

# QUAD-CITIES BICYCLE CLUB

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

MAY

1984



**BICYCLING  
THE WAY TO GO!  
MAY-AMERICAN BIKE MONTH**

from the  
president's  
pen ...



May is National Bicycling Month, and the QCBC has a full range of activities for everyone, riders, campers, racers, and spectators. Included in this month's list of activities is the Moline Criterium, RIB-RAC, training rides, Chief Blackhawk Overnighter, and criteriums in Muscatine and Burlington. Check the ride schedule and newsletter for details.

If you haven't signed up to help with the Criterium, either as a corner marshall, cleanup crew member, or to help sell raffle tickets, please do so by calling Don Davis. This exciting race puts the club's name in front of the entire Quad Cities, and is one of the three major area sporting events that attract top athletes from throughout the country. See you on the road.

---Paul Scheibelhut

## RIDERS GALORE

We have many new and renewing memberships this month, and would like to welcome one and all to the ranks of the QCBC. Please help us to make this one of the most active clubs to be found, not just one with a large mailing list!! There are sweep riders assigned to each weekend ride through June, who will be in charge of welcoming newcomers, and making the rides easier on them. These people will be staying with the "back of the pack" (that's "where it's at" anyway, isn't it?), and staying with those who do not wish to make a marathon out of their first attempts for the season. So, don't be intimidated!! Get out there and RIDE!

Bettendorf, IA--The David and Lana Arnold Family, Michael T. Fitzgerald, Thomas Kovach, the Henry and Jeanne Logan Family, Mary Ann Moore, Ken Riedesel, Steven Shallow, the William R. and Karen Shoup Family, Jann Stark, Bruce Wetzell, and the Gerald F. Zinngrabe Family.

Blue Grass, IA--Sara Moeller.

Cadillac, MI--The Debi and Daniel Gentner Family.

Davenport, IA--Corey Becker, Jim Berry, Ramon Brown, Mickey Buckwalter, Patty Case, the Jeff and Beth Cook Family, the Richard and Pam Davis Family, Dean Dearing, the Linda Durr Family, Bruce Guttler, Linda Hayes, the Betty Lewis Family, Bob Lopshire, Kurt Paulson, John Resnick, the Jerry and Millie Sturms Family, the Larry and Jane Young Family, and Robert Young.

Donahue, IA--The Terry and Lucy Schmidt Family.

Dubuque, IA--Kevin Walsh.

East Moline, IL--The Cindy and Bill Callaway Family, and Michelle Johnston.

Eldridge, IA--Pat Hansen.

Hampton, IL--The John and Nancy Wheelan Family.

LeClaire, IA--The Will and Sue Feeney Family.

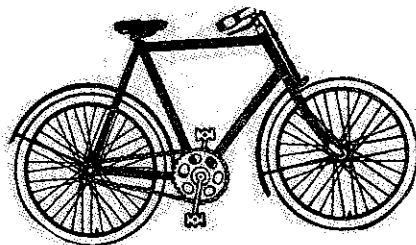
Manchester, IA--Richard Swartz.

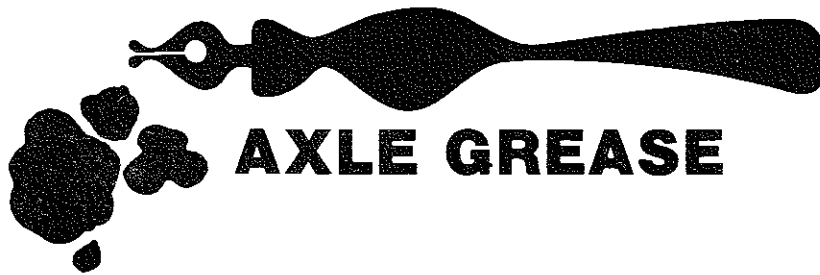
Moline, IL--Darrell Amato, the John and Francine Hansen Family, Kris Jones, Carol Knapp, Kathy Layton, the Lanny Leppo Family, Marc Peterson, and Andy Te Bockhorst.

Muscatine, IA--Angela Chartier.

Rock Island, IL--Kenneth DePron, Cindy Greenleaf, Karol Kinser, Daniel Robert, Gunnar Sjursen, and Jim Williamson.

Walcott, IA--Todd Carruthers.





# AXLE GREASE

## AXEL GREASE RIDES AGAIN

Axel is currently riding shotgun on a tandem bike mail express west of the Pecos in Texas. The postal service is having big trouble getting mail through to the ranchers in this sparsely populated area. Mail rustlers have repeatedly robbed the mailpersons for the Aluminum Mine dividend money they are delivering to the ranchers.

Axel's riding partner is Cannondale Trek, a great rider and a mean hombre with a bike pump. Cannon's pa was Due Eye Trek, who custom-made aluminum cranks with sealed bearings that helped open up the area around Davis, California, in '48.

Axel and Cannon had to deliver the payroll to the workers at the Cannondale Aluminum Mine. They were ascending an off-road hill on their aluminum tandem mountain bike, with panniers full of money, when, all of a sudden, from a draw to the left came six desperados on tight-clustered black racing bikes. All six had on ski masks and black Bell helmets, with dark visors pulled down over their faces.

They announced, "Your money or your bike!"

Axel and Cannon loved their bike, and couldn't make it without it, so Axel moved the derailleur into low and aimed the bike straight up the hill, with Cannon pumping for all he was worth. The large amount of rocks and spume thrown out by their back tire, discommoded the robbers long enough for a successful getaway.

Axel and Cannon, seeing they were free, circled back to the attempted robbery site and hid behind a boulder above the desperadoes. Axel got out three spare inner tubes, fixed them together, and tied them to a large bike cable. Spinning this apparatus over his head, he lassoed all the robbers, and bound them at the same time. They were brought to justice, and the ranchers lived happily ever after.

### MAY QCBC MEETING

Tuesday, May 15th  
7:00 P.M.

Browning Museum  
Rock Island Arsenal

Many months ago, Tom Duke submitted an article dealing with "Bicycling to Work", which he found in the August 20, 1983, edition of the "Executive Fitness Newsletter". I have been unable to find space for the entire article, but it has merit, so I've decided to feed it to you bit by bit. Here's the first installment:

For those of you who have not yet been convinced, Bob Miller sends us a sobering note from the April 16 edition of USA TODAY:

### 800 helmetless bicyclists killed in 1983

CHICAGO — Accidents involving bicyclists riding without helmets last year resulted in 800 deaths and 7,500 injuries severe enough to require hospitalization, the National Safety Council said Sunday as National Bike Safety Week began. Helmet use could prevent about 300 deaths and 3,000 hospitalizations annually, the council estimated

### I Live Too Far Away to Commute

No you don't! Even if you live too far to bike from home to office door, you could drive part of the way, park and ride your bike the rest of the way. For city workers, this could mean parking on the outskirts of the city and riding in to save inner-city parking fees. If you take a train, bus or subway, you could park your bike at the station and ride the rest of the way on public transportation. If you're part of a carpool, you could drive to a central point and meet your ride there instead of being picked up.

## TOMRV...

ATTENTION: BIKE WIDOWS  
AND NEW MEMBERS

Want the excitement of TOMRV without the pain; meet those crazy people your spouse rides with; a weekend away from your kids?

Then volunteer to register riders Saturday morning, or help at a sag position. Either will provide you with a FREE meal at Clarke College Saturday night.

Sound interesting? Call Sheri at 391-5466 (after 3:00p.m.).

## RAGBRAI...

Our buses are rapidly filling, so if you're interested in a ride to the beginning of RAGBRAI, it would be advisable to get your check in ASAP. The cost is \$65, which covers transportation and the Register's "Fee Paid" tag.

We are in need of someone, or a couple, to drive the baggage truck for the entire week. If you are interested, or have a suggestion, please call me.

Send your RAGBRAI checks, payable to: Dave Lefever  
1125 Bunker Hill Court  
Bettendorf, IA 52722



**BICYCLING**  
**THE WAY TO GO!**  
MAY-AMERICAN BIKE MONTH

## AND THE CHIEF

We have a quantity of both 1982 and 1983 Chief Blackhawk Overnight Pow Wow patches to sell. Mind you, I'm not saying what that quantity is, but if you remember the super-high quality four-inch, six-color 1983 ride patch, you would realize that you need to get your order in early. The 1982 patch wasn't much, but it was our first patch, and could probably cover a hole in one of your riding jackets.

You can order by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and \$1.00 for the 1982 patch or \$2.00 for the 1983 patch, or \$3.00 for the complete set of real thread bicycle patches to myself (Jerry Knox) at 3602 River Road, Apt. 322, Sterling, IL 61081. Note that this is my real address, the one on the brochure is Tim McNinch's, in order to use his larger mailbox, which can hold 25 returned ride applications at one time.

See you all on the 1984 CBONPW.

---Jerry Knox



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# EVENTS OF INTEREST...

Brochures and information continue to pour into the QCBC mailbox, concerning rides and activities all over the world. As in the past, I will give you a brief summary of these, and you can contact the people listed, or send me a self-addressed stamped envelope, and I'll send you a copy of the information we've received. It's impossible, and of course unnecessary, for us to distribute all these to all our members, so we hope this will be of service to you, and the information will reach the people who are interested in the specific rides.

**TOUR OF THE KICKAPOO RIVER VALLEY (TOKRV)**--Memorial Day Weekend, May 26-28. Sponsored by the Chicago Chapter, American Youth Hostel. \$45 ride fee includes 3 overnight campsites, all meals Saturday and Sunday, breakfast and lunch on Monday, sag and baggage service, and good cycling companionship. First day covers 89 miles from the Spring Valley AYH to Ontario. Sunday heads to Prairie Du Chien, 82 miles away, and Monday returns to Spring Valley, 57 miles, traversing a section of the Wisconsin River Valley. Send ride fees to Carl Sand, P.O. Box 267, Fox Lake, IL 60020 (312)587-8629.

**BICYCLE TO NEBRASKA ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**--May 26-27. A two-day ride on flat to moderately rolling terrain along the Missouri River, from Parkville, MO, to Falls City, NE and return. Sleeping bag and tent camping facilities are available, as are motel accommodations. A \$13 entry fee (\$15 after May 19th) includes a Nebraska 200 T-shirt, luggage transport, support vehicles provided by Midwest Cyclery, snacks, water, mechanical help, maps, and marked routes. You may register the day of the ride, starting at 7:00a.m. on May 26th, or you may preregister for the ride. Kansas City Bicycle Club, Box 19163, Kansas City, MO 64141.

**IOWA OLYMPICS**--June 9-10. Includes events in running, cycling, swimming, archery and tennis. Registration fee is \$10 for any single event, or \$15 for 2-5 events. Grand prize of all-expenses-paid trips to the 1984 L.A. Olympics will be awarded to top male and top female finishers in each event (ten trips in all). Proceeds go to the American Heart Association. Make checks payable to Bud Light Olympics and mail to Jane Hodel, 1030½ Mound Street, Davenport, IA 52803.

**1984 RAILROAD DAYS RIDE TO BISHOP HILL**--June 10th. Galesburg Bicycle Club and Spoon River Center for Community Mental Health, Carl Sandburg College. Begins at Carl Sandburg College with registration from 7 to 9a.m., with options of 25 miles, 50 miles, a metric century, and a century ride. Registration is \$5.00 until June 5th, \$7.50 after June 5th, and includes T-shirt, map, rest stop snacks, sag wagons and showers--bring your own towel. \$1.50 extra for LAW patch. Free on-site camping with restroom and shower facilities is available. Galesburg Bicycle Club, 1248 North Cedar, Galesburg, IL 61401. For further information, contact Trips Bicycle Shop (309)342-8969.

**TWO RIVERS/IRON BRIDGE CENTURY**--June 10th, Kankakee, IL. Choice of 35, 65, or 100-mile route provides a scenic tour of Kankakee and Iroquois Counties, beginning at Beckman Park in Kankakee. Registration fee is \$4.00 (\$6 after May 30th), \$2.50 for children 12 and under if accompanied by registered adult, and \$10 for family registration (must be preregistered). Registration fee includes route maps, snacks, patch, and emergency sag service. LAW Century and Metric Century patches available. Easy Spokin' Bicycle Club, Inc., c/o Jim Hertz, 475 Dover Turn, Bourbonnais, IL 60914. For more information, call Jim Hertz between 7-10p.m. (815)935-1785.

**TOGIR III**--June 23-29. Tough bike ride which loops around Northeastern Iowa, beginning and ending in Davenport, and staying overnight at colleges in this area. The registration fee of \$65 must be received by June 1st, and includes two all-you-can-eat meals per day, cue sheets and maps, marked roads, luggage and tent transportation, etc. TOGIR III, 2325 Fulton Avenue, Davenport, IA 52803.

## ... FOR BIKING. ON...

BIKE TOUR OF ENGLAND--June 23-July 7. Travels through smaller towns in this country, ending with a two-day stay in London. A \$100 deposit must be received by May 15th. Total cost will be approximately \$1300 per person. Checks should be made payable to Rambling Bicyclist, Inc., and mailed to Gladys E. Otto, Secretary, 8523 Kathleen Ave., Affton, MO 63123 (314)352-0721 (6:30-9:30p.m.).

PEDAL ACROSS LOWER MICHIGAN (PALM III)--June 24-29. An inexpensive, quality bicycle getaway exploring Michigan's scenic beauty on lightly-travelled paved roads. With mileage of 35-55 miles/day this tour is easily accomplished by the young as well as the older person, in addition to being fun for singles as well as families. This year's route starts in South Haven and proceeds to overnights in Kalamazoo, Colon, Concord, Pinckney, and Rochester. The destination is Mt. Clemens. Bus transportation available to and from the start/end. For more information, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to PALM, P.O. Box 7161, Ann Arbor, MI 48107.

ILLIAMA--July 7-8, including scenic and historic areas of the Mississippi River Valley in Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois. An entry fee of \$25 will include water and bananas along the route, an evening meal at Hannibal, camping or sleeping bag accommodations, showers, luggage transport, repair van, patch, etc. BikeBurlington, Inc., P.O. Box 1135, Burlington, IA 52601.

CENTRAL IOWA BICYCLE RIDE--July 7-8, sponsored by the Des Moines Cycle Club to benefit the Iowa Society to Prevent Blindness. Riders may secure pledges to qualify for extra prizes to be given away, including bikes, camping gear, and accessories. Prizes will be awarded to each participant securing pledges of \$25 or more. Pledges are not required in order to participate. A registration fee of \$45 will include overnight dorm or tent facilities at Grinnell College on Saturday night, Saturday evening and Sunday morning all-you-can-eat meals, baggage transportation, Saturday evening entertainment M.C.'d by Chuck Offenburger, rest stop refreshments, over 100 door prizes, and, of course, you will be helping the Iowa Society to Prevent Blindness. Each day's ride is 82 miles long. Registration after June 30th is \$55. Iowa Society to Prevent Blindness, 320 Shops Bldg., Des Moines, IA 50309. (515)244-4341.

TIGER--August 11-12. Saturday's ride goes from Eldridge to Mt. Vernon (75 miles), with an overnight at Cornell College. Sunday's 89-mile return ride culminates in a reception in Eldridge. The registration fee is \$30 before May 15th, \$35 before July 15th. The fee includes a dinner banquet, cue sheets and maps, patch, marked roads, baggage transport, etc. TIGER, 2325 Fulton Ave., Davenport, IA 52803.

MIDWEST TANDEM RALLY--Labor Day Weekend, September 1-3, Dundee, IL. Reservations must be received by August 3rd to qualify for special accommodation rates of \$40 (for up to four per room) at the Chateau Louise. Entry fee is \$20 per team (\$24 after August 3rd), and includes programs, cue sheets, patch, refreshments, Saturday evening WHOOPEE HOUR, square dance, and Sunday evening program. MTR '84, 302 E. Willow Road, Barrington, IL 60010 (312)358-7797.

MICHIGAN BICYCLE TOURING--Scheduled weekend and 5-day rides run from May 11th through October 5th, and are rated from novice to advanced. Information is also available for those wishing to bicycle on their own in Michigan. A collection of 96 maps in a 4x4x9 inch box, marked with recommended cycling roads in each county, points of interest, campgrounds, festivals, historic features, scenic roads, heavily traveled roads to avoid, and notes on the area's terrain, is available for a cost of \$10. Individual routes are also available. For further information, contact Michael and Libby Robold, Directors, Michigan Bicycle Touring, Inc., 3512 Red School Road, Kingsley, MI 49649 (616)263-5885.

## ...AND ON

COLORADO BICYCLE TOURING VACATIONS--A selection of tours is available, including "Boulder Foothills", "Gold Rush Tour", "Vail Pass Tour", "Central Colorado Tour", "San Juan Tour", "Middle Park Tour", and several "Fat Tire Fever Weekends". Tours range from two to seven days, novice to advanced. Trips are scheduled from June 24th to September 30th. Colorado Bicycle Tours, P.O. Box 45, Pitkin, CO 81241 (303)641-4240.

BICYCLE AFRICA--Journeys through cultures, history, landscapes, cuisines, and lifestyles, "close enough to touch them". Bicycle Africa travellers explore areas seldom visited by tours, rarely covered in news. Expert guides/interpreters accompany each tour, which is also accompanied by a vehicle to carry luggage, water, spare parts, and to be used as needed. Distances average under fifty miles per day, but cover some "unimproved conditions". The expeditions are described as "both safe and highly stimulating". Tours include "Tunisian Odyssey" in the Mediterranean climate of North Africa (May 9-June 5), "Rift Valley Grand Tour" across steppes and scenic plateaus in East Africa, up to the base of snow-capped Mt. Kilimanjaro and Mt. Kenya. Vans will be used where necessary, in game parks where bicycling is restricted (August 11-September 1); "Liberia Overland" in the tropical forest zone of West Africa (December 12-January 6); and "Sahel Journey" beginning on the banks of the Niger River, traversing the broad savannah along the southern edge of the Sahara (January 11-February 12, 1985). David Mozer, Director, Bicycle Africa, 4247 135th Place Southeast, Bellevue, WA 98006 (206)746-1028.

FOR SALE: TOMRV--4 sleeping bag areas for sale. Clarke College, Dubuque, June 9th. \$2.00 each. Phone Ken Kraklio, Wilton, IA, 319-732-3249, or 319-732-7102.

FOR SALE: Touring Cyclist Panniers, \$40. Mike Bendt, 391-2016.

Beginning to make summer plans? Then be sure to mark your calendar for the QCBC Annual Picnic III, to be held on Saturday, August 25th, beginning at 2:00p.m. Everyone is to bring a covered dish, and a \$2 charge per person will cover the meat and drinks.

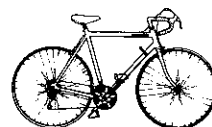
Picnic chairperson Eleanor Koenig informs us that there will be games, prizes, and fun like you have never had before!! And believe me, we've had fun before!! So, plan on this Emeis Park adventure for your family this summer.

# Bike AMERICA



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# OF BIKES AND BIKERS

SATURDAY, MARCH 25th---

Twenty riders met at Ross's for breakfast on a Bluejay Day. We rode toward Perry School to meet the 10:00a.m. scheduled ride (20 more joined us). Mel and Jackie Bradley rode with us. We were led by Bob Nuckles.

On our way home, we were met at the bridge on the bike path by our newlyweds (Herb and Sue). A good day. Frey was even there!!

---Les Truelson

## FANTASTIC JOURNEY

The Quad Cities Bike Club met Saturday, April 14, 1984, for a stimulating ride through Henry County. The group started with three (Frey, Hansen, and R. Horton) who left from the Quad City Airport and ventured down Route 150 to Orion. There they met four other riders (Stoulty, Blessin, Schaumberg, and Larson) at the recently-developed Orion All Stop. Enriching was the ride through Orion as the two original old relic water towers were pointed out by some members of the group. The ride was stimulating as the cold heavy dew misted the caravan all the way to Andover.

At Andover, a unanimous vote was taken to terminate the Woodhull journey and take an alternate trip to Cambridge. Going through Cambridge was enlightening as R. Horton recreated some of Cambridge's nostalgia; some of which were his previous home, his old office building, and oh yes--the Henry County Court House (the finest in the state).

The group retired at Cactus Jack's for a boost of energy before their return trip. The heavy dew by now had turned into large, heavy, continuous drops which followed us all the way back to Orion.

As per the beginning, four ended their ride there, and the three die-hards put the pedal to the medal and continued the wet journey down 150 to Moline.

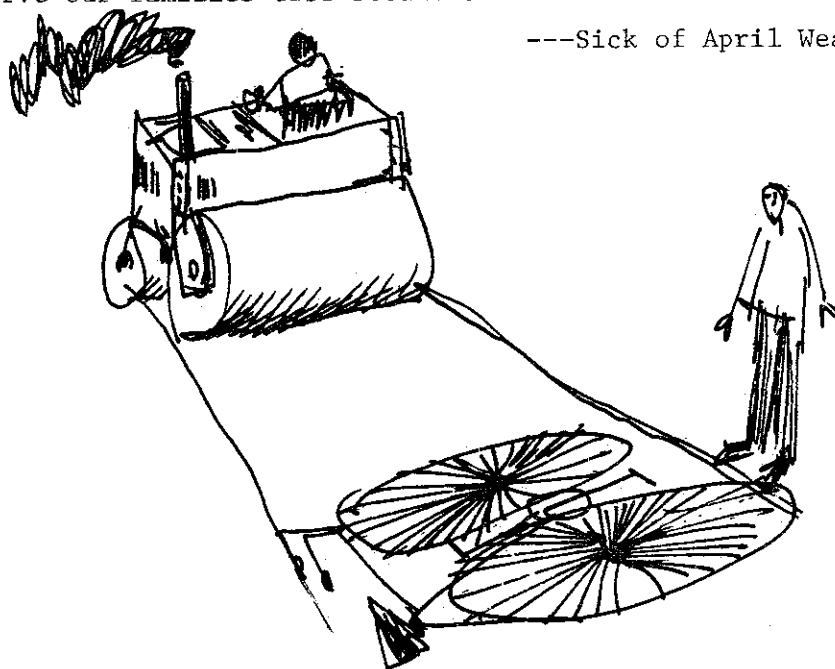
---Pat Larson

## A HOWLING SUCCESS

Les Truelson's Grand Potluck was far from grand, and it was missing its namesake. Actually, it was a howling success due to the gusts of wind that were peaking at 50 m.p.h.

The committee of three congregated at 2p.m. at the Duck Creek Pavillion. Just when we were thinking of "packin' it", a lone biker in his Corvette wheeled in. He shared his tale of the incredible A.M. ride to Folletts. The picnic got into full swing when we climbed into J.K.'s car and pigged down on brownies and hot coffee. By 2:15 the L.T.G.P. was finis, and we split for home to serve our families tube steaks and buns.

---Sick of April Weather





# BIKE N HIKE SHOP

HAS MOVED TO

4301 - 18th Ave., Rock Island

788-2092

Due to the increasing popularity of touring and sport riding, Bike N Hike has moved to increase its showroom. We now offer a full line of touring accessories including the following: Ventura, Rhode Gear and Kangaroo bags and panniers, plus Vetta and Blackburn racks. We have devoted a large portion of our store to clothing for the bicycle enthusiast, including the complete line of Bellwether, Decca and Shaversport. We also have in stock Brancale and Vittoria shoes with others to be shipped soon. We have a large selection of Specialized and Panaracer tires, including the new kevlar belted tires. Other accessories and equipment include Bell, Bullseye, Bata, Jackson, CatEye, Avocet, SkidLid, Vetta trainers, Al Kreidler rollers, Burley Lite bicycle trailers, Shimano, Suntour, Dia-Compe, Patrick, Pacer 2000, Descente, Park tools, plus many safety accessories and security devices.

We will still offer the everyday low prices on all Miyata and Bianchi bicycles, plus the new all-terrain bicycles. Financing and layaway plans are available.

Our grand opening will last through the month of May, and will include a special night for OCBC members to be announced later. We are very excited about the move, and hope you are, too. We encourage your questions and comments, and greatly anticipate your visit to our new shop. Thank you,

Steve DePron  
Ray Macdougall  
Art Pohl

## DO YOU WANT TO GO FOR A GREAT RIDE THIS SUNDAY???

MORIS is alive and well in Chicagoland! Midwest Organized Ride Information Service receives, organizes, and puts on tapes a listing of upcoming organized cycling events. This service is for individuals and families starting out in the healthy, wholesome fun of cycling as well as those wishing to increase their cycling pleasure and skills. Cyclist, reach this 24 hour service by calling 1-312-848-BIKE. Clubs and organizations, have your events included free by contacting MORIS, c/o Dudley Elvery, Lickton's Cycle City, 310 Lake Street, Oak Park, IL 60302.

**CALL MORIS ANYTIME AT  
[1-312-848-BIKE]**



This is the route for the 1,725-mile Bikecentennial.

## Muscatine anchors bike route

Muscatine will be the end of the road this year for Bikecentennial, a 1,725-mile bicycle tour route that begins in Bar Harbor, Maine.

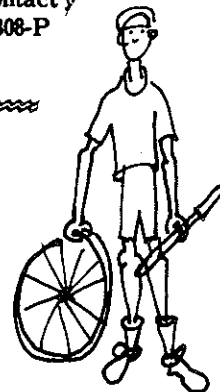
Unlike highly structured tours, Bikecentennial routes are designed to be ridden from either

end by cyclists touring independently

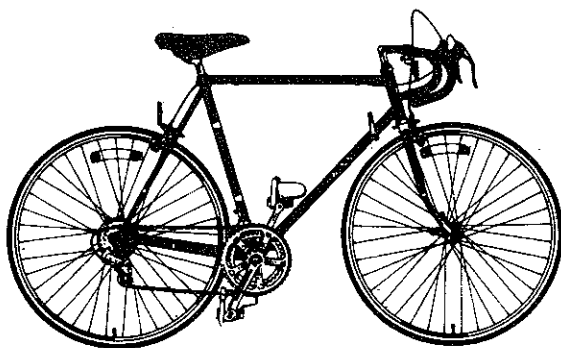
Bikecentennial field researchers spend months traveling through New England and the Midwest, searching for roads that offer the best possible combination of scenery, safety and convenience.

More than 4,000 miles of new trails have been recently developed through a grant by the Huffy Foundation.

For more information on the Midwest touring routes, contact Bikecentennial, P.O. Box 8308-P Missoula, Mont 59807.



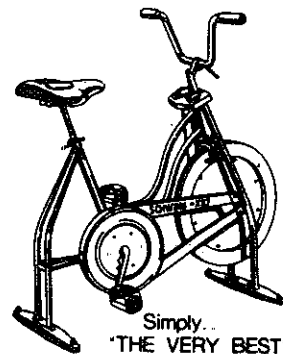
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ROCK ISLAND

# HEADWINDS



Regular readers of this column may remember that its opinionated author once referred to himself as half-Italian. The other half, in case anyone is curious, is Irish and nothing brings out the gloomy black Irish in a man quicker than a long bicycle ride into a relentless 20 mile-an-hour headwind. A good headwind tests a rider's resolve in a way no other obstacle can. Hills, by comparison, are trivial annoyances. The summit of a hill can usually be seen by the rider, and his slow but steady progress toward that goal is a source of continuous encouragement. No such reward awaits the rider fighting a headwind. He struggles forward against an invisible force that slows his progress, saps his strength, and casts upon him the feeling that all the forces of the universe have been turned against him.

Your intrepid correspondent rides for fun, not fitness, and therefore fell very quickly into a dark frame of mind as a brisk headwind asserted itself at the outset of a 15 mile round-trip ride along the oceanfront bikepath between Balboa and Huntington Beach.

Bike riding should be fun. Fitness is a nice side effect of regular bicycling, but the average person won't ride regularly unless the activity is perceived to be fun. The Steyr Daimler Puch people have headlined their latest catalog with the slogan *PUCH TURNS FITNESS INTO FUN* and there is a lot of merit in that simple statement.

Fitness for its own sake, as epitomized by the jogging craze, requires a boring and punishing regimen that most people can't sustain over the long term. Self-punishment gets old quickly. In point of fact, the jogging boom is getting old and the bold prediction is herewith made that the fad will fade out entirely by the end of the year. There has been a noticeable decline in the number of joggers on the bikepaths of late, and a considerable increase in the number of bicyclists and roller skaters. The skaters and cyclists appear to be much happier people, free of the driven, tormented look seen so often on the contorted faces of joggers stumbling grimly onward toward unseen goals. Incidentally, a casual poll of dedicated beachfront sightseers indicates that women look far more attractive when cycling or skating than when they're jogging.

There weren't many women or sightseers on the bikepath this particular day however, the wind having driven the sensible people to shelter. I pressed on toward my predetermined turnaround point at the Huntington Beach pier, looking forward to the effortless wind-aided cruise homeward. Sometimes you gain ground just so you can give it back again.

As the pier came into view a couple of miles ahead I became aware of another cyclist coming up behind me. Remembering Satchel Paige's famous advice, "Don't look back... something might be gaining on you." I resisted the impulse to look around and instead increased my cadence slightly.

"This guy must be on a super light racing bike," I said to myself when the whir of his tires on the sandy concrete sounded even closer after a couple of minutes of hard pedaling. I shifted up a gear and pedaled furiously in an effort to break away, but the unseen rider stayed right with me.

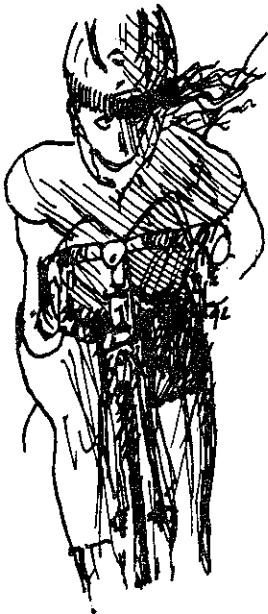
"He must be a lot younger than I am," I thought grasping at straws and gasping for breath.

Deciding it would be a good strategy to let my competition fight the wind for awhile, I slowed up to let him pass. "He" turned out to be a teenage girl on a rusty beach cruiser, carrying a volleyball with one hand and steering casually with the other, completely oblivious to the wind or to me. Age is a headwind and it gets stronger every year.

Feeling old and defeated I turned around a mile short of the pier and cruised easily back toward Balboa in no particular hurry. About halfway back I caught sight of a sign in the window of Blackie's, a popular beachfront tavern. It said: *Sorry, we're open.* I pulled in and poured down three cold ones in rapid succession, not really caring that I was putting back every calorie I'd worked off over the past hour. Like I said... sometimes you gain ground just so you can give it back again. □

Steve Ready

With the recent April weather in mind, I thought you might enjoy this editorial, which Bob Rutledge submitted. It is reprinted here with permission from "Bicycle Dealer Showcase".



Send newsletter contributions by the 20th of the month to:  
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