

Skaters' lingo is unique

(From Pg 18)

turer Tony Hawk, for example represents Powell Peralta. Not only are company logos found on boards but they also abound on clothing, stickers, pens and many other bits of paraphernalia.

As each part of the board is produced separately it is possible to mix, match, trade and re-use pieces. It also means that all the parts have their own neat names.

The skateboard consists of a deck, on which the person stands, wheels, trucks or axles, hangers, base plates which suspend the hangers, and risers that help to steady it.

After getting the basic board you have to pick a bone or two. The Powell Peralta firm, calls the guards it manufactures for the deck after bones — nose bones, tail bones and ribs can all be purchased.

Why do people skateboard? Mostly because its more fun than walking. "If you skate someplace and then have to walk there you know how much of a nightmare it is," says renown skateboarder Kevin Staab. "You're so happy to have that skateboard with you."

The best way to identify one of these people without actually seeing a skateboard in their hands is by the clothes they wear.

Skateboard designs and clothes are a mixture of heavy metal type skull-dragon motifs, and surfer palm tree beach wear. Clothing tends to be loose, to allow freedom of movement.

The most distinctive piece in a skaters ensemble will be the colorful long shorts. This is followed closely by high-cut running shoes that provide support for the ankles. Popular designers in the area of clothes include Hot Tuna, Maui, Local Motion, and Gotcha.

When asked what part of skateboarding they liked the best most said ramps. The standard ramp is a transversal, they are made of wood and curve upwards. Another popular type of ramp is the wave where one side of the top of the ramp is lower than the other.

The objective of going off a ramp is to get as much air as possible. Air is defined as the space between you and the top of the ramp.

Once you have got air then you can do tricks such as air walks. An airwalk is performed by grabbing the front of the board, doing something of a split jump, then getting it back under your feet and landing to casually keep rolling down the street. Some tricks, like ollies are done without ramps. An ollie is when skater and board jump together.

When a trick is unsuccessful you bail, meaning that you don't land on the board, and sometimes end up getting nuked, or hurt.

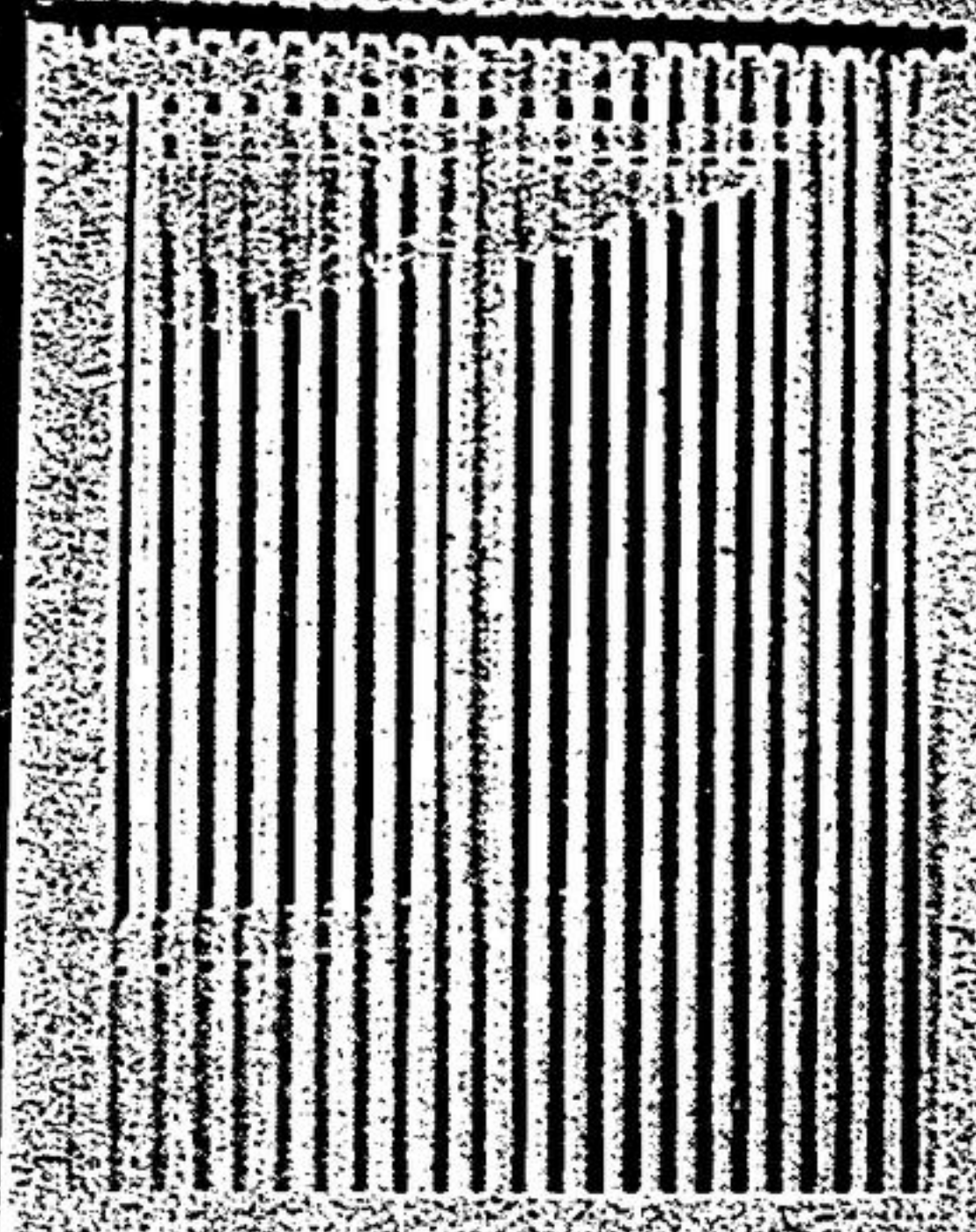
To protect against injury when going off ramps the skaters wear kneepads and sometimes helmets. "Safety is important," says Steve. Other experienced skaters agree that they also worry about people that go off ramps and don't know what they are doing.

Steve's way of life is casual but determined. He realizes that skating is in some ways just a current trend, but he won't be left behind when its over.

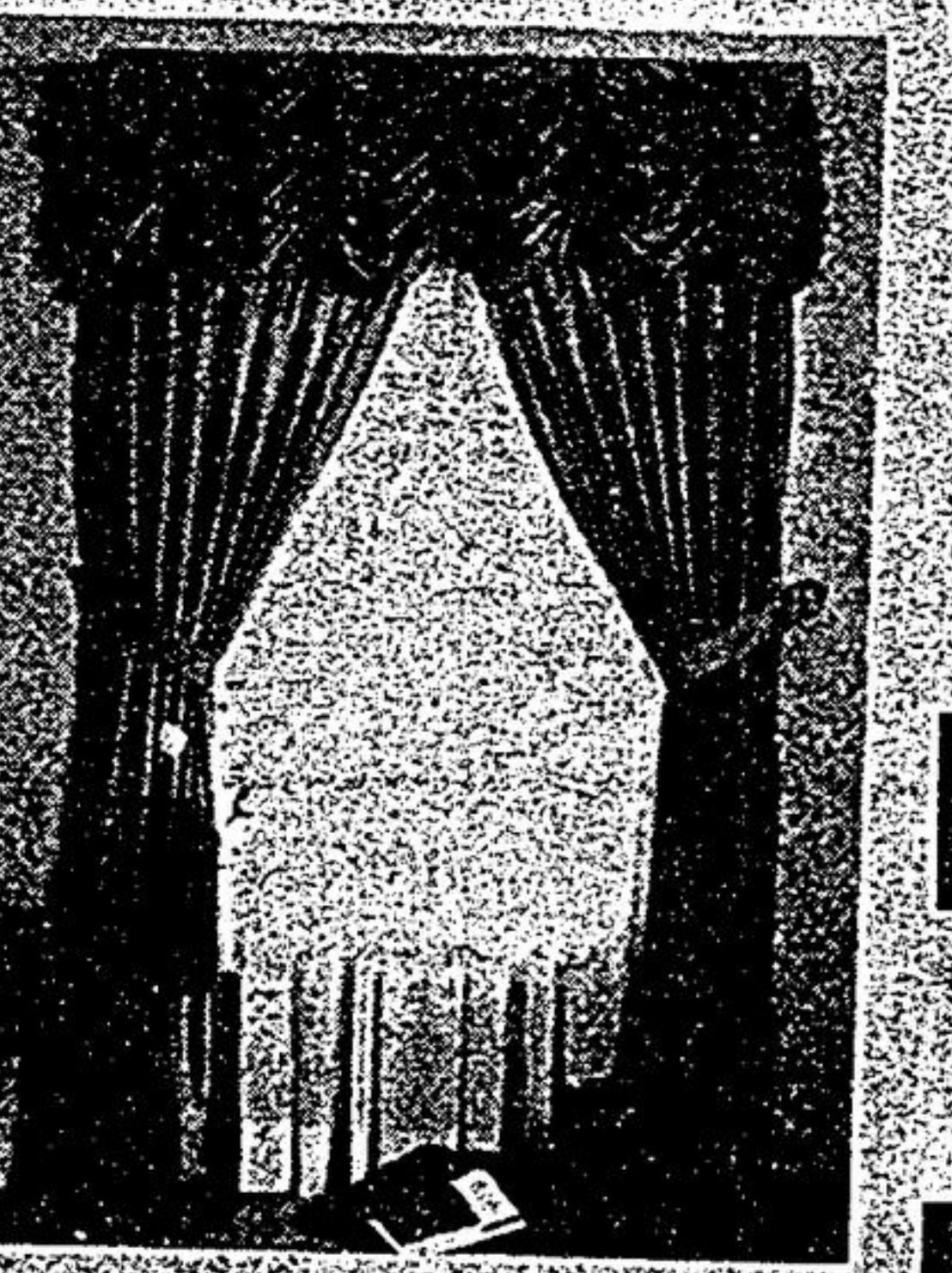
He is expanding the store's clothing to include more for both sexes, and in the winter months plans to carry snowboards for "surfing on snow."

Other diehard skaters like 15-year-old David Pierce agree that skating is a fad at the moment and seem almost annoyed that it has become so popular. "It will die out in a year or so," he says. "But I'll still be skating."

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