

NEWSLETTER



20509 Negaunee
Redford, MI 48240

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Official Organ UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA Inc. ©1978 All Rts Res.
Yearly Membership \$5 Includes Newsletter (4) ID Card - See Blank Pg.16

Your Secretary-Treasurer and Editor wish to say THANK YOU!!!! to BILL JENACK for all of the help he has given them as they took on the responsibilities of their new jobs. And it is very comforting to know that his support and assistance will be available throughout their terms of office.



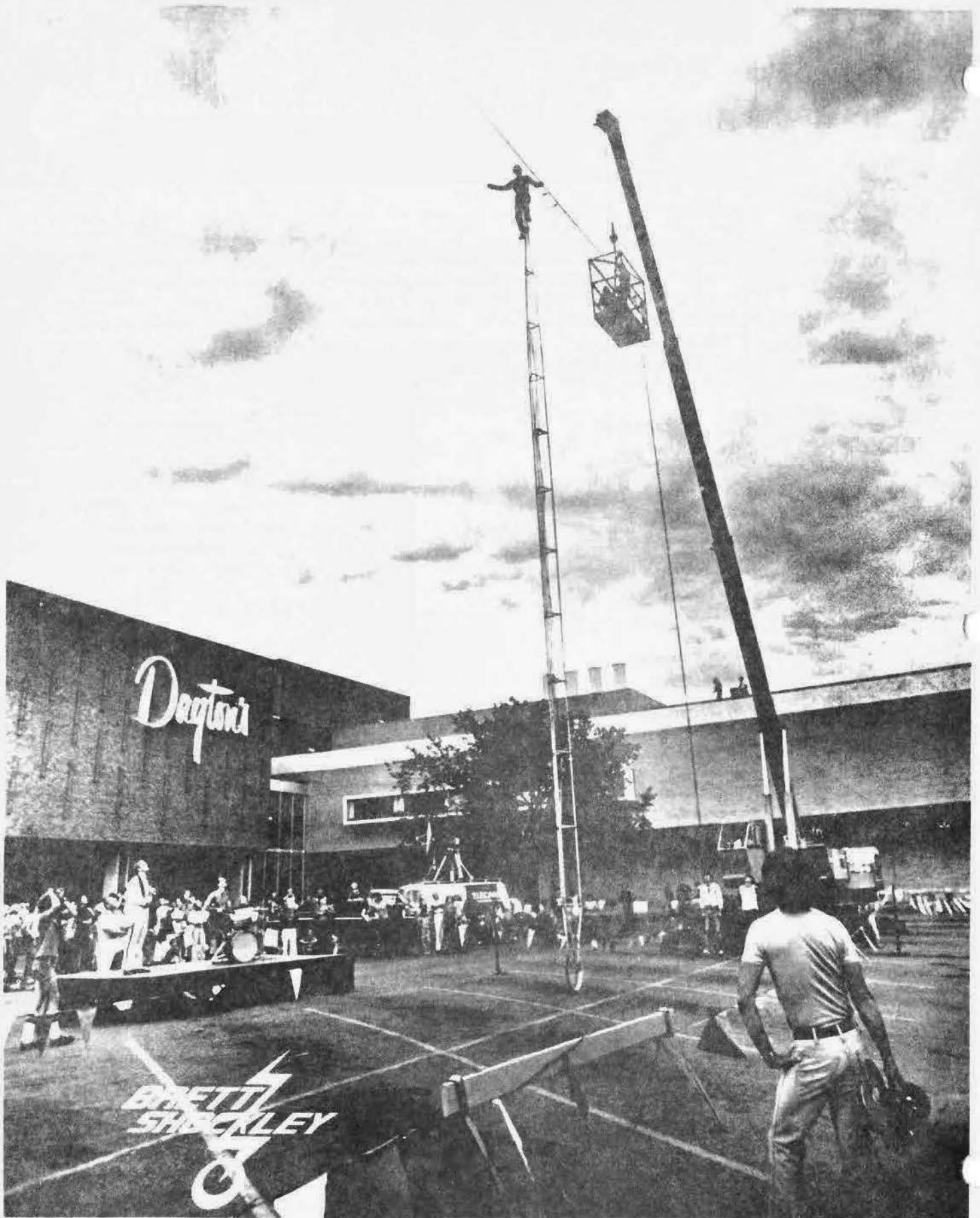
DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL 29, 1978 - Indoor Meet
sponsored by
SMILING FACES of Findlay, O.
for more information write:
Jan Layne, Director
514 Defiance Avenue
Findlay, Ohio 45840
or call
1-419-433-8959

JULY 22 and 23
NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET
to be held in:
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA



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MEET YOUR OFFICERS:

President: BRETT SHOCKLEY

Unicycling took another step up at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, July 15, 1977, when BRETT SHOCKLEY rode the 53 foot, 9½ inch unicycle he had just completed building the preceding week. And another name was put in the Guinness Book of World Records. (The picture taken at this event is on page 2.) The unicycle Brett built was made of aluminum tubing, weighed 150 lbs., contained 96' of bicycle chain, twelve 18-tooth bicycle sprockets, had a gear ratio of one-to-one and a heavy-duty spoked bicycle wheel. In his words, "It looks like a radio tower with three main poles and cross beams." Brett rode between two cranes 50 feet apart. He made four trips, but the first was the most exciting because of the gusting winds.

This record breaker and current President of USA, Inc. began unicycle riding and building in junior high school. He is now a sophomore at the University of Minnesota majoring in mechanical engineering. He has spent the past several summers riding at Valleyfair, an amusement park near Minneapolis. The act has grown from one of just a few minutes to six half-hour shows a day, six days a week. In it he rides the ultimate wheel and giraffes six to sixteen feet tall. In addition to the Valleyfair shows he directs the 30 members of the SPECIALTY CYCLES UNICYCLISTS and can often be found in his workshop building special-order giraffes.

Brett is currently working on the arrangements for the 1978 NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET. The dates have been changed from August to July so the Meet will coincide with the Aquatennial celebration in Minneapolis. Brett is hoping that unicyclists coming for the Meet will stay beyond Sunday and take advantage of the various events planned. The highlight of the celebration will be the Torch Light Parade on Wednesday, July 26. All unicyclists are invited to participate in this highly publicized parade. Specific details of the Meet (location, lodging, events, rules, etc.) will be included in the April edition of the USA, Inc. NEWSLETTER.

And what are Brett's plans for the future? He admits to being open to all offers and there are always more records to be broken. Any, there is the endurance record and the juggling record and the "idling" record and...

UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

Vice-President: ROBERTO TSCHUDIN

While ROBERTO was introduced when he first accepted the office of Vice-President for the year 1976-77 (see Page 4 of the January 1977 NEWSLETTER), he has since changed both job and residence. To update the information USA Inc. members already have about him, he writes the following:

"Roberto works as a TV News Reporter for ABC in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He was on his way there when you saw him at the National Meet (August, 1977). So far he hasn't run across more than a half-dozen unicyclists in the Green Bay area. But he hopes to find more and is busy trying to organize a unicycle group for the area. Recently Roberto dressed up as a clown to open the new bridge in De Pere, Wisconsin. Heavy rain forced him off his giraffe, so he rode his swing bike for most of the parade. Nevertheless, he attracted quite a crowd, particularly children who loved the zig-zag maneuvers of the swing bike. His latest acquisition is one of the new Schwinn giraffes and he is delighted with it. He plans to modify the seat according to a design by BILL JENACK. If you are passing through northeastern Wisconsin, please stop in and say hello. He has lots of space for visiting firemen...and he loves visitors!"

Roberto's new address is:

500 N. 10th - Apt. 65
DePere, Wisconsin 54311

Secretary-Treasurer: JOYCE JONES

Joyce writes the following as an introduction to herself:

"While I have always considered myself a full-time wife and mother, I am at present working part time as a switchboard operator and typist for American Way Service Corp.

My daughter, DEBORAH, was introduced to unicycling about two years ago. While Deborah is the only member of the family riding, we have all become interested in this great sport.

I will try to do my best to serve as the Secretary-Treasurer of the society and will try to meet the challenge to help build a better and stronger society."

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MEET YOUR OFFICERS - CONT'D

Editor: CAROL BRICHFORD

Like Joyce, Carol was drawn into USA, INC. membership by her children - DAVID, MARK, BILL and NANCY - all of whom are active members of the Redford Township Unicycle Club, Inc. It was because of neither talent nor experience that she volunteered to serve as editor of the NEWSLETTER. But over the years she has seen youngsters blossom as they learned to ride and perform with RTUC, Inc. Beyond association with the local club families, she has enjoyed meeting the many marvelous persons who make up the membership of USA and felt that one way to say "thank you" for these opportunities was to volunteer when there was a need. Needless-to-say, she fervently hoped that another more experienced person would receive the editor's job; but since that was not the case, she will try to do the best she can. However, it is definitely not a one-man job and she asks that all members regularly mail any item of news - large or small - so that the paper reflects the contributions of many.

Her address is found on the first page of this NEWSLETTER. Please use it OFTEN!!

MISC. NEWS:

When founding member BERNARD CRANDALL was in the hospital shortly before Christmas, he was surprised by a visit from some 15 unicyclists from the Paul Fox Unicycle Club, Redford Township's group and his own Pontiac Unicyclists. Organized by KATHY SKINNER, the group delighted Bernie until a nurse reminded them that unless they were carolers, there were strict rules as to the number of visitors allowed per patient. All dutifully left, only to regroup in the waiting room where they warmed up their tenors and sopranos. They then revisited Bernie's room in full voice and continued singing whenever a nurse was in evidence.

Bernie is home now and as full of fun as ever. The doctors have his condition (chronic leukemia) under control with medication and he is looking forward to bringing a bigger and better group of Pontiac Unicyclists to the National Meet.

UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

ROUND THE WORLD ON A UNICYCLE - WALLY WATTS

By the time this NEWSLETTER reaches you Wally will probably be starting out from Perth, Australia, heading across the Nalabore to Brisbane. The Nalabore is a desolate desert area with stretches up to 300 miles between areas of civilization. Wally plans to hitchhike across it and then cycle the 1500 miles to Melbourne, cross to New Zealand, cycle to Auckland, fly to Los Angeles and then cycle to Bill Jenack's in New York.

In a letter dated December 31, he wrote that he had gone surfing a few times and does "a great nose dive!" By the time the next NEWSLETTER goes to print, we should be able to say, "Welcome back, Wally!"

* * * *

SALLY WHITE, now a sophomore at Pennsylvania State University, still spends much time on top of her wheel, as witnessed by the accompanying picture. This is reprinted from GRIT and used with permission of Grit Publishing Co., Williamsport, PA. 17701.

* * * *
AL HERRINGER has completed a novel uni. his daughter TERESA calls "the porcupine." They wondered if anyone could guess from the name how it was made.

* * * *

DID YOU KNOW...the record for the most riders on one cycle is regularly made by The Chinese Acrobatic Theatre from Shanghai. The number of riders?

12 *

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She's Big Wheel On College Campus

Sally White, a sophomore at the Pennsylvania State University at State College, travels to classes on a unicycle. The vehicle was made from an authentic wagon wheel purchased from an Amish farmer near the university. Miss White, the former national unicycle trick-riding champion, once rode 26.4 miles on the wheel to raise money for the American Heart Association.



On August 23, 1977, just two days after our National Meet, Dr. PAUL MacCREADY, the father of two of our members, PARKER and TYLER MacCREADY of Pasadena, Calif. made aviation history.

His GOSSAMER CONDOR man-powered airplane successfully completed the prescribed one-mile flight at an altitude of better than 10 ft. at the start and finish around pylons spaced one-half mile apart (in a figure 8) and won for him the coveted KREMER AWARD of \$87,000. Dr. MacCready and his wife Judy flew to England to accept the check personally from none other than PRINCE CHARLES - who according to Paul is a really neat guy and most interested in aviation. Although the pilot BRYAN ALLEN (a bicyclist who was in top-notch physical condition and probably one of the few men in the world with sufficient stamina to accomplish the feat) flew it over the course in the award-winning flight, TYLER MacCREADY, one of our teenage USA Inc. unicyclists was the principal pilot and did much of the preliminary test flying at Mojave and Shafter airports in Calif. PARKER MacCREADY also had a hand in the test flying and made one of the first flights of appreciable duration. Tyler and Parker's father is to be complimented for winning the 18-year-old Kremer Award. Incidentally Dr. MacCready is no newcomer in the field of light aircraft having already achieved fame in international glider contests as a soaring champion. The film of the epochal flight seen on CBS TV was a product of CENTRE FILMS INC. a Hollywood company owned by the parents of two other members of our USA Inc, KATIE and WINTER HORTON (See write-up on MacCREADY & HORTON in July 1974 NEWSLETTER.) BBC in England is about to air a documentary titled "ICARUS CHILDREN" and it will contain considerable footage on the Gossamer Condor. WGBH TV in Boston will also be airing it probably in early Spring 1978 in their NOVA SCIENCE SERIES. The January, 1978, issue of NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC contains an 11-page article entitled "The Flight of the Gossamer Condor." This article contains not only information on the building and flying of the Gossamer Condor itself, but also sketches and information on previous attempts at man-powered flight. Another article members might wish to look up appeared in SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, August 1, 1977, just prior to the successful flight. This gives the reader additional information on the Kremer Award and the Gossamer Condor itself.

UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

LLOYD TIMBERLAKE of London, England, wrote of videotaping a segment with JUSTIN CASE, another USA Inc. member, to be used as a portion of Justin's stage show. The taping took place at the Tower of London on a foggy morning. There were six unicyclists (including Lloyd) all dressed in black bowlers, tailcoats, pants and carrying black umbrellas. Justin was similarly dressed except he wore a two-foot-tall top hat. Lloyd went on to say, "For the final scene we formed a marital arch, rocking in place holding our umbrellas aloft. Justin cycled under this, turning occasionally to wave at the camera. A noose ran from his neck to the unicycle and the scene will be cut so that it looks like he is committing suicide off Tower Bridge." Apparently Justin plans to talk to his video image in his stage show.

* * * *

JIM MAYA, a USA, Inc. member from Patterson, CA, wrote that he recently had an opportunity to watch and work with a wirewalker (slack rope) and juggler who performed under the name KRISTAVO. Jim wrote that Kristavo "juggled superbly and rode a unicycle on a slack rope while juggling 3 clubs. I talked with him after his show and he said he worked with STEVE McPEAK at the Cow Palace in San Francisco." Jim went on to say that he and his cousin were asked to perform the next day on their unicycles in their clown costumes. Jim rode his 7½ foot giraffe and juggled at the same time, did tricks on the small unicycle and clowning.

* * * *

The November, 1977, PROCEEDINGS of The IEEE Journal contains a 30-page Tutorial Review of the SHANNON SAMPLING THEOREM. Dr. Shannon is one of our Founder Members. He first introduced his Sampling Theory in the field of communications about 30 years ago and has become world famous for it. We would like to join the author of the paper, ABDUL J. JERRI, of CLARKSON COLLEGE, Potsdam, N.Y. in wishing a Happy Birthday to one of our outstanding founders.

* * * *

DID YOU KNOW...that the slow cycling record was set in 1968 by 39-year-old TSUGUNOBU MITSUISHI of Tokyo, Japan, who balanced on a bicycle without support for 5 hours and 25 minutes.*

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THE UNICYCLE RIDER - AND THE NON-RIDER

What does Mr. Average Person think when seeing a unicyclist on the streets around the world? A picture of WALLY WATTS in Bangkok showed three Thai motorcyclists with expressions that ranged from "I can't believe this" to "Out of the way, Pal."

MATTHEW BRIGDEN and fellow unicyclist BRIAN MATTHEWS (see page 7 for more about these two riders) wrote the following: "Another thing we have been working on is the EFFORTLESS RIDE. We minimize all our motions and when we come to a stop light, we just step down with one foot and then up again when the light changes - without grasping the seat at any time - or making drastic motions to disembark or climb on. It is easier on the nerves of the pedestrian or motorist who otherwise may live in fear of our next move."

The attention the new rider receives was written in a letter by RALPH E. BUNKER of Providence, R.I. "...My next attempt at distance was a 45 mile ride to Providence stopping at various friend's houses on the way. I still hadn't learned how to dependably mount the unicycle, although I had reached a stage where success came maybe once every ten times. It didn't help that I often attracted the attention of passersby when I was trying to mount the unicycle. Most people lost interest after 5 or 6 failures."

Obviously the last writer has much improved his technique because he goes on to say "I found a very practical use for the unicycle at my place of work. I am a computer programmer and have to walk about a quarter of a mile to the computer lab to pick up some of my output. Riding the unicycle cuts the time necessary to get there in half, in addition to making the trip a lot more fun. It is so practical that three other people at work have learned how to ride during their lunch hour." * * * * *

In reference to an item on page 7 of the October, 1977, NEWSLETTER, Bill Jenack wrote several letters to learn more about the Russian Seaman ALFRED SHPRING who rode around the world on a monocycle the easy way (around the North Pole). Unfortunately none of his letters yielded any further information on this.

UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

Pictures of unicyclists are always finding their way into local newspapers. (Such as the one of Todd Roberts who delivers THE PHOENIX (ARIZ.) GAZETTE on his unicycle (with the papers skillfully balanced on his head.) Thought USA Members would enjoy knowing that even President Carter is getting into the act.



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GOOD
IDEA

For those of you whose unicycles are beginning to look a little less than new this idea comes from DON SHAFER of 4522 Peach Street, Erie PA 16509: "I had an old Schwinn 24" that was scraped up a lot and I didn't think I wanted to have it rechromed. I found some PRISMATIC TAPE at a K-MART. This stuff looks great when the sun shines on it, turning all colors when the light strikes it - would be great for parades."

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The Jousting performance on unicycles, as mentioned on page 9 of the July 1977 newsletter, took place on schedule and according to a letter from Sir Brian was as he puts it:

"A smashing success, with many a fall and tumble. I gave Sir Matthew a rough time, but in the end it was a draw (planned ahead of time, naturally). During the weeks before the event we practiced diving into the ground from our unicycles, so as to become conditioned for the approaching event. Indeed these apparent suicidal actions caused much concern in the park, to the extent of bringing about attempted rescue by elderly viewers. When the final tournament came about, the crowds in the stands cried for more after our first dramatic fall".

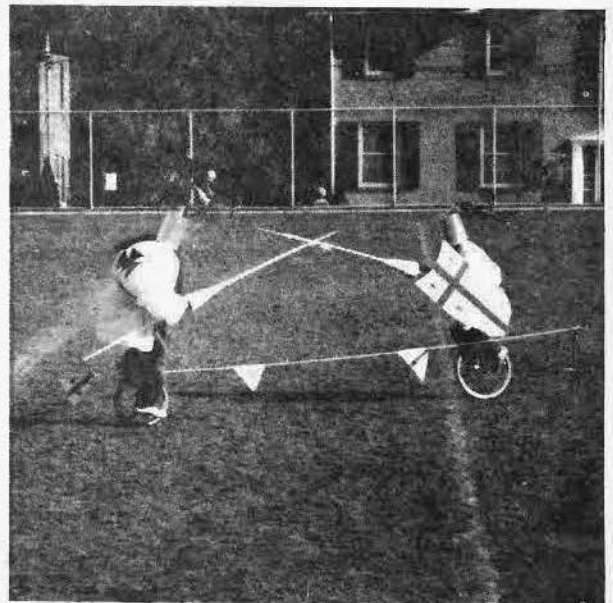
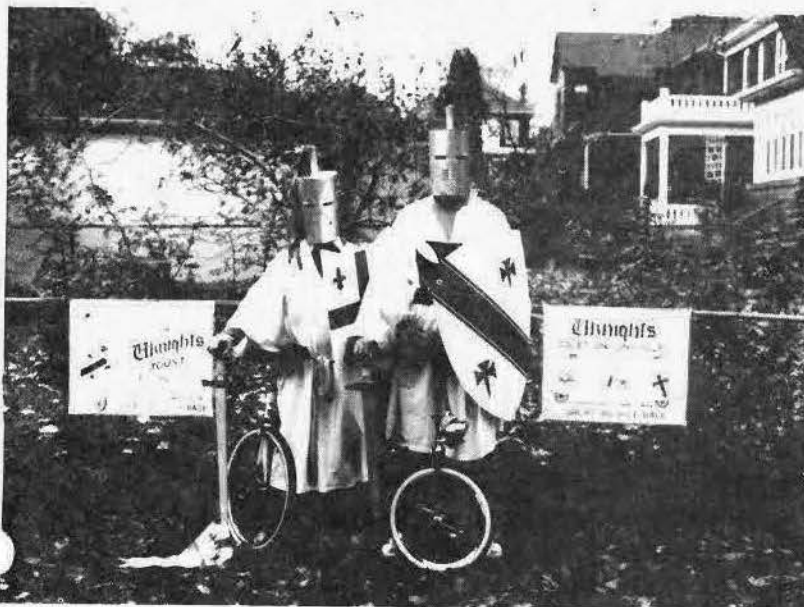
To give readers a little background - Brian Matthews and Matthew Briden are two avid unicyclists in Toronto, Canada. They have made up complete knight costumes and weapons and have been practicing jousting on their unicycles. A recent Community Chest fund-raising program presented them with the opportunity to demonstrate their skill and here is what Brian wrote in a recent letter to our former editor Bill Jenack:

"The Great Bicycle Race" (in aid of UNITED WAY) began at 12:15. Matt and I led the cyclists around the track for the initial lap. At 12:45 we arose from our tent (blue striped bed sheet taped to bamboo poles) on our unicycles with full equipment and colours flying. Matt was the "Blue Knight" from his French school, and I was the "Northern Red Knight". (Northern Secondary is my school). We began with two passes using swords, and Matt was the first to go down, using his dramatic sprawl technique, and I was next. The last 3 passes were with lances, the first two being misses and the last being the total destruction of both concerned. Stretcher bearers followed to aid the dead (us) and carry them back to the humble abode. The cheers were wild and the cry for blood was deafening. All in all it was a great success.

Our latest endeavor has been "Riding In The Rain" (as opposed to singing) with Jumbo Black Umbrellas, and supreme skill (?) on wet leaves. We cruise the streets in grand style (remaining entirely dry) while pedestrians suffer terribly in Toronto's torrential down-pours. We have spread "Unicycletitis" (which as we all know, has no known cure) about the area and have infected two unicyclists-to-be just recently. Please keep the enclosed photos compliments of Sir Matthew and myself - Take you on anytime - Don't worry, the lances are only rolled paper, but make a sturdy shield, as our swords are deadly. Helmet material is secret but I assure you, they are quality items.

Editor's Note: Brian included several photos in his letter. Two of them appear below. Note how they divided the field of battle much as the knights of old did in the real thing.

Yours sincerely,
Brian Matthews
20 Eastbourne Ave.
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
M5P 2E9





In the listing of winners on page 11 of the October NEWSLETTER, the Boys Individual Trick Standard Unicycle category was inadvertently omitted. The winners of that event were:

- 1st - Wayne Haines of Marion, Ohio (pic. #1)
- 2nd - Mike Wilson of Redford, Mich. (pic. #2)

These pictures were unavailable at the time the October NEWSLETTER was printed. Since they are so excellent, we felt readers would enjoy seeing them in January's edition.



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INDEX TO PHOTOS FOUND ON THIS AND THE PRECEDING PAGE

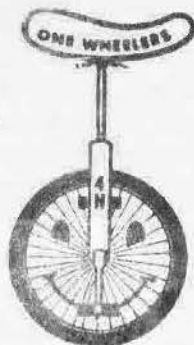
1. Wayne Haines, Marion, Ohio
2. Mike Wilson, Redford Township Uni. Club
3. Shelly Layne, Smiling Faces (Shelly sold the winning ticket at the National Meet and won herself the Schwinn Giraffe)
4. 1977 National Meet royalty: Cathy Fox and Tom Parish
5. On your mark, get set, slow.....
6. The "Incredible Crandalls"
7. Two Kokomo Road Runners in action
8. Lindy White, Redford Township Uni. Club (Lindy took first in Girls Ind. for this performance)

The photos on pages 1, 7, 8 and 10 are printed here through the courtesy of John Allee and Ken Frick, Photographers, CONSUMER NEWS, Marion, Ohio.

Smiling Faces

Performances

422-8959
Jan Layne
Director



Unicyclists

Parades

614 De fiance Ave.
Findlay, Ohio
46840

The SMILING FACES UNICYCLISTS of Findlay, Ohio is affiliated with 4-H and, as such, is unique among unicycle clubs. This affiliation has lead to the writing of a 17-page book entitled "The 4-H Unicycle Book - pilot project" which is soon to be published. This book is based on information found in the Unicycle Book by Jack Wiley, "Owners Manual-Schwinn Unicycle" from the Schwinn Bicycle Company and information supplied by BILL JENACK. It contains a section on what to look for in choosing a unicycle, illustrated tips on how to learn to ride and some suggested skills for the advanced rider, care and repair of unicycles, safety tips for riding and several pages throughout the book where the beginning rider is able to chronicle his/her progress and increased knowledge of unicycles. SUE ARNOLD, the local county extention agent in the Findlay area, wrote the book for the Smiling Faces. Sue does not ride but did a terrific job in putting the book together.

The Smiling Faces puts out a monthly newsletter that keeps members aware of all activities, past and present. In addition it serves as a means of imparting general information to all members. The copies your editor received contained the list of Smiling Face members who were ribbon or trophy winners at the Redford Township Unicycle Club's Mini-Meet, thank you's to persons who offered help for various functions, and complete information on roller skating parties, square dances, etc. that were available to 4-H members. Each issue contained a darling sketch of a unicyclist. October's looked like The Cat in the Hat riding and juggling and November's was a sketch of Santa going about his duties on a one-wheeled conveyance. JAN LAYNE said that she either delivers or mails each member a copy each month so no one can say, "But I didn't know..."

The Smiling Faces held a class for beginning unicycle riders this past October. It lasted eight weeks and resulted in 17 enthusiastic new riders who will become official members of the Smiling Faces in January.

As readers noticed on page 1, this club is hosting an indoor meet on April 29. All unicycle riders in the area are invited to participate. It will be held at the Hancock Recreation Center which is very near the expressway. All of the details of the meet will be mailed to anyone interested. Just call or write a letter to Jan Layne.

WARREN WOOD of the GREAT Y CIRCUS of Redlands, CA, writes that one of their members, SEAN VENABLE, "now rides around the gym using his feet to push the tire (on the top of the tire). He uses a regular 20" wheel with the seat a little higher than what he usually uses."

The feet below are not Sean's but they illustrate the technique mentioned. This is another of the excellent pictures taken by John Allee and Ken Frick of the CONSUMER NEWS, Marion, Ohio.



A letter from JIM MOYER, who teaches at Oak View Elementary School in Fairfax, VA included the following information about a active school club:

"The OAK VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXHIBITIONAL ACTIVITIES CLUB, under the direction of physical education teacher JIM MOYER, just concluded a busy fall schedule of appearances--parades, school and church shows, community fairs, Octoberfests--with a workshop-demonstration for members of the Virginia Association of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation at their 39th annual convention in Richmond, VA at the John Marshall Hotel on December 2-4. Activities demonstrated included unicycling, circus bicycle, juggling, German gym wheel, rolling globe, stilt-walking, plate-spinning and rope-twirling.

"A new activity introduced into the school's unicycling presentations has a boy walking on 10 foot-high stilts while other unicyclists ride between the stilt legs. (See photo below.) The stilts were constructed from 3/4" O.D. thick-wall aluminum tubing, which makes light but strong uprights. The bottom of each stilt leg was capped and a rubber tip glued on to prevent slippage."



CAROL MORAN of the KOKOMO ROAD RUNNERS wrote that they now have 25 members ranging in age from 8 to 23 and are acquiring some new equipment. TOM MILLER now has an 18' giraffe and GREG McEWLAIN, a 10'. They recently traveled to Amish Land, Indiana, and purchased a wooden rubber-rim buggy wheel for a big wheel for Carol to ride next year. (She rode the novel road runner unicycle at the 1977 National Meet.) She went on to say that the Amish can make the wheels in any size and that she chose one 40" in diameter. She concluded with the results of the club elections held in October. TED WADE was elected president again; MIKE LANE, vice-president; CAROL, secretary; CARY KIRKMEYER, treasurer; and TOM MILLER, 1st instructor.

Carol also sent several newspaper articles and pictures of the Road Runners. One showed the group in parade formation; each member was dressed in a colorful clown outfit.

* * * *

The WALL STREET JOURNAL (September 6, 1977) contained an article on the search for talent by "scouts" for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. It mentioned that the United States was not a very fertile area for seeking talent but occasionally an exceptional act was found here. Such was the case with the group of unicyclists from the South Bronx section of New York who specialized in playing basketball. This was of special interest to members of the Redford Township Unicycle Club who had the pleasure of meeting several members of this group when the circus came to Detroit. They were delightful fellows who challenged some of the RTUC riders to a bit of basketball and a race following the performance.

* * * *

KYLE CARBRAY is shown riding his unicycle through 10 foot-high stilt legs balanced above by JOHN HENNENBERGER. Both boys are members of the OAK VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXHIBITIONAL ACTIVITIES CLUB in Fairfax, VA.

BARRY LAPPY, the outstanding young cyclist from England who thrilled RBBB audiences in this country in 1975 and 1976 has been with the State Circus in ROMANIA the past year and has just written that he will remain there for another full year. Barry is a member of our USA, INC, and was the subject of a feature write-up in our Jan, 1977 NEWSLETTER. Cyclists who attended last year's National Meet may recall seeing Barry's neat act in the movies John Jenack took of him just before he left for Europe. Since that time Barry has perfected several new tricks on his circus bike (which he rides much of the time as a unicycle). He now does a fast backward pirouette on the rear wheel, of about 10-12 turns, at about 2 turns per second. In addition he can now mount and ride on the head tube of the bike without assistance, do backward riding in that position, and can come back down to both wheels still pedaling and then return around the side of the bike to the saddle. For several months he has also been doing the "Boomerang" in his act. That's where he leaves the saddle and flies all the way around the front of the bike and back to the saddle while the bike is in motion. Barry recently switched and now juggles clubs instead of balls while coasting in figure 8's standing on the saddle and handlebars. He also does a headstand on the saddle while doing figure 8's. Audiences in Romania have never seen an act like Barry's so he outshines all the other bicycle acts and is advertised as the star of the State Circus. As mentioned in a previous news item, Barry's act has received such acclaim in Romania this past year that it was not uncommon for him to receive several curtain calls at each performance. Our best wishes to Barry for his continued success and some day we hope he returns to the USA to ride with us again.

* * * *

A newspaper article in the NEODESHA REGISTER told of TOM PARISH who was recently selected to attend "The CLOWNship 4". This is an honor for only 10 men and 10 women are accepted for the three-week program which is designed for persons wishing to explore their potential in clowning. CLOWNship classes are held five days a week with a two-hour session held each morning and evening. Weekends are devoted to fieldwork and "spare time" is spent in clowning and improvising. (A picture of Tom appears on page 8.)

UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

In the last USA NEWSLETTER members were asked if they knew of any unicycling songs. DON SHAFFER, who sent in the idea on page 6, wrote the following, "...I'm a musician and have a large collection of music books and I couldn't find a one. Undaunted, I decided to try to write one. I ended up working on two...The first is a waltz and has a bit of circus sound to it because of the unicycle's connection with clowns and circuses. The second is a march about the National Unicycle Meet." Don says that he has never attended a National Unicycle Meet, but that is difficult to believe when you read the words that follow:

NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET MARCH

by Don Shaffer

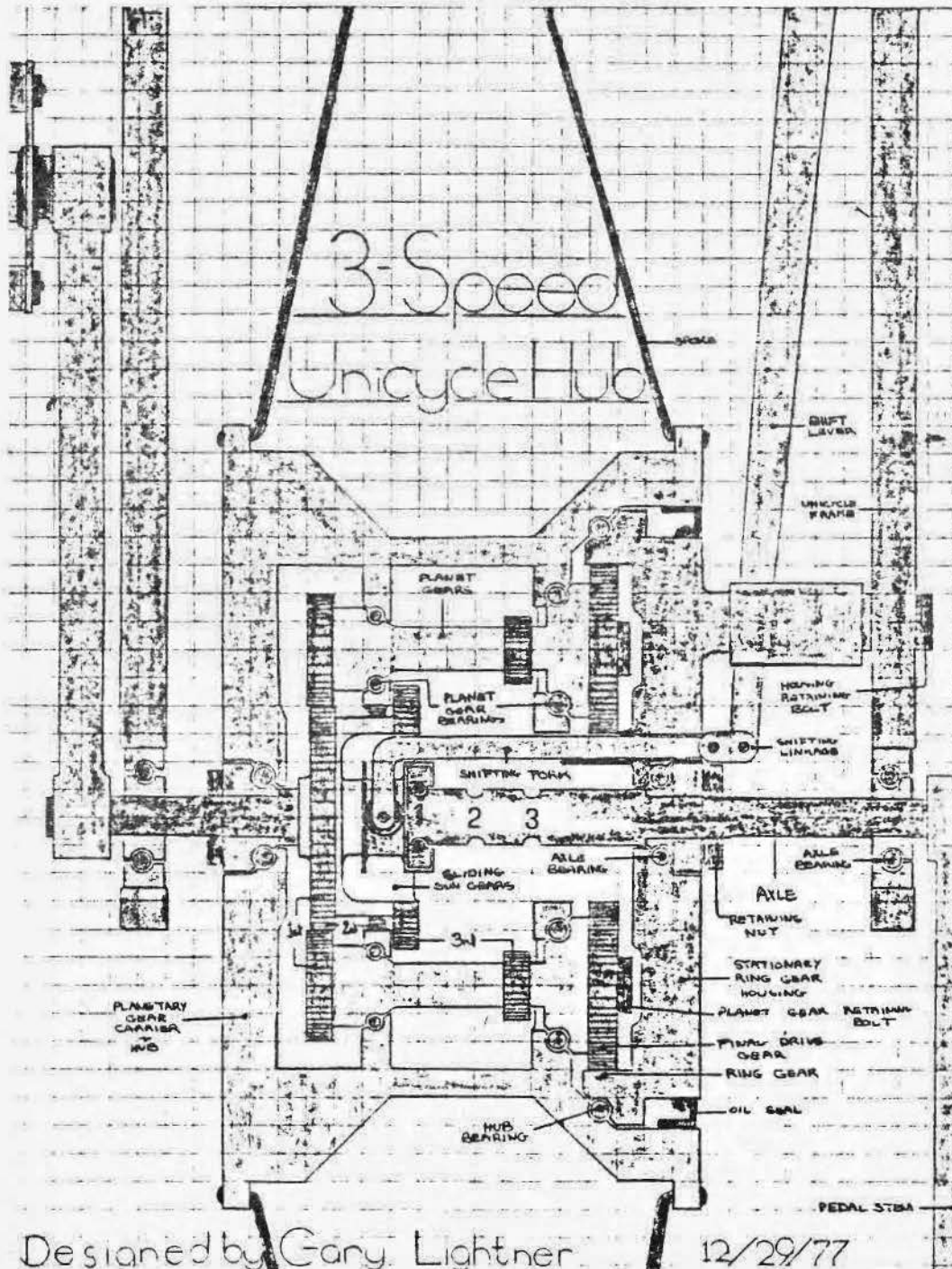
At the USA Meet, everyone gets a treat,
Ex-i-bitions and parading in the street.
It's a weekend of thrills, unicycling skills
and the expert demonstrations can't be beat.
There are big wheels and small, some are short
and some tall
And the amazing things they do are simply
grand
So let's get a good seat, for the USA Meet,
It's the greatest one-wheel show in all the
land

Everyone's there with new tricks to compare
Seeing all their old friends and meeting new.
Riders with handles like Foxes and Crandalls
And Skinners and Haines and Rogers too.
Shockley and McPeak, the high record they
seek
Hitting fifty feet and hoping for one
higher.
Wobblin' Wally is circling, by golly,
'Round the world and he never seems to tire.
Zig-Zag giraffes and some made just for laughs
And the big wheels for those who like to
speed,
Ultimate wheels for the person who feels
That a seat is something you don't really
need.

There's John Jenack and Pop, always "staying
on top"
And so many others who deserve a hand.
So let's get a good seat for the USA Meet,
It's the greatest one-wheel show in all the
land.
It's the greatest one-wheel show in all the
land.

The music Don wrote to accompany the words (is as catchy as the words themselves. Hopefully this and the waltz will be heard by all at the 1978 National Unicycle Meet.

NEWSLETTER 1-78



Designed by Gary Lightner 12/29/77

Dear Newsletter ed:

I was pleased and thrilled to see my "POGO-CYCLE" design in the April '77 NEWSLETTER. Also liked the article you wrote about it. Since you appear to enjoy unusual creations I'm sending you another one, a Three-Speed-Unicycle Hub.

One day while pedaling up a steep hill on my 6-foot uni I said to myself, "This would be a lot easier if I had a lower gear ratio." So that's when I decided to design a three-speed unicycle. I figured first gear, with an underdrive ratio, would be good for hill climbing and fast starts. Second gear, a direct drive, for normal conditions, and third gear, an overdrive for conserving leg power on long, level roads or for high speeds.

The diagram I'm enclosing illustrates my design for such a three-speed hub. As shown, the gear ratios are as follows: 1st gear is 1 to .666, 2nd gear is 1 to 1, and 3rd is 1 to 1.333. As you can see, the design is a simple planetary gear system. First and third gears transmit from the pedals to the sun gears to the planet gears to the final drive gear to the ring gear. Second gear relays power from the pedals to the sun gear but then directly to the gear carrier (or hub) by locking the first gear sun gear to a ring gear directly connected to the hub. I hope you find this design interesting enough to pass on to others via the NEWSLETTER.

I was also thinking it might be possible to use a 3-speed unit from a bicycle on a chain driven uni such as my six footer. But I have not found out if the ratchet for reverse in those units can be by-passed to achieve a 3-speed drive both forward and backward. As soon as I come across a 3-speed unit, I am going to take it apart and find out - unless you know of someone who has already tried it and can give me the info.

If you or any readers have any questions or comments on this design, I would be interested to receive them.

A fellow unicyclist,

Gary Lightner
99 Tower Street
W. Sayville, N.Y. 11796

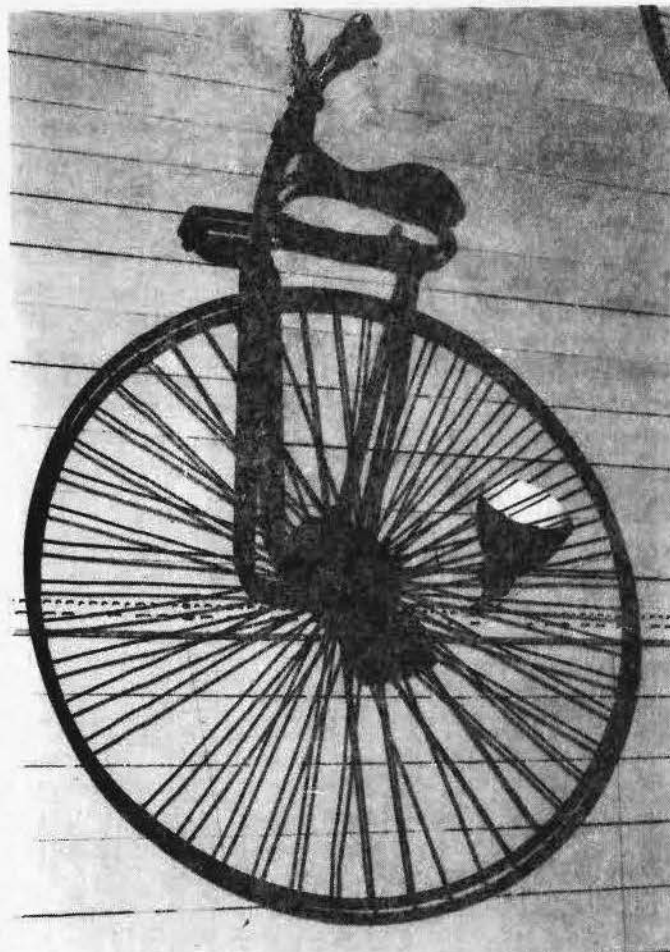


More on the First Annual Mini-Meet sponsored by the REDFORD TOWNSHIP UNICYCLE CLUB, INC. The Wilson family, who coordinated the event, wanted USA, Inc. members to know that the meet was a success because of the efforts of many. RTUC members offered their talents and members of other unicycle clubs helped too. Both CATHY FOX of Marion and KATHY SKINNER of Pontiac helped a great deal. (It was Cathy Fox who designed the novel obstacle course that had riders jumping rope, putting on sweatshirts, throwing basketballs, etc.)

While the Mini-Meet was similar to other unicycle meets, there were several notable exceptions. To encourage younger riders to participate in the individual and couples events, there was an age division for them. All events (not just the races) were divided with the 12-and-under riders competing in their own age group. "Mr. and Miss Mini-Meet" were chosen by a group of secret judges who watched throughout the day for the most outstanding unicyclists. Chosen for this honor out of the 76 participants were TOM MILLER from Kokomo and CONNIE FOX from Marion. Judges for the couples and group riding were handed rating sheets divided as follows: presentation 20 pts. (skill and variety, 1-10; accuracy, 1-5; originality and creativity, 1-5), appearance 10 pts. (neatness and orderliness, 1-5; audience appeal, 1-5) and attitude 10 pts. (teamwork, 1-5; enthusiasm, 1-5) Acts that went over the time allowed had points deducted from the total as follows: deduct 2 points for 1 minute, 4 points for 2, etc. Group acts were similarly scored.

The following is the official schedule of the Red Unit of the RBBB:

Feb. 8-19	Atlanta	Ga.	The Omni
Feb. 21-27	Savannah	Ga.	Civic Center
Feb. 24-26	Asheville	N.C.	Civic Center
Feb. 28-			
Mar. 1	Raleigh	N.C.	Dorton Arena
Mar. 7-8	Fayetteville	N.C.	Gum. Cv. Arena
Mar. 10-12	Columbia	S.C.	Carolina Col.
Mar. 14-19	Charlotte	N.C.	Coliseum
Mar. 21-26	Knoxville	Tenn.	Civic Audi. Col.
Mar. 29-			
Apr. 2	Cincinnati	Ohio	Riverfront Col.
Apr. 4-5	Charleston	W.V.	Civic Center



This photo of the springy suspended saddle unicycle with handlebars was taken by GORAN LUNDSTROM in 1973. The cycle is on display in the Industrial Museum in Gothenburg, Sweden.

DID YOU KNOW... the monocyce duration record was set in 1969 by STEVE McPEAK at 23 1/2 hours

*The "DID YOU KNOW..." items found in this issue come from the 1977 edition of GUINNESS' BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS by Norris McWhirter and Ross McWhirter.

Your editor wants to apologize for the tardiness of this issue. While flu and the weather held things up some, the biggest hold-up was lack of experience. BILL JENACK's help was invaluable but there was still much that had to be learned the hard way: by doing and redoing. Here's hoping no future issue will be as late as the one you are now reading. Your editor would appreciate your comments on the two-column format, contents, etc. Thanks.

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 \$2.00 each plus stamped return envelope from your Sec'y Treasurer 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.

Joyce Jones, Secretary Treasurer
UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
20509 Negaunee
Redford, Michigan 48240

Date _____

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

<u>No. of Copies</u>	<u>NAME OF PUBLICATION</u>		<u>TOTALS</u>
_____	GLOWNS by John Townsen (Hard Cover Only) (New '77)	@ 14.95	_____
_____	THE ART OF JUGGLING by Ken Bengt (New 1977)	@ 3.95	_____
_____	THE UNICYCLE BOOK by Jack Wiley	@ 7.95	_____
_____	THE JUGGLING BOOK by Carlo	@ 2.95	_____
_____	THE DRAMA REVIEW NYU March '74 issue	@ 3.50	_____
_____	CIRCUS TECHNIQUES by Hovey Burgess - Paper Ed.	@ 10.00	_____
	Hard Cover	@ 15.00	_____
	<u>BACK ISSUES OF U-S-A-Inc. NEWSLETTERS</u>		
_____	Vol 1 No. 1 Jan. 1974 OUT OF PRINT	@ 1.00	XXXXXX
_____	2 Apr. 1974	@ 1.00	_____
_____	3 Jul. 1974 (Limited supply)	@ 1.00	_____
_____	4 Oct. 1974	@ 1.00	_____
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_____	Vol 2 No. 1 Jan. 1975 OUT OF PRINT	@ 1.00	XXXXXX
_____	2 Apr. 1975	@ 1.00	_____
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_____	SPECIAL All 4 1975 NO LONGER AVAILABLE	@ 3.00	XXXXXX
_____	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	@ 6.00	_____
_____	Vol 4 No. 1 Jan. 1977	@ 1.50	_____
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_____	SPECIAL All 4 1977	@ 6.00	_____

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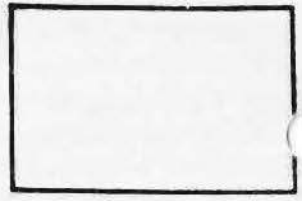
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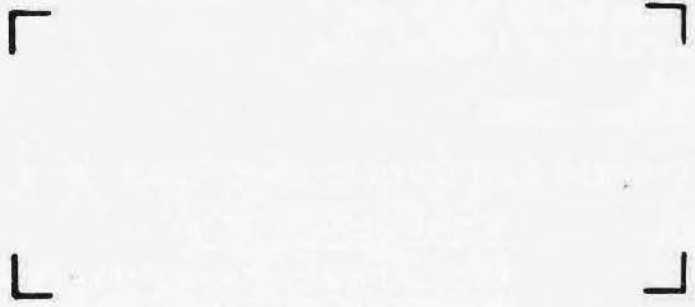
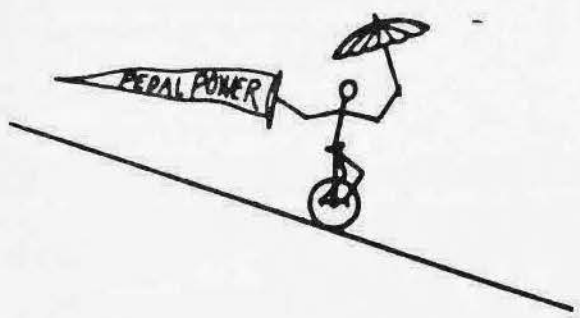
Make Checks Payable to:
UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Inc.



20509 Negaunee
Redford, MI 48240



PRINTED MATTER



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 through your organization, will not only be of service to you but will aid the treasury and enable us to award more trophies etc. at meets. Please pass along the membership application below. Your Editor Carol Brichford

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.



Fill in and mail to:
Joyce Jones, Secretary Treasurer
UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
20509 Negaunee
Redford, Michigan 48240

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.)

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