



# NEWSLETTER

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 Yearly Membership \$5 Includes Newsletter (4) ID Card - See Blank Pg 16

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**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Bill Jenack  
 67 Lion Lane  
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**FELLOW UNICYCLISTS:** Summer is just around the corner and unicycling activity from coast to coast on the upswing with year 1976 promising to be one of real growth for our organization. In talking with manufacturers and distributors at the International Cycle Show in New York in Feb. your Ed. learned that, while the bicycle industry in general was in somewhat of a slump last year, unicycles were an item that showed a profit. About Xmas time there was hardly an adult type unicycle to be found in warehouses anywhere in the country. It appears that the sport is beginning to snowball with the impetus given by its appearance in circuses and vaudeville.



It is your Ed's hope that some of the older members of present unicycle clubs about the country will recognize what fun it has been for them, what great fun it can be for the younger ones, and with that in mind take a more active part in the operation of their clubs to perpetuate and promote it to the fullest.

What Dr. Geist said about bicycling in the article referred to on pg 10. might well be applied to us. He closed by saying "More cyclists should ask themselves - What can I do for cycling rather than How many trophies can I bag this season" - Sound like JFK? - Maybe, but if older cyclists will give it a try they will find, as your Ed. has, that much enjoyment can be had by being of service to others.



Alvin Drysdale - B. Jenack

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**U-S-A INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BLANK 16**

In the past our feature stories have been mostly about famous performers or leaders of outstanding unicycling groups. This issue readers will be taken behind the scenes to learn something about where the unicycles and special vaudeville cycles come from and who builds them. One of the best known American builders of cycles and special vaudeville performed props is ALVIN DRYSDALE who at 70 yrs of age is now retired and living in comfort with his wife Cecelia in Bradley Beach, New Jersey.

Name most any old time vaudeville performer who used a special type cycle or vehicle in his act and chances are Alvin Drysdale built or worked on it at one time or another. Likewise with professional bike racers of the velodrome days such as Alfred LeTourneur, who amazed the world by pedaling his track bike 108.92 MPH, Drysdale worked with them all keeping their bikes in shape or building them new ones from scratch. Al was a master frame builder and his cycles sold under many different trade names one of the most popular and well remembered being the VELOX. On pg 3 is a copy of page taken from a cycle retailer's catalog of year 1940 displaying a couple models of Drysdale's outstanding lightweights.

To start our story from the beginning ALVIN DRYSDALE was born and brought up in Fresno, California. At end of World War 1 when he was about 12 and bicycles became available again he got hooked on a sport the association with which was to last him a lifetime. He started bike racing in earnest and in 1924, 1925 and 1926 won the California State ABL Championships. Between races he worked at bicycle repair and construction in various shops about the country and started building up a reputation and shop of his own. In 1927 he came east to stay, living in the New Jersey, New York area and racing and working in and around the various velodromes that were so popular in that era. About 1929 he had completed the transition from racer to master builder and from then on produced a fantastic number of outstanding bicycle frames that sold from coast to coast under a number of brand names and were in great demand. He also built special props for vaudeville performers and while in the machine shop of TOM SIMMONS THEATRICAL PROPS SHOP, 456 W. 38th Street, Manhattan, had a chance to meet and get acquainted with many of the outstanding performers of the 20's and 30's. He even built such things as "Crash" Dunnigan's 150 ft poles that were used in the highest 4 person pole act to date. Jack Wiley's "The Unicycle Book" has a picture of Al standing outside the shop on W. 38th St. with the owner TOM SIMMONS and WALTER NILSSON the famous unicyclist who rode his 8' unicycle from New York to California about the year 1933.

When BOY FOY the wonder boy juggler-unicyclist came to USA from England in the mid 30's and played Radio City Music Hall, Al worked on unicycles for him and recalls what an impact Boy Foy had on vaudeville and the entertainment field in general (as mentioned in a previous newsletter all the jugglers took to unicycles and all the unicyclists took to juggling) Your Ed. was one of the new unicyclists sparked by the appearance of Boy Foy and, while he has been in touch, has yet to meet Boy Foy in person.

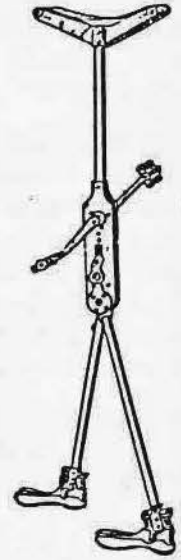
While working in Tom Simmon's Theatrical Props Shop Al designed and built many novel type cycles for vaudeville performers and had the opportunity to see many others. He recalls a particular troupe CHIC & the CHICLETS who were working on an act for which they built and hoped to use a walking machine that walked as it was being pedaled. Some years later Al decided to make up a similar type walking machine and the finished product appears as in the sketch on next page. (We are indebted to CHARLES R. SIPLE, by the way, for the neat sketch he made from photo taken by your Ed. of the machine which is now on display in the private cycle museum of DAVE METZ in Freehold, New Jersey. A word of caution is in order here for you unicyclists who would like to duplicate the machine and use it in an act - the word is really two words: FORGET IT. The number of man hours required to build such a machine, the complex mechanism of the hip-lifting and leg-swinging, and the number of hours of practice required to simply ride it straight makes it a very questionable investment. Your Ed's son John took a short ride on Drysdale's machine a few years ago in Freehold and corroborates the above. Al himself says he only knew of three such machines ever being built and the only one he knew who actually used it was Walter Nilsson. Nilsson mounted and dismounted it offstage and never did more than ride it across in a performance. Reader do not despair however for in a future issue of this newsletter plans will be included for a

much less sophisticated model the PEDOPED which GORAN LUNDSTROM of Sweden has and rides without too much difficulty (See photo pg 11 July '74 issue)

In the last issue your Ed. asked readers if any of them remembered the Chorus Lines of Unicyclists at the Roxy and Radio City Music Hall in the good old days of vaudeville. This elicited a quick reply from Al who built the 25 unicycles for each theatre - plus a number of spares.

One of the other fascinating and novel machines built by Al was the novel tricycle used by comedian ED WYNN at opening of the ZIEGFELD THEATRE and for 20 years or so on stage and TV. The two front wheels of the tricycle supported a piano upon which girl vocalist sat and sang as it was pedaled about. Al also built a bike for PAUL GORDON one of the outstanding trick bike riders of the era.

Your Ed. had the privilege of spending Sunday afternoon March 7, with Al and Cecelia at their home in Bradley Beach, N.J. and it was truly a wonderful afternoon of reminiscing. While Al has a bum leg that gives him a little trouble getting around, they are both very sharp mentally and any person, place, or time that Al can't recall immediately Cecelia will have right on the tip of her tongue. When your Ed. mentioned the Yokoi sisters Cecelia remembered immediately that it was KIMIKO that Al made a special trick bicycle for. Old timers of the Track and 6 day bike races and velodrome crowd still get together now and then with Al and Cecelia. Their past cycling Activities give them a lot of wonderful memories to share. Our best wishes to Al and Cecelia for many more happy years of retirement.

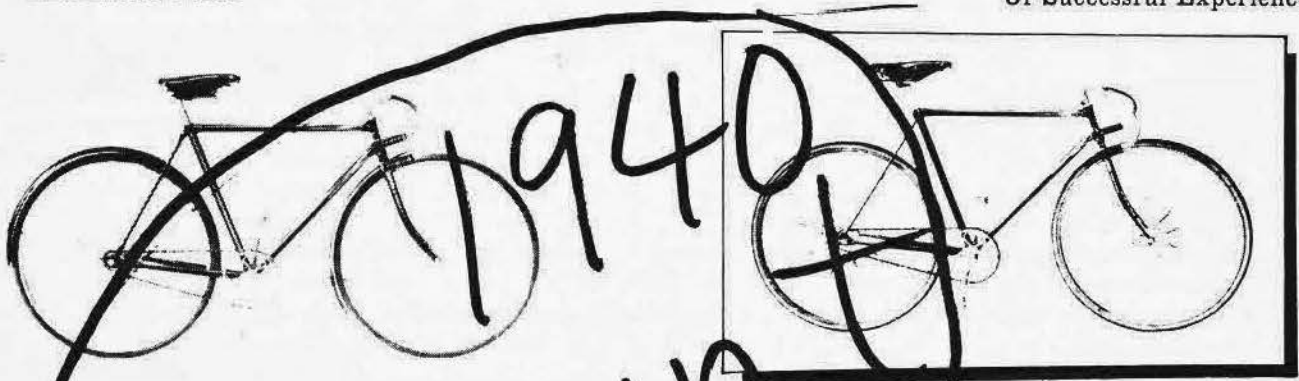


**JONAS B. OGLAEND. Inc.**

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UNITED STATES  
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**ALVIN DRYSDALE**

Lightweights With Drysdale  
Are Not a New Experiment,  
But Backed By Many Years  
Of Successful Experience



**ALVIN**

**RED DEVIL**

Seamless Steel Tubing, Walton and Brown Hanger, Bolted Rear Stays.

**Racing Equipment**  
Hubs: Phillips Racing  
Tires: U. S. Cord  
Rims: Chrome or Wood  
Racing Wheelbase: 42 1/2"  
Weight: 27 lbs.  
Price: \$30.00  
Mudguards: \$1.50 extra

**Lightweight Touring**  
Tires: 26x1 3/8" or 26x1 1/4"  
Brakes: Phillips Rim  
Front-Rear  
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Chrome Moly Aircraft Seamless Tubing, Williams Hanger With 5-Fin Chainwheel, Brazed Rear Stays, Cut Out Lugs, Wheelbase 40 1/2". Weight less than 21 lbs.

**Standard Equipment**  
Saddle: Mesinger  
Tires: U. S. Cord  
Chain: Diamond Roller  
Rims: Wood  
Hubs: British  
Price: \$43.50

**DeLuxe Equipment**  
Saddle: Brook B15  
Tires: Best Double Tube  
Chain: Diamond Block  
Rims: V  
Hubs: British  
Price: \$51.00

**12 WARREN STREET. NEW YORK CITY**



Both RED and BLUE units of RINGLING BROS. BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS feature unicyclists this season and following are the schedules of each up to June 20, 1976

The RED UNIT features BARRY LAPPY, the outstanding young cyclist from England who performs on both bicycles and unicycles. The BLUE UNIT has the KING CHARLES CYCLISTS who put on a whirlwind game of basketball while riding unicycles.

RED UNIT

Mar. 31-Apr 4 Charleston, W.Va.  
 Apr. 6-25 Washington, D.C.  
 Apr. 29-May 2 Niagara Falls, N.Y.  
 May 4-9 Binghamton, N.Y.  
 May 11-16 Rochester, N.Y.  
 May 18-23 Hartford, Conn.  
 May 25-30 Troy, New York  
 June 1-6 Providence, R.I.

RED UNIT (Cont.)

June 10-13 Louisville, Ky.  
 June 15-16 Memphis, Tennessee  
 June 18-20 Mobile, Alabama

BLUE UNIT

April 1 May 31 New York City  
 June 2-13 Philadelphia, Pa.  
 June 17-20 Huntsville, Alabama

**GREAT Y CIRCUS**

*The Oldest Community Circus in the World*

1020 LA CRESTA DRIVE  
 REDLANDS, CALIFORNIA 92373



THE GREAT Y CIRCUS of Redlands, Calif. is holding its annual May show this year on MAY 14, 15, 16 and 21, 21. This outstanding group of boys and girls present practically all the standard circus acts (except animals) in this Community Circus which is now in its 38th year. If you are in Southern California

in May try to catch one of their performances - you will be amazed how talented they are. The basement of the YMCA where the Great Y stores its many cycles is now sporting a new look. TOM BISHOP, a professional circus performer, who does a cradle act with his wife, recently spent some time in Redlands and while there gave the Great Y a hand with their equipment storage problem. Racks attached to the ceiling with individual hooks covered with surgical tubing, to protect rims, are now used to neatly store the many cycles and make them readily accessible. Some of the very novel cycles the Great Y Circus has and uses in their performances were illustrated on page 10 of the Jan. '76 newsletter.

JULY 16 & 17, and 21-24, 1976 CIRCUS CITY FESTIVAL, PERU, INDIANA

No vacation in America's Midwest is complete unless you spend a day in the "Circus Capital of the World", Peru, Indiana. Each summer, about the middle of July, residents of this community present a full youth three-ring circus which is so good that many visitors have to be told that it is not a professional show. During the hey-day of the pro circus, Peru was the winter quarters for seven of the world's major circuses. Children and young adults take a part in staging this colorful display - Thrilling trapeze acts, Aerial artistry, all expertly rendered whisk the audience back to the late 1880's and early 1900's. From looking at latest brochure from LARRY KINDLESPARKER, Executive Director of Circus City Festival, your Ed. highly recommends you include it in your vacation plans.

Mid MAY Thru Mid SEPTEMBER 1976 CIRCUS WORLD MUSEUM, BARABOO, WISCONSIN

One of the outstanding acts the youth of Circus World Museum participate in is unicycling. Every day for 18 weeks throughout the summer, a quarter million people watch the LIVE Circus acts perform under their Big Top; and periodically throughout the summer, the youth from the Acrobatic School perform with the professionals. In addition to the Big Top show, the 25 acre Circus World Museum offers just about everything a circus buff could ask for - and it is all happening in the very buildings and on the very grounds where Ringling Bros. Circus winterquartered for some 34 years during the hey day of the outdoor circus. Should you find yourself in Wisconsin between May and Sept. do try to get to see it. If you are planning a trip to Wis. your Ed. suggests you send for a copy of their beautiful color circular and acquaint yourself with the wonderful world of the circus that the State Historical Society of Wisconsin has made available to the public - and while there be sure to stop in and say hello to our good friend the Executive Director, BILL SCHULTZ.

Latest report indicates there are still a few openings for this session - if interested call Garbo & Berky at number listed below.



For unicyclists seriously interested in getting into clowning this is a rare opportunity



# The CLOWNshop

"SCHOOL FOR BUFFOONS"

APRIL 26 ~~to~~ MAY 15, 1976

Directed by GARBO & BERKY

CELEBRATION MIME THEATRE

South Paris, Maine 04281

207 - 743-9848



\* \* \* \* \*

One of our members WARREN BACON, recently of Tallahassee, Fla. has signed up with the TOMMY HANNEFORD CIRCUS for some 19 weeks starting about middle of February 1976. Warren is not performing on his unicycle however but is one of a troupe with a flexible pole act that is most spectacular. In the act they use a springy pole about 1 1/2" in diameter as a balancing and rebounding surface. The act closes with one of their somersaulters doing a series of swingtime back flips consecutively from the pole which is supported by the other two. Keep your eye out for the TOMMY HANNEFORD CIRCUS and if it plays in your area try to get to see WARREN, DAVID, AND PATTI in their outstanding new act. They have been rehearsing in Florida for many months and from Florida Warren sent us the following information on the F.S.U. CIRCUS:

THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY "FLYING HIGH" CIRCUS has the following performances scheduled that will be of interest to anyone vacationing in Florida in April or May 1976.

FRIDAY April 30	7:30 PM	FRIDAY May 7	7:30 PM
SAT. May 1	2PM & 7:30PM	SAT. May 8	2PM & 7:30PM

A Feature of interest to Unicyclists: On the high wire Bill Whittmire rides a unicycle across backwards, picks up his partner who sits on his shoulders while he rides to center of wire, where she stands up, and they ride off standing.

The show runs 2 1/2 hours with a 15 minute intermission and has everything but animals.

Tickets and other information available from: Richard Brinson, Director  
FSU "Flying High Circus"  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, Fla. 32306

\* \* \* \* \*

RICHARD FRICK, Race Director - BMX Track, Escape Country-Robinson Ranch, Trabuco Canyon California 92678 would like to hear from any unicyclists or unicycle clubs who would like to enter in unicycle races at the Escape Country recreation center. For those who do not take the Trabuco Tribune, or are unfamiliar with "Escape Country", it is a place where, at minimum expense, devotees can participate in any one of many thrilling sports from BMX racing to Hang Gliding. Write to Dick for possible dates if you would like to join in races.



**1976 NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET**

MARION, OHIO - AUG. 21 - 22



The 1976 NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET under the auspices of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. is scheduled to be held in MARION, OHIO Sat. & Sun. Aug. 21-22, 1976. As in 1974 it is being sponsored by the PAUL FOX UNICYCLE CLUB Inc. of that city.

Complete information on the Program for the two days, Food and Lodging, Church Services, and a Map of the area will be included in the July Newsletter. Some advance information for those who are budgeting their expenses:

If you wish to bring your own sleeping bag and cut down on lodging expenses the Marion Catholic High School facilities will be available again this year for \$1 a night per person.

The Ladies of Marion are planning a buffet style lunch on one of the days similar to the much appreciated and delicious free eats at Pontiac last year.

For those who prefer motel accommodations complete information and prices on such will be included in the July issue along with information on restaurants etc.

The diagram at right is layout of the obstacle course to be used at the meet - in case some of you unicyclists would like to set up one and get in a little practice.

Aside from trophies and door prizes some 90 medals such as shown on page 1 will be awarded to winners of the various races.

If you have never attended a National Meet rest assured that no matter what your degree of skill you will be welcomed, will find unicyclists the friendliest people ever, and will return home with a wealth of new ideas and memories of two of the greatest days of your life.

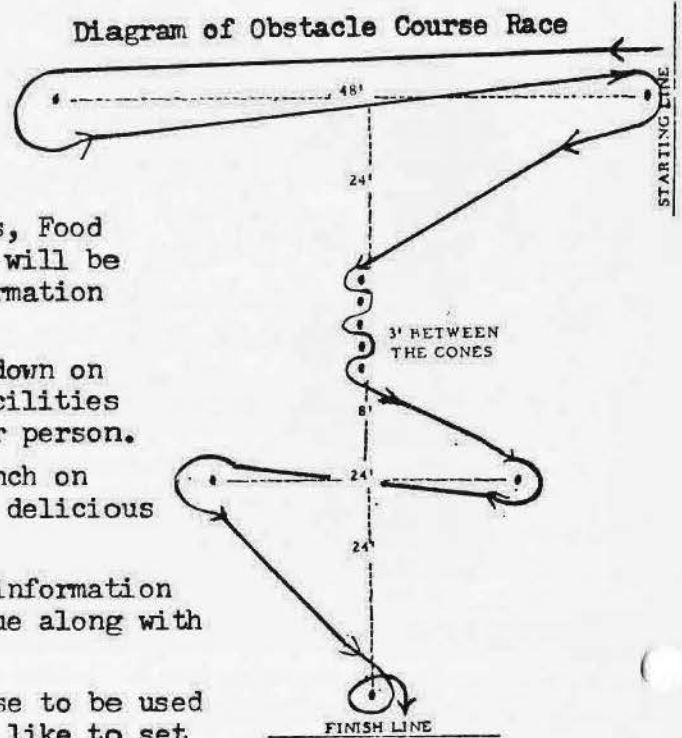
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Some 24 members of the PONTIAC UNICYCLISTS, under the leadership of BERNIE AND PAULINE CRANDALL will be starting on a 12 city tour of Parades and Entertainments with a Dance Team and Concert and Marching Band from St. Johann in Tirol, Austria on July 10, 1976. This is the same group the Pontiac Unicyclists traveled and performed with in Europe in 1975. Following is a tentative schedule of dates and cities where the parades and entertainments will be held. We are all happy to hear that Bernie is on the road to recovery after his recent serious illness and wish him and Pauline the best on this interesting tour with their friends from abroad.

- |                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| July 10 - Brockport, New York    | July 18 - Baltimore, Maryland |
| July 11 - Rochester, New York    | July 19 - Washington, D.C.    |
| July 12 - Scranton, Pennsylvania | July 20 - Fairmont, West Va.  |
| July 13,14 - New York City, N.Y. | July 21 - Cleveland, Ohio     |
| July 15,16 - Allentown, Penna.   | July 22 - Toledo, Ohio        |
| July 17 - Philadelphia, Penna.   | July 23 - Coldwater, Michigan |

If you can make it to one of the above cities on date listed and would like to know exact location and time drop a line to Bernie Crandall, 124 S. Josephine, Pontiac 48053. There's no question but what he will be busy but if you enclose a stamped return envelope its for sure he will appreciate it and get back to you in a hurry.

Diagram of Obstacle Course Race

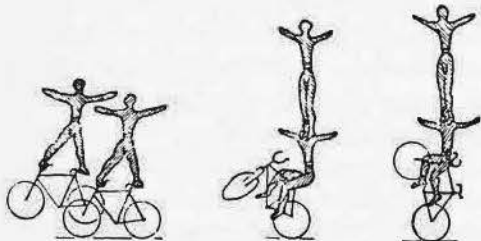


Official Course

RADBALL - KUNSTRADFAHREN (Cycle-Ball - Artistic Cycling) NOV. 4-6, MUNSTER, GERMANY



Did you know that each year the FIAC (Federation of International Amateur Cycling) organizes the WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OF INDOOR CYCLING (Weltmeisterschaften Hallenradsport). This year's World Championships are to be held in MUNSTER, GERMANY NOVEMBER 4-6, 1976.



If by chance any of our members find themselves in Europe come November, or can somehow work it into a vacation, it is suggested they try to get to see the World Championships of this tremendous sport which so closely relates to unicycling. Although the Artistic Cycling is performed on bicycles, much of the time they are being ridden on just the rear wheel. Not just in momentary wheelies, but for extended periods of backward and forward riding and spinning during which the artist climbs around on the bicycle and, either singly or in couples, performs many graceful maneuvers.

Since viewing the film of one such championship, as mentioned on pg 8 of the Jan. newsletter, your Ed. has made contact with HANS BORN, Secretary of the FIAC in Germany and has been exploring possible ways of introducing the sport of Artistic Bike Riding here. It is hoped that some films can be obtained for showing at the National Unicycle Meet in Marion, Ohio in August. Should any of the European Artistic Bike Riders be able to attend our National Meet they have been assured by your Ed. that our members will be most happy to take them into their homes and supply their food and lodging while they are here. Your Ed. can't think of a more appropriate and exciting bit of entertainment for our Sunday program at the Coliseum in Marion than having one or more such Artistic Bike Riders go thru their amazing routines.



Aside from the Kunstradfahren (Artistic Cycling) the FIAC also oversees the RADBALL (Cycle-Ball) championships. Radball is also very popular in Europe. It is practised by teams with 2 players and with a ball with a weight of 500 g and a diameter of 18 cm which is moved with the bicycle. The Cycle-Ball-game lasts 2 x 7 minutes. Unlike the Bicycle Polo which is occasionally seen in this country the ball is moved only by the bicycle rather than a short polo mallet. The little sketches at left will give readers an idea of what goes on in each of these sports.

Your Ed. will bring you additional information on these two sports as he receives it and expects to have one of the BAUER bikes, made for the sport, with him at this year's meet in Marion in August. It is your Ed's opinion that any one of a number of Track Bikes available in bike shops in this country could be adapted for Artistic Bike Riding through a few modifications such as: reducing the drive to a 1 to 1 ratio, using straight forks and proper shaped handlebars, and reworking the saddle contour slightly.

NOTE:

If any reader has a definite European vacation planned between now and end of year your ed. will be happy to send you a copy of complete schedule of competitions being held in various European countries in hope that you might be able to attend one or more of them. Drop him a line at address shown on masthead. Please enclosed self addressed return envelope.

From EMMETT CARPENTIER comes word that his operation of March 3rd (coronary bypass) was a success and although it will be a month or two before he will be back at the shop he is coming along nicely. Emmett is the proprietor of Hamilton's Bicycles East, 1622 South Parkwood Lane, Wichita, Kansas 67218 where so many unicyclists are having cycles built today. A recent letter from Warren Wood, Director of The Great Y Circus of Redlands, California tells how pleased they are with the mini wheel giraffe and the miniature bike Hamilton's recently built for them. We wish Emmett a speedy recovery and congratulate him for having one of the few bike shops in the country where performers can have special cycles custom built to their specifications.

The HAMILTON MINI-CIRCUS of Hamilton, Ohio is now set up in a 10,000 sq ft warehouse at the end of 5th Street by Ford Park in Hamilton, Ohio. The building is set up in such a manner that when proper coaching and spotting personnel are present all pieces of equipment may be used at once. Each practice session begins with unicycle riding to warm up and then to all phases of circus work from tumbling to high wire work. Under the leadership of TED MCGUIRE, a dedicated young man who himself came up thru the ranks of Hamilton Mini-Circus, they have great plans for the coming season. During the past year, among other things, they performed at half times of some of the Kentucky Colonels games. Their last show of 1975 was held at Miami University, Hamilton campus, on Dec. 13 when they participated in a Christmas program for the young children of Hamilton Community. They are looking forward this year to a bigger and better than ever season.

THE CHILDREN'S CLUB OF CONCORD INC. of Concord California sent your Ed. a copy of their March '76 newsletter. One of the articles that caught your ed's attention was mention of a guest speaker at a recent "Awards" party held by the Club. The guest speaker JOHN SCHMALLJOHNN happened to be a former member of the club during the early 50's and showed slides of the clubs activities some 20 years ago. Congratulations are in order to any club that has carried on for that long a period of time. Concord, Calif. by the way is where JIM DANDY lives. Jim Dandy was the subject of our feature write-up in the last issue. He is one of the all time greats of unicycling and the boys and girls of Concord must dream of being an outstanding performer like Jim Dandy.

THE UNIQUES of Clinton, Ohio started off their 1976 season with a covered dish supper on March 6th and had some 90 people in attendance. Films of the St. Catherines (CANADA) Grape and Wine Festival in which they participated in 1974 were shown along with home films of 1975. The Uniques have 4 new families this year and a total of 49 riders. To their club's equipment they have added two 10' giraffes and are building two more. In addition they now have two 4' cycles and two 'off center wheel' Ponies. They have already put on two shows this year, have 3 more lined up and are looking forward to others.

An interesting photo received by your Ed. from DON BOYLES of Tulsa, Oklahoma shows Don's son JERRY, age 13, on another very neat but weird looking upside down bike assembled by him and his Dad. Jerry has the start of a good collection of novel bikes that could work in well in a cycle demonstration. Many such cycles can be made up as break-a-ways - or ridden on one wheel only as unicycles. If any readers have made up such bikes and would like to share the design with others send it in and your Ed. will try to include them in future issues. Getting back to Don Boyles - Don, who has done a great job of helping to promote unicycling among the boys and girls in Tulsa, is the fellow who, before giving up his hobby of skydiving and settling down, made a leap from the world's highest bridge and got in the Guinness Book of records. He will probably be interested to hear that one of our new members KEVIN SEAMAN of Tempe, Ariz. is also a skydiver and aside from taking part in the sport in all 50 states of the U.S. has ridden his unicycle in every state and even taken it out of an airplane with him in a jump. Perhaps in a future issue Kevin can give us a couple hints on how to handle the uni on the way down (or upon landing) in case anyone else would like to try it. Would be your Ed's luck to land in water and need a boat instead of a unicycle if he were to try such a jump.



## FLORIDA CITRUS FESTIVAL PARADE

Winter Haven, Florida was the scene of the 52nd Annual Florida Citrus Festival Parade February 14, 1976

It was the largest ever with some 3800 Participants. There were floats and marching units galore for two full hours. The Sunday Feb. 15, 1976 edition of NEWS-CHIEF carried over three pages of photos of the spectacular event.

Sharing one half of a full page of photos with the beautiful Citrus Queen CANDY UPTHEGROVE, was equally beautiful PAULA ADAMS, teen-age daughter of Mr. and Mrs. JOHN P. ADAMS of Lake Link Estates.

All three of the ADAMS children DANNY, TOM, and PAULA are proficient unicyclists and have been participating in the event the past few years.

When DANNY, the oldest, announced he was coming home from college to ride his giraffe unicycle in the annual affair, his younger brother and sister were somewhat dismayed - they were considering flipping a coin to see who would ride the giraffe. A last minute call to your Ed. resulted in two additional giraffes being shipped to Winter Haven in a hurry and all three Adams were able to participate in the parade ON HIGH.

We wish to thank the Photographer Jack Rynerson and NEWS-CHIEF for their kind permission to reprint the neat picture of Paula at right.

\* \* \* \* \*

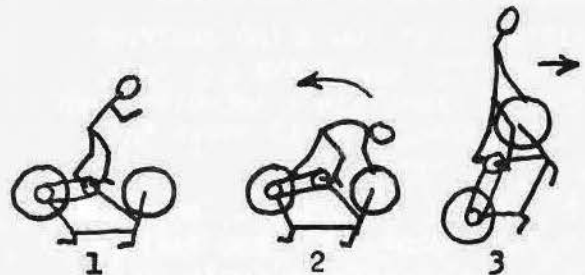


*Paula Adams shows good balance on her unicycle.*

ST. HELEN'S UNICYCLE DRILL TEAM of Newbury, Ohio drove non stop in their bus and truck to the ORANGE BOWL PARADE in Florida and came back with a beautiful plaque with "TOP HONORS" inscribed on it. They were the only unit invited two years in a row. FATHER MORAN, their Founder and Director, who just celebrated his 71st birthday March 25th, flew down to be with them and make sure everything was O.K. Although retired from his duties as pastor of St. Helen's, Father Moran still lives near by and is active with the unicyclists. They are planning their summer schedule now and the group practices twice a week plus their performances. Saturday evening March 27th a Buffet Style Appreciation Dinner was given by the parents of St. Helen's Unicycle Drill Team for those who helped in many ways, over the years, and made possible their existence. This was not the first such appreciation dinner held and is a wonderful way they have of periodically showing benefactors that their help is truly appreciated.

ROY RIVERS, one of our members from England writes from Barcelona, Madrid, and Torremolinos that he and his family are having a marvelous working holiday in Spain. Roy is a cabaret performer and his specialty includes unicycling, ice skating, and playing musical instruments (Yes, he sometimes does all three at once). His son PAUL, age 16, just made his debut in Roy's act in Spain. Although the bright lights were a bit confusing, Paul's initial performance was faultless and the spectators responded most favorably to the River's act. In their act Paul, in addition to trick riding on a giraffe unicycle does a clown act with a handlebar unit. Specialty Acts are well received on the continent and when a performer can combine work with a family vacation, in a warmer climate this time of year, it sort of makes it all that much more worthwhile. Our congratulations to Paul on his successful debut and may he always have such wonderful working conditions.

In his most recent letter ROY RIVERS also described a beautiful cycle act he witnessed recently and suggests we keep an eye out for its possible appearance on the networks here. The act is known as OLA & BARBRO. A very neat and polished act from what Roy writes and the beauty of it is that it is just a boy and a girl and one cycle. Aside from the lovely double work - girl climbing around on shoulders etc. the boy does a very clever routine going from two wheels to one and back again. He also does a clever climb-on which any of our readers who have a circus bike might like to try. With the cycle upside down, seat & handlebars resting on floor, he steps up onto the pedals and stands balanced there for a moment facing the front wheel. He then reaches forward, grasps the front tire and yanks it upward to his crotch at the same time rolling the bike up onto just its rear wheel, and proceeds to ride it as a giraffe uni. A neat climb-on indeed - and when warmer weather arrives your Ed. is going to get out his circus bike and give it a try.



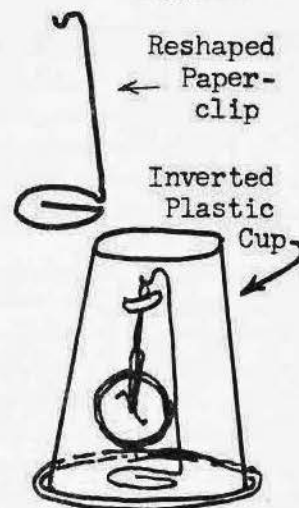
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One of our senior members DR. ROLAND GEIST appears astride an 1880 Columbia Ordinary bicycle in a picture in the March 4, 1976 issue of the RIVERDALE PRESS of New York. Accompanying the picture is an article "75 Years of Cycling" written by Dr. Geist who has long been interested in the old machines. With a couple other antique bike buffs ROGER JOHNSON and HENRY MATHIS he founded the ANTIQUE BICYCLE CLUB OF AMERICA. Author of a number of books and articles on Bicycling, Mountain Climbing, and Skating, Dr. Geist has led a very active life and has been cycling since the start of the century. He has led groups of cyclists on tours in Europe, is still active with cyclist groups, and is seldom seen without his bike. A few years ago he turned his unicycle over to the AMERICAN BICYCLE HALL OF FAME at Richmondtown, Staten Island, N.Y. where it is now on display along with STEVE McPEAK'S 32' unicycle and a collection of interesting old time bicycles. As Secretary of The American Bicycle Hall of Fame Dr. Geist is always looking for help and advice in connection with it and is building up quite a collection of antique bicycles at the museum. If you are ever on Staten Island you should stop in to see the Museum and also visit the famous RICHMONDTOWN RESTORATION, a restored village which is second only to Williamsburg, Virginia. During the summer months the museum is open daily from 2-5PM Except Mondays.

\* \* \* \* \*

BOUNCE & CY whose LOCO-MOTION CIRCUS was written up on pg 7 of the Jan '76 newsletter have been traveling throughout the south performing at Schools, Colleges, and Shopping Centers since Dec. 15th and are just now on their way back to their home base in Amherst, Mass. Aside from their act with regular unicycles Bounce and Cy are now passing clubs on their giraffes and doing some outstanding hand balancing and acrobatics. Come next Sept. they plan to attend the World Cup Acrobatic Championships in Germany and hope to defray some of the expense by performing while there. If readers have the names and addresses of any booking agents over there Bounce and Cy would appreciate receiving same. Bounce and Cy's address is P.O.Box 61, Amherst, Mass. 01002

An article that received more comment than anything else in last issue was the construction sketch and directions for making a cute little unicycle charm from two ordinary paperclips. If you have made one, like your little masterpiece, and would like something in which to display it, here is another simple project requiring one more paperclip and a small transparent plastic cup such as one gets in an ARTHUR TREACHER'S Fish and Chips place for Tartar sauce or ketchup. To make the display rack simply straighten out and rebend a regular size paperclip to the shape shown at right above. Cement this with epoxy to the inside of the cup's cover. When dry hang your little cycle charm on the hook and cover the whole thing with the inverted clear plastic cup. Some novelty houses sell cases of this type for displaying grandpa's pocket watch etc. but the little clear plastic discard cups from the above mentioned Fish and Chips places make a perfect housing for displaying your little paperclip unicycle charm.



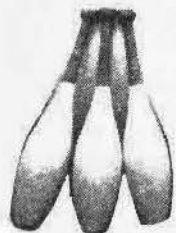
The Feb. 1976 issue of MODERN DATA Magazine of Hudson, Mass. describes a slightly more sophisticated form of sounder than that shown on page 10 of our Jan. '76 newsletter. The article describes a WESTERN ELECTRIC developed Aid For The Handicapped. It is a device that emits a high pitched beep like a cricket's. The photo accompanying the article shows a blind person riding an adult tricycle and following the sound from a lead cyclist. The device weighs less than one pound, fits under the seat, costs less than \$10 and is audible for 200 ft. One advantage of the W.E. system is that it continues to put out sound when the lead vehicle comes to a standstill.

The DENVER POST of Sunday Feb. 15, 1976 carried a good size photo of one of our members BILL CONKLIN, of that city, riding his giraffe in the Sloans Lake area during a spring-like day. Bill is a teacher of Special Education, has taught a number of kids to ride unicycles and feels it is a great sport to develop motor coordination. From correspondence with Bill we have learned that there are two cycle shops in the area that build excellent giraffes -

they are:	Steve Kamlet House of Wheels Ltd. 1425 Court Place Denver, Colo. 80202	and	George LaCondo Aurora Schwinn Cyclery 1462 Iola Aurora, Colo. 80010
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Current prices for regular 6' giraffes run around \$125.00

Construction Hint: Ever need a spacer for bearings on your unicycle axle? Wind wire from coathanger several times around any piece of round stock that is about 9/16" in diameter. Then cut off one or more of the coils, align the ends by twisting with two pair of pliers and you have a perfect spacer that will fit your 5/8" axle. Advantage of this type spacer - If bearing has to be removed someday you can pry out the spacer and it will leave you a crack and give you a chance to apply some leverage to remove bearing.



JUGGLER UNICYCLISTS NOTE - JACK MILLER, who was listed among "Sources of Juggling Props" in the Jan. 1975 newsletter, has recently moved back to Missouri. He now has his shop all set up and is again filling orders for juggling props. His new address is: Jack Miller, Star Route Box 147-B, Buffalo, Missouri 65622. Members who are interested in juggling are reminded that their January 1975 newsletter pages 14,15, carried complete list of props Jack and other builders have to offer.

Although a unicycle may appear to be about the simplest vehicle imaginable there are still a number of things that must be given attention from the standpoint of safety if one is to enjoy it without accident or injury.

**PEDALS** First let us consider the pedals - they should be checked often to make sure they are tight and not falling apart. Most unicyclists do not have the long thin type "Pedal-schlüssel" or wrench that is used in bike shops. Pliers or a short wrench just aren't good substitutes and can't give you the necessary leverage to tighten them the proper amount. Most unicycles use the heavier 9/16 size pedal rather than the 1/2" size. This does not mean you use a wrench that size however and the correct size wrench for most 9/16 pedals is 19/32" or 15MM. If you have a long thin wrench this size great - if not it might be wise to stop in at a bike shop and ask them to do it first chance you get. Properly tightened they are not as apt to come loose despite constant impact with the pavement when the cycle is dropped. Pedals with the nuts on the outboard side are apt to suffer damage from constant dropping and need to be inspected often for looseness. On some pedals it is possible to reverse the bolts in the rubbers and put the nuts inboard where they will be less apt to get loosened from impact of dropping the cycle. In event you do lose a nut it is generally better to get a replacement nut, straighten out the pieces and reassemble the old pedal rather than purchase a new pedal. You will find most unicycle pedals a little heavier than most replacement pedals on market today. A good trick if you are bothered with loose nuts on the pedals is to replace them with 10-32 brass hex nuts. Thread is slightly different and although you can tighten them fairly easily they act like an elastic stop nut and resist rattling loose..

**SADDLES** The one other part of a unicycle that shares the most abuse from dropping is the saddle. With the exception of the Schwinn model most unicycle saddles have an angle adjustment that consists of some serrated washers and a clamp holding the saddle frame to the seatpost. Unless the center bolt is tightened very tight when the saddle is assembled the first time it is apt to rock up and down destroying the teeth and making it impossible for the clamp to hold the saddle at the desired angle. This can be dangerous, especially when riding giraffes. Your Ed. has witnessed a giraffe suddenly dumping a rider because of this. So if you have a new unicycle make sure the nuts on the center bolt of the saddle clamp are very tight. For safety reasons it is best to have the front of a giraffe saddle considerably higher than the rear. This not only allows rider to climb on more easily without catching his clothing on rear of saddle but keeps the saddle from going out backwards when rider comes to bump in road and his legs instinctively pedal hard enough to ride over it. If this happens to be hard enough to raise the rider off the saddle slightly at that moment the saddle may scoot out to the rear and leave the rider without any visible means of support. If you have one of the new Japanese form fitting unicycle saddles that is quite wide in front and rear it is strongly suggested that you reshape it into a narrower form as sketched on page 4 of the July 1974 newsletter. Particularly with giraffes the streamlined reworked shape will enable you to climb on without catching the crotch of your jeans on the rear of the saddle. With most form fitting saddles you will also note that after dropping them a few times the front, rear or both front and rear may get wider still and in extreme cases part of the metal frame will actually protrude thru the fabric and cut into the riders legs. If this is happening to your saddle place it upside down on a hard surface, hammer out the ends, then turn it on its side and hammer the sides in to streamline it again. If you then pad it with one long strip of 3" thick foam rubber placed on top and folded under ends and then taped to shape desired you will find you have a comfortable and useful saddle again. An athletic sock can be pulled over each end and stitched together where they overlap if you so desire. The socks can be obtained in various colors and can dress up your uni. Another hazard of some saddles are the clips that hold the fabric to the frame. If you cover the saddle as described above you won't be cutting your fingers on the clips.

**CHAINS:** This of course applies only to giraffes. After transporting your giraffe in car or other vehicle always give the chain a quick inspection to make sure it has not been loosened or the repair link or links knocked open. It could mean trouble if your chain derailed or a link parted while you were riding. (Continued on next page)

As fully explained in the Jan. 1975 newsletter, the most popular and only commercially manufactured giraffe, the Oxford P-21, is best ridden with the chain on the left side. This is because the lower chain wheel (sprocket) is screwed onto the hub with a right hand thread and secured with a jam nut having a left hand thread. In normal forward or backward riding there is very little torque applied to either the sprocket or jam nut as the wheel is free to roll and does so the moment any appreciable torque is applied through pedaling. However in backing up to a curb and climbing on, or using a stop block in the road as many do, there is tremendous torque applied and unless the cycle was assembled with chain on left side the lower sprocket will be very apt to loosen despite the jam nut. Should you encounter any looseness with your lower sprocket do not let it go until you have an accident but use the simple, permanent, quick fix described in the Jan. '75 issue.

**FRAME ALIGNMENT** After checking pedals, saddle, and chain it would be a good idea to stand your giraffe up in front of you and with your eye check to see that the frame is still straight and that the chain lines up properly with the top and bottom sprockets. It is difficult, if not impossible, to build a usable giraffe that will not bend somewhere is allowed to fall, or if bounced around without support during transportation. No manufacturer can guarantee a giraffe against damage if it is allowed to fall and indeed no unicyclist should attempt to ride a giraffe until he has mastered a regular size unicycle and gotten past the falling off stage. Making a giraffe of stronger or heavier materials is not the answer either as the additional weight or bulkiness not only makes it sluggish to handle but all the more apt to bend the pedal arms, frame or crank axle if allowed to drop. It is generally assumed that unicyclists who ride giraffes are proficient enough so that they will not be falling off, or if they do fall off they will be clever enough to catch the unicycle and prevent it from being damaged. If you are one of those who failed to catch your giraffe and when you eyeball it you find it now has a slight bend in the frame don't dismay you may be able to realign it yourself if you are careful and use the following procedure: Stand it on a slant against a tree with the bulging (curved) side out toward you. Place the palm of your hand on the bulging side and with short, controlled, jab-like motions bend the frame back just enough to make it line up again. If you are careful and exercise control when you are doing this you will find you can restore your swayback steed to normal several times before something finally breaks (usually the tubing splits at crank barrel). Many inexperienced unicyclists make all their turns by moving their arms in what resembles a sidestroke in swimming. If you aren't one of these but suddenly find yourself doing it on your giraffe take a good look at it and you may find it is out of line and needs attention. If you also hear chain and sprocket noises it can be very serious and should be attended to before chain jumps off while you are riding.

**Ed's Note:**

Since little has been said about safety in the past and since so many unicyclists have encountered the above problems your editor feels he would be remiss if he did not publish something on them and hopes readers will not feel these two pages could have been used to better advantage.

**ULTIMATE WHEEL RIDERS PLEASE NOTE:**

In a previous issue your Ed. requested photos of members riding ultimate wheels. Once again he would like to ask any member who has a photo of himself riding an ultimate wheel to please send it in. (If anyone is unfamiliar with the term - an Ultimate Wheel is a unicycle with wheel and pedals but no fork or saddle) Since this is a true mark of proficiency and something which many unicyclists have never seen we would like to run pics of members riding them in some future issue. Cost of photos in the newsletter runs very high so we would like to have an entire page of ultimate wheel riders pictures and have it screened and veloxed all at once to save money and at same time give our readers a real treat. If you ride an ultimate wheel won't you try to have a small photo taken and send it in to your Ed. in time for the July or Oct. 1976 issue. Color photos with good contrast are O.K. but good clear black and white about instamatic size are preferred.

Another interesting license plate turned up at your Ed's home recently. It was from Maine, was all letters, and spelled out C L O W N S. It belongs to GARBO and GILLIAN who stopped over on way back to Maine after performances at Madison College in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Garbo and Gillian as the "Celebration Duet" are part of the performing group of the Celebration Mime Theatre of South Paris, Maine. Garbo also teaches in the CLOWNshop (School for Buffoons) as noted on page 5. They have an outstanding duet act and performed throughout the south this past season including performances at Disney World in Florida. Your Ed. has yet to see a more talented young couple who excel in so many phases of the Circus Arts. Midnite found Garbo out under a streetlight riding John Jenack's Circus Bike as a unicycle while Gillian was practicing diligently with a diabolo. At 7:30 AM next morning all three - Garbo, Gillian, and John were outside practicing again and taking advantage of the beautiful summer-like day Long Island was blessed with on March 26th. Later in the day Garbo and Gillian accompanied John to his Circus Arts classes at Nassau Community College where they met Dr. KENNETH VESELAK, Director of the program at Nassau, worked out with the circus arts classes on everything including the flying trapeze, and demonstrated some of their own outstanding talents much to the delight of Dr. Veselak and his Circus Arts Students. The weather was so delightful and the Jenacks as well as Garbo and Gillian were having such a great time that their Thursday nite overnite stay turned into an over the weekend stay and it was with regret that the Jenacks finally bid farewell to them on Sunday as they continued their trip back to So. Paris, Maine.

\* \* \* \* \*

Just after Garbo and Gillian left the Jenacks on March 28 (see article above) BIRGITTA GLEMME a girl IBM engineer from Sweden phoned to say she was in New York City on business but free to spend the day on Long Island. A quick pickup at the R.R. Station and the Jenacks went back to their weekend of play. It was a bit of a surprise when Birgitta climbed on WALLY WATTS 42" wheel unicycle, which the Jenacks have, and without too much difficulty rode up and down the street. Back in Sweden Birgitta rides with GORAN LUNDSTROM and other unicyclists in vicinity of Stockholm. Aside from unicycling her interests include juggling and magic and it goes without saying the day passed very quickly. Her planned short stay of a couple hours lengthened and late that evening she and the Jenacks were having coffee in a hotel up in White Plains, N.Y. where they drove her so she would be on hand for a conference scheduled for the next day. While in Japan about a year ago Goran Lundstrom picked up some very clever ideas for puzzles which he and Birgitta have constructed by casting them out of epoxy. One of the cleverest the Jenacks have ever seen is a triangle shaped pyramid that is formed of three similar pieces. When assembled they form the pyramid with no voids inside. Although it consists of but three identical pieces and the finished shape is just a simple pyramid it is amazing how confusing it can be when one tries to assemble it the first time. The Jenacks find it most interesting to learn not only about puzzles but about Sweden in general and the people and their customs. It is most convenient that so many of them speak and write our language so well. We can't imagine trying to write to them in Swedish. Birgitta brought word that Goran Lundstrom's daughter Cilla, who writes to a number of teen age unicyclists here, really enjoys her correspondence and along with Goran sends their best wishes to all.

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Last minute news on WALLY WATTS just as we are about to go to press is that he phoned Sun. Apr. 4 from Calgary to say he is on his way with his new 42" wheel uni hitchhiking across Canada to Montreal. From there he plans to take the Amtrak to New York and arrive at your Ed's on Sat. Apr. 10th. JOHN RAKOWSKI, who recently rode a bicycle around the world (March '76 issue of BICYCLING magazine carries installment XVII of his fabulous story) plans to join Wally at the Jenacks and give him some first hand info on traveling abroad before Wally embarks on his round the world unicycle ride shortly. By time this newsletter reaches readers he will no doubt be on his way. Wally, with his 42" wheel uni, plans to fly to Prestwick, Scotland, cycle to Edinburgh and then south thru England to the coast. He'll then go from France to Italy to Greece and Turkey, then Iran, Pakistan, India, Malasia, the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand. From there he plans to go by air or boat to Los Angeles and cycle back to his starting place New York. He plans to write a book about his adventures when its all over. Two years is a long time to be on the road with a uni but knowing Wally he'll make it and as news is received from him enroute it will appear in this newsletter-GOOD LUCK WALLY

Again we would like to remind readers that this is your newsletter. It is our desire to include things that are of most interest to you and consistent with our aims which are:

To foster social and athletic interest in, and promote the healthy, wholesome sport of unicycling among youth and adults of the country by establishing voluntary standards of performance and sponsoring and overseeing local and national meets.

To disseminate knowledge and information on all phases of the sport to all interested parties throughout the country via a newsletter and information service.

\* \* \* \* \*

How is your newsletter coming thru? Is it addressed correctly and do you have any suggestions or comments? If your subscription ran out last year, with the Oct. '75 issue, and you failed to renew before Jan. 1, 1976 you may find your Jan. issue was late in getting to you. Our new Secretary Dick Haines took over Jan. 1st and until we got our treasury accounts transferred from Michigan to Ohio there was a bit of a delay in getting out late renewals. This has now been taken care of and by time this issue gets in the mail you should have also received your Jan. issue if such was due you. The expiration code number after your address on newsletter tells you the last issue you will receive under your present subscription. The newsletter comes out four times a year Jan - Apr - July - Oct. If you are not in agreement with the expiration issue kindly let your Ed. know as he has complete records of all issues mailed & date.

UNICYCLE PINS AND CHARMS



The neat little unicycle pins and charms that first made their appearance at the 1975 National Unicycle Meet and were then offered for sale in the Oct. '75 newsletter proved very popular. We therefore placed an additional order and are again offering them at \$2 each plus stamped return envelope from your Newsletter Editor whose address appears below. Full size appearance is as shown at left. When ordering be sure to state whether you wish Pin or Charm. Pin has pin on back while charm has loop on top for use with chain.

William Jenack, Newsletter Editor  
Unicycling Society of America, Inc.  
67 Lion Lane  
Westbury, L.I., New York 11590

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Ed: Enclosed find check, or money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for which send postpaid:

No. of Copies	NAME OF PUBLICATION		TOTALS
_____	BASIC CIRCUS SKILLS by Jack Wiley	@ 6.95	_____
_____	THE UNICYCLE BOOK by Jack Wiley	@ 7.95	_____
_____	THE JUGGLING BOOK by Carlo	@ 2.95	_____
_____	THE DRAMA REVIEW NYU March '74 issue	@ 3.50	_____
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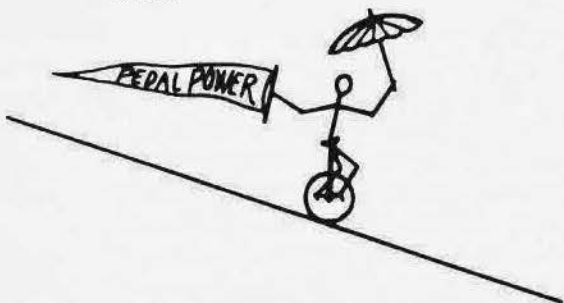
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Dave Brichford  
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Detroit, Mich. 48239

X 10-76

Dear Members: As a Not-For-Profit Corp. we are not in business to make money. However on the reverse side of this page you will find a number of related items we have for sale which may be of interest to you, and which if ordered thru your newsletter editor will not only be of service to you but will aid our treasury and enable us to award more trophies etc. at meets. Please pass along the membership application below to other unicyclists. Your Ed. Bill Jenack

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

Fill in blanks and mail with appropriate amount to the Sec'y Treas. Mr. Dick Haines, 592 Miami, Marion, Ohio 43302. Make all Checks payable to UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA INC.

Name (please print) ..... Date .....

Street Address ..... Age .....

City, State, Zip ..... Phone .... / ..... - .....

Member, \$5.00 annual dues - includes subscription to quarterly newsletter plus membership card and voting privilege. (Foreign members - same price - newsletter mailed as printed matter)

Additional family members. 50¢ ea. .... Age .....  
..... Age .....  
..... Age .....  
..... Age .....

(For members of the immediate family of a member and residing in the same household - same benefits as member except no newsletter)