April 12 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Forty Greenfield scouts are also participating in the skating program. Girls from here are JoAnn Kruger, Virginia Gray, Patricia Smith, Diana Golonka, Jean Bassett, Margurite Swehla, Barbare Kostecky, Carole Niedbala, Brenda LaPalm and Jeanette Housman.

Parents can attend and have been invited to join in the skating. There will be races, dances and exhibition by advanced skates. No admission, except the skates rental will be charged.

May 23

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1956 - 2308.pdf](#)

### [Colrain Hall](#)

Roller-skating continues each Saturday at Memorial Hall, with Gerald Perkins of Turners Falls giving lessons from 9 to 9:30 a.m. These are provided free of charge to those paying admission to the hall.

March 16, 1957 [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1957 - 1164.pdf](#)

### Montague Center Scouts, Guests Lear to Skate

MONTAGUE CENTER—Eleven Cub Scouts of Pack 43 and 13 guests went roller skating at the Rivervu Roller Rink in Turners Falls Wednesday, the first of four lessons.

Instructor Gerald Perkins taught the proper way to start and stop and to skate forward and backward.

Cub Scouts attending were: Dennis Fisk, George Allis, Robert Carson, Brian Johnson, Stephen Dacyczyn. Jonathon Rastallis, Edward Prasol. Jr., Warren Welch, Jr., Eugene Arial, Robert Trudel and David Thurber.

Guests were: David Pike, Jerry Carson, Cindy Johnson, Marcia Stone, Nancy Clark, Mary Jane Prasol, Grace Welch, Carol Shirtcliff, Cynthia Norwood, Betsy Fiske, Bette Thurber, Donna Kapitan and Joan Rastallis.

Winners of races were: age eight and under, Brian Johnson age nine, Robert Trudel: ages 10 and 11, Eugene Arial; mothers and fathers, Arthur Fisk.

Transportation was furnished by Mrs. Rose Dacyczyn, Edward Prasol, Sr., Arthur Fisk and Mrs. Jean Thurber. The second lesson will be March 18.

June 13 [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1957 - 2665.pdf](#)

### Cubs To Picnic

Pack 46 Cub Scouts will picnic at the Rod k Gun Club camp Monday at 4:30 p.m. A pack meeting will follow at 7. Den mothers and leaders will attend.

The picnic is paid- from the pack treasury and is an annual affair. Cubmaster Paul Garrand said 40 tickets to the Rivervu Roller Rink given as prizes at the recent cub circus will be honored this week-end. The wrong date is printed on the tickets, he said.



6.21.1957

January 29, 1958 [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1958 - 0322.pdf](#)

### Roller Skating Club Formed, Slate Elected

TURNERS FALLS—Organization of a roller skating club took place and officers were elected at the Rivervu Rollerway Sunday.

The club will meet each Sunday at 7 p.m. Lessons are planned from 7 to 8. Officers are Robert Leighton, president; Reggie Willard. vice-president: Guy Wicksall, secretary, and—Patricia Brooks, treasurer. Anyone 16 or older may attend:

Purpose of the club is to enable persons interested in roller skating to learn to skate better participate in activities related to skating. Planned in addition to the lessons are frequent trips to other rinks and competitions.

**Jan. 29** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1958 - 0413.pdf](#)

### **Turners Rink Addition Nearly Done**

TURNERS FALLS—A 2,500-square foot addition has been built at the Rivervu Rollerway on Millers Falls Road. It is completed except for several minor details. Gerald Perkins, rink proprietor, said construction of the cinder block addition which is 50 feet wide, was nearly two years ago. Most of the work has been done by him and his sons, Jerry, 15, and Lee, 13. Fluorescent lighting was installed by Vladish Electric.

Floor of the addition is maple. With the original section. 90 by 50 feet, the overall floor area is now 140 by 50, or 7,000 square feet. Perkins said the rink is the largest in this area.

The original building was constructed as a dance hall and now a skating rink, he observed. With the additions there is ample room for skating parties by industries and organizations as well as more room for skating, he said.

The rink is open Wednesdays through Sundays from 8 to 11 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

**May 12** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1958 - 2208.pdf](#)

### **Rivervu Skaters Seek Area Beauty Honors**

TURNERS FALLS—Jackie Richotte of this town and Barbara Weatherbee of New Salem will represent the Rivervu Roller Rink at a beauty contest in Springfield June 1.

Sponsor of the contest is the Roller Skating Rink Operators of America Association. Winners of the Springfield contest will participate in the national competition at Cleveland later in the year. The beauty contest will be an added attraction to five days of skating competitions.

**July 3** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1958 - 3181.pdf](#)

Prop. Gerald Perkins of the Rivervu Rollerway. Route 2A, Turners Falls, has come up with a special skating program for all Franklin County playgrounders.[sic]

For a small fee, kids can skate 2½ hours each morning and skates are available for a small rental for those who have none.

Every Saturday night the Rivervu features a record hop with music from latest recordings.

**July 24** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1958 - 3522.pdf](#)

### **Rink Expands**

Rivervu Roller Rink on Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls, expects to complete a 12 by 14-foot addition to expand its concessions space in about two weeks.

Mgr. Gerry Perkins reported the new area will be used for the refreshments stand and some of it for additional storage. With opening of the enlarged concession booth, a wider variety will be offered.

**Sept. 25**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1958 - 4630.pdf](#)

### **Rink Addition**

Improved and remodeled facilities are greeting skaters at the Rivervu Rollerway on Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls, this fall and winter season, according to owner Jerry Perkins.

A new 12 by 14-foot section has been constructed to the right of the entrance, allowing space for additional coat room and vending machines. The former storeroom and workshop have been moved to the addition.

Rest rooms to the left of the entrance have been completely remodeled with new ceilings and fixtures, tiled walls and a new cement floor. Acoustical plaster has been applied to the rink walls and more pairs of skates have been added to Perkins' already large selection.

Poster hours are 8 to 11 p. m. Wednesday through Sunday with the rink also open Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1:30 to 4:30. The rollerway is closed Monday and Tuesday except for specially sponsored parties.

**February 22, 1959**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1959 - 0625.pdf](#)

### **Roller Rink Group Plans Get Together**

Old Timers of the Rivervu Roller Rink will have a get together party March 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Turners Falls rink. Refreshments will be served and each girl attending will receive a corsage.

Prizes will be awarded in several categories; to the one who comes the farthest, tallest, shortest and slimmest.

Reservations must be made with Mrs. Elanor (Nadeau) Sullivan of 7 Prospect Avenue.

**March 31**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1959 - 1380.pdf](#)

### **Skate Dancers Open Series Soon at Turners Rink**

TURNERS FALLS—The first in a series of six dancing competitions on skates will take place at the Rivervu Roller Rink, Millers Falls Road. Wednesday at 8 p.m. Opposition to local skaters will be provided by a team from the Rainbow Rink in South Deerfield. Progressive tango will be featured.

Rivervue couples are Butch Durant of Turner, Falls and Joann King, Colrain; Midge Tuttle and Francis Sullivan, Greenfield; Francis Charest, Jr., Lake Pleasant and Janice Temple, Colrain; Weslev and Doris Manning, Greenfield; Joey Richotte. Turners Falls, Janice Booth, Colrain; Forrest Murdock, Jacksonville, Vt., and Sharon Colburn, Colrain; Edward Millett, Greenfield, and Linda Pollard, Colrain; Lee Perkins and Judy Humphrey, Turners Falls; Bob Leighton, Gill and Carol Butler, Athol; and Joan Kells, Greenfield and Jimmy Richotte, Turners Falls.



Rainbow couples follow: Rob Kowalski, South Deerfield, and Marge Backiel, Whately; Jim Shlosser, South Deerfield, and Carolyn Wilga. Whately: Reginald Campbell and Linda Lanse, Amherst; Ted Elatka, Hatfield, and Joyc Paciorek, South Deerfield; Elsie Wheeler, Amherst, Betty Jo Root, Greenfield, and Russell Pearson, South Deerfield; Tommy and Barbara Paciorek, Pete Ondras and Carolyn Backiel and Skeet Anderson and Patricia LeFernier, all of South Deerfield.

Winner of the first race in a series of competition between skaters of the two rinks Thursday was Joe Richotte of Rivervu. Placing second through fifth, all from Rainbow, were Shlosser, Anderson, John Colleran and Bob Wilson.

Jim Chiaputti of Greenfield representing Rivervu won the second race at Rainbow. Second through fifth were John Zellmann, Rivervu; Pete Ondras, Rainbow; Jerry Richotte, Rivervu, and Bob Kowalski, Rainbow. In the runner-up between two top places Richotte bet Chiaputti.

Five additional races will be run before an eventual winner is determined. Trophies will be awarded first and second places.

**Nov. 23**

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1959 - 5068.pdf](#)

[Starting At Turners Rink](#)

[Hockey On Roller Skates Brings Modern Feature](#)

TURNERS FALLS—There was strictly a male group skating at Rivervu Roller Rink on Millers Falls Road one night this week. And they all had hockey sticks in their hands.

"Old timers would recall the game easily enough. They used to call it street polo in the cities. Now, it's roller hockey. And it's not far removed from ice hockey. Prof. Gerry Perkins, "who has been at Rivervu for about ten years, played the game himself at the age of 18 at White City in Worcester.

"We got stalled this\* year." Perkins explained while keeping one eye on the game. "We have had a lot of requests." "What we'd like to do" the owner explained, "is to get a little league started among ourselves. We have about 23 actively interested now. I'd like to get other towns."

### **Safer Version**

Roller hockey is a saner version of the old street polo. The game looks remarkably like hockey, even when played by the Rivervu youngsters, who are admitted novices. They skate well and are starting to make the team plays which distinguish the game from bang-up shinny. The major modifications have been simple; a plastic ball replaces the heavy regulation hockey puck. And sticks must be kept below waist level. Violations bring one minute in the hoosegow.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Hoosegow is an amusing term for jail.

*c.g*



Perkins recalls there used to be a pro league to existence in the early years. Teams from Worcester, Fall River and Providence, R.I. were active.

"But there wasn't too much body contact," Gerry remembers. "here was some fighting and the fans didn't understand that it was a natural thing in games of that sort. Then there were riots."

But the new rules with strict enforcement can pretty well eliminate any of the old dangers. A few spills. appeared to be the worst mishaps at the Wednesday night practice session.

The teams are aligned five to a side with three forwards, a defenseman and goalie. The kids have made their own nets, four and a half feet wide and about three feet high. The goalies, who don't have to wear the extensive hockey padding, are forbidden to take their sticks off the ground.

### **Seek Best Ball**

Roller hockey is an on-side game. A red line at mid-floor designates the off-side point. Holyoke teams, which played there this week hadn't been playing the rule and had trouble for a while. But it makes a much better game, Perkins points out.

The plastic ball remains a little bit of a problem. It's an improvement over the lethal puck. But the ball is still, a trifle light for ideal use. Part of the open area at the sides has been equipped with chicken wire to keep the ball in paly and the remaining areas will be so equipped.

Perkins, who has two kids on the Turners Falls High School football team, says that some youngsters have been leery about trying the sport, fearing it would be too rough. But the general experience has been that players soon loose themselves in the game and forget about spills and bumps.

Roller hockey is a pretty good conditioner. The floor is 140 feet long and the play is continuous, barring short pauses for face-offs when the ball goes out of play.

15-miute games are played on a round-robin basis. Players are given ten seconds to get the ball out from the boards. Opposing players must back off at least six feet.

The last player to hit the ball out of bounds loses possession to the other team and the kids obey the rule well even when there is not an official working the game.

### **Built-in Brakes**

Some of the kids can skate quite well and -naturally have the advantage in the fast game. Toe stops—hard rubber affairs set on a plate under the toes—give the players help in stopping.

So far toe top team at Rivervu is the Angels with Butch Durant in the goal, Jim Chiapputi at center and Ed Millette and Jerry Tibbetts on the wings and Lee Perkins at defense. Millette had three goals in the Holyoke competition.

The Indians have lined up with Jerry Richotte and Joey Richotte at wings. Frank Sullivan at center. John Zelman at defense and Harold Lemoine at goal.

The Rebels have Herman Hall as goalie with Bob Brown and John Petruski at wings with Frank Zak and Ralph Wood as defensemen.

**July 25** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1959 - 5131.pdf](#)

### **Rivervu Club in Roller Tilts**

TURNERS FALLS—The top Hat Tigers of Holyoke was three of four roller hockey matches from the Rivervu here Monday night.

The Tigers won matches 3-1, 2-0 from the 2-0 from the Indians, 2-1, 0-2.

Carl Ward paced the Holyoke m club with three goals while Jerry and Joey Richotte had two goals apiece for Turners Falls. John Zellman and Ed Miller also scored for the home forces.

**April 7** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1959 - 1500.pdf](#)

### **Jim Richotte Nips Brother**

Jim Richotte defeated his brother Gerry in the roller skating races " Rainbow Rink last week. This was the third in a series of seven races including competition from Rainbow and Rivervu Rollerway skaters.

Gerry Richotte won the first race, with Eddie Millette The of Rivervu in second spot. Pete Condras and Bob Wilson of Rainbow placed third and fourth.

The first four finishers in the second race were all from Riverview with Jim Richotte, Jim Chiaputti. John Zellmann and Butch Durant, Skeet Emerson of Rainbow was fifth.

**Nov. 16** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1959 - 4981.pdf](#)

### **Roller Hockey Debuts Tonight**

TURNERS FALLS—Roller hockey makes its debut in Turners Falls tonight with a double-header at Rivervu Roller Rink on Millers Falls Road.

Teams from Hi-Hat Rink, Holyoke, will play local teams, Prop. Gerald Perkins said a whiffle ball is used to prevent injury and to keep the interior of the rink from being damaged.

Five players are on a team and penalties are assessed for high sticking, roughness or kicking. A game lasts 15-minutes with no time outs and no substitutions permitted. Penalty times are one to three minutes depending on seriousness of rule infractions. Perkins said there are openings for additional players.

Skating with the Rivervu teams are; Joe and Jerry Richotte, John Zellman. Frank Sullivan and Harold Lemoine.

Indians; Lee Perkins, Jerry Tibbetts, Butch Durant, Ed Millett and Jimmy Chiaputti.

Jokers; Bobby Brown, John Petruski, Ronald Summer, Ed Oxely, Herbert Hall. Additional players are; Don Craven, Michael Donahue and Ronald Thomas.

July 26, 1960 [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1960 - 3544.pdf](#)

### Teen Dances Start Aug. 4

TURNERS FALLS—Teenage dances at Rivervu Roller Rink, postponed for two Weeks, are now scheduled to begin Aug. 4.

Music by Dick Hurlburt's orchestra will be provided through the Recording Industry Music Performers' Trust Fund, according to an announcement from Gerald Perkins, proprietor of the rink.

Dancing will be from 8 to 11 p.m. each Thursday for the remainder of the summer. Chaperones will be provided by Clarence W. Allen American Legion Auxiliary.

Aug. 2 [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1960 - 3616.pdf](#)



### Teen Dance Thursday Night, at Rivervu

TURNERS FALLS—Dick Hurlburt's orchestra will, play for a teen-age dance Thursday at the Rivervu Roller Rink from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Chaperones will be provided by Clarence W. Allen American Legion Auxiliary. Music will be furnished through a grant from the Recording Industry, Music Performers' Trust Fund, according to Gerald Perkins, rink proprietor.

5.18.1960

Aug. 3 [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1960 - 3632.pdf](#)

### No Sloppy Dress

Dress regulation for the teenage dance at the Rivervu rink Thursday from 8 to 11 p.m. have been announced by Gerald Perkins, rink proprietor. Girls must wear skirts or dresses and boys, suit pants and shirt. Dungarees, shorts, bermudas and T shirts will not be allowed.

January 26, 1961 [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1961 - 0404.pdf](#)

### Minor Fire Damage at Rivervu, Turners

TURNERS FALLS—A smoldering cigaret[sic] in a restroom partition at the Rivervu Rollerway caused minor damage last night.

Firemen were called from Box 47 at 8:35 p.m. to the property owned by Gerald Perkins on Millers Falls Road. The burning butt caused considerable smoke and did some damage to the outside wall partition. There was no explanation concerning how the cigaret found its way behind the wall.

**Feb. 16**

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1961 - 0725.pdf](#)

**Benefit Event**

A benefit skating party for the Heart Fund will take place at Rivervu Rollerrink Sunday at 7:30 p.m. Prop. Gerald Perkins said all proceeds over cost will be donated to the fund. Edward Millett of Greenfield will give a skating exhibition.

**March 18**

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1961 - 1103.pdf](#)

**Scouts To Skate as Rivervu Rink Guests This Week**

TURNERS FALLS—Skating at Rivervu Roller Rink on Millers Falls Road, courtesy of owner Gerald Perkins, will be a feature of King Phillip Neighborhood Girl Scouts' observance Girl Scout Week.

Scouts and Brownies from Montague Center will skate tonight from 5:30 to 7:30. Tuesday is reserved for Gill. Turners Falls Brownie troops of Mrs. Joseph Antinerella, Mrs. Bartholemew Vivier, Mrs. William Baker and Mrs. Richard Edwards will skate Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:30.

Scouts and Brownies from Erving and Millers Falls will skate Thursday from 3:30 to 5:30 and those from Bernardston Thursday from 5:30 to 7:30. Scout troops of Mrs. Harold Pervere, Mrs. Henry Swehla and Mrs. William Steinecke, Jr., are scheduled Friday from 3:30 to 5:30. Turners Falls Senior Scouts will assist Brownies.

**March 26**

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1961 - 1343.pdf](#)

**Scout Skating**

Girls in all intermediate scout troops in Turners Falls who plan to take advantage of a special scout offer by Rivervu Roller Rink must register no later than the date of the first lesson, Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the rink. Lessons will last an hour and a half. Upon completion of the 10 lessons, the girls will be qualified for the roller skating advancement badge.

**April 20**

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1961 - 1738.pdf](#)

**Rides To Rink**

Rivervu Roller Rink in Turners Falls this week inaugurated a new service to patrons within a 20-mile radius. Prop. Gerald Perkins said he has purchased a 40-passenger bus with which he will provide free transportation to groups for skating at his rink. Arrangements for this service can be made by calling the rink.

**June 26**

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1961 - 1001 \(2\).pdf](#)

A license was issued to Rivervu Roller Rink for a dance the night of July 3, beginning at midnight to 3 a.m. on the 4th.

**Aug. 26**

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1961 - 1867 \(2\).pdf](#)

**Rivervu Rollerway Now Managed by Ted Sargent**

TURNERS FALLS—Ted Sargent of 52 Central Street has taken over the lease of the Rivervu Rollerway and will open for business Sept. 1.

Gerald C. Perkins, owner and former operator of the roller skating rink, has leased the Shea Bowling Alleys and will open there the same day.

Sargent, a stationary fireman at Mount Herman School for Boys, admits to no previous experience in rink management. He became interested in the deal because he "likes to skate," he explained.

According to the two operators, business at both places will go on as before with only minor changes. Both plan to redecorate and revitalize their establishments to a small degree.

Under consideration is a plan involving both enterprises[sic] in which free bus service for bowling or skating parties may be provided. If the demand, warrants, Sargent and Perkins said, transportation will be made available to groups traveling to and from the alleys or the rink. Sargent said he will continue to keep open hours at the skating rink on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings and Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

**Sept. 1**      [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1961 - 1969 \(2\).pdf](#)

### **Rivervu Rink Opens Tonight with New Chief**

TURNERS FALLS—Rivervu Roller Rink, Millers Falls Road, opens tonight under new management and a grand opening celebration. Mgr. Ted Sargent said today the rink floor has been sanded and refinished and the entire interior has been painted and cleaned in preparation for the event. All skaters will be admitted free tonight in honor of the occasion, Sargent said.

For the next five days, as part of the Labor Day holiday week-end celebration, Rivervu will feature special events each day.

Saturday from 2 to 5 p.m. is reserved for the youngsters, with the evening given to an all-skate program from 8 to 11 p.m. Sunday afternoon is for a family skating party and the evening for couples-only skating. Girls with escorts will be admitted free to the evening party.

Monday will be Mystery Color Night, to which anyone wearing an unnamed color known only to the management will be admitted free. Tuesday will be Crazy Night with stunts and prizes. Wednesday has been set aside as Girls Night, to which all girl skaters will be admitted at half-price.

Regular schedules for the new Rivervu will go into effect the following week, Sargent said. The rink will be in operation Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 8 to 11 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 2 to 5. Sargent also announced today that Eddie Millette will be chief floor guard and assistant manager.



Sept. 9

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1961 - 2076.pdf](#)

### [Shea Bowladrome Open Under New Management](#)

TURNERS FALLS—Opening of the Shea Bowladrome under management of Gerald Perkins took place Friday night. Perkins, formerly proprietor of Rivervu Roller Rink, has leased that business.

Alleys have been completely renovated and new plastic pins and new balls provided. Also available for rental to bowlers are suede shoes. The alley has been painted, with a white and gray ceiling, aqua upper walls and beige lower walls.

1.16.1961

Perkins said seven leagues have registered to date and added there are openings for additional leagues. He said he anticipates one or two of the eight alleys will be available nightly for open bowling.

Hours will be weekdays from 5:30 p.m. to midnight; Saturday, 8 a.m. to midnight and Sunday, 1 to 11 p.m.

Plans are being made, Perkins said, for young peoples' leagues in the high school and grammar school age levels. He also plans special bowling for children Saturday mornings. In a few weeks champion bowlers will be at the alley for a day and evening to give exhibitions and free bowling tips, Perkins said.

Nov. 15

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1961 - 3186.pdf](#)

### [Benefit Activities at Skateland Saturday](#)

TURNERS FALLS—Ted and Jan's Skateland, formerly known as Rivervu Roller Rink, will have a benefit party for the Salvation Army Saturday, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. for children and 7:30-10:30 for adults. Admission is two cans of vegetables or fruit, which will be given to 'the Salvation Army.

January 20, 1962

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1962 - 0291.pdf](#)

### [Disappointed Troop to Get Free Bowling](#)

TURNERS FALLS—Gerald Perkins, operator of the Shea Bowladrome, said today he is inviting all members of Brownie Troop 48 who were disappointed recently, for free bowling any day they wish. He said he hopes they will call him the night before to "get me down there to open up the alley."

Perkins said he was sincerely sorry for the inconvenience caused them before and assures them it wasn't intentional."

"I'm only human and subject to forgetting once in a while, but I'll definitely make it up to them," he said.



**Jan. 26** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1962 - 0365.pdf](#)

### **Perkins Resumes Rink Operation**

TURNERS FALLS—Gerald Perkins of Millers Falls has taken over, full management and operation of Riverview[sic] Roller Rink, he said today.

Perkins had leased the business for a short while to Theodore Sargent of Central Street, who found he did not have adequate time to give to the venture.

Perkins said the rink, which has been closed about a week, will reopen Sunday. He is planning skating classes in the near future and is preparing to cater to private parties and organizations as well as the general public. He is also the owner and operator of the Shea Bowladrome.

**Sept. 19** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1962 - 4366.pdf](#)

### **Opposition Indicated**

Ronald Savoy of Athol proposed establishment of a teen-age center at the Rivervu for short-order dining and dancing to juke box and bands. He said this would be on a membership basis, which he felt would give him control over "undesirable elements". He said he would institute rules, which if broken would cause immediate expulsion. These would include drinking and suggestive dancing, he said.

He said roller skating would not be continued. Trudel said, "If it worked out right, your idea could be a wonderful thing." Selectmen said he would need licenses and referred him to the license commission. Selectmen indicated they will grant approval after receiving, as a formality, letters of character and recommendation. Savoy said he would produce letters from Athol police, selectmen and a YMCA official.

**Sept. 26** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1962 - 4494.pdf](#)

### **Teen Center Gets OK**

TURNERS FALLS—A cabaret-type teen-age dine and dance center is on its way to becoming a reality here. Selectmen unanimously approved the idea last night, granting Ronald Savoy of Athol a license for weekday dances for the rest of the year. The board explained processing of Sunday licenses and steered him toward license commissioners for other permits not in that board's Jurisdiction. In other action, the board signed into law an ordinance amendment making Prospect Street a "one way" entrance street. No entrance from Route 2A will be allowed. This was processed through and approved by the state department of public safety.

The board, also processed several Sunday licenses and issued two permits for opening streets. Savoy presented letters of reference from Athol police and the YMCA there. He said he would feature band dancing at least two nights a week. He is negotiating purchase of the Rivervu Roller Rink, which will become headquarters, he said. Savoy said he has made further arrangements, including purchase of tables and chairs. The center will provide a gathering place for youngsters, with the exception of troublemakers, he said.



The activity will be on a membership basis and undesirables will be weeded out through revocation of membership. There will be no more roller skating. Soda and short order items will be available and a juke box will provide dance music on no-band nights.

Saulnier warned Savoy against soliciting merchants and other adults with membership cards. Savoy acknowledged that youngsters are out selling the cards but said he wasn't aware of a case mentioned by Saulnier in which a merchant was approached. He said he would correct the situation.

Selectmen said they admire Savoy's plans for "control" of the new enterprise and Selectman Raymond M. Trudel again called the undertaking a "good thing".

**Oct. 1** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1962 - 4617.pdf](#)

### **Turners Topics . . . This n' That**

The new teen center at the former Rivervu Roller Rink site has the blessing of most townspeople we've talked to. Control will be the difference between success or failure. Mgr. Ronnie Savoy has expressed confidence he can provide youngsters a good time without letting them far out of line.

**Oct. 8** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1962 - 4617.pdf](#)

The new teen center at the former Rivervu Roller Rink received a permit for Sunday food sales. A Sunday entertainment license was processed.

**Oct. 17** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1962 - 4864.pdf](#)

### **Land Transfers**

A Montague deeds involved commercial property in Turners Falls. Mr. and Mrs. Gerald G. Perkins sold the former Rivervu Roller Rink on Millers Falls Road to Mr. and Mrs. Ishmael M. Savoy of Athol, who plan to operate a youth center there.

**Oct. 26** [Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1962 - 5071.pdf](#)

### **Turners Topics**

TURNERS FALLS—Dropped in at the Beachcomber Club, paradise of late for many of the area's teens. We were interested in getting acquainted with Ron Savoy, owner-manager, and curious, frankly, to see what it's all about. With what is distinguishable on the surface, we were impressed.

The kids, a majority of them anyway, have apparently taken this haven to their bosoms. They have pitched in and worked hard, turning the former Rivervu Roller Rink into a social center for their crowd and the few adults who occasionally wander in. The motif is as might be expected. Mermaids (garbed modestly) and other marine themes adorn the walls. The ceiling has a fish-net effect.

Starting with little, the young people have transformed the facility into a combination dance hall, night club and snack bar worthy of some adult establishments. The few parents who have investigated, Savoy told us, have been pleased with the idea and its progress. He

also disclosed, sadly, that a few parents and others who have not bothered to investigate have jumped to their own, conclusions.

THE IDEA behind the Beachcomber is to give teen-agers a place to call their own. Savoy, acting somewhat like an older brother, has managed the necessary control by demanding respect: [Selected] by the police have called his idea a good one, as long high ideals are maintained. There is no reason to believe that they are not.

What do the children do at the Beachcomber? They get off the streets and under some supervision, for one thing. They dance, they eat, they play cards, they talk. They have a good time. One young man is learning short order cooking at the snack bar. Several others are working with Savoy in the club's management.



10.20.1962

They all seem to like Savoy, strict as he often is. The club is run on a membership basis and those who are guilty of any impropriety are promptly bounced for a week or two. The threat of expulsion from "belonging", for which teens today show a definite need, seems to work wonders.

Given an even chance, we believe the kids may prove this club worthy of widespread respect. The adults have their social gathering spots. To date, the Beachcomber compares favorably with any of them. The future will depend largely on Savoy and, somewhat, on other adults. Some have doomed it to failure, already, based on other experiments. Others are willing to give it a chance. We'll side with the latter.

November 3, 1965

[Greenfield MA Recorder Gazette 1965 a - 2238.pdf](#)

WHERE CAN be found beautiful new looking building with five by nine foot picture windows, a new roof and siding, remodeled entrance way and loading bay, and containing 8,500 square feet of space without a single post?

We toured one fitting that description perfectly on Montague Rd., Turners Falls. It is the former Roll - O - Drome skating rink, which is being used for storage. Besides all its other attractions, it also has a beautiful view of the Connecticut River to the east. Owner Chet Porter, operator of the Fuel Center in Greenfield bought it about 18 months ago from Gerald Perkins. Every part of the building has been remodeled and, if the price is right, Porter might sell it.

## GALLERY



Newspaper Advertising.



Photograph segment courtesy Wayne G. Perkins, son of Gerald G. Perkins. Wayne's collection of Rivervu memorabilia adds "being" to the written word. Other images cited accordingly.



The Connecticut River, looking east from the rear of the Rivervu building. c1980s

courtesy Janice Bordeaux Fuller





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At The  
**RIVERVU**  
**BALLROOM**  
**MAY 29, 1947**  
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Broadcasting and Recording  
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Dancing From 9-1 a. m.  
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5.25.1947

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Good Times Ahead for Funsters of All Ages at  
Our Rink. Everything Is As You Like It! Contin-  
uous Music. Skate Shoes — All Sizes — For Rent.  


8.20.1954

**Rivervu Rollerway**  
Rte. 2A Turners Falls  
**FRIDAY., SEPT. 22**  
Admission - 1950 Quarter  
**SAT. NITE, SEPT. 23**  
Mystery Color Nite  
½ Price For Anyone Wearing  
The Mystery Color.  
**SAT. 10:30 To 12**  
**RECORD HOP**  
No Additional Charge  
For Skaters  
35c Admission For Others

9.22.1961

**TONIGHT**  
AT  
**RIVERVU**  
**ROLLER RINK**  
**1940 DIME**  
Price of Admission.  
SHOE RENTALS, 30c  
Millers Falls Rd.,  
Turners Falls  
UN 3-2213

8.11.1962



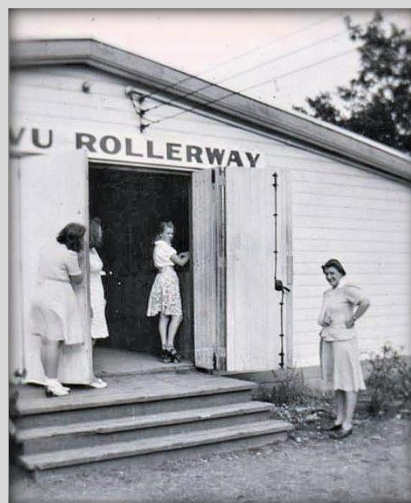
1948



c1950



Girls' group. Marty Boulanger drives bus. c1950



Women at rink entrance. c1950





Richard Annear and Phyllis Mentor both from Turners Falls, at the Rivervu. C1960s



Eddie Millett at Rivervu office. 1957



**Skating Square Dancers:** Top L to R: Ray Mayo, Ed Millett, Joe Richotte, Alan Keyes, Guy Wicksall.  
Bottom: Betty Swehle, Audrey Giamari, Ann Mroczek.

New

Rivervu addition 1957.



Rivervu building from Millers Falls Road. White door (right) is main entrance. c1990s




Rivervu Roller Rink demolition; 1996.





What's there in our day.



**TUESDAY**  
**APRIL 20**  
8 P. M.  
"AB" McALEXANDER  
Presents  
**JIMMY - THE ROLLER**  
Skating Horse  
Performing His Routine  
High School Tricks  
**RIVERVU**  
Route 2A — Turners Falls

1954

~~ Notes ~~