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The Daniel Boone Inn Roller Skating Rink offers fun and instruction in skating for all ages, but usually not for dogs. While the gentleman on the left seems ready to go out for another

round on the rink, his friend has to convince their canine companion that the rink doesn't stock dog-size shoes. (Photo by Johnny Lindahl)

Skating fun for everyone

by Lynn Lloyd
Staff Writer

If you're looking for a new and different way to spend an evening, a chance to dance your heart out, or a chance to hold your date's hand like they did in the old days, then there's finally a place for you—the Daniel Boone Inn Roller Skating Rink in Hillsborough.

The rink has recently been remodeled by Mike and Janice Clark, both professional skaters,

who "would like to give roller skating a new image."

Mike and Janice have not only remodeled their rink to get rid of drab old surroundings, they also have bought all new precision skates, offer all types of free music for people to skate by, play games like the limbo and the hokie-pokie and are always out on the floor to help inexperienced and experienced skaters.

"We have been open less than two weeks and most of our

business has been UNC students," Mike said in a recent interview. "We'd like to get rid of the roller-derby image of roller skating. We want to teach classes here of dance and free-style. You can compete in roller skating with the same figures as in ice skating."

The floor wasn't very crowded the night four of us visited the rink, but the kids there were happy, the dates enjoying themselves, and the parents on the side were trying

to decide whether or not they should get on skates.

Janice led a game of limbo for us. A young girl about two feet tall was naturally the winner. Then Janice showed us how to skate backwards.

Mike left the skateroom to come out for a while. He works at a Leggett-Myers Research Lab in Durham, so skating is a hobby for him. After 28 years of experience and 12 years of teaching, he displayed some very good free-style skating for us.

Janice has been teaching for four years despite a bad injury she received in an automobile accident several years ago. "We have a daughter and a two-year-old son who both skate," she said.

"We offer all sorts of things for all ages," she continued. "We play games, have couples' skates and are always on hand to help the beginners and those who want to advance. We have a fast skate early in the evening for the better kids to tire themselves out."

Janice's enthusiasm for the

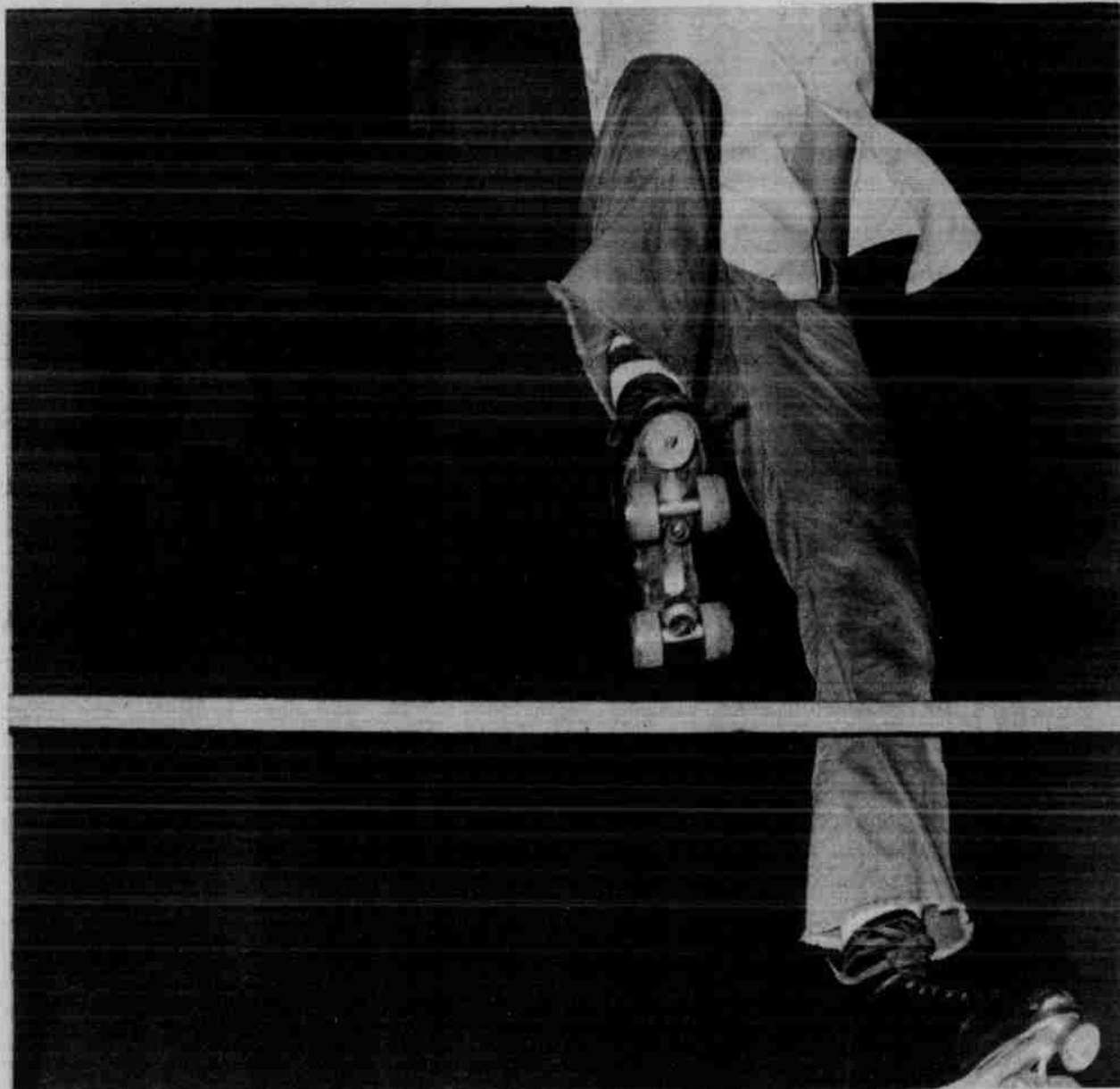
future of their new endeavor couldn't be hidden. She and Mike have been working for four months on the rink before its opening last week. They would eventually like to open another rink in Asheville.

The rink is open on Monday night for private parties. A special rate is offered to groups of 10 or more, and Mike said that bands for groups like fraternities and sororities are welcome. The schedule for the rest of the week is:

Tuesday-Thursday	7:30-10 p.m.
Friday	7:30-10:30 p.m.
Saturday	10-12 a.m.
	2-4:30 p.m.
Sunday	7:30-10:30 p.m.
	2-4:30 p.m.

Classes are offered any day by request.

Mike and Janice think their rink is sort of unique, from the noiseless all-precision skates to the games they play. And it is unique—because of their excitement about their work, their love of roller skating, and the fact that they want to teach others to enjoy it just as much.



Limbo is one of the favorite games of skaters at the roller rink. Sometimes it's not possible to keep your balance going under the bar, though, and the bottom of the skater makes firm

contact with the surface of the rink. Looks like there's a touchdown scheduled any second. (Photo by Johnny Lindahl)

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