

QUAD CITIES BICYCLE CLUB NEWSLETTER
July, 1977

July meeting: Wednesday, July 20, 8:00pm,
at the Eldridge "clubhouse" (Tomberg's)

The July 20th club meeting will be held at Tomberg's at 8pm. Ben Gero will preside in my absence. Our main club purpose is to ride, so we are hopeful this will encourage some of you who don't ride as often to be exposed to this enjoyable evening. Start riding the circuit between 6 and 6:30pm which will give you a leisurely ride. Besides the informal casual meeting, you can also have a Tomberg pork tenderloin sandwich -- the best in the Midwest!

--Carter LeBeau

JUNE BIKE-IN

Irvin Gerks gave a highly interesting (and entertaining) presentation of his mass transit system for bicycles - really amazed everyone at our June bike-in meeting with his thoroughness. Every detail seemed to be covered. It consists of two 11-foot steel tubes, with 3 lanes each, running above city streets. The rider has a steady 15mph tailwind, and the bikeway can be heated in winter, cooled in the summer. Seems ideal - Hope MAUDEY is as impressed with his presentation as we were!

Peter Halleck, from Bi-State, also came to the meeting, with a petition which we all eagerly signed. This was to make the Illinois Highway project on Coloma Road to Cleveland Road (including the Rt. 84 bridge) part of the Quad Cities regional bikeway plan. This would really be two extensions, one going to Milan, the other out Rt. 92 to the north. He will present this to the Highway Commission as a plan suggested by the QCBC.

D.G. Grey from the YMCA Camp Abe Lincoln spoke to us about two 2-week bike trips for junior and senior high age riders. These are camping trips, and are not limited to Davenport residents or Y members. The first trip, unfortunately, has already started. The second of the two trips, the Wisconsin Bike Hike, runs July 31-August 13. Vans will take the group to Sparta, Wisconsin, with the group traveling the Sparta-Elroy Trail, among others. It will pass many historical sites and points of interest. I have information on this trip, as do the bike shops. Or you may contact Camp Abe Lincoln directly at 322-7171. This may be the best alternative, as the trip is limited to 16 people!!

GET YOUR T-SHIRTS NOW!

John Farrell reports that our QCBC T-shirts (discussed at the June meeting) have arrived. They're gold with blue lettering (the design on the back is really nifty - I got mine!). He has them available at World of Bikes, or you can get them from Jerry Neff at Jerry and Sparky's. The cost is \$4.00 for members and RAGBRAI riders, \$5.00 to others who might want them. By the way, these guys are just collecting the money for the club - any profit goes to us - pretty decent of them, huh?

We'd especially like to see RAGBRAIers wearing these - we have great numbers of QCBC members on this ride each year, but many go unrecognized because there are so many of us. Let's fill those roads with gold and blue T-shirts!!

Speaking of RAGBRAI, John has a phenomenal 75 people already signed up for transportation, including two from Wisconsin and two from Kentucky! (Actually, I don't know that the people are phenomenal). I know we have untold numbers planning to go on their own as well. If you'd like to take the ride, and need transportation, see John at World of Bikes. You really shouldn't miss this trip -- it's something special!!!

OUR BULLETIN BOARD SUFFERS!

We are in constant need of new pictures and information for our Bike Path Bulletin Board. Margaret Paulos tries very hard to keep it updated, but unless people send things to her, she doesn't have anything to update it with. The old pictures get faded (and boring) very quickly.

If you have pictures, etc., to contribute, get them to John Farrell, Jerry Neff, or Margaret. I understand Carter has a very symbolic picture that should perhaps be exhibited -- something about Bob Frey stopping to smell the roses, I believe. Any others of interest?

FRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year continues as one of our greatest. A great Criterium on Memorial Day - good attendance at the Wednesday night Eldridge training rides - excellent club weekend rides and evidence that many non-club rides are going on. Let Lorraine know about those extra rides you take so they can be made known in the newsletter.

The big event of the year is almost here. Our annual Mississippi Valley Century. We have had as high as 300 riders in the past and feel none of you will want to miss it. With the options of two days and a metric century, we ought to have our greatest turnout. This is our only money making event, so hope you will support it by bringing your friends. They will enjoy the accomplishment, the patch and the great day. Due to this attracting many riders from all over the Midwest, it is a chance to ride with many new cyclists. (Also pray for continued good weather for the 16th-17th).

--Carter LeBeau

MOLINE CRITERIUM - A JOB WELL DONE

Because of publishing date for the newsletter and the 30th May '77 Moline Criterium Bicycle Races, compliments to those thirty to forty QCBC members who manned street barricades, sold tickets, officiated or otherwise helped race day or before, must go out in this July newsletter. These races could not be run without your contribution of time. For those who worked or were otherwise present, I'm sure you enjoyed the tricycle race, the "high wheeler" race, the mayor-celebrity race, and of course the grueling USCF races. QCBC can be proud that the Moline Criterium is one of the better bicycle races in the Midwest.

--Terry Burke
Race Chairman

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL DEDICATED

We had a really great turnout for the Arsenal Bike Path Dedication, in spite of short notice to our members. A short ribbon-cutting ceremony was held by Colonel Skibbie, after which QCBC members rode the 6-mile path. Believe it or not, some of us managed to get lost - not real sure where the bike path went, but we weren't on it!! (Unfortunately, Dr. Frey had to cancel his promised appearance, to the chagrin of us all).

PROPOSAL FOR BIKERS?

If a group of bikers got together and said - "Let's set criteria and specifications for a bike path" - this is what they might propose.

- (1) Must have wide lanes so several bikes can ride and converse.
- (2) Must be one way so there are no on-coming bikes.
- (3) Should be level so marginal riders can enjoy it.

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- (4) Should have trees for shade over most of the path.
- (5) Should have a refreshment booth for food, etc.
- (6) Water fountains should be available.
- (7) Should be in the center of the population of the community.
- (8) Should run along a river or forest.
- (9) The forest should have rabbits, pheasants, squirrels, and other wild life.
- (10) Should have picnic tables.
- (11) Must be at least 5 miles long.
- (12) Should be free to ride.
- (13) Should have a place to park cars.

Well, Quad Cities -- you have this. It's the Arsenal Bike Path. It was dedicated last month. If it had to be built at today's prices, I'll bet it would cost over 25 million dollars, and take years to develop. We are indeed fortunate.

JULY RIDE SCHEDULE

For new members, or those who have mysteriously misplaced their May newsletters by this time, I'll reprint the July ride schedule. New information has been added to some, and a new ride has been added on July 10.

Touring Rides:

July 9 - Sat. - 8:00am Eldridge to Dixon, Plainview, Bennett and return.
10 - Sun. - 10:00am Spot Restaurant, East Moline, to Campbell Island, Hampton and return

July 16-17 - Sat. and Sun. - Mississippi Valley Century
Registration for the century ride will begin at 6am each day, with the ride beginning at 7am. There are two loops, one of 100 miles and one of 100 kilometers. Both begin and end at VanderVeer Park. Riders under 18 should be accompanied by a responsible adult (in this group, finding a responsible one could be a real trick!). Registration fee will be \$3.75, which includes map and cue sheets, sag wagon service, and Mississippi Valley paddle wheel patch for riders completing the ride. LAW Sanctioned Century and Metric Century patches will be available at extra cost. Talk to Dean Arney if you need more information.

July 23 - Sat. - 8:00am Eldridge to Walcott, Blue Grass and return.
24 - Sun. - 8:00am Corn Crib, Milan, to Loud Thunder, picnic and return.
July 30 - Sat. - 8:00am Eldridge to Allen's Grove and return.
31 - Sun. - 10:00am Buffalo to Wilcox Den, picnic and return.
Aug. 6 - Sat. - 8:00am Eldridge to LeClaire and return.
7 - Sun. - 9:00am Bike Path to Rt. 130 to meet return RAGBRAI riders.

Social Rides:

July 9 - Sat. - 1:30pm Vern Johnson wrote to me concerning this ride - it sounds great! He calls it the "Oak Run" Run, a tour around and through the private area known as Oak Run. It will go over the scenic dam site, and around the new Spoon Lake. Vern says, "Those desiring should bring along a picnic lunch, swimsuit, tennis racket, golf clubs, etc., as they desire, and don't forget the bicycle." He says it's rather hilly, but only a 10-mile ride (it can be extended considerably).
To get to the starting point: Take Highway 74 south to Exit 54,

marked Lewistown. Turn right and follow Hwy. 150 east, left over the bridge above Hwy 74. Continue on 150 southeast to the Appleton Road (5.2 miles from Exit 54). Turn left on the Appleton Road, follow this paved road for 4.2 miles, to the sign "Oak Run". Turn right into Oak Run and park in the golf course parking lot. Meet at 1:30 in the parking lot.

July 10 - Sun. - Breakfast Run to Mt. Joy. Begin at Lindsay Park, Davenport, at 7am. Breakfast will be at the Edgetowner.

RIDES YOU'VE MISSED

The Dentists' Ride to Nuovo, June 10 --

As a profession, the dentists are the leaders in biking - I tip my water pic to them. Can the lawyers, the accountants, the engineers or any other profession say they had their own bike ride? Not to this reporter's knowledge. In addition - when they commit - they commit. It was the hardest downpour of the year as they took off. Even though I was just a guest on this trip I joined Dr. Bill Parker in shock as Doc Frey moved out. I seem to remember him saying, "You can only get so wet". After a few stops in Moline and Rock Island to go around flooded streets we made it to Milan to meet Dr. Don Horton. It was still coming down in buckets but after a coffee break, it let up and the rest of the day was fantastic - shirts off even by afternoon. It was not the fastest 75 miles but how can you just pass raspberries without picking them - or taking a picture of thistles in peak bloom - or cactus flowering - yes, cactus. They grow wild between Keithburg and Oquakwa. And it did get hot, so a refreshment stop was made in Joy, Ill. The only disappointment was that Keithburg had run out of scored oarp so we had to settle for chicken and catfish at Helen's. It was super and we ate heartily because we still had 15 miles to camp at Delman Park. We made camp and then went to town, but this is one part of the experience I could do without. We had to return in the dark 1 1/2 miles. Maybe dentists have better eyes than I do, because I was the only one complaining.

I only had 2 days so had to leave them and return from Oquakwa on Saturday. You'll have to get the rest of the trip info direct when you see Bob, Don or Bill the next time.

My main reason for going on this trip was for training purposes. Some people go on centuries and ride miles to train for RAGBRAI, but I find I can't handle 7 days and nights with Doc Frey without a gradual effort. I think a 3-day trip will get me ready though, so when's the next overnite? You haven't lived until you've camped with the Phantom.

--Carter LeBeau

Sunday, June 12 -- About a dozen of us left the Corn Crib in Milan for the ride to Taylor Ridge - we went all around it, and never arrived. Roy Rousseau took on the challenge of "fearless leader", and handled it well, especially considering the group he had to work with!! The game plan was to pick our route carefully as we went (making decisions at each intersection), due to windy conditions. Somehow, we blew it (whoops - unintended pun, honest). We just kept riding, circling Taylor Ridge. A rest stop was made at a grocery store in Reynolds, and a briefer stop at an intersection, where John Farrell noted that the corn was "almost tall enough" (it will be ready in time, RAGBRAI riders). Our final stop was at Andalusia, where we sat near the river and shared "hostile motorist"

stories. We then rode into the headwind (the result of our waywardness) back to Milan. It really was basically a nice day, and everyone had a great ride.

Saturday, June 18 -- The Iron Men Return --

The Tour de Iowa was conquered by four Quad Cities Bike Club members. Last year two tried, but failed to finish and while the route has been promoted for over one year, no one to our knowledge has succeeded prior to this time. For this reason we honor

- I. Ben Gero - age 39 (the Tour de Iowa leader)
- II. Dennis Murphy - age 39
- III. Dr. Jim Hanson - age 47 (the oldest to complete)
- IV. Steve Loupee - age 27 (the youngest to complete)

The 750-mile route around Iowa was laid out as a motel or Bike Inn type route, but this group camped the whole way. This makes it a lot tougher and requires some deviation in order to hit the camp grounds. We are hoping for more details in writing from them in our next newsletter, as they said they kept notes. Appropriate recognition will be forthcoming.

Saturday, June 18 -- Regular Eldridge Ride -- A good group met at Sam and went in several different directions. Most went down to Walcott and accidentally met three young riders - 2 guys and a gal riding from Albany, N.Y., to WallaWalla, Wash. They had been on the road 17 days and looked fine. All three were loaded with gear, but guess who had the most? The girl rider had at least 75 pounds (ask Dean Arney, he could hardly lift it). It was all on the back of the bike. She was in high gear going into the wind as we saw her, and was on a Schwinn Varsity with low pressure tires. Wow! They rode along with us until we met the Tour de Iowa group outside of Durant. Dean Arney had ridden to West Liberty to meet them, and by the way rode to Anamosa the previous Saturday, and back, making 160 miles plus the 80, or 240 miles, and he wasn't even on the trip! Another Wow! The greeting group rode back to Davenport with them and were amazed at the fast pace they were still going because this was their 8th day of continuous riding.

Sunday, June 19 -- LongView Picnic -- The picnic was held at Longview on a beautiful day, but the ride proceeded to the Arsenal. It was a pleasant afternoon and enjoyed by those that attended. Some had not been on the Arsenal path before. The sailboat races were in progress and it was nice to see someone enjoying a headwind.

Tuesday, June 21 -- The Hilly Dilly -- Most of us have heard about this ride which was laid out by Fred Blessin, but unless you have ridden it - you don't know what it is. It's only a short ride between Lindsay Park and Fejervary, but unless you are a mountain goat I'm sure you'll know you've ridden a bike ride. After this ride was over it was interesting to hear the arguments over whether Ripley, Warren or which hill was the worst. Actually the ride up the park hill was almost pleasant after the ones that preceded it. Garry Friedman was the first one to finish and the rest of us just were glad we did finish. Thanks to Brian Major for leading this now famous ride. John Martin says we ought to have a patch for it. Also we could give the route to the hot shots who ride centuries in under 6 hours and let them do this a couple times as an encore. Thanks to Elizabeth Schwegler for the lemonade at the end. It was really appreciated.

ON OTHER TRAILS

Joe and I tried out the Sparta to Elroy old railroad trail of the Wisconsin Bicycle Trail this past week and found it beautiful.

We, of course, took it easy going just the 32 miles from Sparta to Elroy on Tuesday (6/21) and then back to Sparta on Wednesday (6/22).

At one point a deer came out to look at us and there were many birds and rabbits. We were surprised to see it was all gravel (guess we expected the nice black top like our trail).

We did a bit of looking into motel accommodations, in case anyone has questions.

--Mary Jo and Joe Sheridan

FOR SALE

Don Fish has a Gitane Tandem 10-speed for sale. The bike is 3 years old, and is in good shape. It has a men's 23½" frame in the front, a mixte 21½" on the back. The white bicycle has fenders, and a rear carrier. If you're interested, contact Don at 324-9806.

REPORTERS NEEDED!!!

I'd really appreciate people sending reports to me on some of the scheduled rides. I am getting to very few of the rides this summer, and my usual reporters are not only missing several rides as well, but would like to hear someone else's viewpoint for a change!! We're not only lacking reports on some of our rides, we need some fresh talent! How about "electing" a ride reporter for each trip? All that person needs to do is send me a brief description of the ride, with any "juicy" or fascinating details. This is a desperate cry for HELP!!!

Incidentally, I'm very hard to reach by phone this summer, as some of you have apparently found out already; I'm out of town most of the time. If you have anything for the newsletter, please get it in the mail -- I do get back to pick it up occasionally, and it will be a lot easier and less time-consuming than trying to call! After RAGBRAI, it should be easier (no solid promises, however).

The August newsletter will not be in your mailbox the first week of August, as I will be RAGBRAIing then, so don't get anxious (as if you'd really miss it anyway). Hopefully, you'll all be doing the same, so there won't be any problem.

If you do have information for the newsletter; on scheduled rides, "private" rides, or anything else you feel would be of interest (we're always open for good gossip, of course), send it to me. My address, once again, is:

3403 Jersey Ridge Road, Apt. 1506
Davenport, Iowa 52807

See you on RAGBRAI!! Be sure to get your T-shirt!

Lorraine Roth
Newsletter Editor