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NEWSLETTER

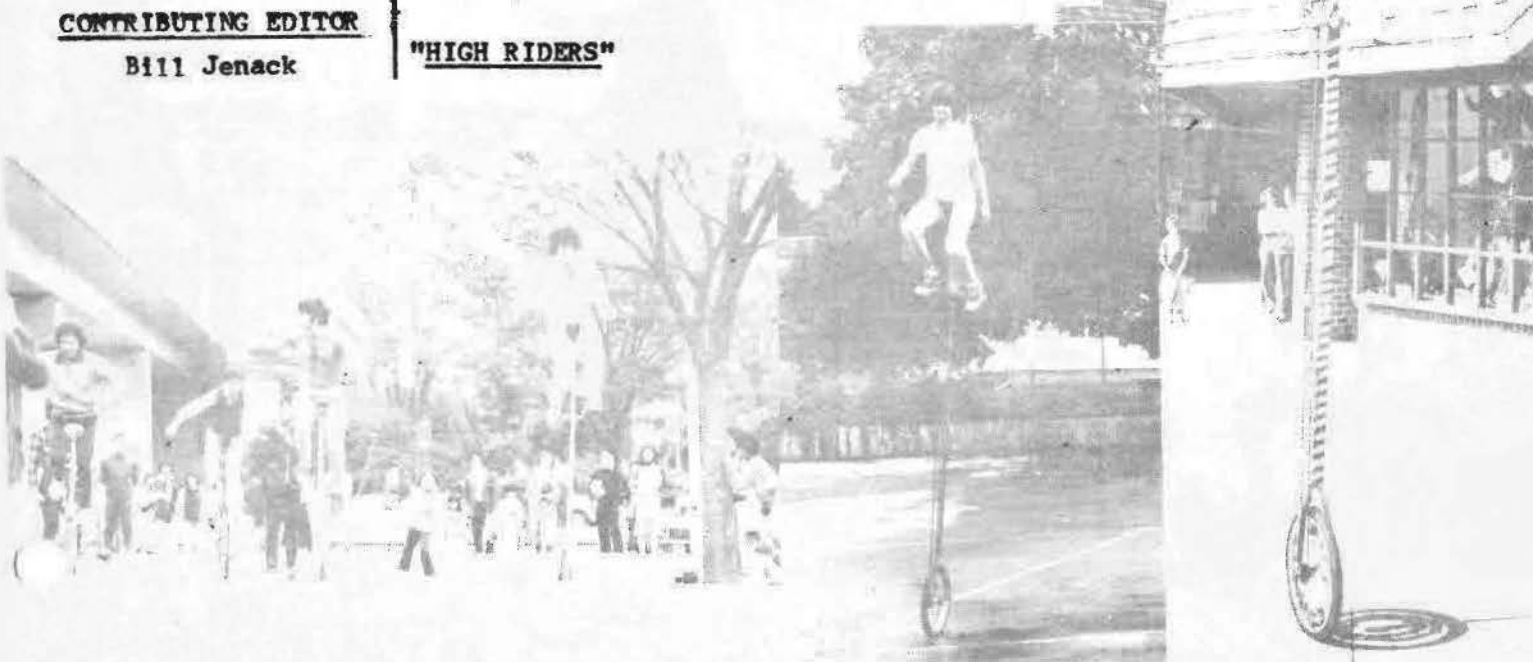
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Yearly Membership \$6 Includes Newsletter (4) ID Card - See Blank Pg.18

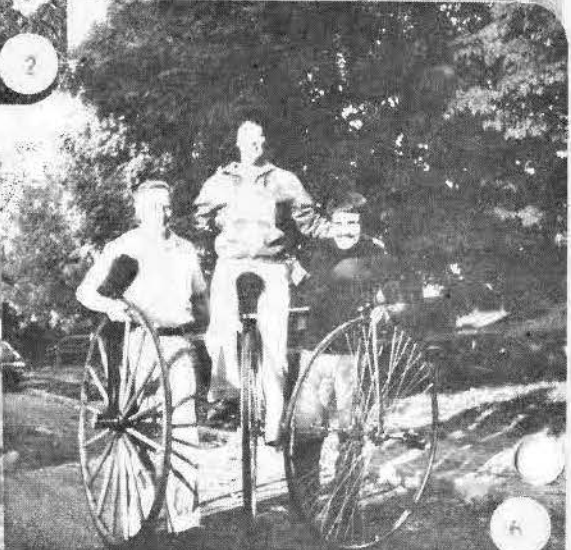
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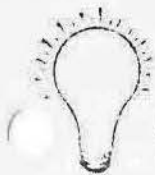
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PLEASE EXCUSE . . .
the tardiness of this
issue. Because of
family illness your ed.
was away from home for
over a month. Mailing
this issue first class
is an attempt to save
some time in delivery.

"HIGH RIDERS"





GOLD
IDEA

Here are three ideas for the promotion of individual clubs. *SUNNY SAYLOR of the KOKOMO ROAD RUNNERS sent a business card on which appears the club logo, name and advertising and the word

"phone" with a blank following. The card will not become outdated since anyone's number can be written in. The Road Runners also use a Post Office box number for their address (Please note that U.S.A., Inc. is now using a P. O. Box No. also.)

*Tee shirts may also be used as an advertising gimmick. (See JACK HALPERN's on the Regional Meet picture pages.) ARTIE BOUGHAN wrote in the I.J.A. NSLR that his with the words "Free Juggling Lessons" has helped him meet many jugglers. Redford's STEVE SMITH has received much comment on his hand-painted shirt, which contains the picture of a unicycle.

*LIZ MILLS, whose son HANS rides with the REDFORD TOWNSHIP UNICYCLE CLUB, INC., suggests that a letter about the unicycle club be given to radio stations, newspapers, libraries, the various Chambers of Commerce in the area and bicycle shops. The letter could contain such information as the purpose of the club, organization, practice schedule, performance or parade activity, etc. An eye-appealing letterhead and the name, address and phone number of contact people would complete the letter. Advertising of this type might not only bring in new members but invitations for parades and performances as well.

INDEX TO PICTURES ON PAGE 2

- 1) Another shot of BOB DeLOOZE of the GREAT BRITTONS and his 9'7" uni. (pgs. 1 & 4)
 - 2) WALLY WATTS and his "round-the-world" uni
 - 3) JACK HALPERN, Tokyo, Japan, and the 3-wheel unicycle
 - 4) WILLIAM COLVIN rides to . . . and . . .
 - 5) fro at the United Air Lines strip in Hawaii. (see letter on page 15)
 - 6) Three "big wheels" - from left to right BILL JENACK with his 46" wagon wheel uni MARY JENACK on Wally's 42" wheel WALLY WATTS and his "round-the-world" uni
 - 7) . . . and they're off . . . MARY RENNER on her MAG WHEEL PENGUIN GIRAFFE races WALLY WATTS on his 43" wheel (see story on pg. 5)
 - 8) CAROL HAINES and STEVE MILLS begin wedded bliss by entertaining at their wedding reception, Aug. 5, 1978. JON DAVID HAWKS, ringbearer for the wedding, holds the train.
- UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

*JIM MOYER, Director of the OAK VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXHIBITIONAL ACTIVITIES CLUB (see April, 1978, NSLR for more on this group) sent the following article:
"Our Club has been very busy this fall with numerous shows at various fairs, festivals, and parades. Unicyclists from the school club made a T.V. appearance on Washington, D.C. channel 4 on the show, "STUFF." One of our unicyclists, JOEL DEMPSEY, has been featured in several local newspapers juggling clubs while riding a 10-foot high giraffe unicycle." (Joel's picture appears on pg. 1 of this NSLR.)

*FRAN MOORE, who is in charge of uniforms for the CHILDREN'S CLUB OF CONCORD, INC. - UNICYCLE DRILL TEAM and wife of President, BOB MOORE sent programs from several dinners the Club has held recently. Two of these honored long-time riders of this 25-year-old organization, PHILIP VAUGHAN was honored on November 3, 1978, for 10 years of active participation. Along with winning many awards during this period, Philip has also traveled some 50,000 miles in order to participate in more than 190 parades and 340 practice sessions. Honored on January 23, 1979, for five years of active membership was ANN BAIER. Congratulations to both of these fine riders!!!

Although the Club now has many fewer members than in the past, it still participated in over 30 parades in 1978. The reduced membership has necessitated the disbanding of the Square Dance Unit. However, still active are the Baton, High Unicycle and Senior and Junior groups.



* JACK QUILLEN, Chairman of the Bd. of the KOKOMO ROAD RUNNERS - UNICYCLE CLUB sent a poster advertising the Club's Benefit Basketball Game, on unicycles, of course, which was held Nov. 5, 1978. It was a first-time experience that proved to be a lot of fun and a financial success. Jack suggests that an inter-club game could be scheduled just for fun or as a joint fund raiser. Anyone interested may contact Jack by writing to P.O. 1221, Kokomo, Indiana 46901.

A copy of the rules of the group given to your editor by CAROL MORAN contains the following: "All members are expected to be kind and courteous at all meetings and performances," and "Ownership of a unicycle with some form of identification is imperative for membership."
NEWSLETTER 1-79

FEATURED GROUP - The "GREAT BRITTONS"

(Ed. note: Five unicycle clubs have been featured during the past year; each was chosen because of its somewhat unique organization. The following is a letter from KEN BRITTON in response to your ed.'s request for information on his unicycling activities.)

"The GREAT BRITTONS is not a formally organized club. I have taught about a dozen people to ride the unicycle and have three regular riders who participate with me in parades. Our biggest parade is the annual Sauerkraut Parade in Phelps, N.Y., the sauerkraut capital of the world. Robert (see picture pg. 1) always rides his 6-foot giraffe. We ride informally as they give us 100 foot of space in the parade which lasts a full hour. One of my best riders spent the summer as an exchange high school student in Europe. Others will not practice enough to be able to ride in parades. I teach anyone who wants to learn (at the Y.M.C.A.) just for the fun of it. There are a few boys who ride whom I haven't been able to contact so far. People seem to be too busy to practice on any formal basis, and I don't have time during the summer.

"How did I learn to ride? About 20 years ago I built a unicycle using the front fork and wheel of a tricycle. The bearings were too loose and I didn't know how to get started, so I quit in two weeks.

"Four years ago at age 60 I bought a 20-inch Schwinn and learned to ride by pushing myself along my cellar wall for a while, morning and night, for 5 weeks. I graduated to the Y.M.C.A. gym and shopping centers for practicing.

"I was fortunate enough to find BILL JENACK's address in a bicycle and unicycle buyer's guide at the library. I contacted Bill, who graciously instructed me in the proper way to mount the unicycle and how to ride one footed. I drove 350 miles to his home and stayed a couple of days. I met BARRY LAPPY and his folks, who were in New York City for a month while Barry performed at Madison Square Garden. RAY LAPPY gave me some good tips on riding. The following year Barry and his folks came to Rochester for a week and they stayed with us in Canandaigua (commuted to Rochester daily). I picked up 3 riders when Dr. BRONDUM's wife, LYNNE, saw Barry and me practicing at the Y.M.C.A. I taught her sons JACQUE, age 11, and J.J., age 10, to ride in one week and mount in two weeks. I cut down a frame and put 4-inch pedal cranks on for ANGELA, age 6, as she was so short. We all put on a show at the Y's "Open House!"

"I have built and sold several 6-foot giraffes at the National Meets.

"I bought a special unicycle hub, bearings and bearing mounts in Florida. I replaced the 14-hole flanges with 18-hole flanges from a 10-speed bike wheel which were hell-arc welded to the unicycle hub. This made it possible to spoke up a 27-inch wheel. (27-inch wheels are not made for 28 spokes.) So now I have a 27-inch unicycle which is not available commercially. I would be glad to help anyone interested in making a giraffe.

"I practice regularly and can rock in place, ride my regular unicycle or 5½ foot giraffe backwards, in circles or figure 8's. I ride the regular unicycle with one foot. I will share my learning of the one foot or backward riding with anyone interested.

"Also, besides a garden and dwarf fruit trees and a big place to keep mowed, I am a jogger. I have run 12,650 miles in the last 10 years, which is over half way around the world.

"I also have three antique cars." For those of you who would like to write to Ken, his address is:

KENNETH W. BRITTON
3984 West Lake Road
Canandaigua, New York 14424

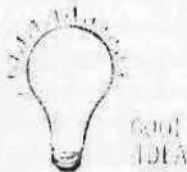
STATISTICS ON KEN'S 9' 7" UNICYCLE PICTURED ON PAGE 1: (ridden by ROBERT DeLOOZE)

The frame is made up of sections of Raleigh racing bike frames, which are much stronger than regular bike frames. The fork is made of solid spring steel (It came from an older bike). The new forks are made of tubing which is much weaker. It took four regular bike chains with only about 5 inches left over. The seat post and seat are standard Schwinn unicycle components. The wheel is a 36 spoke 20-inch wheel.

The list of unicycle clubs with address and contact person is growing but is still not long enough to publish. PLEASE, send this information to the NEWSLETTER editor! And at the same time, include information about your club's activities. What you write may well be an inspiration to another club!

*MARY RENNER (see picture pg. 2) is another example of how versatile some of our members are. Mary, 19, is one of the cover girls on THE UNICYCLE BOOK. She is one of 12 children and, with a number of her brothers and sisters, has been active in unicycling for several years. Upon graduating from high school two years ago, Mary took a special vocational course at Sears. This past year she has been driving a Sears Van and installing and servicing washing machines for them. She enjoys the work (and the pay) and plans to continue working for Sears while attending college this year. Aside from unicycling Mary has become quite a proficient juggler and with JOHN JENACK has been participating in a number of other of The Circus Arts. When WALLY WATTS stopped over in Westbury, N.Y. after completing his round-the-world ride, he and Mary had great fun riding together. She admits, however, it was a bit difficult for her on a Mag wheel Penguin Giraffe to keep up with Wally on his 43" wheel.

To add a little glamour to their unicycle basketball performance during the half-time of the NEW JERSEY NETS and the SAN ANTONIO SPURS game at Rutgers on Jan. 5, 1979, LARRY STEEL'S WORLD WHEELERS had Mary join them. Mary confided later that she was probably as pleased as the spectators when one of her shots went in.



Here is a "trick of the trade" sent by ROBERT SCHUSTER, a member of the Unicycle Association of Ontario as well as U.S.A., Inc. He learned this when he was in Europe watching a group do some

"Kunstradfahren." "When doing a catwalk on a circus-bicycle, you will find it much easier if only one hand is on the handlebar at a time. I was allowed to try to drive one of their circus-bikes on the rear wheel. It was close to impossible until the instructor told me to use one hand only. In doing so, my weight was more evenly distributed on the bike, and I drove from one corner of the gym to the other on my first try.

*Note to giraffe riders:

By going to a MAG WHEEL and using a keyed sprocket on their popular PENGUIN GIRAFFE, CYCLE COMPONENTS, P. O. Box 4667, El Mont CA 91731, has eliminated the problem all previous commercial giraffe manufacturers experienced with slipping sprockets. The new Magnesium wheel gives the giraffe a neat, up-to-date look and at the same time eliminates spoke and crooked wheel problems. The new model is expected to make it debut at the International Cycle Show in N.Y.C. in February, 1979.

UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

*One of our members EMMETT CARPENTER, who with his wife BETTIE run Hamilton's Bicycles East, 1622 South Parkwood, Wichita, Kansas 67218, reports that he has just shipped six unicycles and two custom-built circus bikes to a customer in Amsterdam, Holland. Hamilton's Bicycles East is one of the few old-time bicycle shops left in the United States where one can have custom-build cycles made. The April, 1977, NSLR carried an interesting story on Emmett and Bettie and Hamilton's Bicycles East.

*For the past few years NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Garden City, N.Y. has offered a Circus Arts Course in which Unicycling, taught by JOHN JENACK, has proven very popular. With the completion of their new Physical Education Complex, the college now has the most beautiful facilities ever. On Dec. 15, 1978, to call attention to their aquatics program, the public was invited to their First Annual Intramural Splash Contest. To kick off the evening's program of water polo and swimming and diving activities, JOHN JENACK and ADAM LADD entertained spectators with an exhibition of juggling and unicycling. Then John Jenack, clothes and all, rode his unicycle off the high diving board. He managed to make a fairly clean entry into the water and received a big cheer when he reappeared, feet first, from the deep.

ONCE AGAIN AVAILABLE:

Through the efforts of your Sec.-Treas., JOYCE JONES, the first five issues of the U.S.A., Inc. NEWSLETTER are once again available. She has duplicated these with considerable clarity on both sides of the paper, so anyone wishing to add these issues to his collection will find them almost comparable to the originals. Members will find these issues once again listed on the order blank at the end of this NSLR. Cost: \$1.50 per issue

Also available once more are the little unicycle pins and charms that were first introduced at the 1975 National Unicycle Meet. Mrs. BERNARD CRANDALL was able to locate the merchant who supplied them and JOYCE JONES now has them in inventory to fill all orders. Cost: \$2.15 each

NEWSLETTER 1-79



(Each of the new officers were asked to submit an autobiographical sketch for the Jan. NSLR. Each indicated that writing about themselves was a very difficult task; but, none-the-less, each answered your editor's request with the enthusiastic approach that made them the 1979 leaders of U.S.A., Inc.)

President: JAN LAYNE, 514 Defiance Ave.
Findlay, Ohio 45840

"I have always lived in Findlay. My husband, Emil, who is an identical twin, and I have five children. Gary, our eldest, has served four years in the Navy and is now a sophomore at George Williams College in Ill. He has learned to ride the unicycle, and guess what he got for Christmas? Our second eldest, Terry Sue, is a senior at Ohio Univ. this year. She has done many things but riding a unicycle is not one of them. Our next three children, Nan, Jeff and Andrew do ride and are the reason this Mother is involved in unicycling.

"Our 4-H Club has been unicycling for four years and is still very much involved in 4-H activities as well as unicycling.

"The U.S.A., Inc. has done so much for our Club. We are doing things we never dreamed possible four years ago. Our Club members never quite believe the generosity and the willingness of other clubs to share equipment and ideas.

"I am looking forward to being President this year and hope that I will be able to contribute to the sport of unicycling.

"My young people and I are planning and looking forward to 1979 N.U.M."

Vice-President: KATHY SKINNER (Home Address)
1524 Orchid
Pontiac, Mich.

(Kathy prefaced her autobiography with the comment, "I hope what I wrote is what you want, but try to keep in mind that I only got a crummy 2.5 in English this term.")

"Unicycling has been one of the most important things in my life. I have developed many special friends through unicycling, probably because of the fact that it is a healthy and fast-growing sport that so many different, 'crazy' people are interested in! The new and different places I've traveled to, the fun and exciting people I've met and have grown to love, and all of the neat things I've been able to do just from riding my one little wheel, make me appreciate 'B.C.' all the more for inventing the unicycle!

"I can remember when my Dad bought me my

first unicycle light-and-a-half years ago - only two feet tall, but then it only cost \$2.00. Since then I have always enjoyed the challenge of trying new and different stunts and cycles. As a member of the PONTIAC UNICYCLISTS I have traveled in fourteen states, entertaining in eleven of them, along with four other countries: Canada, Germany, Italy, and Austria. Since the illness and death of our leader and special friend, MR. CRANDALL, our group's activities have been at a minimum. This past year's engagements have been The Kentucky Derby Parade and The Keego Harbor Parade - May, the National Unicycle Meet - July, The J. L. Hudson's Thanksgiving Parade - November, and The Windsor Parade - December.

"When I accepted the position of Vice-President this summer, I did so with the attitude of helping our President, Mrs. JAN LAYNE, along with our Secretary-Treasurer and Editor reach a better society. I hope my opinions and suggestions will add to those of the other officers to make a stronger society.

"Currently I am attending Michigan State University trying to become a Mechanical Engineer, but I'm enjoying my juggling balls and unicycle (whenever I get a chance to ride it) better! Even though homework takes up a lot of time, I still enjoy reading letters from others and I promise that if given a chance (don't expect miracles too fast, though) I'll answer any letter back! My school address is: 243 W. McDonel, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824." (Ed. note: You're certainly worthy of more than a 2.5 on your autobiography, Kathy.)

Secretary-Treasurer: JOYCE JONES

(Joyce served as Sec-Treas. last year for the first time and her personal write-up can be found in the Jan. '78 NSLR. That she was unanimously asked to continue in this capacity and was given a hearty round of applause speaks volumes for the job she has done for the U.S.A., Inc. The NSLR would not be as full of information were it not for Joyce's contributions of letters and news items. In addition to her U.S.A., Inc. responsibilities, she is also an active parent of the REDFORD TOWNSHIP UNICYCLE CLUB, INC. for whom she writes their monthly newsletter.)

Director: AL HEMMINGER, 16152 Kinloch
Redford, MI 48240

"Similar to other friends of unicyclists, I have become involved in the great circus art and growing sport of unicycling through the interest of my younger daughter, TERESA. The story goes that one year for her birthday a beautiful five-speed Schwinn bicycle was purchased as a gift. The following day the daughter went to the bank and then to the bicycle shop and purchased a unicycle. Needless to say, I was rather surprised and unhappy when I returned home from work that evening. The bicycle is still in new condition, gathering dust, and is for sale. The unicycle has been well used. I have not completely mastered how to ride a unicycle but give it a try from time to time after work from Industrial Risk Insurers where I am employed in the Engineering Department."

Director: FLOYD CRANDALL, 124 S. Josephine
Pontiac, MI 48253

"I received my first unicycle as a Christmas present when I was 11 years old. Since I am now 22, I have been unicycling for half of my life. I graduated from Waterford Mott High School and for the past 2 years have been working at the Fisher Body Auto plant in Pontiac, Mich. I have mastered all size unicycles and ride one 20 feet tall. The high unicycles that I ride have all been made by my Dad, BERNARD CRANDALL. Riding a unicycle has taken me on many miles of travel through many states in the United States and a tour of Austria, Germany and Italy with the PONTIAC UNICYCLISTS. I have been a member of the Pontiac group since its beginning 11 years ago."

(Ed. note: Not mentioned by Floyd is the fact that he has won many N.U.M. honors for his prowess on the unicycle and has served as an inspiration to many, not only for his ability, but also for his good sportsmanship.)

Director: PAUL FOX, 983 E. Center St.
Marion, Ohio 43302

(Paul is continuing in his capacity as Director. His bubbly humor and enthusiasm are known to many U.S.A., Inc. members. Perhaps this quote from him to your editor will permit those who do not know him to feel his enthusiasm, "You know, I have no desire to go to Hawaii. But if I were told that there was an opportunity to ride a unicycle in a plane going there!" Paul's enthusiasm is shared by his three daughters, CATHY, CONNIE, and CINDY.)

UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

AN OVERSIGHT . . .

Your editor neglected to mention in the October, 1978, NSLR that the members of U.S.A., Inc. agreed at the Annual Meeting to raise the cost of a single membership from \$5.00 to \$6.00. Since the major cost increases to the society are for the printing and mailing of the NEWSLETTER, additional family members may still be added at \$.50 each. The membership application on the back of this NSLR reflects this increase, which was to go into effect January 1.

AN INVITATION . . .

"Over the past four years I have been in contact with Mr. HANS BORN, who is coach of the GERMAN ARTISTIC BICYCLE CLUB. Mr. Born would like to send some artistic cyclists to our National Unicycle Meet.

"I feel that this opportunity to share ideas and skill with members of the German club would be a rewarding experience. I am hoping to have a cyclist from Germany as a foreign exchange student this summer. If you or your club are interested in this program of taking in a foreign exchange student from the German Artistic Cyclist Club, please contact:

Mr. Hans Born, Sec'y F.I.A.C.
D-6520 Worms
Gaustrasse 77
EAST GERMANY

or

Steve Smock
4745 Glastonbury Ct. - Apt 164
Indianapolis, Indiana 46227"

Mr. Born has also written to the REDFORD TOWNSHIP UNICYCLE CLUB, INC. Thirty riders and parents of this club will be spending a month this summer touring Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Liechtenstein. It is hoped that a meeting with Mr. Born and some of his cyclists will be able to be arranged when the group is in Europe.

DID YOU KNOW? . . . that back when they had penny post cards (1935-36) our BILL JENACK was part of a group called "Crump's Minstrel." He had a break-a-way bike that became two unicycles. He performed on this as well as serving as the interlocutor for the Minstrel Show. It played in N.E. New England and Canada and Bill reports, "It sure was fun!"
NEWSLETTER 1-79



"BICYCLE PEOPLE"
Dr. Roland C. Geist

This luxurious 8½ x 11" 165 pg deluxe book by one of our outstanding senior members who has been well known in the field of cycling for over 60 years is just coming off the presses and will be available when this newsletter reaches you. In tracing the history of the bi-

cycle Dr. Geist amusingly tells of the earliest inventors of the bicycle, the daring racers both here and abroad, the adventurous tourists, the famous wheelwomen, the flamboyant circus performers, the imaginative artists, and the enthusiastic composers and poets who have put cycles into songs and poems. Not only does the author cover many of the old timers in the field of unicycling such as the Ugo Ancillotti Troupe, Walter Nilsson, Joe Jackson, and Jack Natirboff but many of the all-time greats and current performing cyclists such as Boy Foy, Lily Yokoi, The Kondive Troupe, Walter Shyretto, The Romanos, The Volantes, Steve McPeak, The King Charles Troupe, and even The Marquis Chimps. In the chapter on inventors the book is right up to date and includes Dr. Paul MacCready and his Gossamer Condor that last year won the coveted Kremer Prize for the first successful pedal power flight. Excellent photos of performers in action plus Dr. Geist's delightful stories and comments on them make this beautiful and fanciful book a must for the serious collector of cyclana. We are happy to announce that the publisher has granted us permission to offer this book through our organization. It can be ordered from the Sec'y Treas. The cost is \$18.50 postpaid. See order form on last page.

BICYCLE PEOPLE

BOOK REVIEW:

"ACROBATICS BOOK"
Jack Wiley

Jack Wiley, author of THE UNICYCLE BOOK, BASIC CIRCUS SKILLS and THE TUMBLING BOOK, has just completed a book on the international sport of acrobatics. This is the first comprehensive manual on this sport. The book begins at the most basic level and with completely illustrated material gradually progresses to more advanced stunts. The text explains and diagrams routines for individuals, partners and groups.

Designed not only for the acrobatic performer, the book is also extremely useful for cheerleaders, coaches, judges, or spectators who wish to learn more about this rapidly growing sport.

This most recent book of Jack Wiley's is just off the press. It is a paperback containing 187 pages and may be ordered from U.S.A., Inc. for \$4.95, postpaid. See the order form on the last page of this NEWSLETTER.

"THE UNICYCLE BOOK"

The outstanding handbook of the sport of Unicycling, which has for years been the one and only source of complete information, is now out of print and no longer available from the publisher Stackpole Books. Word has also been received that the publisher does not plan to reprint. Fortunately the USA Inc. purchased several hundred copies for resale a few years ago and still has some in stock. Although the book has now become a collector's item it is still available to members, in single copies only, for the original price of \$7.95 (see order form on last page). Since the rights to the book have now reverted to the author it is hoped that sometime in the future Jack Wiley will come out with a paperback condensation similar to the reprint of his other popular book on Basic Circus Skills.

JAN LAYNE, President of U.S.A., Inc. and Director of Smiling Faces 4-H Unicycle Club, prepared the following letter for the Jan.

LR;

"Dear Friend of Unicycling,

I am writing first of all to inform you that The Smiling Faces 4-H Unicycle Club will be hosting the Eighth National Unicycle Meet in Findlay, Ohio at Findlay College. The Meet will be August 3, 4, and 5, 1979.

We are trying something a little different this year. We will be staying at Findlay College in dormitories. Meals will be provided in the cafeteria. The cost will be approximately \$25.00 per person for the 2 nights' lodging and 6 meals.

On Friday Night there will be a get-together, swimming and a snack.

Saturday will be races, obstacle course, individual trick riding, swimming and awards.

Sunday; The Unicycling Society of America, Inc. annual meeting, short parade, couples, groups and awards.

In case of rain these events might be changed around, but the races could be held inside. However, the gym would be very warm.

If you have any suggestions or comments on this year's National Unicycle Meet, please write me (514 Defiance Avenue, Findlay, Ohio 45840) or call after 4:20 week days (1-419-422-8959) as soon as possible."

Sincerely yours,

Jan Layne

Director

Smiling Faces 4-H Unicycle Club

An added note to the above letter is that the gym floor is a tartan or rubber surface. Jan also suggests that anyone planning on competing in the 1979 N.U.M. join the U.S.A., Inc. Any unicyclist who is not a member will pay an additional entry fee. (CLUB MEMBERS - please make sure that everyone in your club is aware of this!)

ALL OF THE DETAILS OF THE 1979 N.U.M. WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE APRIL NSLR.

Along with the monumental task of organizing the 1979 N.U.M., JAN LAYNE is also collecting ideas on a unicycling award system that might possibly be offered through the U.S.A., Inc. These would be multi-level awards (possibly different colored patches) for progressively more difficult unicycling skills. She would be happy to hear from anyone (see address above) who could offer suggestions for organizing such a system. (This would be similar to that which is now offered in karate, swimming, skating, etc.)

UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

INDEX TO PICTURES - REGIONAL MEETS - 1978

Pictures No. 1-5 were taken at the meet sponsored by the SMILING FACES 4-H UNICYCLE CLUB in Findlay, Ohio.

- 1) Action (by riders and judges) at the finish line
- 2) The large floor area of the Hancock Recreation Center permitted several activities to be run concurrently
Individual trick riding routines by:
 - 3) ANDY LAYNE, son of President, Jan Layne
 - 4) DEBBIE JONES, daughter of Sec.-Treas., Joyce Jones
 - 5) TERESA HEMMINGER, daughter of Director, Al Hemminger

Pictures No. 6-10 were taken at the meet sponsored by the REDFORD TOWNSHIP UNICYCLE CLUB, INC.

- 6) And they're off...Girls, ages 12-14
- 7) A finishing contestant in the "walk the wheel" race
- 8) STEVE GRUDZIEN entertains with a song (This was when the competition had to be temporarily stopped because of the rain.) AUDREY HETTEL (sitting behind Steve) is the artist for the Redford unicyclists who produces all of their signs including the one in the background.
- 9) A triumphant CATHY FOX, oldest daughter of Director, Paul Fox
- 10) JEFF and NAN LAYNE, children of President Jan Layne

The remainder of the pictures were taken in Tokyo, Japan, of the meet sponsored by the JAPAN UNICYCLING CLUB

- 11) A three-wheel unicycle? Yes, and JACK HALPERN, the rider, reports that by the time you read this, there should be a five-wheel one in operation
- 12) Badminton, anyone?
- 13) Or perhaps you'd prefer a game of catch. That's professional rider TAKESHI YAMAMOTO on the left and JACK HALPERN on the right
- 14) JACK with his son riding on his shoulders. Jack was riding a unicycle when this picture was taken; but like Lloyd Timberlake's story in "Unicyclists in the News," the unicycle had to be cut
- 15) Thank goodness for trees!

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Regional meets require a lot of hard work for the organizing club; but, ask any club who has held one, there are so many rewards that next year's meet is usually being discussed before the last unicyclist has packed up his equipment and left for home.

The first regional meet of 1978 (that your editor is aware of - if your club has held a meet but no one has written an article about it for the NSLR, please write it yourself and send it in!) was sponsored by the SMILING FACES 4-H UNICYCLE CLUB. It was held on April 29 at the Hancock Recreation Center, a huge facility with ample space for the over 130 riders who attended. At this meet there were ten unicyclists honored for their skill on the wheel, boys and girls in each of five age brackets. To be so honored, a rider had to be the top point winner in his/her age bracket. Points were awarded for the racing and trick-riding winners.

Another regional meet was held on Sept. 30 at the Wonderland Shopping Center in Livonia, Michigan. This event (billed as the "second annual") was sponsored by the REDFORD TOWNSHIP UNICYCLE CLUB, INC. While the meet was almost totally rained out in the afternoon, the over 80 unicyclists spent the wet time in the Center's Community Room singing and being entertained by impromptu demonstrations. A feature of the meet was a "walk the wheel" race, which was a surprise to all - including the hosting club. The obstacle course was like none seen at the N.U.M. It was a "fun" course similar to one designed by CATHY FOX and pictured on page 18 of the October, 1976, NSLR. (This type of course had been the hallmark of the PONTIAC UNICYCLE CLUB's Fall Round-Up, a regional meet which they organized for six years.)

The JAPAN UNICYCLING CLUB decided to join the fun by holding "The First Japan Unicycling Meet" on November 12, 1978. The Club's President, JACK HALPERN, wrote the following

description of this event;

"The First Japan Unicycling Meet attracted an avalanche of reporters and cameramen. The purpose of the meet was to promote the sport of unicycling in Japan and show to unicyclists the many riding techniques, unicycling games and some of the unusual unicycles introduced in Jack Wiley's book and in the U.S.A., Inc. NSLR.

"After an opening speech in which I explained the merits of the sport, etc., there was a unicycling demonstration in which TAKESHI YAMAMOTO, a professional trick rider did such trick as skipping rope on his uni. I rode Japan's first and only three-wheeled uni (built by Yamamoto), and club children demonstrated their skill in riding a handle-bar unit with pedals. There were also several giraffes at the meet, and the audience was impressed at how the giraffe could be mounted in the open while it is in motion. (Jack is planning on writing an article about giraffe free-mounting techniques for a future NSLR.)

"After the demonstration there were races of several kinds followed by various unicycling games such as tag and catch ball.

"Takeshi Yamamoto then announced the formation of the "All-Japan Unicycling Federation," headed by unicycling veteran (YOSHITO SUZUKI. (Everyone was amazed to see him riding the uni at the age of 86.) The "Federation," which only exists on paper, is supposed to unite the several unicycling clubs in Japan.

"This was followed by testing the skills of all the participants, and everyone received a certificate indicating his level of skill (divided into six grades).

"The most important result of this meet was the attention it received from the media. Some of the leading magazines in Japan published many photos and articles." (The picture below is one of many that appeared with an article in the MAINICHI GRAPH. That is 86-year-old YOSHITO SUZUKI in plaid coat.)



What does a young man who has ridden a 43" unicycle around the world do for an encore? Wally's problem is not determining what, but rather which of the many exciting ideas he is constantly considering.

Of first priority is to pay off a \$2000 debt, money he had to borrow to complete his 12,000 mi. odyssey. To do this he is working on his own as an upholsterer, although a newspaper article quoted him as saying that he might head north (from his home in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada) to the oil fields where the money is better.

Of course, he's also building the world's largest unicycle and is considering a robot or two (see "Letters from our Members"). And he is planning on collecting all of his many memories of his round-the-world trip in a book tentatively entitled "One Way, One Wheel." He also finds the concept of man-powered flight fascinating and . . . and . . . and . . . There is no limit to his imagination, and seemingly no end to his energy.

While U.S.A., Inc. members have followed Wally's trip in considerable detail with each NSR and are aware that his unicycle had a hard-rubber tire, that it took 53 welds to complete the trip and that he recuperated from his broken arm on a house boat in Kashmir, India; not too much has been said about Wally as a person. So the following lines might be called, "Meet Wally Watts."

When Wally arrived at the home of your editor, he was heading toward a suburb of Chicago (He couldn't remember exactly what the name was and his address book had accidentally been packed up and sent to his home.) to spend an evening with a family he had met on his trip east who had invited him to their home. (He couldn't remember their name either.) But Wally was heading west with the assurance that everything would work out fine, and thanks to RICH ILLING of Downers Grove, Illinois, it did. Rich had sent your editor an article on Wally's unicycle trip through the Chicago area and in it were the name and hometown of the family with whom Wally was to stay. Luck? Of course. But when someone looks for success rather than failure, doesn't he create his own good luck?

In addition to his positive attitude, Wally has observed much in his travels that have lead to a few quotes that could be called "Wise words from Wally Watts;"

In a newspaper article that appeared in SALLY WHITE's paper in Pennsylvania, Wally was quoted as saying, "Just believe what you believe in and don't try to push it on anybody else. Be what you want to be. But remember, your way isn't the only way." After seeing the world

from the unique position of the unicyclist, he observed, "What freedom we have is taken for granted." And about himself, "(I have) accomplished one of the rungs on the ladder of my life. It's a good start. I'm pleased."

Good luck as you start on that next rung, Wally!!!

DATES TO REMEMBER:



*RBBB schedule - Blue Unit (This is the unit TOM PARISH is touring with.)

Mar. 2-4	Columbia	S. Carolina
Mar. 6-7	Savannah	Georgia
Mar. 9-11	Asheville	N. Carolina
Mar. 13-18	Charlotte	N. Carolina
Mar. 20-25	Knoxville	Tennessee
Mar. 28-		
Apr 1	Cincinnati	Ohio
Apr. 3-4	Charleston	W. Virginia
Apr. 6-8	Huntington	W. Virginia

*Apr. 21, 1979, 2nd annual Unicycle and Circus Arts Convention sponsored by the Unicycling Federation of Earth. There will be workshops in mime, clowning, juggling, etc. For more information writes:

DAVE HADWIGER
1118 Scholl Road
Aimes, Iowa 50010

*Aug. 3, 4, and 5, 1979, National Unicycle Meet, Pindlay, Ohio

Members of U.S.A., Inc. will be saddened to learn of the death of FATHER JAMES J. MORAN, Founding Member of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. and founder of St. Helen's Unicycle Drill Team, Newbury, Ohio. Father Moran's fine group won accolades wherever they performed throughout the United States and were often mentioned in the NEWSLETTER over the years. Even though Father Moran was retired and in failing health, his interest in the Unicycle Drill Team never waned. His last contribution to the U.S.A., Inc. NEWSLETTER is found in the October, 1978, issue.

*SCOTT KELLY and BRYCE JACOBSON both wrote asking specific questions about events in the National Unicycle Meet. JAN LAYNE, director of the Smiling Faces 4-H Unicycle Club who will be hosting the 1979 N.U.M., is currently working out all of the details of this event. These will be published in the April NSLR. General information is available elsewhere in this issue under National Unicycle Meet Information.

One question that both writers asked about was, "What is the slow race?" This is a race that definitely "separates the men from the boys (women from the girls)" in unicycle riding. The rider must maintain forward motion at all times (there can be no rocking or zig-zag motion). The object is to be the last to cross the finish line. The rider, of course, must maintain his balance on the wheel throughout the race.

*ANN THERESE FERGUSON recently joined the U.S.A., Inc. along with her four brothers (MIKE, JIM, FRANK and EDDIE) and her sister (MARIA). Ann wrote that all six Fergusons ride very well. While the family's home is in Trafford, PA, Ann is currently a student at Duquesne University. She wrote the following information about herself, "I rode my unicycle for 'carnival,' a big event we have each year. I was dressed as a clown as I rode. I always ride on campus when the weather is permitting. Also, I ride a six-foot unicycle; I received it as a graduation present from high school."



(Ann's stationery was decorated with a frog attempting to master the art of riding the uni across a slack rope. In case of a slip, the daredevil had a friend on the ground below holding a butterfly net. Her picture was cut from wrapping paper she found in the bookstore at Duquesne.)

*A letter from "The One Wheel Trucker, FRANK WILLIAMS, states, "I currently hold the world speed record in Unicycling (ref: 1979 Edition Guinness Book of World Records, Pg. 308). I plan to break that record again during a trip (April 2-14, 1979) traveling from Austin, TX to Little Rock, Ark. (525 Mi.). In 1980 I plan to circle the United States (Fla. to Me., to Wash., to Cal. and back to Fla.) to break the world long-distance record.

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"I truly enjoy the art of unicycling and hope to see it become a national past-time, equal to or surpassing bicycling and skateboarding..." (BILL JENACK, who received this letter and sent it on for the NSLR added the following information, "...on Sept. 5, 1977, (Frank) rode 100 miles on his unicycle from Austin to Waco, Texas in 12 hrs. 50 minutes...")

*ROBERTO TSCHUDIN LUCHEME, whose letter was accompanied by a drawing of him "being himself" juggling while riding his unicycle, wrote "The unicycle film was used for two TV news reports. (This was the film made at the 7th N.U.M. held in Minneapolis in 1978.) I've still got some leftover film which I'll try to do something constructive with when I get the chance." He indicated that finding a chance in his hectic schedule is a real problem. (Your editor was very surprised when a neighbor, who was vacationing in the Green Bay area when the films were used, stopped by to say that he had seen Roberto's films of the Meet and recognized her and several of the Redford riders. Roberto, for those of you who do not know him, has served as Vice-President of U.S.A., Inc. and does much to further unicycling through his TV program.)

*A letter from JAMES CARTER indicated that he would be working at The Young Vic Theatre for at least another year. He goes on to say "It seems that unicycling activity in England is practically nil outside of the circus ring but I hope to be able to set up some sessions with LLOYD TIMBERLAKE to rectify this sad state of affairs." (The most recent articles from Lloyd, including one on an English unicycle builder, can be found in July, 1978, NSLR pgs. 12-13)

*DAVID MARINER, whose company, DM Engineering, is the manufacturer mentioned above, has become a member of U.S.A., Inc. In his letter he writes, "We have had one enquiry from U.S.A. for unicycles and one from Canada, but I am not sure whether these were the result of the NSLR." He is eager to help anyone interested in his unicycles. His address is 7 Telford Road, Ferndown Industrial Estate, Wimborne Dorset, ENGLAND BH 21 7QW.

*A letter from CHARLOTTE FOX ROGERS tells of her attempt to contact LOYD WICKER SMITH. She says, "When I phoned his church, however, I was told that he no

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longer worked there and had gone to Germany to live. No forwarding address was volunteered." (Charlotte, our "Los Angeles reporter" had hoped to write an article on Mr. Smith. If anyone knows of his address, please let her know. The Rogers' address is: 1057 Arlington Ave. Los Angeles, California 90019. Anyone attending the 1978 N.U.M. may have spotted several of Mr. Smith's unicycles among those being ridden by members of the Smiling Faces 4-H Unicycle Club.)

*KATHY BRADY, 33262 Paseo Molinos St., San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675, and her neighbor DAVID McDONALD, 33271 Paseo Molinos, S.J.C. 92675, are eager to begin a unicycle club since there is no active club near them. They would like some ideas on how to get started, how to organize, etc. They would appreciate anyone's writing to them with suggestions that have proved successful in other unicycle clubs.

*From the beautiful land of Hawaii comes a letter and picture (see page 2) from WILLIAM COLVIN; "Being fifty years old I didn't think I could learn to ride a unicycle. I did though and have been having a ball riding it around the ramp. I am a United Air Lines air craft mechanic and I use it to go back and forth from the shop area to the airplanes.

"I enjoy unicycling very much and would like to find out if people stare at others the way they stare at me. HA!"

(Mr. Colvin learned about U.S.A., Inc. from our FRANCIS SMITH, Seattle, Washington, who is a United Air Lines flight officer.)

*MATTHEW BRIGDON, who organized the Unicycle Association of Ontario with BRIAN MATTHEWS, sent the following letter to get U.S.A., Inc. members caught up on the latest happenings from Eastbourne Ave., Toronto:

"WALLY WATTS came up, saw the robots and stayed all night. (For picture of one robot see pg. 2 NSLR 7-78) We got our latest robot to take our picture together. The camera mechanism in the robot is an arm which raises up with a camera attached to the end of it. The flash mechanism is set on the robot also and goes off simultaneously. To get a picture, all you do is stand a certain distance away, lined up, with the controls in someone's hand, and the picture is taken and shoots out the bottom of the camera toward you, all developed and finished. Wally was an absolute gas and thought the robots were supreme (These have all been built by Matthew and Brian.) It is incredible how many amazing ideas the man has.

"We have another neat gimmick which has been tested and is very successful and has also caused many UFO sightings in our district. It is a

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simple hot air balloon. We took about 8 very light-weight drinking straws and joined them together in a framework and inserted candles (birthday-cake size) in slits in certain of the straws. (A light-weight plastic cleaner bag) is ironed across the top to seal it. The straw frame is taped to the opening of the bottom of the bag in such a way that the candles are barely inside the bag. The candles are then lit after all excess plastic is cut off, making the whole structure VERY, VERY light. This is vital! A Bic lighter is the most effective way of lighting the structure. It is placed on the ground after being lit so the air in the bag can heat up while being held, filling the bag with hot air. Then there is a crucial pause to ensure lifting power. The bag is launched by letting go. On a calm night it should rise straight up 200-300 feet. The effect is magnificent and launching 2 or 3 is even better. In a light wind, they will trail each other like geese. From the ground each one looks like an eerie light in the sky." (Matthew continues to say that this should not be attempted unless there is plenty of open space. The balloon could get caught and cause a fire. Also included in this letter was a detailed account of Halloween at the Brigdon home. This will be printed in the October issue, because it may give many U.S.A., Inc. members ideas for making Halloween a memorable occasion in their neighborhood.)

*GORAN LUNDSTROM, Sweden, who has made interesting contributions in past issues of the NSLR writes that he and his two brothers "will perform soon in dress coats on unis on a private evening, very high-class club (one brother and our father are members). We brothers are all tall and very birdy...."

*GREG SIPLE, 717 Defoe, Missoula, MT, wrote that he had bicycled from Alaska to Argentina a few years ago and "have since developed an interest in collecting information about other's long rides." He would enjoy hearing from any of you long-distance champions - unicycle or bicycle. Greg is the editor of The Newsletter of the Missoula Bicycle Club. He sent along a copy in which a paragraph mentioned that the M.B.C. had decided to extend their gift subscription of BICYCLING to the local library. (Could unicycle clubs donate a copy of THE UNICYCLE BOOK to their libraries?)

- *The play SPOKESONG, which opened to rave reviews earlier this past year at LONG WHARF THEATRE in New Haven, Conn. will be making its Broadway debut in 1979. SPOKESONG, a contemporary Irish drama, centers around a bicycle shop in Belfast, and eighty years of history as seen through the eyes of the shop's owners. The play contains a number of scenes involving unicycling, trick bicycling, and bicycle history; and all the members of the cast appear on cycles of some kind in one scene or another. U.S.A., Inc. member JOHN JENACK is the Cycle Coach and Bicycle Choreographer for the play and is quite thrilled that it is making it to Broadway. The play will preview on Broadway at the CIRCLE IN THE SQUARE THEATRE on Feb. 23 and will open officially on March 15, 1979,
- *LLOYD TIMBERLAKE, London, England, was featured in the children's section of the SUNDAY OBSERVER newspaper after doing a children's show at a large theatre. The article included a picture of him on the unicycle juggling balls with a 15-year-old friend on his shoulders juggling clubs. Unfortunately, the newspaper cut out the unicycle entirely so the full effect of the stunt was lost to the readers.
- *The October-November NEWSLETTER of the INTERNATIONAL JUGGLERS ASSOCIATION was filled with names and pictures of people familiar to U.S.A., Inc. members. LINSEY LESLIE and LLOYD TIMBERLAKE, who are foreign correspondents; KIT SUMMERS, JON HELD, STEVE MILLS, and GARBO appeared on the picture pages; and LARRY FORSBURG was mentioned as a participant in the New Haven, Conn. Oyster Festival
- *An article on the world's largest unicycle came to your editor via JONATHAN SEGLINS and ALICE WENSLEY, who is the Mother of WALLY WATTS. The article states that the problems of building a unicycle of that Gargantuan size is slowing down the project considerably. Wally is constructing this uni with two axles for easier pedaling and two stands and a cable system for his own safety. When Wally was asked by the reporter why a man who had unicycled around the world would need such elaborate safety devices, Wally's reply was, "I may be unusual but I'm not a fool!"
- *Congratulations! to TOM PARISH, who is now traveling with the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus - Blue Unit (See DATES TO REMEMBER for the circus schedule.) Anyone seeing Tom will be watching him juggle and ride any one or more of the five unicycles that he rode in the Clown College graduation. A picture of Tom that went out over AP wire showed him in top hat, nose and bow tie riding a 9 foot zig zag made for him by BRETT SHOCKLEY. The article mentions that Tom's interest in clowning began with a unicycle in high school. That unicycle led to his being chosen one of 52 persons selected for the Clown College out of the many hundreds who applied. The window in his room now is filled with a constantly changing scene as the RBBB train travels from city to city.
- *Sweden's INGEMAR STENMARK received world-wide recognition in December by winning his third World Cup victory of the season in the giant slalom. Ingemar's picture on a unicycle in picturesque Sweden, along with an article on how he acquired the uni, appeared in the Oct., 1976, NSLR.
- *On December 6, 1978, an article appeared in the NEW YORK POST telling how magician-unicyclists BILLY DAMON and his uncle MARVIN MATTHOW (He's Walter Matthau's younger brother.) foiled a hold-up attempt with their skill in making coins disappear. Instead of the \$200.00, the would-be robber escaped with the disappearing coins (and no directions)!
- * * * * *
- DOES ANYONE KNOW . . . ?
- *Did DAVID BERMAN complete his cross-country unicycle trip? His destination was Los Angeles.
- *Did BOB McINTYRE complete his trip to Washington D.C.?
- *Has STEVE McPEAK completed his 100⁰ unicycle? A card dated October 25, 1978, from a news media photographer said that he was in Las Vegas to film "Unique McPeak's New (this is his second one) 101 foot tall unicycle. He goes on to say that Steve had to get F.A.A. approval to even stand the thing up. (His shop is only 2 miles from the airport.) And that Steve was required to install an aircraft beacon! Fact?
- *Does anyone have information about professional unicyclists - past or present? If so, please send ANYTHING to your editor. Pictures and write-ups will be returned.

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.

Joyce Jones, Secretary-Treasurer
 UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
 P. O. Box 40534
 Redford, Michigan 48240

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	(The first five issues (Vol. 1, Nos. 1 - 4 and Vol 2, No. 1) are duplicated from the original)		
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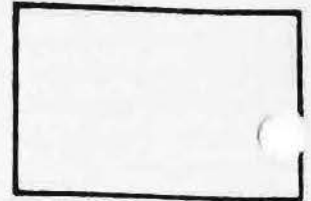
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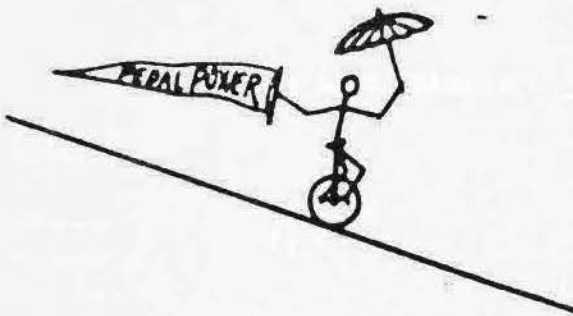
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FIRST CLASS



FIRST CLASS

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