

NEWSLETTER



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FELLOW UNICYCLISTS: January 1977 marks the start of the fourth year of our not-for-profit organization and we feel we have come a long way and have been of real service to unicyclists everywhere.

At our annual membership meeting in August incumbent officers PAUL FOX, President, and DICK HAINES, Sec'y Treas. were reelected. ROBERTO TSCHUDIN was voted our new Vice President to take place of retiring V.P. JOHN WHITE (See "Meet Your New Officers" - page 4).

Plans are under way for a 1977 National Meeting of some type in Marion, Ohio August 20-21. Since last year's meet in August '76 former V.P. John White has contacted clubs that participated and from a questionnaire submitted to them has come up with some constructive ideas and guidelines for the upcoming 1977 Annual Meeting.

President PAUL FOX wishes to announce that a meeting is being called of interested parties the first Sunday of March (Mar.6,1977) in Marion, Ohio. At the meeting the rules and regulations for the 1977 get-together will be finalized and Apr. issue of newsletter will carry the results.

As noted in Editorial, pg 22 of last issue, our National Meetings are quite an undertaking and it is hoped that all groups will pull together to make our '77 one another great milestone. We are not an organization like the Olympics where hundreds of committees can take care of the most minute details but we sure try to run the best get-together we can with a wonderful group of dedicated workers. Letters to your Ed. Since Aug. indicate most everyone attending felt it was the best ever and they returned home with a wealth of ideas and information and a lot of new found friends. If you have never attended do plan to join us next August and meet the greatest people in the world. - Your Ed.



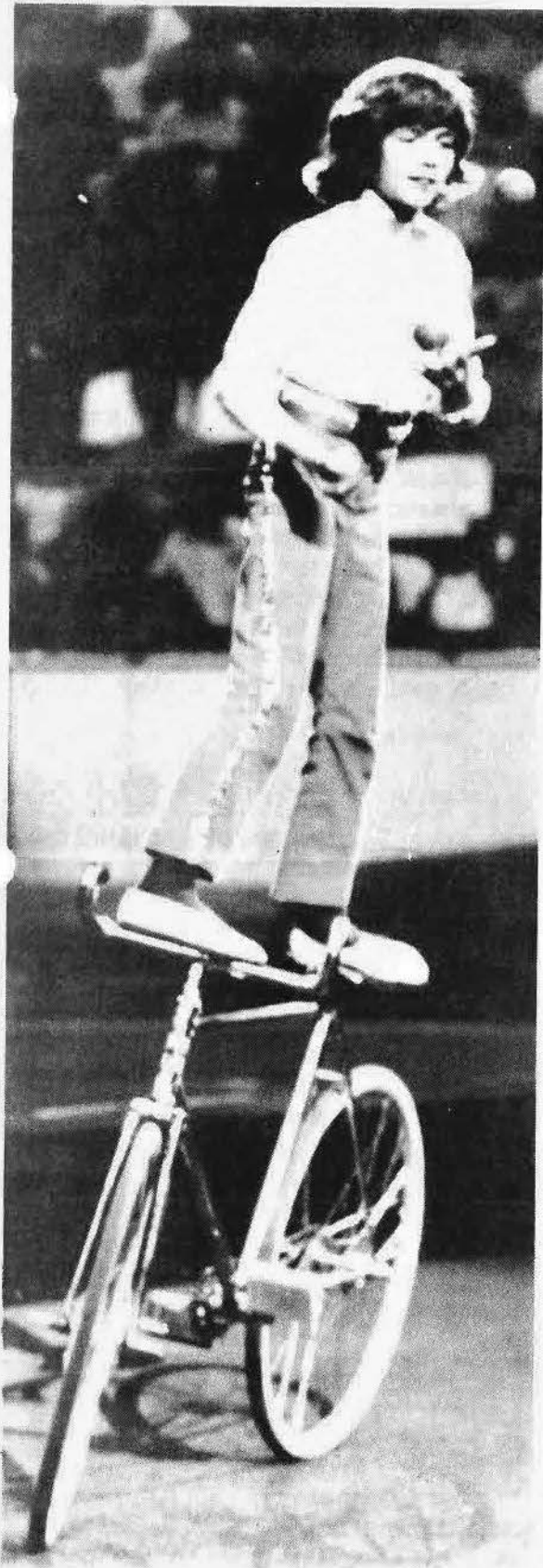
BARRY LAPPY - RBBB CIRCUS 1975-76

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Our special write-up this issue features BARRY LAPPY the sensational young cyclist from England who for the past two years has been thrilling audiences of the RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM AND BAILEY CIRCUS (Red Unit). Barry, whose real name is Barry Lapworth, hails from Hastings, England. With his parents RAY and PHYLLIS he has traveled and performed in practically every large city in the U.S. Your Ed. first became acquainted with Barry through a photo that appeared in the N.Y. Sunday News June 9, 1974. The photo was of Barry riding what was considered at the time the World's Smallest Bicycle". Pasting this clipping to an airmail envelope with simply the address: Barry Lappy, Hastings, England (and no return address) your Ed. mailed it along with a note inside that said: "Barry, if you get this I'd like to hear from you as I too have a lot of novel bikes". The letter got through, a reply was forthcoming, and it was the start of a great friendship between the Lapworths and the Jenacks. Ray Lapworth, Barry's Dad, owned a Cycle Shop in England and when Barry was 7½ yrs old Ray made him his first unicycle. Ray who is not only a clever mechanic, but understands the tempos associated with circus acts, had to learn to ride it first just to prove it could be ridden but then Barry took over and his progress was phenomenal. A year later he appeared on the prime time BLUE PETER TV Show. The BILLY SMART CIRCUS which is to England what RRRB is to U.S.A. picked him up and he was televised in Eurovision. Next thing the Lappys knew Barry had a three month contract with the HUNGARIAN STATE CIRCUS and was performing in BUDAPEST. It was there that KENNETH FELD of RINGLING BROS. spotted him and asked Ray and Phyllis to let him come to America to be featured in The Greatest Show on Earth for 2 years. It took considerable persuasion but Feld was persistent and later in England Ray decided to give up his business and give Barry the chance many boys and girls dream of - to be a featured performer in the Greatest Show on Earth. A letter to your Ed. brought news that the entire family would arrive in Ft. Everglade, Florida Nov. 20, 1974. At Winter quarters of RBBB in Venice Fla. there were rehearsals in December and Barry opened with the circus on Jan. 2, 1975. For the past two years Barry performed in a total of 1013 performances and although not from a circus family probably set a record as far as tradition in show biz goes. In the 2 years he never missed a performance, spectacular, or finale. There were times when he was suffering from an injury, sick, or had mechanical problems with his equipment (but true to tradition upheld "The Show Must Go On" principle and did his act anyway. Between performances all over the USA Barry appeared on just about every talk show and major TV network and charmed audiences with his skill on the cycles, his delightful English accent, and his warm friendly little boy personality. When he Styled at the end of his act it always brought the house down and his charm came through the same way on his TV performances. The little photos on our cover show Barry doing his giraffe unicycle act in which he rode up a series of ramps to a small platform. There he let go with one foot and while rocking and slowly rotating 360 degrees passed a hula hoop up around one leg, over the top of his body, and down and off the other leg. Your Ed. wishes to thank KENNETH BRITTON of Canandaigua, N.Y. for supplying this photo - he took it while RBBB was playing in the Rochester area. The other little insert was taken by your Ed. in 1975 when RBBB was playing Madison Square Garden NYC. It shows Barry riding his "World's Smallest Bicycle". There are a number of claimants to the world's smallest bicycle but purists agree that Barry's, which is a true scale mini diamond frame bike, is still the smallest. There are other two wheel cycles that have smaller wheels but they do not have the typical bike frame and usually have a long extended saddle post. Since his feet alone keep him from getting close enough to sit on the saddle Barry, of necessity, must ride his bike in a standing position which makes his feat all the more incredible. After the last show of the 1976 season, Cleveland, Ohio Nov. 21st, the Lappys rushed Barry's props 20 miles to the airport, started them on their way to England via air freight, and then drove all night non stop to your Eds in Westbury, Long Island. They arrived about noon Monday morning and Mom and Dad were ready to hit the sack. Barry, who had slept most of the way however was ready to ride and he and John Jenack got out John's two circus bikes and practiced the rest of the day. Your Ed. had the next two days off so with RICHARD SIEGEL joined Barry and John at the Nassau Community College Gym where they spent most of the next two days working out on the circus bikes and unicycles. The small photos on page 3 are of Barry and Richard Siegel and Barry riding on the head tube of a Bauer Bike obtained from Richard Siegel by John Jenack. Last year when Barry outgrew

(Cont. on Pg 3)



BARRY LAPPY
Juggling on Circus Bike

the small circus bike his father had built him in England Richard Siegel saved the day by letting Barry have one of his Bauer Bikes from Germany. Richard, who is now retired and lives on Long Island was a former Artistic Bike Rider himself from Germany and has done a great deal to promote the sport here. Barry had the bike stripped and chromed and it is a sparkling beauty now and glitters like a star in his act.

The large photo at the left is of Barry doing figure eights on his bike while juggling three balls. John Jenack who teaches juggling and unicycling in the Circus Arts Course at Nassau Community College, Garden City, N.Y. taught Barry to juggle during some of the several visits the Lappys made to the Jenacks the past couple years and he is quite elated that Barry now does some in his act. The photo at left was taken by the organist during a RBRB performance in Bloomington, Minnesota in August 1976. The original is in color and is a treasured memento in your Ed's album.

Wednesday evening Nov. 24th the Jenacks, with great reluctance drove Barry and his Mom and Dad to JFK airport and after two fabulous years with the Greatest Show on Earth the Greatest Little Cyclist (Barry Lappy) flew back home to England. A recent letter brings news that Barry has had many fine offers since returning to England, will choose the ones he and his parents feel are best, and at 12 yrs of age will continue his fabulous career as a top performer on cycles. Our best wishes to him. PS A command performance for the Queen is also planned in the near future for Barry Lappy



RICHARD SIEGEL
BARRY LAPPY



BARRY
Riding Head Tube



Pictured at the left is our new Vice President ROBERTO TSCHUDIN sitting atop Tom Miller's big wheel unicycle. That's Tom on the left and Gordon Kruse on right. Gordon was our first Sec'y Treasurer.

Roberto is an Attorney in Washington D.C. in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia and for the past couple years has been a most ardent unicyclist. On Jan. 28 last year Roberto, and the sport of unicycling, received considerable attention after SALLY JESSY RAPHAEL, who runs a Talk Show on Radio Station WMCA in N.Y. told an amusing story on the air about Roberto being arrested for riding his unicycle on a sidewalk in Washington, D.C. It seems that Roberto and a friend were out riding their unicycles one day along Connecticut Ave. N.W. when they encountered a policeman who did not think they should be riding uni-

cycles on the sidewalk and who ultimately arrested them on a charge of disorderly conduct. This was after Roberto, who last year appeared before the City Council as an expert on bicycle law, told him he was in error on the law. In the court appearance that followed Superior Court Judge Charles W. Halleck found the unicyclists not guilty. Halleck, reading the city's bicycle regulations, said there is no rule that forbids the riding of a bicycle in a safe manner on a sidewalk in that area. Also he said, there appears to be no regulations affecting unicycles. "The police officer", said Halleck, "is wrong . . . I think he's got a whole lot better things to do than harassing people for that"

LINGERING MEMORIES OF THE 1976 NATIONAL MEET

The Oct. '76 NL was such a biggie, with photos and all, that your Ed. was unable to include some of the comments he would have liked to on the Meet. Some of the highlights that are still being recalled with pleasure follow:

FRED MILLER backing up his fellow unicyclists of the Paul Fox Club by rocking effortlessly & endlessly on his extra high giraffe while they performed for judges on their six footers.

The terrific musical accompaniment afforded the Redford Club by their own band plus the darling clown performance by TERESA HEMMINGER and NANCY BRICHFORD of the same group.

The incredible "Drunk Riding Act" performed by LARRY EVANS of St. HELENS, Newbury, Ohio

The smile on TRACY WILSON'S Face when she finally placed in a race after flubbing several in a row by falling off (See photo #13 pg 4 of Oct. NL)

The amazing number of giraffe unicycles in the parade through Marion

BUTCH BALMAIN'S gigantic Sousaphone, his rendition of Yankee Doodle while program was getting under way, and the looks of Marion residents when they spotted ROBERTO TSCHUDIN'S VW Bug with Butch in his clown outfit and his horn protruding from the sun roof.

The delicious Pot-luck Supper at the school on Saturday night.

The scary ending of DICK HAMMEL'S High Wheeler act.

The spectacular sight of CAROL HAINES skipping rope on that extra high giraffe

The neat appearance of DAVE MARTY'S WHEEL BARONS Van and their banner

THE WHIRLWHEELS panorama of our country's history and the chilling sight of that American Eagle (RON REYNOLDS) flapping its wings as it rode along on a giraffe unicycle in the parade.

The super speed of the BHB relay team of Cleveland who despite a bad start almost won race.

The way the girls were drawn to those 10 GALLON HAT TEXANS JOEY SCHEURICH and NICK POPE

Our thanks to HANS BORN, Secretary of the FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE AMATEUR DE CYCLISME, D-6520, WORMS, Gaustrasse 77 for these outstanding Kunstradfahren (Artistic Bike Riding) photos. The World plus European Championships were held Nov 4-6 1976

UCI
FIAC

in Munster and these photos show some of the champions in action. We also wish to thank the photographers M. Greber and I. Gemeinder whose cameras captured the action as noted below:



1. European Lady Champs Rieke & Miessner doing Head Tube Raiser
2. Former World Champion Gerhard Obert doing Back Stand Raiser
3. European Champions Reinhold Korn & Rudolf Fries doing Head Tube Raiser & Shoulder Sit
4. Ursala Stifel doing Lady Seat Raiser one handed
5. European Champion Bike Club from Steinbach doing "Doppeltorring im Steigerfahren" a fancy figure in which a line of three riders has its center rider circled by three others - all 6 riders in Raisers

LAS VEGAS SUN

Friday, October 29, 1976



McPeak Reclaims Crown

Photo by Franklin Berger

High wire artist Steve McPeak reclaimed his place Thursday in the Guinness Book of World Records by riding a 41-foot unicycle across a span of wire 40 feet above the parking lot at the Circus Circus Hotel. McPeak held record for the tallest unicycle and high wire act until several months ago when a young upstart broke his record with a 34-foot unicycle. His performance will be aired on a national television network early next year, during a David Frost "Guinness Book of World Records" show. McPeak said it took him two weeks to build the unicycle.

There was considerable excitement in Las Vegas the last week in October when one of our founder members STEVE McPEAK set about regaining his crown as the rider of world's highest unicycle. In February 1969 Steve set a world's record by riding a 31'2" unicycle and it was duly noted in subsequent GUINNESS RECORD BOOKS. The record stood until Aug. 22, 1974, when DANNY HAYNES, age 17, of Hamilton, Ohio topped it by riding one 34'5" tall. Steve was too busy with his High wire escapades to do anything about it (see "The Ultimate Stunt", page 4 in Jan. 1976 newsletter and also Hi-Wire Uni Photo in October '76 issue page 16) until October 1976 when he decided to get his crown back and do it in a way that would leave little doubt as to who was the greatest unicyclist and high wire artist in the world. In two weeks he constructed a 41' unicycle and was ready to go. He made use of his high wire circus rigging and on Oct. 28, 1976, with DAVID FROST interviewing him from a "cherry picker" on one of the tower platforms, rode the 41' unicycle across the high wire some 40 feet above the ground to set a new official world's record.

We wish to thank the LAS VEGAS SUN for their kind permission to reprint the article and photo at left.

Latest information on the above is that Steve's amazing ride on a 41 ft unicycle on a 40 ft highwire will be aired in the Metropolitan N.Y. area sometime in January 1977 on the DAVID FROST GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS show. Check your TV program for exact time. JOHN McPEAK, Steve's brother will also appear on same show breaking world's record by juggling for 6 hours and 45 minutes.

Possibly February

What is Steve up to now? - Well, the day after Thanksgiving he arrived at your editors, stayed a little over a week, and commuted to New York City where he made preliminary plans for the filming of several new spectacular feats in 1977. Monday, Dec. 6 he flew to South America to look over the tramway cable to Sugar Loaf Peak in Rio de Janeiro. It is roughly 1300 ft high and about a half mile long and plans are to film him walking it sometime in 1977. From Rio he planned to visit Angel Falls in Venezuela and make plans for a similar filming there. He then planned to return to Las Vegas the last couple of weeks in Dec. '76 and make up the necessary attachments to enable him to use his rigging in New York's Radio City Music Hall. January 2nd he is due back east to start on a complimentary cruise of the Caribbean aboard a cruise carrying a number of other Guinness Book celebrities.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS 1977



Both RED and BLUE units of RINGLING BROS. And BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS are starting their season early in 1977. Listed below are the schedules of both units for the first quarter of 1977

RED UNIT

Dec 30-Jan 2	Venice, Florida
Jan 4-11	St. Petersburg, Florida
Jan 14-16	West Palm Beach, Florida
Jan 18-31	Miami Beach, Florida
Feb 2-6	Jacksonville, Florida
Feb 8-13	Birmingham, Alabama
Feb 15-20	Greensboro, No. Carolina
Feb 23-Mar 1	Norfolk, Virginia
Mar 3-6	Hampton Roads, Virginia
Mar 8-13	Richmond, Virginia
Mar 15-27	Baltimore, Maryland

BLUE UNIT

Jan 31-Feb 2	Venice, Florida
Feb 4-6	Lakeland, Florida
Feb 9-20	Atlanta, Georgia
Feb 22-23	Savannah, Georgia
Feb 25-27	Asheville, No. Carolina
Mar 2-6	Raleigh, No. Carolina
Mar 8-9	Fayetteville, No. Carolina
Mar 11-13	Columbia, So. Carolina
Mar 15-20	Charlotte, No. Carolina
Mar 22-27	Knoxville, Tennessee
Mar 30-Apr 3	Cincinnati, Ohio

Not to be outdone by his brother Steve, JOHN McPEAK of Las Vegas was busy making headlines himself last October. On October 29, 1976 on the stage at CIRCUS CIRCUS in Las Vegas he established a world record in juggling endurance. It was taped on the stage at Circus Circus and he has 3 spots in the 90 minute special that was filmed. He performed for 6 hours 45 Min. and wound up with very sore arms and an inflamed wrist. He juggled clubs for one hour and small handballs for the remaining 5 hrs and 45 minutes. John, who in your editor's opinion, is one of the greatest jugglers in the world has been working and getting terrific audience response in the Broadway musical CARNIVAL playing in Las Vegas. However he will soon be leaving U.S. to perform in Europe. On Monday Dec. 27 your Ed. (or Johnny) will pick him up at JFK airport and for two days John McPeak and John Jenack plan to practice at the gym in Nassau Community College in Garden City, N.Y. On Jan. 1, 1977 John McPeak is due in Amsterdam, Holland for rehearsals. He will be working in a number of European nite clubs. On Feb. 1 1977 he will debut in the FRIEDRICHSTADTPALAST a 2500 seat theater in EAST BERLIN. His six months planned stay in Europe may turn into a much longer one and we all want to wish him the greatest success. Many of our members will no doubt remember the great juggling performance he put on for us at our 1974 National Unicycle Meet in Marion, Ohio.

WOBBLING WALLY WATTS (Round the World on a Unicycle)

Last report from Wally Watts, Nov. 1976, was that his rebuilt cycle was terrific, that he had left Italy, was riding thru Greece, and was planning to enter Turkey next. No word for 6 wks as us concerned, especially after those earthquakes over there, and we are attempting to check on his health and whereabouts via the Embassies and News Agencies. Hopefully we will have good news from him for our April newsletter. (See last minute news on Wally - Page 9)

Successful "Clownshop" Enters Its 3rd Year

Fred Garbo and Bob Berky will stage, once again, their famed clown workshop at the Celebration Barn, beginning May 17, 1977, and running until June 4. The two instructors, "skilled buffoons", have both been members of the Celebration Mime Theatre since 1973, Garbo currently involved in teaching and performing at the MIMESchool in Rochester, New York. The three-week study is designed for people to explore their potential in clowning. The 20 students will live in dormitories provided, one for men, one for women. Bathrooms, showers, mattresses, sheets, pillows, blankets, kitchen facilities are all provided. The students will supply their own food.

Classes will be held five days a week, in the mornings and evenings, with fieldwork on weekends. Each session will run for two hours or longer, and the remainder of the day devoted to clowning and improvisational projects. Students must attend all classes and should be physically in good shape upon arrival (and able to juggle 3 balls). The comprehensive fee for the course is \$190; a deposit of \$50 is required to hold space. For more information, write THE CLOWN SHOP, Celebration Mime Theatre, South Paris, Maine 04281.

CELEBRATION DUET

featuring

GARBO AND GILLIAN

Two of our members GARBO & GILLIAN of the Celebration Mime Theatre, So. Paris, Maine are an outstanding Mime Duet and if they appear anywhere near your area don't miss them. You will find few vaudeville acts whose entertainment can compare with the Mime act of these two beautiful young people. Some of their scheduled performances for 1977 are:

Jan 29	11AM	Performances at Corning Glass Center
	2PM	Auditorium, Corning, New York
Feb 14	AM	Greenwich Country Day Sch. Conn.
	17	2 Shows at The Hyde Sch. Bath, Maine
	18	7:30PM Gould Acad. Bethel, Maine
Mar 12	7:30PM	Amherst C.H.S. Amherst, N.Y.
	22	9:30AM Mineola Jr. H.S. Mineola, N.Y.
		1:15PM
	23	9:40AM Mineola Sr. H.S. Mineola, N.Y.
		1:15PM
	24	10AM Arlington Sr.H.S. Arlington, N.Y.
	25	10AM Millbrook H.S. Millbrook, N.Y.

A UNICYCLIST AT THE OLYMPICS Part II (cont. from Page 13)

The next morning was our last day at the Olympics. We got up early, planning to have a whole day to spend in Montreal, but trouble with the van's exhaust system kept us in Potsdam until noon. When we finally got into Montreal it was early afternoon and many people had already left the city, anticipating the rush. While walking through the metro station to the complex I spotted a unicyclist in the crowd ahead but didn't get a chance to catch up with him. Later on that day I ran into him again, almost tripping over him this time. He had a very battered unicycle of an unidentified make, a large backpack, and several sheets of cardboard with newspaper clippings pasted all over them. He was tying up his backpack and didn't notice me, so I took a minute or two to look over his clippings, most of which were in German and French. From what I could make out his name was Joe Faul, and he was from Bamberg, West Germany. He was attempting to ride around the world on a unicycle, and most of the clippings seemed to deal with the problems he had encountered on his trip, which were many and varied. I had a unicycle with me, and as soon as he finished with his backpack I tried to speak to him. Then I got the surprise of my life. As soon as he noticed my unicycle he became very angry and began to yell at me in German. Then he pushed me away, and if I got his meaning correctly, told me to get lost in four or five languages. I wasn't about to argue with him, so I left. We found out later that he had been having a lot of trouble getting sponsors for his trip, and was arrested for breaking through the guards onto the field in the Olympic Stadium.

Before leaving that evening we saw John Unger, Luc Tremblay and Andre St. Jean once more, and arranged for them to come down to visit us. We stopped in to visit and say good-bye to Fay and Grace Jenack and Molly, and then began the long drive home. It wasn't until the next day that we found out we had missed the Streaker at the closing ceremonies, but that's another story altogether.

FRANCIS "Smitty" SMITH of Seattle, Washington has made several improvements on the motorized unicycle he purchased from FRANK MALICK a while back and some day before long we hope to have a picture of him astride his Easy Rider. Smitty has done a great deal to promote unicycling in the northwest and the cycles he has built for himself are some of the most beautiful your Ed. has ever seen. Since Smitty is a flight engineer and does considerable traveling he needed a unicycle that would pack into a reasonable size piece of luggage. Being that he is over six foot tall it presented a bit of a problem. He solved it by making up a unicycle with a slightly smaller wheel and a lot longer saddle post. The two parts when disassembled are close to same length and an observer would never suspect one piece of luggage he carries has a unicycle inside. Wonder if Flight Engineers have to go thru the X-ray checks at airports and what the operators think when they see all that machinery inside.



John Jenack took a bus trip from N.Y.C. to Pontiac for the Uni Round-Up Oct. 3 and he has a money saving tip for others who use bus transportation. A round trip Greyhound Bus ticket N.Y.C. to Detroit is listed at about \$88.00. An excursion trip ticket to Chicago from N.Y.C. with a stop in Detroit is but \$62.00. By taking the excursion and getting off in Detroit a traveler can save about \$26.00. If you travel by bus check on excursion trips to places beyond where you plan to go. You may find you can save an appreciable amount.

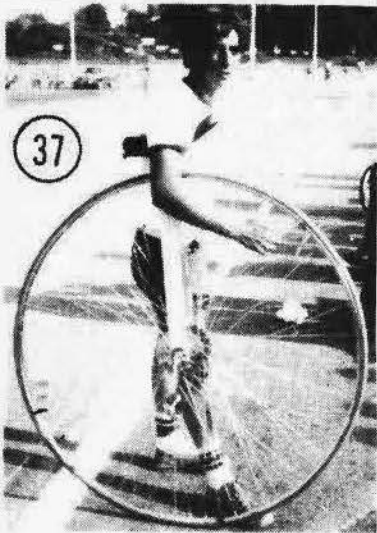
From THE GREAT Y CIRCUS in Redlands, Calif. comes news that two of their unicyclists EMILY and LEXIE MELCHER were selected to ride in the annual Christmas Parade at DISNEYLAND.

Your Ed. received a recent but undated TACOMA NEWS TRIBUNE clipping and photo showing JIM PEPTY, age 29, of Grand Junction, Colorado riding his 39' 10" unicycle in attempt to break existing records as listed in Guinness Bk. Article states the feat cost him about \$1000.00. Hope he won't be too disappointed when network TV airs the David Frost Guinness Bk of Records Show and he sees Steve McPeak riding a 41 footer on a 40 foot highwire.

The Second Annual Variety Show of the LOCUST VALLEY, L.I. HIGH SCHOOL, held on Dec. 2, 1976, raised over \$700 for their scholarship fund. The following excerpt is from a newspaper article by GREGG WARD: "The Show itself was excellent. The first act was quite a thrill because of the professional quality of the two jugglers, THE JENALAKS." The Jenalaks happen to be two of our members John Jenack and Lynn Veselak and they did both a juggling and a unicycling act during the show. LYNN VESELAK, whose Dad Dr. KENNETH VESELAK has done so much to promote Circus Arts at Nassau Community College, Garden City, N.Y., is but 13 years of age yet is already a polished performer. It appears she shares her Dad's great interest in the Circus Arts.

The week after Christmas was a busy one at the Jenack residence. JOHN McPEAK enroute to Europe from Las Vegas arrived at JFK and was picked up Dec. 27th right on schedule. For the next two days thru the efforts of Dr. Veselak he was able to practice his juggling in the gym at Nassau Community College. Joining him at the Jenacks and at practice sessions at the college were BOB DHONDT of Portland, Maine, MITCH WIENER of St. Augustine, Fla., ADAM LADD of Freeport, N.Y., PATTI DIETZ of E. Meadow, N.Y. and of course JOHN JENACK. Your Ed. went along to take some more movies of McPeak in action and he sure is one spectacular juggler. After helping him repair his continental trunk, his juggling cups, and his prop table and going over everything that had happened since his last visit the Jenacks drove him back to JFK on Dec 29 and he took off for London and Amsterdam. (See additional write-up on John on page 7)

LAST MINUTE NEWS ON WOBBLING WALLY - JOHN UNGER of Montreal phoned your Ed. to report that newspapers there carried a report that Wobbling Wally had returned to Edmonton. Your Ed. phoned Wally's mother who confirmed the report and says he is O.K. Seems he ran into some problems other than mechanical. He pulled an Achilles Tendon in one leg and had to spend some time on Island of Crete before he could go on and then the earthquakes and deep snow in Turkey made impossible for him to continue at this time. Rather than stay there to wait out the weather he decided to return home to Canada, work for six months to recoup his finances, and then return to continue his ride around the world. We'll have more on Wally in next issue.



Eighteen year old TOM MILLER of 3005 March, G.A.F.B., Indiana 46971 amazed everyone with the clever way he constructed the large wheel unicycle he brought with him to the 1976 National Meet. Tom did a lot of research and then one by one solved all the problems that arose as he built it. Here part by part is how Tom went about it:

RIM For his rim Tom used two regular 26 x 1 3/8" rims. He made one hacksaw cut between two spoke holes in each, straightened them out, and had them welded together into one big rim of about 45 1/2". The rims had 36 holes each but Tom was afraid the resulting wheel would be too large for him to reach the pedals so he cut off an extra 4 hole section of one and ended up with a rim with 68 holes. In his research he learned that any number divisible by four would be O.K. To shape the two rims into one large circular one he drew a circle of about 46" in diameter on a piece of plywood and bent the pieces to fit into that circle as accurately as possible. To straighten the rims he kneeled on the bottom of each and spread them little by little with his hands and elbows. Getting the ends straightened

properly presented a bit of a problem as he couldn't seem to get the necessary leverage. So he clamped a piece of a bicycle frame in a vise (crank barrel), padded it and then stuck the ends of the rims in it and pulled carefully to shape it to the proper curve.

SPOKES Tom found he could save a bundle by using regular .080 gage spokes. Attaching two spokes in tandem allowed him to get the necessary length and the splice in center was quite decorative. Although he needed only 136 he bought 145 and got a better price buying them in quantity. It also gave him a few extra to experiment with. His total cost for spokes was \$8.00 which is a tremendous saving over the \$1.00 a spoke being asked for the ones made commercially. He suggests you buy the longest spoke you can get over 12". In use one spoke is laced thru the hub flange, a nipple screwed on halfway (Tom suggests you get the longest nipples you can) and then another spoke is screwed into the top of the nipple extending the spoke to the necessary length which is about 20". He then cut off the excess over 20", filed the end flat, and threaded the cut end for a distance of about 3/4" with a 2-56 die. (This is a fairly common die that can be obtained in hardware stores or bicycle shops. A die holder is also necessary and can be obtained in most any hardware store. To insure a tight connection between the two spokes Tom used a spoke wrench on the nipple and a pair of visegrip pliers on the spoke. In use they seem to hold up very well. Tom didn't say just what lacing pattern he followed in spoking up the wheel but from the photo it appears he used what is known as a Cross Four pattern which means each spoke crosses four others on its way to the rim. If you are unfamiliar with this a close look at most any bicycle wheel will probably make it clear.

HUB For the hub Tom laid out a 6" pattern on paper and center punched right thru the paper to mark the two 5/64" steel plates he had cut out for the two hub flanges. His exact pattern is reproduced on page if anyone would like to copy it directly. The center hole is 5/8" for the axle and the other large holes are 1/2" and are for appearance only. The holes for the spokes can be drilled with a #40 drill and then slightly countersunk.

AXLE Tom suggests you use a good grade of 5/8" round steel stock for the axle and he made his 8" long. 4140 steel is O.K. The flats for the crank pins can be hacksawed and filed on each end of the axle but care must be used not to make them too deep or the tapered crankpins will slip right thru them. In assembly the hub flanges (6" disks) were centered 5" apart on the axle and welded in place.

FORK For the fork Tom used 51 1/2" of 2" x 3/16" flat steel. He cut two pieces 24 5/8" long for the tines of the fork and one piece 2 1/4" for the top of the fork. Centered one inch from one end of each fork piece he centerpunched and drilled a 1 3/8" hole to accommodate the bearings. (Suitable bearings can be ordered from Schwinn through any Schwinn Dealer) Tom's bearings came to about \$7.00. Tom took the three pieces of the fork to a welder and had them welded together after first putting a slight bend 6" from the bearing end as shown in his diagram. He also had a short piece of seat post welded to top for the saddle to fit. After lacing up his wheel he spread the bottom of the forks enough to get the 8" axle into the bearings and used about a 3/8" spacer on each side. He then put a washer or two on the

outside of fork, mounted his crank arms and pedals and was ready for a tire.

TIRE Tom contacted DICK HAIMEL, 970 Ray Street, Huntington, Ind. 46750 about getting a suitable length of 7/8" hard rubber for the tire (Dick was one of the sources of rubber listed in the Jan. 1975 newsletter). Since Huntington was only about an hours ride from Tom's, he and his Dad drove out to see Dick, purchased the 12 ft of 7/8" rubber for less than \$10 and for another \$10 had Dick install it for him. With a regular uni saddle in place Tom was ready to ride when he returned home and inside of a few minutes had it mastered. He has a couple suggestions to others who may build such a cycle - they are:

Since you need a little more leverage for the larger wheel you should use a crankarm of at least 6 1/2"

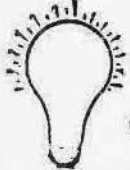
Never ride faster than you can run. He says if you do, and you fall off, you've had it. Ed's note: Big wheel unis are great fun but when you return to a regular size uni you feel you are getting nowhere.



Photo by Jerry Bengel

RONALD MARLER of Sacramento, California also has a large wheel unicycle the photo of which appears at the left. His method of making it up was considerably higher in price but very clever. Here is his description of this cycle:

The large unicycle I ride has a 48" wheel. It was made by the Boneshaker Bike Co., Cleveland, Ohio. Hank's Bike Shop, a local Schwinn dealer made some alterations so that it can be used either as a unicycle or old time bike. The post above the wheel was cut off to within 3" of the wheel frame and threaded, so a unicycle seat can fit very close to the wheel. To convert it to a bike the unicycle seat is removed, a sleeve about 8" long is screwed onto the post and a small steel pin is inserted to make the sleeve solid (drill a hole through the 8" pipe and post to insert the steel pin) The framework containing the small back wheel and the bike seat is then slipped over the post, and the handlebar installed. It can be changed over in about five minutes.

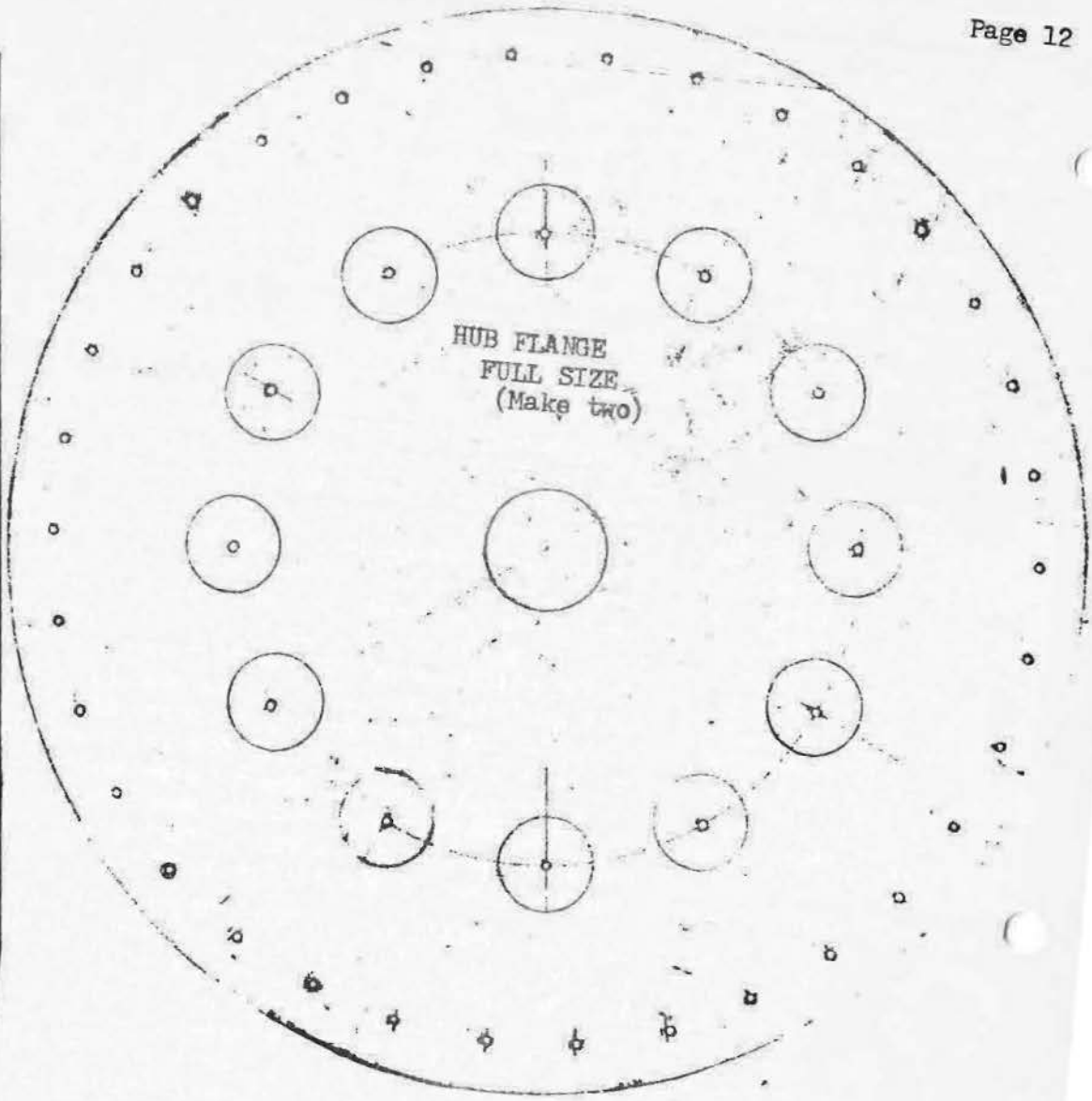
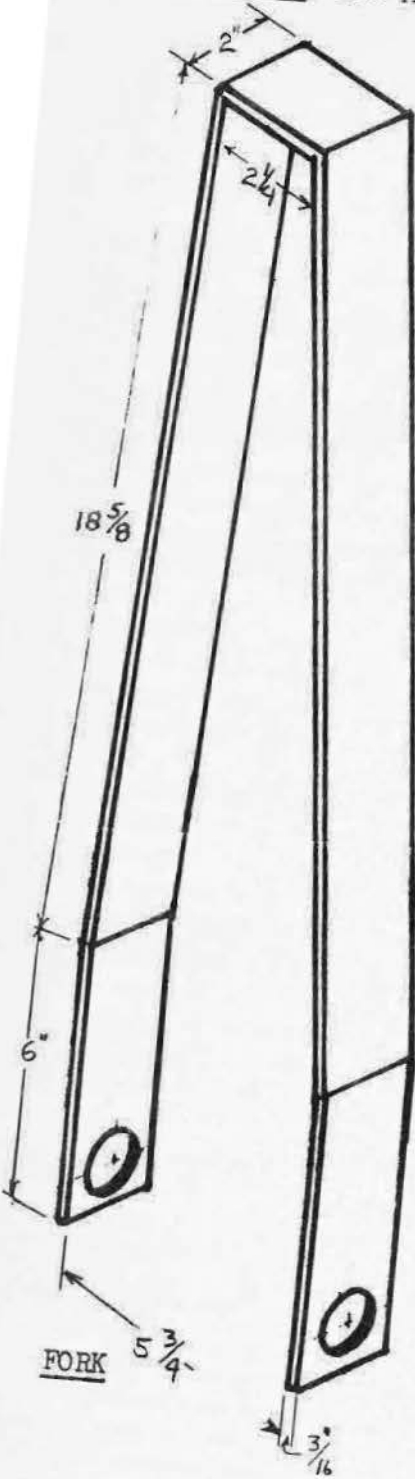


GOOD
IDEA

JIM KUCERA, Consumer Relations, Schwinn Bicycle Co. suggests that if members are looking for an inexpensive fixed gear hub to use in constructing giraffes or Circus Bikes the hubs used on exercisers might be just the thing. Your Ed. looked as a Schwinn exerciser recently and agrees. Incidentally any part of any Schwinn product can be ordered through a Schwinn Dealer. Jim also mentioned that in regarding to making your own fixed sprocket hubs a word of caution about difficulty in replacing spokes after sprocket is welded in place might be in order. Thanks Jim. Ed's note: Some sprockets have circular slots. If you can find such they facilitate the replacing of broken spokes. Some other sprockets are held on with a snapping and if the other part only is welded to the hub the sprocket itself can be easily removed for spoking.



Your Ed. received a number of inquiries on the 2 center photos page 12 of the Oct. NL. No, they are not Ultimate Wheels but are close and it was felt they were of sufficient interest to include with the others. The one was taken at 1976 New Year's party at the Horton's in Pasadena and shows JOHN HELD riding his 12" wheel uni that has no pedals. John is very adept on it and even rides in fig 8's by simply walking the tire. The small wheel makes this a particularly good cycle upon which to practice the stunt of walking the tire. The other photo is a 1968 picture taken of JOHN JENACK on a refined version of SKI-X-ER (it has air tires). The usual Ski-x-er seen at Sun Valley and other western ski areas are generally just two plywood disks 6" apart with pedals on them. Your Ed. purchased one from The Alpine Hut in Seattle about 1967 and then made the refined version for John.



UNI-SKI
 In some parts of the country Winter has arrived and snow abounds. For some great fun make up one of these Uni-skis - Look up your Jan. 1975 newsletter for construction details.

Next morning we were up early and off to Montreal once more. Cousin Molly joined us and in no time at all we were well into Canada and rapidly approaching the Olympic Village. Everything seemed to be going fine, when suddenly a tire blew out and the car rolled wearily to a halt. Michael and I got out to change the tire - no easy feat when the trunk is completely filled with unicycles and juggling props and the spare tire is at the bottom of the trunk! - while Molly waved on the oncoming cars. We got the tire changed, and half an hour later we were off again, with fingers crossed and no spare tire.

Around noon we got into the Olympic Complex and I set up in the same area we had before. I did a few shows before breaking for lunch, while Mike and Molly took off to see some of the sights. During one of the breaks between shows, a guy came over and identified himself as a fellow unicyclist, and asked if he could try a few of the cycles. I was doubtful at first, but then decided to give him a chance. Before I knew it he was on my six-footer, riding circles around me - a surprise to say the least! His name was JOHN UNGER (Now a member of the U.S.A.) and for the next week he came to almost all of my shows.

A little later in the day two French-Canadian unicyclists, complete with unicycles and some juggling balls, dropped in and stayed for a few shows. They were LUC TREMBLAY and ANDRE ST. JEAN, and we spent several hours swapping tricks. Luc and Andre came back many times during the next week, and we took each other's addresses, promising to keep in touch. (Ed. note - For more on Luc and Andre, see page 14 of this issue.)

By the time Mike and Molly returned, and I decided to call it a day or pass out from exhaustion, it was well past dinner time and we were all hungry. We loaded the car, checked the tires, and headed back to N.Y., stopping only to pick up some munchies on the way. Once back in Potsdam we ate an incredible amount of sandwiches, drank a few gallons of orange juice, and then headed for bed and some much needed rest.

In the morning (after Fay Jenack did the impossible by getting us a spare tire during the rubber manufacturer's strike) we headed for Montreal again, and the Customs Officials, who could recognize us by now, let us through quickly with very little formality. We did this every day for the next week, and once in Montreal continued the shows with very little change of program. Many people who watched the show came back for a second and third, and we began to recognize them as "old friends".

Finally, Sunday night came, and since Michael had to work Monday morning we packed up the car, said goodbye to the friends we had made, and left on the long trip home to Long Island. We got home about 5 A.M., giving Mike just enough time to get cleaned up before going to work, and me time to sleep. Mike wasn't too happy with this arrangement, but it suited me just fine. He went to work, I went to bed, and later Monday night . . .

I decided I had to go back. The opportunity was just too good to pass up, and I didn't know when I'd ever get a chance to see the Olympics again. Since Mike was working I had to find someone else to go with, so telephone book in hand, I went through my list of semi-available friends. No one was available. I finally wound up calling my brother BILL JENACK JR. and his wife ANDI, and knowing he was a real sports freak, made my pitch to good to resist. That night I left for Chester, N.Y. (where Bill and Andi live) and first thing in the morning the three of us were headed for Montreal.

The Olympics were going full blast into the second week when we arrived, and the city was just bursting with people. My shows continued with tremendous success, and the people seemed to enjoy performance after performance, always calling for more and never giving me a chance to rest. Bill and Andi meanwhile spent their time checking out some of the outdoor Track and Field competitions, and tracing down tickets for the Soccer semi-finals.

After a few more days of shows I decided to wrap things up and enjoy the last two days by taking in all of the sights and a few of the Games. Bill and Andi had managed to get a half-dozen Soccer semi-final tickets, so picking up Grace Jenack, Molly and one of her friends, we all went to the Olympic Stadium to watch the games. Just as we arrived it began to rain, and in a few moments it was pouring so hard we wondered if they would be held at all. They were, and although the players were being continually drenched by the torrential rains, we were sitting high and dry in the upper section of the monstrous stadium. After the Games ended we poured out with the 76,000 other spectators, found Bill's van, and headed back to Potsdam. The last day of the Olympics was only hours away.

(continued on Page 8)

UNTIL SUMMER COME...



When John Jenack attended the Olympics in Montreal last July and did his thing unicycling and juggling (See p 21 of Oct NL and p. 13 of this NL) he chanced to meet three young Canadians who were also unicyclists. One month later he was delighted to receive a call and his new friends came to visit the Jenacks on Long Island and to pick up some giraffe unicycles that are not available in Canada. The three fellows were LUC TREMBLAY, ANDRE ST JEAN, AND RAYMOND SYLVESTRE and their two days on Long Island were filled with practicing on the cycles, talking show biz, and discussing making up an act.

Wed. December 22nd's mail brought a clever holiday card from Luc and perhaps readers will enjoy this sketch of his interpretation of the present state of unicycling in Montreal with all their snow. However Luc reports that he has been able to get in some indoor practice and last week did his first show for an audience of about 400. Says he was a bit nervous but all went well, they liked his performance, and he is more determined than ever to continue practicing and enlarge his act. Like the other two Luc is very much interested in juggling and acrobatics too, is well coordinated, and has a great future to look forward to. May all his future shows be as rewarding and best wishes to our neighbors on the north.



THE LOCO-MOTION CIRCUS

P.O. Box 61
Amherst, MA
01002

BOUNCE & CY, U-S-A Inc. members who make up THE LOCO-MOTION CIRCUS recently auditioned (showcased) their act at the National Entertainment Conference in both Charleston and Hartford and it is most promising that they will be traveling to colleges throughout the South and Northeast from Feb. to June 1977. There's an old saying that if you really want to learn something teach it. The recent teaching Bounce and Cy did at Ringling Bros. CLOWN COLLEGE in Venice, Florida bears this out. The Loco-Motion Circus now has a really top notch act with Bounce and Cy performing not only on their unicycles but doing spectacular exhibitions of Gymnastics, Juggling, and Hand Balancing in a Clown Act that is a sensation. SEE MORE ON PERFORMING MEMBERS & CLOWNSHOP Page 8

Over the long Labor Day weekend JOHN JENACK And MIKE ROMANELLI were again bitten by the travel bug and decided to visit Niagara Falls and see if they couldn't finance the weekend by having John put on his unicycle and juggling act in some of the parks in the vicinity. On their way they stopped in East Aurora, just south of Buffalo, where long time family friends ART and GRACE HARRISON reside. The boys used the Harbison residence as a base of operation for a couple days and were most grateful for the hospitality they were shown. The Harbisons are retired and Art, a member of the U-S-A Inc., was a former college tumbling partner of your Ed. years ago. Art suggested to John and Mike that they make use of a house trailer the Harbisons own that was parked some 40 miles over in Canada in a trailer park. The boys arranged to rendezvous with him there the next day and after doing the parks in the Niagara Falls area made use of it the following evening.



RIDE ON! Merle, Megan, Robin, Joan, Clay SMITH

leaded glass hobby was most fascinating to your Ed. when he visited the Smiths a couple years ago. If any readers would like to make a leaded glass unicyclist (or bicyclist) see Merle's neat designs on page 12 of the January 1975 newsletter.

The Dec. 10th DAILY COLLEGIAN of State College, Pa. carried an eye catching picture of SALLY WHITE and BRIAN CUNNINGHAM riding each side of ANDY BAILEY who was also on a uni and was wearing a Mittany Lion costume. Sally has organized and is currently the President of the University Unicycle Club there. She reports that 17 people came out to the first meeting Dec. 11th, that three already knew how to ride, that one learned that night, and that three others were able to ride around with help. The Penn State club hopes eventually to compete with other college clubs in races, hockey games, trick riding, and group drills. Looks like the club is off to a great start and with Sally's bubbling enthusiasm and unbounded energy should really go places.

One of our senior members JIM DANDY of Concord, CA writes that he is still going strong and at times recently has done 3 shows a day at 3 different places. At present he is practicing balancing a $3\frac{1}{2}$ " spoon on his nose. He has it on the floor but wants to do it on his giraffe and promises to send picture when he gets it. Last year at this time he amazed your editor by balancing a ball pt. pen on his nose with ease. Nothing is impossible for Jim Dandy as readers will no doubt agree if they read the feature write-up on him in the Jan. '76 issue.

While visiting on the American side John and Mike spent one full day with the MERLE SMITH family, members of the USA Inc. who reside in Buffalo. John had his Nilsson Mini Uni with him and 15 yr old CLAY SMITH mastered and was quite fascinated by the tiny wheel uni. Imagine the Jenacks surprise when a Christmas message arrived that included a photo of the entire Smith family on unicycles and Clay on a mini wheel giraffe he recently constructed himself. The Smiths are a very active family and aside from being unicyclists are avid bicyclists. This past August they biked 600 miles in 10 days taking in the beauties of Montana and Wyoming as part of "Bikecentennial 76". JOAN (Mrs. Smith) led the BIKEWAYS FOR BUFFALO movement a few years ago that resulted in the large increase in bicycling and bike paths in the area. Merle's

A new book **CLOWNS** by John Towsen has just been published by Hawthorn Books. Special arrangements have been made and it may be obtained through your newsletter Editor - See listing on page 17 of this issue.

Publisher's write-up on this long awaited book appears at the right. If your bag is clowns or clowning you will not be disappointed with John Towsen's veritable encyclopedia of the art.



"It is meat and drink to me to see a clown"
- William Shakespeare, *As You Like It*

Clowns

by John Towsen

Throughout the centuries, clowns have kept alive the vital tradition of comedy, providing laughter for a wide and varied audience that has always included both children and adults. In this most delightful history, John Towsen provides a lively and amusing account of clowns from their earliest appearance up to and including some of the best contemporary clowns. Although clowns are usually identified with the circus, they have played important roles in other kinds of entertainment, such as theatre, folk dances and rituals, music hall, and rodeos. Recently, there has been a remarkable resurgence of interest in this ancient form of entertainment. Nearly 4,000 applicants compete each year to become one of the forty-five students at Clown College, the school of comedy run by Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus. This new fascination with clowns is part of a growing interest in all popular forms of entertainment, including magic, juggling, and mime. John Towsen, a professional clown, acrobat, and juggler, studied drama and French literature at New York University, is a graduate of Clown College and teaches clowning workshops at the State University of New York, and recently completed a Ph.D. thesis on the evolution of clowning. *Clowns* is richly illustrated with over 200 black-and-white photographs, rare period prints, posters and paintings, and 16 color plates.

356 pages B1 6 1/2"x9 1/4"

* * * * *

If you failed to obtain one of the neat Organization or Meet buttons at the 1976 National Unicycle Meet there are some still available by mail from Pres. Paul Fox. Simply send a self addressed stamped envelope and 50¢ for each button, specifying which you desire and how many to: Paul Fox, 983 E. Center St., Marion, Ohio 43302

Full size sketches of the Organization and Meet buttons appear below.



MEET BUTTON



ORGANIZATION BUTTON

Paul also has a few of the 1975 National Unicycle Meet Tee Shirts. They are a nice collectors item @ \$3.50 ea. postpaid. See pg 12 of the Oct. 1975 newsletter for a sketch depicting them. Your Ed. suggests you check with Paul first on sizes as there are no large adult sizes in the batch.

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.

* * * * *



The neat little unicycle pins and charms that first made their appearance at the 1975 National Unicycle Meet and were then offered for sale through the newsletter have proved very popular. We therefore have been placing additional orders and are still 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, New York 11590

Date _____

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

No. of Copies	NAME OF PUBLICATION		TOTALS
_____	CLOWNS by John Townsen (Hard Cover Only)	@ ^{14.95} 12.95	_____
_____	CIRCUS TECHNIQUES by Hovey Burgess Paper Ed.	@ 10.00	_____
_____	Hard Cover	@ 15.00	_____
_____	BASIC CIRCUS SKILLS by Jack Wiley (Out of Print)	@ 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	_____
_____	BACK ISSUES OF U-S-A-Inc. NEWSLETTERS		
_____	Vol 1 No. 1 Jan. 1974	@ 1.00	_____
_____	2 Apr. 1974	@ 1.00	_____
_____	3 Jul. 1974	@ 1.00	_____
_____	4 Oct. 1974	@ 1.00	_____
_____	SPECIAL - All 4 1974 issues plus Meet Bulletin	@ 3.00	_____
_____	Vol 2 No. 1 Jan. 1975	@ 1.00	_____
_____	2 Apr. 1975	@ 1.00	_____
_____	3 Jul. 1975	@ 1.00	_____
_____	4 Oct. 1975	@ 1.00	_____
_____	SPECIAL - All 4 1975 issues	@ 3.00	_____
_____	Vol 3 No. 1 Jan. 1976	@ 1.50	_____
_____	2 Apr. 1976	@ 1.50	_____
_____	3 Jul. 1976	@ 1.50	_____
_____	4 Oct. 1976 (National Meet - PHOTO ISSUE)	@ 2.00	_____
_____	SPECIAL - All 4 1976 issues	@ 6.00	_____
		TOTAL	_____

UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. - NEWSLETTER 1-77

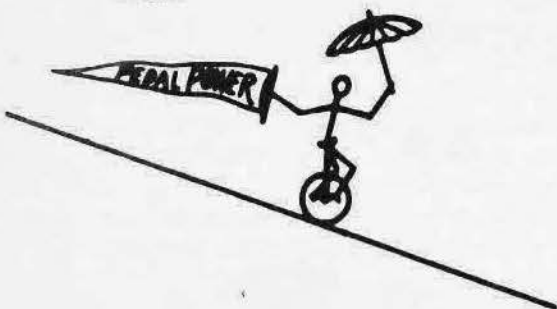
SHIP TO: Name _____
 Address _____

Make Checks payable to:
 UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

Zip _____



PRINTED MATTER



Tom Brichford X 10-77
 24460 Lyndon
 Detroit, Michigan 48239

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 and mail to the Sec'y Treas.
 Dick Haines
 UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
 592 Miami Street
 Marion, Ohio 43302

Make all Checks payable to:
 UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

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.)

PRINT your name _____ Date _____
 Street address _____ Date of Birth _____
 City, State, Zip. _____ Phone _____

Additional family members. 50¢ ea. (For members of the immediate family of a member residing in the same household - same benefits as member except no newsletter.)

Renewal	_____	Date of Birth _____
New	_____	Date of Birth _____
Professional	_____	Date of Birth _____
Amateur	_____	Date of Birth _____