

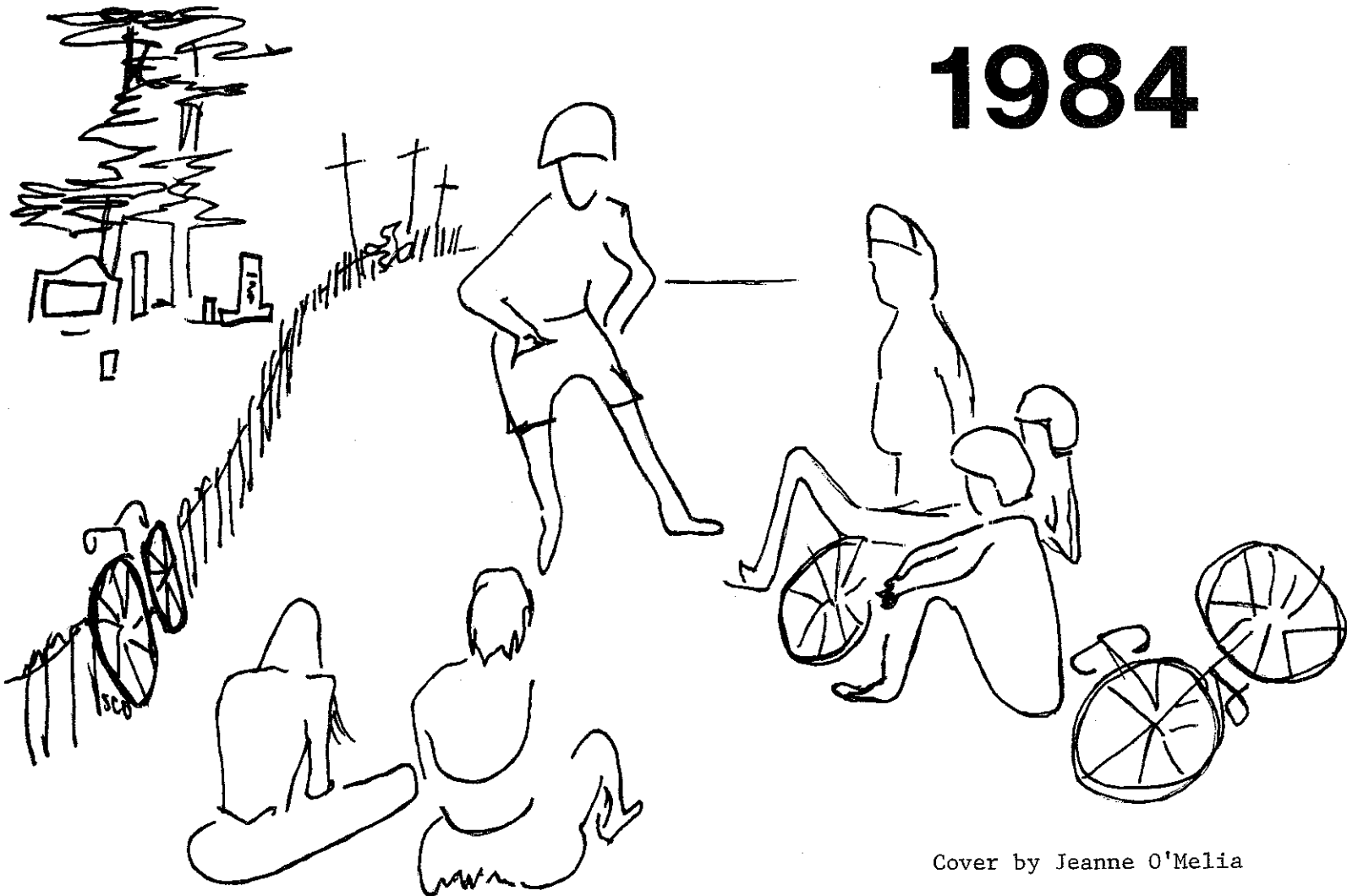


# QUAD-CITIES BICYCLE CLUB

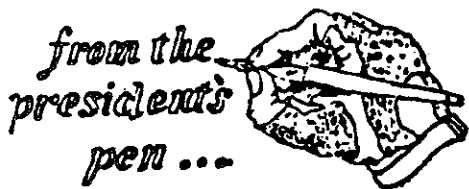
President, PAUL SCHEIBELHUT V. President, JERRY YEAST  
Secretary, WARREN POWER Treasurer, BARBARA TUCKER  
Recording Secretary, JEAN KELLY  
Newsletter Editor, LORRAINE ROTH

**"AT THE HUB OF TWO STATES"**

# AUGUST 1984



Cover by Jeanne O'Melia



I watched with envy on Saturday morning, July 21st, as about 100 QCBC members left for Glenwood, Iowa, and the start of RAGBRAI XII. Some club members believe the only way to get to the start of RAGBRAI is by bike. Bill and Mary Scott and family of Rock Island left a week early, on two tandems and a bugger, and the club's "Iron Man", Dean Arney, left on Friday morning on his bike, planning to cover 300 miles in two days.

The Annual QCBC Picnic is on Saturday, August 25th, and Eleanor Koenig reports that everything is ready. Be sure to get your tickets. On Sunday, the 26th, are two special rides, the Muscatine Century, and the "Ride Around Clinton". The Great River Pedalwheelers of Muscatine and the Riverbend Bicycle Club in Clinton are strong supporters of the QCBC, and many of their members belong to the QCBC. If you are looking for a longer ride to stretch your legs, try the Muscatine Century. And if you want a leisurely Sunday ride, join the Riverbend Bicycle Club for their "Ride Around Clinton".

---Paul Scheibelhut

## WELCOME!

Although we are past our peak season for new club memberships, we are still having a few people join us each month. We hope to see the following people on our club rides frequently---please make them welcome when you see them!

La Don Boom--Wheatland, IA  
Diane Breitbach--Davenport, IA  
Frank Crowe--Moline, IL  
Ralph Hall--Silvis, IL  
The Don and Mary Kay Henry Family--  
Bettendorf, IA  
James Kichak--Davenport, IA  
The Benjamin Kropf Family--Davenport, IA  
The Craig and Charlotte McManus Family--  
Davenport, IA  
Darrell McNeil--Davenport, IA  
Jim Millmeyer--Macomb, IL  
The Michael and Loraine Searl Family--  
Osco, IL  
Thiara S. Smith--Bettendorf, IA  
Kay Stegmiller--Moline, IL  
The Sandy and Kenneth Thomas Keller Family--  
Moline, IL

QCBC MEETING  
Tuesday, August 21, 7 P.M.  
Browning Museum  
Rock Island Arsenal

## T-Shirt Trauma

Sheri Power has received the following letter, touching off a T-shirt hunt. If anyone has such a shirt, and would be willing to part with it, please call Sheri at 391-5466. You will be reimbursed for the cost of your shirt.

Dear Sheri,

This is a strange request, but I promised my son, Chad, I would do my best to try!

Last week, we were biking in Southern Indiana, during the LAW convention. Chad lost it on a very steep hill, and had an accident which resulted in a fractured collar bone...When the E.M.T. people were "doctoring" him up, they cut his precious "TOMRV VII" shirt off him, and it was instantly ruined.

He said to them, "You're going to cut my shirt?" Of course there was nothing he, nor we, could do about that. We are just so thankful he got "fixed up" in the hospital, and they could release him...

Do you have any size M shirts left over from TOMRV 7? If you do, we would really appreciate it, if we could still buy one. Please tell us the price. He really hated to lose that shirt. He even rode up Chestnut Mt. the first try! Better than I can say for myself. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,  
Marianna Miller  
Kalona, IA

# PLAN AHEAD!

## CNB/RAC---Clinton National Bank Ride Around Clinton---Sunday, August 26

This is a family ride, offering five mile to 62 mile routes along the Mississippi. Mostly flat terrain, chosen for the novice rider as well as the experienced rider. It revolves around a ten-mile loop within the city limits, with one cut-off option for those wishing to try only five miles. You may start or stop whenever you wish, or repeat the loop as often as time permits, between 8:00a.m. and 4:00p.m. Riders may take a break at the Eagle Point Park Pavilion (the half-way point) to enjoy the view from high on the bluffs of the river. Then it's downhill all the way back to the Clinton National Bank parking lot. Picnic tables will be available in the parking lot, as will refreshments.

Before August 11th, registration fee is \$4.00 per person, with a \$10.00 family fee. After August 11th, the charge is \$5.00 per person, or \$15.00 for a family. T-shirts are \$4.00 each and are available only with registrations prior to August 11th, so I hope your registration is in! Patches are provided with the cost of registering.

If you haven't registered, and wish to participate, the address is: CNB/RAC, PO Box 151, Clinton, IA 52732.

## R.A.C.E.R. VI---Rut's Annual Chili Eaters' Ride VI---Sunday, October 7

Rain or shine, ride starts at Lincoln Park shelter, Galesburg, Illinois, at 12:34p.m. SHARP, Sunday, October 7th. A short ride of about 27 miles, and a longer ride of about 40 miles, have been laid out, with a stop in Knoxville, Illinois, to check out the flea markets, historical exhibits, etc. Knoxville is on the Knox County Scenic Drive, and is open this weekend. Marked route, chili, crackers, and drink will be furnished.

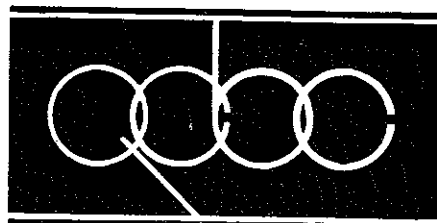
### BRING YOUR FAVORITE CHILI BOWL AND SPOON!

IMPORTANT!! Please indicate with a phone call or letter, with names, please, if you will ride with us. We need to know by October 3rd in order to have enough chili. Non-riding family members of riders are welcome.

---Bob and Kate Rutledge  
29 Imperial Drive  
Galesburg, IL 61401  
(309)342-1705

## PORT BYRON FALL 5/50---Saturday, September 29

Choose your event, and join the fun---The Port Byron Fall Festival is a two-day event sponsored by the Port Byron Heritage Association. There will be a half-century ride through four towns, along two rivers, and through beautiful rolling countryside beginning at 8:00a.m. There will also be a twelve-mile fun ride, also beginning at 8:00a.m.--or--run the five-mile race beginning at Dorrance Park at 10:00a.m. Both events end at the park where there are other activities, including a Civil War encampment, and Saturday afternoon battle, rolle-bolle tournament, bingo tent, authentic craft displays and demonstrations, and beer and food tents. Cost for either the run or ride is only \$2.00, which includes a sag wagon and refreshments along the route, and a free beer or soft drink in the park after the ride. Patches and T-shirts are available. For more information, call club members Terry and Judy Spencer in Port Byron at 523-2293, or Ron and Lori Brown in Erie at 659-2007.



# AND MORE...

## FINAL REMINDER---FALL FOLIAGE '84

This is the last reminder for the Fall Foliage Ride of '84. Motel reservations must be made NOW, for soon there will not be any room accommodations available. Dinner reservations must also be made through me, no later than September 15th.

This year's Fall Foliage Ride centers around Platteville, Wisconsin. Platteville is located 95 miles north of the Quad Cities (about a two-hour drive), in a wooded and hilly region of southwestern Wisconsin. This ride will be a two-day tour, on October 13th and 14th.

On Saturday, the ride will begin at 10:00 A.M. at the Governor Dodge Motel in Platteville. The 10:00 A.M. start will allow ample time to drive from the Quad Cities on Saturday morning. The ride will be to Mineral Point, with highlights at First Capital State Park, Belmont Mound observation tower, and the big "M". The ride will total 52 miles. Time now for a swim and sauna, and then dinner at the Timbers Supper Club. Dinner cost is approximately \$6.55, including tax and tip.

On Sunday, the ride will begin at 9:00 A.M., again at the Governor Dodge Motel. This ride will be to Potosi, with the ride being highlighted by beautiful rivers, valleys, hills, and trees. The ride will total 47 miles, leaving ample time for the drive home.

This year's Fall Foliage Ride could be the most scenic tour of Wisconsin yet. The rivers, valleys, ridges, and parks will provide a spectacular view of the Wisconsin foliage. This will be a social, but challenging, ride where low gears, hearty meals, and some pre-training are strongly recommended.

The Governor Dodge Motel is the only available motel in Platteville. When making reservations, please state that you are with the Quad Cities Bicycle Club. Additional accommodations are available in Dickeyville, approximately 11 miles away.

If you would like to attend the Fall Foliage Ride, and have questions or would like dinner reservations, please contact Verle or Sue Dau at 386-1224 (evenings). Non bike club members are also welcomed. Please refer to your April newsletter for additional information.

Best Western Governor Dodge Motor Inn  
Highway 151  
Platteville, WI 83818  
608-348-2301

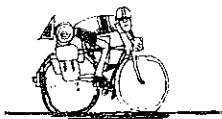
Plaza Motel  
Highways 151, 61 & 35  
Dickeyville, WI 53808  
608-568-7562

## PACRACC '84---Pantagraph Area Cyclist Ride Around Corn Country---September 1-3

We have received a brochure from The Pantagraph in Bloomington, Illinois, regarding their annual Labor Day weekend ride. This ride was highly recommended by Don and Magen Horton, who have represented the QCBC on this tour. Applications will be accepted only until August 24th, so you'll need to make your plans soon!

The 220-mile ride promises great roads, curves, and hills. Along the way, you'll find hearty meals, camping adventures, lasting friendships, and plenty of fun. The ride is limited to 500 riders. The tour begins at Paul F. Beich ("Bike's") Candy Co., on the southwest edge of Bloomington. Check-in will be from 7-9 a.m. on Saturday, September 1st. The registration fee includes two breakfasts, and two suppers, as well as free food at the finish. Camping is also provided, with showers and swimming available nearby. Non-camping accommodations may be made on your own. There will be sag service, including bike repair, and baggage will be transported for the riders.

The registration fee, until August 24th, is \$35. I have an entry form, and will send you a copy if you give me a call (Lorraine Roth, 359-9778). Or you may write to: PACRACC, The Pantagraph, P.O. Box 2907, Bloomington, IL 61702-2907.



# TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS...



## DENTISTS' RIDE---DESTINATION: ANDOVER---June 6th

A dozen eager bikers arrived bright and early (?) Wednesday morning. It was a warm, beautiful day. Some of the usual spring wind was present, so several food and drink stops were made. Dr. Frey and Dr. Horton gave short lectures on the terrain and soil as we rested beside a cemetery which was once near a thriving farm community. We pressed onward to Andover, where a delicious lunch was enjoyed at the local restaurant. While I was arranging to bring a little salvation to the group at the historic Jenny Lind Chapel, my fellow bikers became thirsty and hit the local tavern for liquid refreshment. Always agreeable, the Wednesday bikers proceeded to the Chapel to enjoy browsing through the memorabilia, and were audience to a short one-handed concert on the antique pump organ.

Off again. Return the Chapel key and home. The fastest of our group got sprinkled on; the rest of us enjoyed a real downpour for a few minutes, which served to cool us off (and prepare us for TOMRV's Saturday ride)!

Several of us were first-time Wednesday riders, and one was experiencing her first club ride. A good time was had by all.

---Anonymous Abstainer

## LITCHFIELD DOUBLE CENTURY---June 9th

While most riders were on TOMRV, Bill Langan, Bruce Perry and John Thier of Davenport, and George Williams of Muscatine, were enjoying the Litchfield Double Century, sagged by Rodger, Bonnie, and Julie Horst, and Pegi Langan. While the weather here was soggy, these riders enjoyed low-90-degree temperatures, sunny skies, and approximately 20 MPH winds, with gusts to 35 MPH from the southwest.

The ride, which started at 6:00 A.M. Saturday morning, was cool and calm for about the first hour, but then ideal weather conditions deteriorated. The fast starting pace, plus the weather, forced many riders to quit after the 140-mile loop, which brought them back to their starting point. From this point, all additional miles were done on a ten-mile-out and ten-mile-back loop, on a four-lane stretch of Highway 66. Going out, the riders had to fight a headwind, which continued to blow the entire night.

Bruce and John finished the 140 miles in 6 hours and 40 minutes, and Bill in 6 hours and 55 minutes. In the 140-mile loop, John, Bruce, and Bill stopped twice because of flats to John's rear tire, otherwise all water and food was passed from the sag, on the move. Bill had one extra ten-minute rest stop and a change of bikes, before he completed the 140-mile loop. George





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14 August 1984

Dear Lorraine,

Congratulations for another fine Newsletter for August.  
Here is another item that may be of interest:

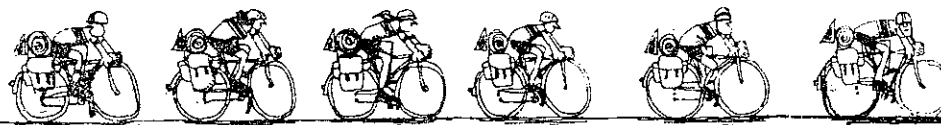
Ian Hibell, "World's Most Famous Bicyclist", was also a charter member of Quad Cities Bicycle Club. His new book, Into the Remote Places, was published April 26 in England, by Robson Books.

Ian left his home town of Brixham, England, in 1963. After biking across Canada, he pedalled down to Rock Island, to work a year for Servus Rubber. He tried racing, no problem with the speed, but in the Rockford race, tangled with another rider and crashed, decided that was not for him. Ian was on the first Wisconsin Fall Foliage ride, with Betty Ann and me, in the Plattville area.

The following summer he took off for Alaska, and thence to over a quarter million miles pedalling, pushing or carrying his bicycle through some of the most inaccessible country there is.

Yours

*Fred Olson*



dropped off of the pace early in the ride, and came in off the 140 miles in 12 hours and 30 minutes. At approximately 2:00 P.M., Bill, Bruce, and John started the 20-mile loops.

After the sag had returned to Litchfield with Bill, Bruce, and John, Bonnie and Julie drove the route backwards, and found George at the 100-mile mark. They sagged him back, supplying him with water, food, and encouragement. By this time, the weather was very hot, with strong headwinds. At 6:30 they returned with George, and learned that the other riders had decided that conditions were too bad to be able to meet their goal of 400 miles in 24 hours. Their next option was to see how many miles they could do over 300, since they had already accomplished this three years ago.

At 6:30, Bill was already on his third loop---200 miles; Bruce was on his fourth loop---220 miles; and John, who was in the motel for a shower and rest, had also completed 200 miles. By 7:00, John was back on the road, and by 7:40 Bill and Bruce had returned. Each time the riders finished a loop, they stopped by the van, which was parked alongside the route, for food and water.

At 8:25 the sag team is back in action, following Bill on his fourth, and John on his fifth loop, to give them the benefit of the headlights. Bruce is on his fifth loop. At 10:00 we find Bruce and John on their sixth loops, George starting his first loop, and Bill calling it quits because of swelled knees---220 miles!

At 11:05, all riders had returned, stopped for water and food, and were back on the road. Bill retires to motel---pain in knees won't let him continue to ride.

By now, Dave Holmes from the Quad Cities has joined Bruce and John on their laps; wind has died some, but still blowing. They continue to ride through the night, stopping for food and beverage on each round.

By 4:30, George had accomplished his feat of 200 miles, his longest ride, with some long breaks for shower and naps. By 5:00 the sag lights are no longer needed, riders are on their last lap, and sag team is relieved of duties to retire to motel for much-needed sleep.

Bruce rides until 6:00 A.M.---365 miles total---John finishes with 360 miles; and Dave finishes with 100 miles at Litchfield, after having raced at Galesburg the previous afternoon!

The riders didn't reach their goal, but did accomplish more miles on the saddle than ever before, and considering the conditions they had to ride in, they can all be congratulated. They all lost weight, and the sag team put it on!

---Too Tired to Sign

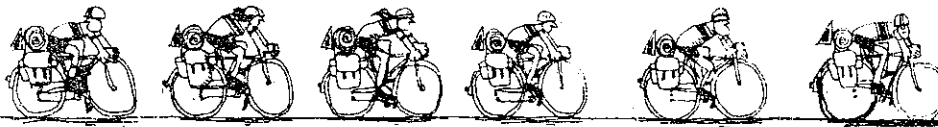
#### TOMRV REVISITED---June 9th-10th

TOMRV 7, like the D-Day invasion it so closely resembles, is history. The seventh annual version of the world's only pay-in-advance death march upheld the fine traditions of pain and hardship so firmly established by the previous six. It started, like the others, at Scott Community College, and went downhill from there. Off into the great valley of the father of waters rode the one thousand, but it would be hard that day for them to tell if they were touring the river valley, or the river itself. TOMRV has always offered its faithful the precious lessons of life on the road, and this year one of those lessons was about rain.

We started from Scott in a light sprinkle, not enough to get wet in, but certainly enough to keep us damp and cool. The light rain made the first miles of TOMRV, which are always my favorite part of the ride, quite beautiful, shrouding the silent river in a bright luminescent mist. As we rode, the rain never stopped. Occasionally a rider, scanning the overcast with optimistic eye, would proclaim that it appeared the clouds were clearing and the sun would come out. It was not to be, although the sun did break through for a moment as we drank the homemade (volunteer fireman made) lemonade in Goose Lake.

As I said, there was a lesson in the rain; the ergonomics of rainwear. Ergonomics is a fancy word that has something to do with figuring out how the inanimate universe which surrounds us should be molded to best fit the human form. For example, the man who designed the modern bicycle seat flunked ergonomics. There are many ways to fit the human form into a rainstorm, all of which were represented on the road between Bellevue, where it really began to pour, and Dubuque.

Plastic garbage bags seemed to be the most popular. Those riders who had their ergonomic



wits about them had the good sense to cut holes for head and arms, and a few secured the bag around the waist with a bunjie cord. One practice to be avoided is tucking the ends of the bag into your shorts. Guess where the water goes! Bag people were not at all in agreement on brand selection, and argued the merits of Hefty versus Glad; more a matter of style than ergonomics.

The Gore-Tex jacket and pants ensemble looked good on the road. Those wearing them said they were great; kept them dry, kept them cool, let perspiration out, felt wonderful. I suppose I wouldn't admit to being wet, either, after shelling out a hundred and eighty bucks for a raincoat. Ergonomics is partially a state of mind---you are as dry as you feel.

My choice for the day was rain poncho. Ergonomic as all heck with thumb loops to hold the front down over the bars, a drawstring to cinch the back down, traffic safety yellow for visibility, form-fitted for a bent-over riding position. Only one problem---it leaked. Ergonomics is worthless if the darn thing doesn't do the one thing it is supposed to do.

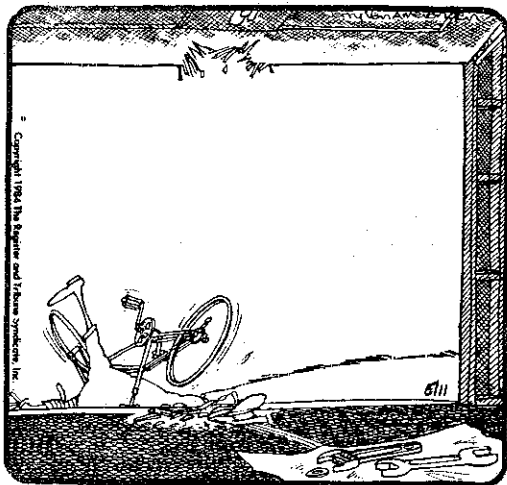
Several people rode in something that seemed to make very good ergonomic sense: bare skin. What will they think of next?

In Dubuque, after hot showers, in dry clothes, the spirits dampened by the rain were lifted and people looked ahead to Sunday's ride with hopes for sunshine. They were not to be disappointed, but with the sunshine came a strong headwind, which is fast becoming a TOMRV trademark. The Sunday headwinds of TOMRV have special significance, for just when you've conquered Chestnut Mountain and you're telling yourself that it's all downhill from here, is when these winds usually come up. The long flat river valley that you looked forward to for relief from the knee-grinding hills becomes a trap.

Seventy miles of pushing wind. UGH! For every uphill there is a downhill; for every headwind, a headwind.

The rain, hills, headwinds, scenic vistas, people, food, salt in the eye, saddle sores, exhaustion, exhilaration, discouragement, joy, are all part of the experience. TOMRV 7 was once again a great experience of bicycling at its ultimate best; not just because the baggage gets there before you do, or because it's the only two-day ride on which everyone gains five pounds, but because it is a challenge. And really, isn't that one of the reasons we ride?

---Bill Leibman



It appears Arnie adjusted the bike seat a touch too high.

# Bike AMERICA



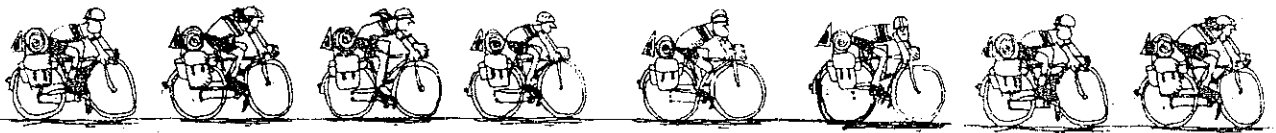
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...  
SUMMER SPINNER---June 16th

The Saturday ride from Riverside Park in Moline to Prophetstown was greeted by morning sun, no winds, and approximately forty riders. To proceed on our eighty-mile journey were two new riders, David Baxter and Harry Lester, to which we would like to extend a warm welcome, and hope we see them both often!

The ride proceeded to Barstow, where we were joined by a few more riders. As we booked along with conversation and laughter flying between spokes and rims, what to our surprised eyes should appear, but a lone rider far ahead in the horizon, and going like a bat. With much stamina, we finally were able to catch our fast and well-conditioned lone rider at Wainwright's Apple Orchard, and who should it be? None other than our Bob Frey. Forcing himself with all his self-restrain, he picked up a slower pace from that point on for our venture.

After a short refueling at Springhill, we reached our destination at 11:30 A.M. Mother Nature was definitely with us this fine day, as during our noon break the clouds opened up to cleanse the ground and nourish the flowers. Just as we finished our energy replenishment and mounted our motorless wonders, the clouds retreated and the rains turned into rays of sunshine.

The caravan now proceeded on their return trip with sunshine and fresh air as their guide. Several miles down the road, a lake was eyed, and nominations for a brief swim were suggested. The new agenda item was vetoed soon, with the new-found evidence of a distinct "No Trespassing" sign. Much to our dismay, the only water to cool us off was the sweat we were self-generating.

At Barstow, we lost the riders we'd previously gained, but the rest continued to Riverside Park, where the journey ended.

---Pat Larson

PALISADES PEDALFEST---June 23rd-24th

A small group enjoyed a great campout at Palisades State Park: The Langans with their trip-let; three tandems--the Perrys, Horsts, and a father and small daughter from Rockford, plus two single riders. Nobody from Sterling. On Sunday, I took the Scenic Bluff Road from Savanna to Fulton. This is a pretty road along the foot of the wooded bluff, about a mile east of Route 84. It has hardly any traffic, but has 7 miles unpaved out of the 17-mile distance.

---Fred Blessin

IMPROMPTU RIDE---July 9th

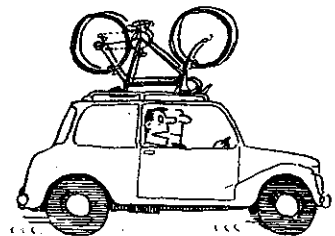
On July 9th, a group of retirees and school teachers met at Cordova for a ride to Erie. Long-time members Claude and Gwen Patton rode with us on their tandem. Gwen was trying out the new hip joint that she got last fall--she says it works fine!

---Fred Blessin

DENTISTS' RIDE---July 11th

Eleven riders rode to Prophetstown this Wednesday. This eighty-mile ride was east, due to near-perfect weather. We took a new route from the Springhill Road to Hillsdale, via the Hurd Road. Jan Burt heard the Hurd Road rode well. Well, we rode herd on the Hurd Road. It is a good road, as we heard, we rode like a herd of turtles.

---Belle Hurd Horton



IF THIS PETROL CRISIS GETS ANY WORSE I MIGHT HAVE TO GIVE UP CYCLING

# Classifieds

FOR SALE: LeJeune tandem, 21" front, 19½" rear. Asking \$950. Call Bill or Linda Powers at 786-0907.

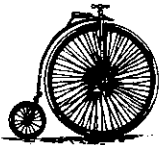
WANTED: One kid-back conversion kit for a tandem. Call Steve at 764-6959.

FOR SALE: Raleigh Competition, 23½" frame, best French components, 12-speed, new rims and Turbo-S tires. Beautiful custom Imron paint, perfect condition. \$380. Phone Chuck Buel at 332-6396.

---

## CONGRATS!

Five people completed the Effective Cycling Course, conducted by Don Davis and Fred Blessin during April and May. Congratulations to club members Nancy Kessel and Darrell DeWitt, and prospective members Suzanne Stemler, Thiara Smith, and Jacqueline Stolley. The club awarded them the Effective Cyclist Certificate and Patch at the June meeting.



# Commuting

A continuation of "Bicycling to Work", from Executive Fitness Newsletter:

*What about nasty weather?* For many bike commuters, weather is the ultimate challenge. If you can stay on two wheels then, you can anytime. John Allen makes the following recommendations.

- For wet weather: Equip your bike with mudguards, which are full fenders. To protect your feet, the front fender should also have a mudflap that reaches almost to the ground. Consider beefing up your existing brakes for extra stopping protection. Get bicyclists' rain gear, which usually consists of a specially fitted cape, rain leggings and plastic boots.

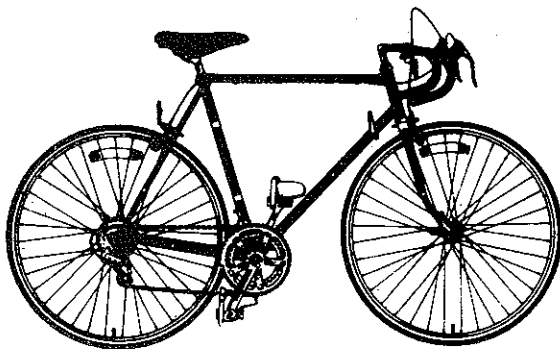
When riding, exercise the same kind of caution you would with a car in the rain: Leave extra room around you, ride at a moderate pace. Also, watch out for oil and tar patches, wet leaves and manhole covers (which get slippery when wet).

- For winter weather: According to one Boston winter cyclist, winter riding is the best way to get around. You don't sweat, you don't have to shovel off your car, you don't get stuck in traffic jams and you never have to call a tow truck. But you do have to be careful.

Use a heavier, sturdier bike, and equip it as you would for rainy riding. Dress like a cross-country skier. That is, keep your legs warm because they're your motor, says John Allen. Wear long underwear or other leggings. Wear layers of shirts and sweaters that you can peel off if you get warm while riding. Remember to protect your feet, hands and face, which need the most insulation. Wear two pairs of heavy socks and waterproof boots. Use mittens instead of finger gloves because they insulate your hands better. And don't forget a hat or a ski mask.

Before riding in the snow, take your bike out to a quiet street and practice steering, braking, turning and hill climbing. On the commute itself, don't hesitate to get off and walk your bike through unmanageable areas. You'll still get to work faster than the traffic-jammed cars you walk past.

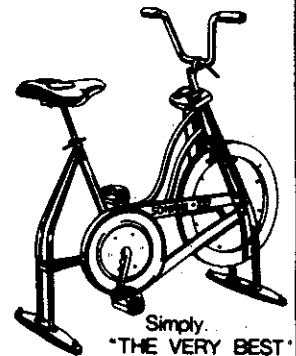
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# Not-so-ordinary bike trip

(Photo on page 2)  
By RANDY ROGUSKI  
Dispatch Writer

At age 62, Nolan Bay is riding high — not to mention pretty darn far.

Bay, of Culver City, Calif., and five other men are riding antique high-wheel bicycles from San Francisco to Boston. They spent Friday night in Davenport, where the Quad-Cities Bicycle Club welcomed them with a spread of hamburgers and beer.

"Bicycling is like music," said Bay, a retired employee of Rockwell International, as he stood next to his "ordinary," a not-so-ordinary bike with a giant front tire and tiny rear one. "There are no age limits. You can be 25 or 105. I just love it."

The six bicyclists are commemorating the same ride 100 years ago by Thomas Stevens, the first man to cross the country on a bicycle. All six are members of the Wheelmen, an

international organization devoted to restoring and riding antique bicycles.

Bay, a former hiker and mountain climber, is the oldest of the six, although another is just a year younger. Bay took up bicycling 14 years ago, but first jumped onto a high-wheel in 1980.

"It's really part of the American heritage," said Bay, describing the bicycle that took the country by storm just before the turn of the century. Later, the high-wheels gave way to the safer design that persists today.

That's what sparks the grey-haired Bay and his colleagues, who left Golden Gate Park May 28. They're preserving a slice of history — bikes that once sold for \$150 and now go for thousands, a type of riding that has evolved into high-speed dashes around banked tracks.

"A lot of people buy these bikes and put them in their living rooms or

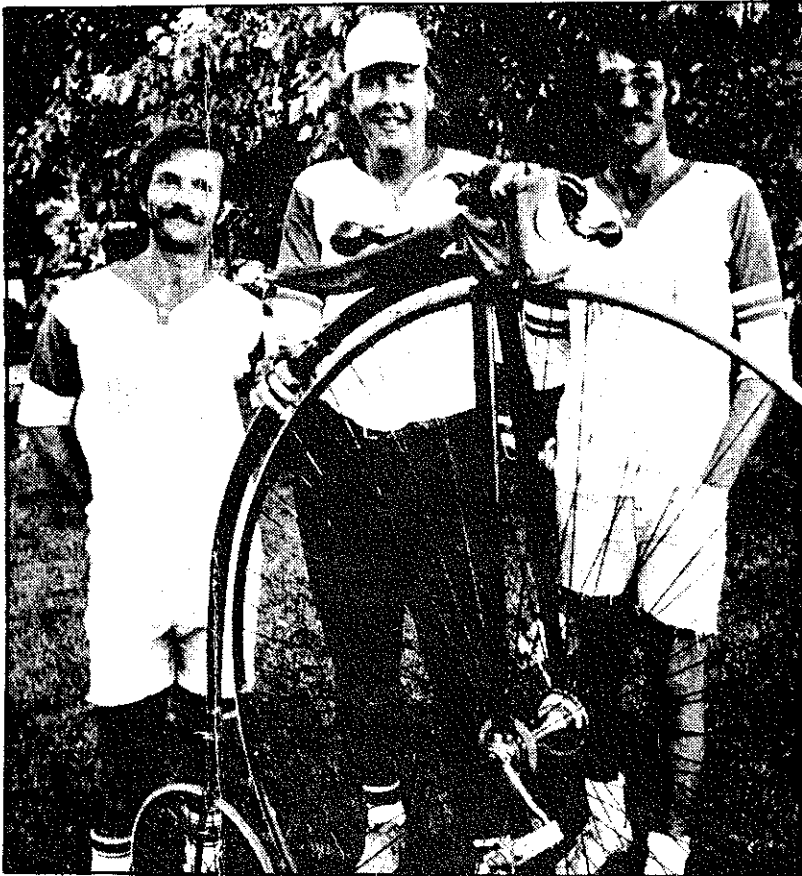
museums," Bay said. "I think they should be ridden."

This particular ride will take Bay 3,700 miles across the United States, over mountains and down country roads sandwiched between corn fields — 3,600 miles farther than he's ever ridden in one shot.

Weather so far has been ideal, aside from slight snow in California and Nevada mountains, Bay said. Rain has fallen only once.

People frequently stop the sixsome for pictures along the road, intrigued by riding machines they only have heard about, Bay said.

The Wheelmen have stayed in motels, casinos and private homes, always blessed by the hospitality of local bicycle clubs, he said. The men stayed Friday night at the Davenport home of Sheri and Warren Power, bicyclists who frequently offer shelter to fellow enthusiasts reveling on two wheels.



— Dispatch photo by Camille Forrester

## Big wheels

Three of six men traveling cross-country show off their mode of transportation: a turn-of-the-century high-wheel bicycle. From left are Walter Branche, Orlando, Fla.; Paul Grimshaw, Detroit; and Sid Dansgarby, Atlanta. The men are commemorating the first cross-country bicycle ride 100 years ago.

REMINDER: All newsletter contributions are due by the 20th of each month, for the following month's edition. Ride reports, news of biking events, photos from club rides (\$5 per photo paid for photos published, at the discretion of the editor), cartoons, etc., are welcome. This month's issue makes good reading, due to the efforts of several club members, who took the time to write of various biking escapades. Thanks to all of you who submitted articles and cartoons, and special thanks to Jeanne O'Melia for this month's cover design!

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