

NEWSLETTER



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***** TABLE OF CONTENTS *****

U.S.A., INC. MEMBERS IN ACTION.....2
 UNICYCLE CLUB NEWS.....3
 PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS of the
 SUPER SILLY SPRING MEET.....4
 FEATURED CLUB: ST. HELEN'S
 UNICYCLE DRILL TEAM.....5
 WHAT THE JUDGES HAD TO SAY.....6
 ON BRETT SHOCKLEY'S 53'9½" RIDE.....6
 1979 NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET
 MAPS AND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.....7
 DETAILED MAP OF FINDLAY COLLEGE.....8
 NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET INFORMATION.....9
 DATES TO REMEMBER.....9
 UNICYCLISTS IN THE NEWS.....9
 MISCELLANEOUS:
 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON.....10
 MOTORIZED MONOCYCLE.....10
 A TRIBUTE: BICYCLE PEOPLE'S
 DR. ROLAND GEIST.....10
 THE LATEST FROM WALLY WATTS.....10
 FROM LONDON: LLOYD TIMBERLAKE REPORTS...11
 DR. MacCREADY'S "FLYCYCLE" WINS AWARD...11
 INEXPENSIVE, EASY-TO-BUILD
 UNICYCLE EQUIPMENT.....12
 ULTIMATE WHEEL RIDING MADE EASY
 from an interview with B. SHOCKLEY...12
 FREE MOUNTING GIRAFFE UNICYCLES
 by JACK HALPERN.....13
 EDITORIAL.....13
 LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS.....14-15
 FROM PRESIDENT JAN LAYNE
 -- LAST-MINUTE MEET INFORMATION.....16

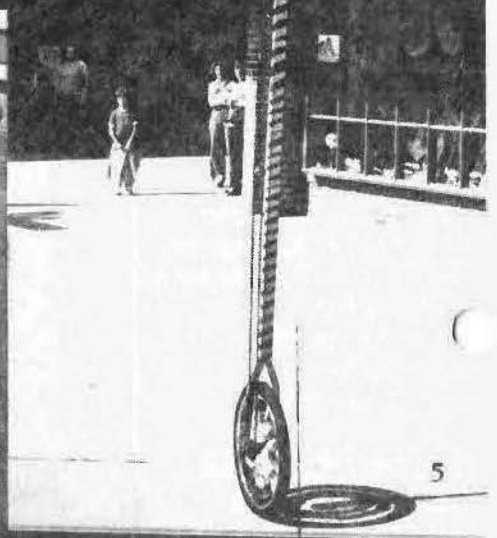
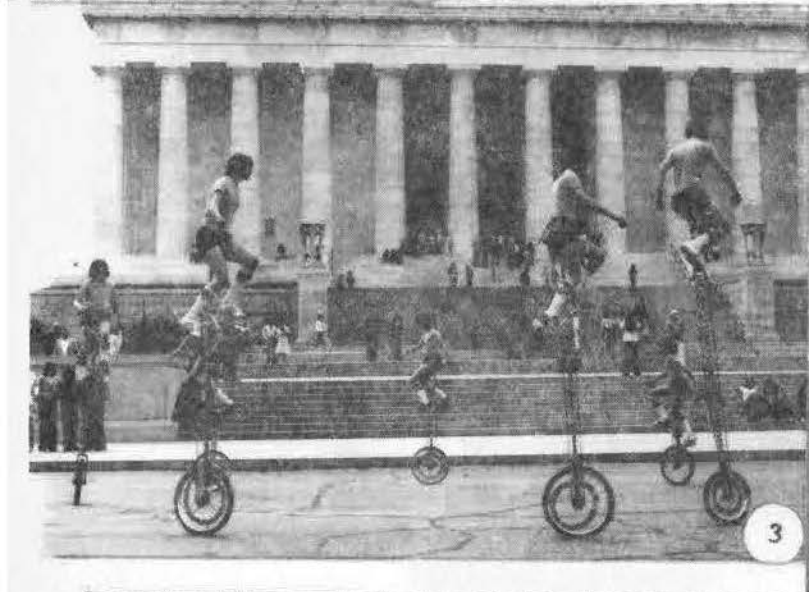


EIGHTH
ANNUAL
NATIONAL
UNICYCLE
MEET

AUGUST
3, 4 & 5
1979

FINDLAY
COLLEGE
FINDLAY
OHIO

RIDING HIGH IS A MEMBER OF THE
ST. HELEN'S UNICYCLE DRILL TEAM
OF NEWBURY, OHIO. Pg. 5



- 1) Fourteen-year-old ALLAN ZUCKERMAN (alias "Poco"), who this year decided to add unicycling to his clown routine. He reports that he must have done something right "because I was riding backwards after two days." A new U.S.A., Inc. member, Allan is currently working at Poconos' Magic Valley (amusement park) clowning, juggling, unicycling and making balloon animals. He reports that his goal is to make everyone smile! (Allan also wrote that the letter that he received from Sec.-Treas. JOYCE JONES "was the nicest out of any organization that I have joined.")
- 2) A five-wheeled unicycle built and ridden by TAKESHI YAMAMOTO. Takeshi is now building a seven-wheeled uni and is even planning a nine wheeler! JACK HALPERN, President of the JAPAN UNICYCLING CLUB writes that riding a unicycle with an odd number of wheels is "easy sailing" compared with the two-wheeled version (which must be pedaled backwards to go forwards.) Jack writes, "See you at the N.U.M. with one of the strangest unicycles beheld by the eyes of man (or woman!)." So even a stranger looking unicycle will soon be appearing on the pages the this NSLR.
- 3) Unicyclists from OAK VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL performing at the ACT '79 Fair in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. (For more about this event, see the article written by JIM MOYER on this page.)
- 4) Another in the parade of mini-wheeled uni's is a 2" wheeled version built by MARK BRICHFORD and ridden by REDFORD TOWNSHIP's BOB JOHNSON. (The APR., '79 NSLR. contained pictures of several other mini-uni's.)
- 5) JOEL DEMPSEY juggling clubs while riding a 10 ft. giraffe. Joel, a member of the OAK VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXHIBITIONAL CLUB, is a member of the family who has been instrumental in organizing the SPINNING WHEELS 4-H UNICYCLE CLUB.
- 6) Members of the newly formed SPINNING WHEELS 4-H UNICYCLE CLUB pose for the camera at their first meeting. (See article on this page.)
- 7) 4-H Club member AMY DEMPSEY and Oak View Elementary School P.E. teacher JIM MOYER help STEVE NICKLE learn beginning skills on the unicycle.

Regular attendance seems to be a universal club problem. The SMILING FACES are encouraging regular attendance by offering large iron-on stars for the back of their bright green T-shirts to any member who attends all practices and events each month.



UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

UNICYCLE CLUB NEWS:

OAK VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXHIBITIONAL CLUB

Unicyclists from the Oak View Elementary School Exhibitional Club have had an active late winter and early spring season. In addition to several small shows at local shopping malls and athletic events, the unicycle group took part in the Washington, D. C. St. Patrick's Day Parade, the National Cherry Blossom Parade, the National School Safety Parade, and the ACT (Appropriate Community Technology) '79 Fair on the capitol mall grounds. They also took part in Oak View School's 11th annual physical education show, which drew an audience of over 3,000 spectators. In addition to unicycling, the show featured tumbling, juggling, gymnastics, triple balancing, disco dancing, circus bicycle, Roman ladders, rola-bola, stilt-walking, and plate and rope spinning.

The Oak View unicyclists have been helping a newly formed club, The Fairfax County 4-H Unicycle Club, get organized and learn basic skills.

THE SPINNING WHEELS 4-H UNICYCLE CLUB

The Fairfax County SPINNING WHEELS, believed to be only the second 4-H sponsored unicycle club in the United States, meets weekly in Fairfax, Virginia. Club leader, CATHY DEMPSEY, says members plan to participate in a variety of 4-H activities including the 4-H Fair, Demonstration Day, Share the Fun talent show, and also community events and parades.

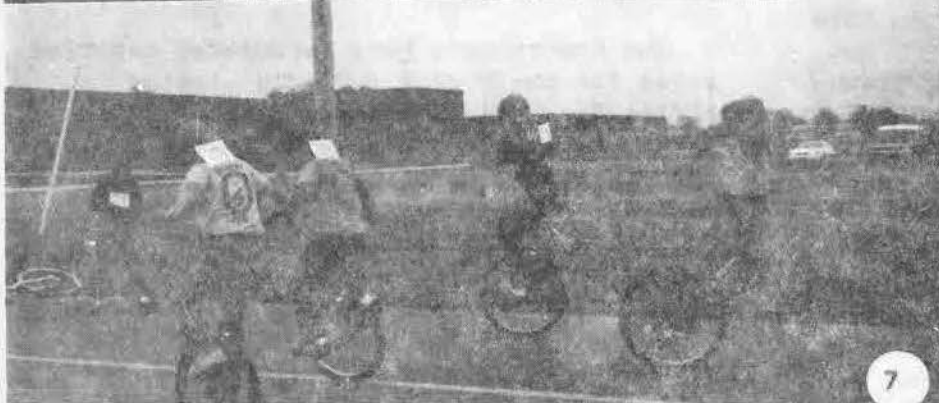
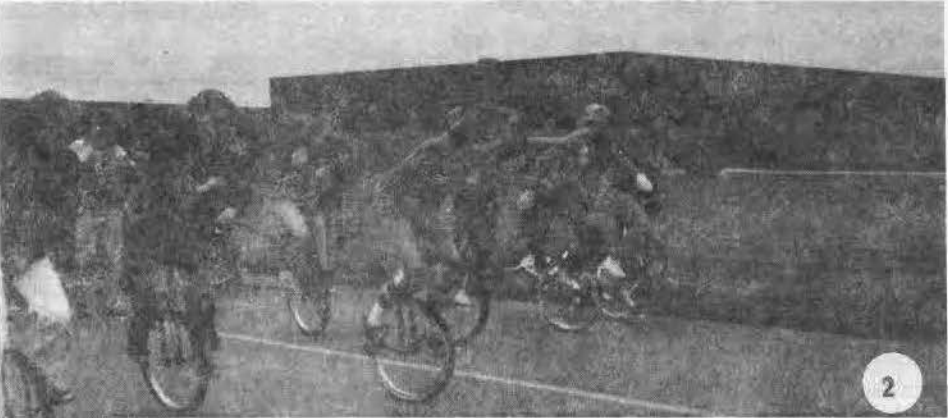
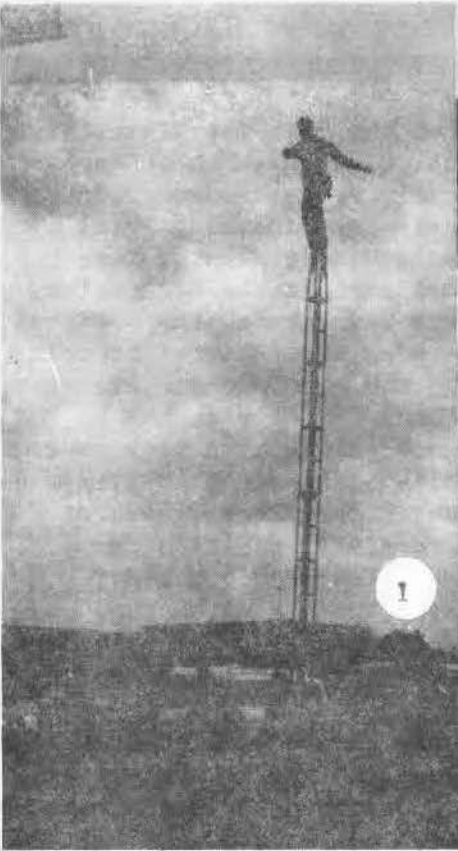
KOKOMO ROADRUNNERS

The Roadrunners have formulated detailed rules for their club and each elected official. These are being printed in the NSLR, whenever space permits in the hope that they will be of help to other organized club.

Duties of the First Instructor:

- A. To instruct all members concerning riding, trick riding, parades, performances and conduct at any and all club functions.
- B. To select members by ability when only a limited number is able to perform.
- C. To grade active members to establish skill level and post grades with Sec. each month.

NEWSLETTER 7-79



HIGHLIGHTS of the SUPER SILLY SPRING MEET
sponsored by the PAUL FOX UNICYCLE CLUB, INC.

The air was chilly and the sky, overcast when 54 unicyclists (some from as far away as Minneapolis) gathered on May 6 at the Tri-Rivers Joint Vocational School for the "Super Silly Spring Meet." CATHY FOX, who generates a feeling of closeness with all unicyclists everywhere, organized this unique meet with the help of her family, PAUL, CONNIE and CINDY FOX and other members of the Paul Fox Unicycle Club.

The basic concept behind this meet was to get individuals and club members to intermingle so there could be a sharing of ideas and a feeling of "togetherness" with all unicyclists. To this end Cathy was successful. While parents were still enjoying the last morsels from the heavy laden pot luck lunch table, unicycle riders were busily working up routines by couples in every corner of the parking lot. The names of these couples had previously been drawn "from the hat" and in all but a few instances were members from different clubs and riders of differing abilities. The results of this intermingling were a joy to see. On several occasions new riders were able to do things they never dreamed possible because they were paired with riders of greater experience and technique. Riders of comparable ability but different backgrounds shared their ideas, so much learning took place in their practice sessions.

Unlike other meets where there is a high degree of tension because of the competition, this meet diminished that tension in the couples trick riding (the only trick riding there was time for). Instead the emphasis was on sharing and learning. Of course, there were still races for those riders with strong individual competitive feelings.

An index to the pictorial highlights of this meet follows:

- 1) Newly wed TOM MILLER (He and CONNIE HANSEN were married just 2 days before this meet.) took a 2½ minute ride on his 24" unicycle.
- 2) The competitive spirit can be seen in this race for the 15-up girls.
- 3) Showing the results of their winter training are BEV BIBLER, JAN LAYNE, and NANCY HARRIS. (Jan, President of U.S.A., Inc., is Director of The SMILING FACES 4-H UNICYCLE CLUB; Bev and Nancy are the Mothers of Smiling Face unicyclists.)
- 4) TERESA HEMMINGER, REDFORD TOWNSHIP UNICYCLE CLUB and MIKE FINN, KOKOMO ROADRUNNERS, joined together for a first-place ribbon in the couple competition.

- 5) KOKOMO's TED WADE crosses the finish line in a burst of speed.
- 6) CATHY FOX "one foots it" down the race track.
- 7) The backwards race - always a heart-stopper.
- 8) PAUL FOX and NANCY HARRIS team up for the only adult entry in the couple competition.

FEATURED CLUB: ST. HELEN'S UNICYCLE DRILL TEAM

With the death of their beloved FR. MORAN, St. Helen's Unicycle Drill Team was forced to make organizational changes. Still uppermost is the idea, "What each unicyclist can give to others," however, no longer is unicycling a regular part of the physical education program. The days of the t.v. cameras following the St. Helen students riding unicycles from class to class are gone.

Now the group meets outside of school hours for 1½ hour practices and instead of being school oriented, it features family involvement. The group draws its members from the St. Helen parish and is able to use the bus, truck and equipment owned by the church. But, for the first time, there are elected officers: President JIM HAAS, Vice-President RICH SEGULIN, Secretary LORIE SPISAK, and Treasurers GEORGE LOTT and ANN BOYER. The group's coach is CAROLE EVANS. The family of each elected adult is expected to be active and fill in whenever there is a need.

The children also have elected officers. This year they are: President KELLY QUINN, Vice-President RICHARD KEKEDY, Sec. of Spirit LISA SANDERS and Sec. of Celebrations (birthdays, etc.) BARB YOKULES.

Almost every weekend finds members of the team loading equipment into the truck, climbing into the bus, and performing in parades and festivals around the country. The team now consists of 56 members, with 23 new riders anxiously practicing to meet the requirements to become a regular performing member.

Their summer uniform consists of black pants, socks and sneakers, white shirt and gold imprinted vest. In the winter a white V-neck sweater is substituted for the vest.

Parents and parishners are drawn into active participation by being asked to make the giraffes and keep all unicycles in repair. Finances also are handled by the adults.

(Ed.'s note: The scoring sheets used at the 1978 Indoor Unicycle Meet sponsored by the SMILING FACES UNICYCLE CLUB encouraged judges' comments. It was suggested that unicyclists preparing acts for the N.U.M. or any act for an audience would benefit from reading some of the judges' written comments. While the judging was only for the open class in individual trick, many of the suggestions can be adapted to the other two classes as well.)

The individual trick riding rating sheet had points awarded in the following areas: skill and variety, accuracy and timing, originality and creativity, neatness, audience appeal, and enthusiasm. A universal suggestion was: SMILE! Other judges' comments are as follows:

- "Attractive outfit. Need to be smoother in routine."
- "Appropriate music. Graceful, creative use of baton."
- "Transitions (between pieces of equipment or riding skills) could be smoother."
- "Needed to have more specific skills during routine."
- "Good control on all unicycles. Excellent variety of equipment."
- "Very graceful. Well coordinated with the music."
- "Not enough technique on unicycle."
- "No variety."
- "(Adding) music would be nice."
- "You need to establish eye contact with the judges."
- "Good ending."
- "We could hardly hear your music."
- "Good props. Well set up. Nice pacing. Well timed to music."
- "Always finish and acknowledge it!"
- "Beautiful awareness of audience. Great smile. Variety excellent. Mounts were different and interesting."
- "Very relaxed."
- "Poor dismounts."
- "Very short. Have helpers primed. Too much gesturing."
- "Good start and end. More variety needed in the middle. Mostly juggling. Needs more uni tricks."
- "Too much reliance on equipment."
- "You never quit when you goof! Cover and finish!"

Couples and group riding were judged on the following criteria: skill and variety, accuracy and timing, originality and creativity, neatness and orderliness, audience appeal, teamwork, and enthusiasm.

Judges' comments in these two areas included:

- "Way too short."
- "Suggest both (in couples) wear outfits alike."
- "Look up more and smile."
- "Good attitude. Work well together."
- "Creative routine. Good coordination with the music."
- "Routine should show more skills."
- "Good use of equipment."
- "Good choreography. Smooth."
- "Good precision."
- "Nice patterns and good transitions but too repetitions."
- "Spacing and timing slightly off. Excellent choice of music."
- "Good job. Unique ideas. Glad to see that everyone (in club) participated."
- "Need to get more variety. Nice outfits."
- "Why not face the audience on closing?"

ON BRETT SHOCKLEY'S 53'9½" UNICYCLE RIDE

Apparently the communication gap exists in many places, including the Guinness' offices where the data concerning BRETT SHOCKLEY's tallest unicycle ride (53'9½") never reached the proper persons. Brett has resubmitted the documented evidence following a week of riding his tall uni in the sports show in the Fort Wayne Coliseum in February. Brett reports that he was lowered from the cat walk of the 85' high building to his unicycle seat before beginning the ride each day. While he did not have to contend with winds as he did on his first ride (which was outdoors) there was a considerable time delay between pedal action and the wheel's response.

PLEASE NOTE - on book deliveries during July

Your Secretary-Treasurer will not be home throughout the month of July so no orders will be handled during that period.

While she will have some books available during scheduled hours at the National Meet, space limitations prevents her from bringing everything she stocks. Other books are "drop shipped" and not immediately available. So anyone wishing a specific book would be wise to mail in the order and then wait patiently until at least the middle of August for delivery.



All current U.S.A., Inc. members received the application blank for the N.U.M. in the Apr. '79 NSLR. Therefore, there is not another copy this month. If you have misplaced this issue and need another application blank, send a STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED envelope to Mrs. Janet Layne, 514 Defiance Ave., Findlay, Ohio 45840. Since the schedule, below, was on the back side of a portion of the application, it is being reprinted with the maps so that this page may serve as a guide for the week end.

FRIDAY - AUGUST 3

- 6:00 p.m. - Check into room. (\$3.00 key deposit) This is a college dormitory, not a motel. *YOU WILL NEED TOWELS, BEDDING (sleeping bag) etc.
- 6:00 - 11:00 - STUDENT UNION - get acquainted time
- 8:00 p.m. - Tour of Findlay College
- 9:00 - 10:00 - Swimming
- 10:00 - 11:00 - Snacks in Student Union
- 12:00 - LIGHTS OUT

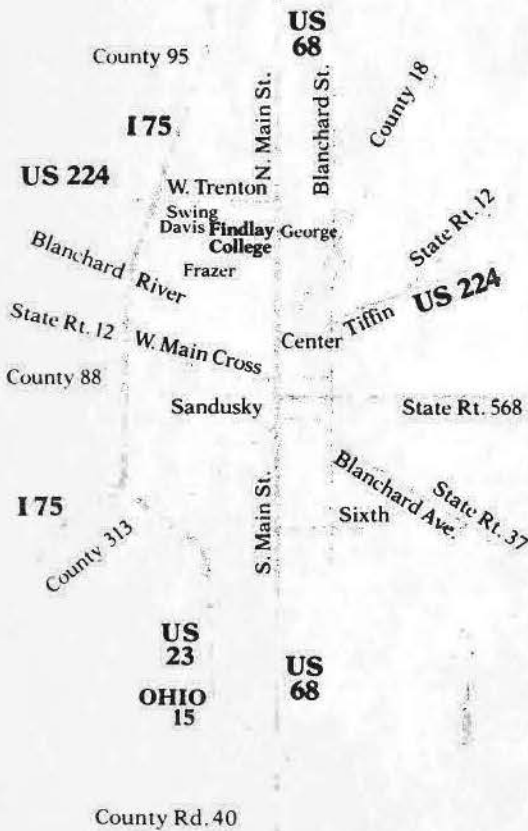
SATURDAY - AUGUST 4

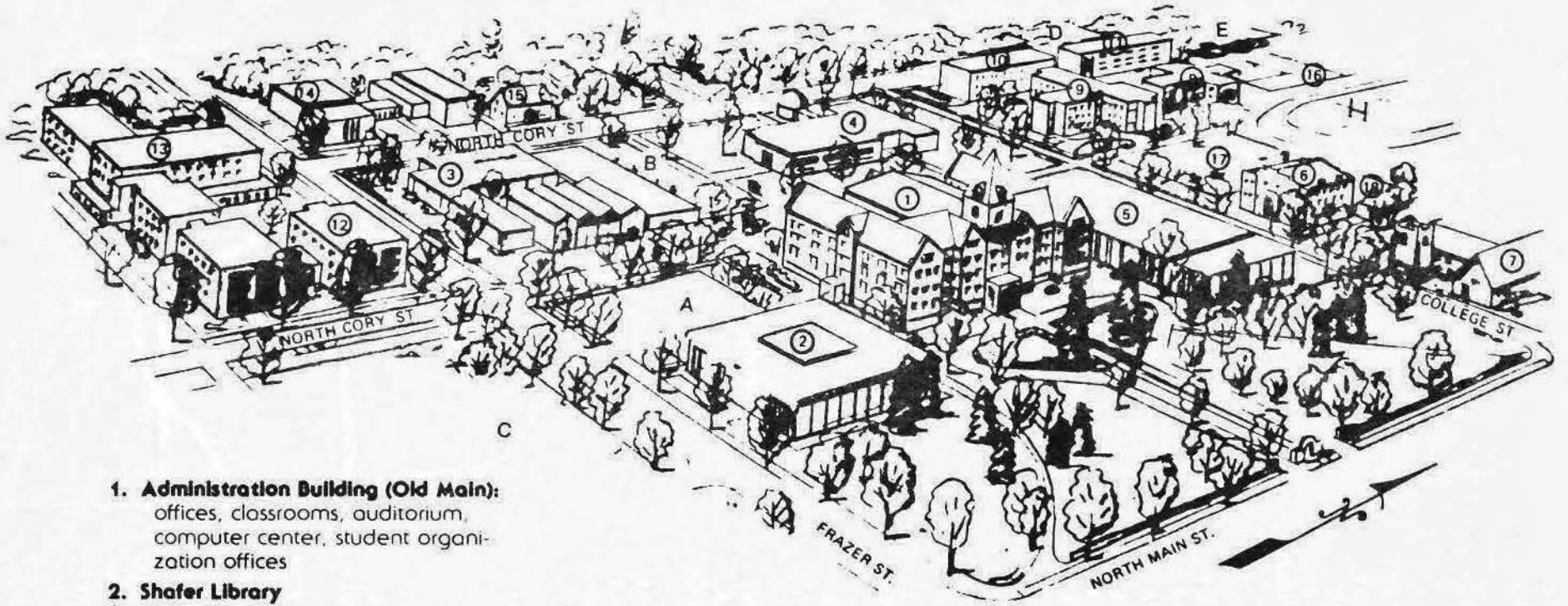
- 7:00 a.m. - Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m. - First racers (boys and girls) report to the clerk of course
- 8:55 a.m. - National Anthem
- 9:00 a.m. - Races begin - Track
- Obstacle Course - Tennis Crt.
- 12:00 - Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. - Races continue
- Obstacle Course continues (*Note: Contestants should run the Obstacle Course when they do not have a scheduled race.)
- 2:30 p.m. - Individual Trick - Gym
- 5:00 p.m. - Supper
- 7:00 p.m. - AWARDS - Auditorium
- 8:30 p.m. - U.S.A., INC. Annual Meet. - Aud.
- 9:00 p.m. - Swimming
- 10:00 p.m. - Snacks - Student Union
- 12:00 - LIGHTS OUT

SUNDAY - AUGUST 5

- 7:00 a.m. - Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. - Couples Trick Riding - Gym
- 12:00 - Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. - Parade (Order will be determined by drawing) THIS WILL BE A JUDGED EVENT
- 2:30 p.m. - Group Riding - Gym (Same order as in parade)
- 5:00 p.m. - Supper
- 6:00 p.m. - AWARDS - Auditorium

Location of Campus in Relation to Major Highways:





1. Administration Building (Old Main):
offices, classrooms, auditorium,
computer center, student organi-
zation offices

2. Shafer Library

3. Alumni Memorial Union:
snack bar (The Cave), cafeteria,
book store, lounge, game room,
the Gold Room

4. Brewer Science Hall:
Newhard Planetarium, electronics
workshop, darkroom, greenhouse,
laboratories

5. Croy Physical Education Center:
Sink Natatorium, gymnasium, hand-
ball courts, multi-purpose exercise
room, offices, classroom

6. Intramural Gymnasium:
indoor golf, archery, gymnastics
equipment, baseball facilities

7. College First Church of God

8. Bare Residence Hall for Men

9. Fox Residence Hall for Men

10. Myers Residence Hall for Men

11. Morey Residence Hall for Men

12. Lovett Residence Hall for Women

13. Deming Residence Hall for Women:
Henderson Dining Hall

14. Egner Fine Arts Center:
theatre, art gallery, music practice
rooms, WLFC-FM radio station, art
studios

15. Bucher Memorial Health Center

16. Athletic Field

17. Tennis Courts

A. Staff Parking

B. Staff and Visitor Parking

C. Staff, Visitor, and Student Parking

D. Visitor and Student Parking

E. Visitor and Student Parking

All the N.U.M. information appeared on pgs. 7 - 10 in the April, '79 NSLR. The answers to a few of the questions that have arisen are below:

Will there be parade competition this year?
YES!

Where do parents stay?

Parents are invited to stay in the dorm with the riders. The cost per person (parent or child) for two nights and six meals is \$28.00. The money should be included with child's reservation. (Anyone arriving Sat. morning may deduct \$3.50 from the \$28.00 fee.)

What do we bring to the dorm? Are there beds?
The dorms have furniture - but nothing else. Each person must supply a sleeping bag (or sheets and blanket), pillow, towels, soap, etc. Bathroom facilities are available on each floor.

We'll have our camper with us, what can we do with it?

Totally self-contained units may park in the parking lot on campus. There is a nearby camp ground for those units that are not self-contained.

Do parents have to stay in the dorms?

No. But each group must be adequately chaperoned.

What happens if I can't come at the last minute?
Refunds will be made only if cancellation is received BEFORE July 20.

What are the school regulations?

No alcoholic beverages on campus.
Everyone in his room by 12:00 midnight.

I have a question you didn't answer, what can I do?

The N.U.M. organizer, JAN LAYNE, may be reached by calling 1-419-422-8959 after 4:00 or by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to her at 514 Defiance Ave.
Findlay, Ohio 45840
along with any questions you might have.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- July 17 - July 22 - 32nd Annual International Jugglers Association Convention, to be held in Amherst, Mass. For more information write Eric Roberts 149 Larch Road, Cambridge, MA 02138
- z. 3, 4 & 5 - Eighth Annual National Unicycle Meet to be held in Findlay, Ohio on Findlay College Campus, 1000 N. Main St., Findlay, Ohio

UNICYCLISTS IN THE NEWS

*Did you know that MIKE FARRELL of M*A*S*H* can skim right along on a unicycle? A picture in the April 9, 1979, issue of PEOPLE WEEKLY showed him on top of his unicycle, his wife and one daughter on skates while daughter #2 mounted a pogo stick.

*A picture of HINTON (a mime who performs on the streets of San Francisco) that appeared in the LOS ANGELES TIMES of April 1, 1979, shows him on top of a unicycle. Unfortunately, the article did not mention his unicycling ability, but apparently the uni is a part of his overall performance. Has anyone in Los Angeles had an opportunity to see this street performer?

*A picture in the May 13 issue of THE DETROIT NEWS showed a Californian deftly riding a unicycle down the street with empty gas can in hand. (If the young man were to stick to the unicycle for transportation, there would be no need to find a place where he could fill that can.)

*GREG MATHEWSON of Redford Township, Mich., was pictured in the OBSERVER-ECCENTRIC swinging across the Rouge River with his 24" Schwinn unicycle firmly squeezed between his legs. Happy landings, Greg!

*Congratulations! to JOSEPH MAHER for his nomination for a Tony for his performance in "Spokesong." Maher is pictured in New York's PEOPLE of May 13 showing his pleasure over the nomination by happily riding down the streets of New York City on his unicycle. (JOHN JENACK has received much acclaim by serving as the Cycle Coach of this production.)

*And to ROBERTO TSCHUDIN-LUCHEME, active U.S.A., Inc. member and promoter of unicycling, CONGRATULATIONS!! for being the first recipient of the Radio-Television News Directors Association Michele Clark Award. Roberto bested a field of many when he was chosen for "excellence in broadcast journalism by a recent entrant into the radio-television news profession." Roberto will receive the \$500.00 award from WALTER CRONKITE at the RTNDA International Conference to be held in Las Vegas September 6-8, 1979.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON: HOTBED OF ACTIVITY

Bicyclists in the Seattle area had an unlimited number of activities from which to chose during Bicycle Week, May 13-20. Co-sponsored by Cascade Bicycle Club, Washington Energy Extension Service, Recreational Equipment Inc., and Puget Sound Bicyclists, the activities ranged from clinics on repairs to races. Bicycle enthusiasts in the area even have their own "Bicycle Hotline" through which they may keep abreast of all of the activities. The number? 522-BIKE.

Seattle jugglers, not to be outdone by the bicyclists, have regularly scheduled events at the Seattle Center. They, too, have a "Hotline", (206) 778-3737.

U.S.A., Inc. member - and avid unicyclist - FRANCES SMITH, has single-handedly done much to nurture similar enthusiasm in unicycling in the Seattle area. He may be contacted by writing 2727 Broadway East, Seattle, Wash. 98102.

MOTORIZED MONOCYCLE

The April, 1979, issue of SOVIET LIFE carried a photo of a neat motorized monocyte claimed to be the recent invention of Edward Melnikov. From the copy forwarded to BILL JENACK by JACK WILEY, it appears to be very similar to the machine made by RUDY YUNG of Portland, Oregon, many years ago and which is now owned and ridden by BOB PADDISON in Copenhagen, Denmark.

This vehicle is a wheel which appears to be approximately 4' - 5' in diameter with a seat for the driver within. The engine is located beneath the driver's legs, his feet rest on the inner surface of the wheel with the gas tank slightly above the toes.

A TRIBUTE: BICYCLE PEOPLE's Dr. Roland Geist

Dr. Roland Geist, author of the heralded BICYCLE PEOPLE (available through U.S.A., Inc.) is afraid his bicycling days were ended when he was involved in a tragic accident recently. On April 1, while cycling on Broadway, Dr. Geist was struck by an automobile. He suffered broken ribs, collarbone and head injuries that left him unconscious for five days. Although he is finding mobility more of a problem, Dr. Geist's enthusiasm for life is still with him. Hopefully, this sad experience will turn to a plus and he will pen still another fascinating book.

Dr. Geist has chronicled his active life of hiking and biking beginning in 1917 with his

UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

first bicycle tour of New York, Albany and Boston via the Mohawk Trail. A few of the highlights are listed here to serve as background on this grand bicycling enthusiast.

- 1919 Bicycle tour thru Adirondacks to Montreal
- 1928 Marriage & tandem tour of England
- 1934 Ascent of Mt. Shasta with Sierra Club
- 1936 One of the first autos over the PanAmerican Highway to Mexico
- 1937 Mediterranean Cruise - cycling in Italy and Egypt
- 1942 Cycling tour of Cape Cod, etc.
- 1943 Cycling along the Jersey Shore
- 1944 Cycling tour from New York to Lake Placid (gas rationing, no autos)
- 1954 Hiking and cycling in Yosemite Nat. Park
- 1965 50-day Around the World Tour following that of Tom Stevens of the 1880's, hiking tomb of King Tut, Teheran, Taj Mahal, Singapore, etc., Japan and 7000 ft. on Mt. Fuji and cycling in Hawaii
- 1976 Hiking Tour of Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Italy (This trip was taken when Dr. Geist was almost 80 years young.)

Add to this impressive list many other world tours plus trips to several Olympic contests, World Fairs, and many other mountain climbing and camping expeditions and you have the life of a man who has much to offer to the world.

THE LATEST FROM WALLY WATTS

A recent letter from Wally, (the young man who completed a round-the-world unicycle tour) tells what he is doing now:

"Have three months left on my first year as an apprentice welder. Was given six months credit because of my background in a related field.

"Was working 1½ hr. overtime each day and Sat. at the welding shop and upholstering 3 hr. a day on top.

"The (oil) drilling lasted 3 days. One has to be half nuts or want the money pretty bad to work on the rigs.

"Plan to start on the 10 ft. (wheel) soon. The local TV and paper have been calling me on it.

"Hope to make it down to the Meet if I don't have to be in school then.

"My new address is:
8415 - 74 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
CANADA T6E OE7

NEWSLETTER 7-79

(This is the last time Lloyd's article will be headed "From London." He and his family recently moved to Stockholm where he may be reached by writing: Lloyd Timberlake, c/o Reuters News Agency, Sveavagen 17 (18 TR), 111 57 Stockholm, SWEDEN)



Like the Tower and Big Ben, JAY MYRDAL is a London sight worth seeing. Unfortunately, few know him when they see him. They glimpse only a tall, well-dressed, mustachioed young man weaving through London traffic on one wheel, an attache case clutched in one hand, perhaps a camera around his neck.

He is remembered not only for his driving skills, but for the thoroughness of his hand signals as well.

"I take it very easy in traffic and point to the cars, letting them know what I am going to do. I have never been knocked off," he says.

The first time out, some years ago, he fell off, however, and almost fell under a car. Lesson learned, he went back inside and practiced for another month or so before venturing out again.

In the early days, police sometimes stopped him, just to see what sort of stunt he was pulling. Young bobbies often told him, "I don't care what you do, so long as you don't do it in front of me." This meant Jay had to haul his uni around the corner, out of the bobby's sight, before pedaling off again. Others made him demonstrate an "emergency stop," a maneuver beloved of British driving instructors. Jay would have to pedal his cycle full tilt until the policeman in question clapped his hands. Upon hearing the clap, Jay would lean back sharply and screech to a controlled stop. He got very good at the move and enjoyed proving his proficiency to the law.

"Now they mostly know me and leave me alone," Jay says.

Jay was surprised that the police never have asked to see his brakes, which British law naturally requires on street bicycles. He was thinking of having a hand-brake fitted just for looks, but has never needed to. He has checked British laws on cycles carefully and was surprised and pleased to learn that the law describes a cycle as a "device having one or more wheels propelled by pedals."

Thirty-five-year-old Jay, a photographer, actually lives in Oxford, England, and does an occasional 16-mile uni-thon around the small villages there. But Monday through Friday he works out of a studio in central London (11 London Mews, London Street, London W2, ENGLAND, in fact: one of the great addresses

of the world). It is the small business trips out of this studio that Jay makes on one of his three 24-inch-wheel uni's, and it is the figure he cuts on these trips, that is causing the talk. Many people know of my interest in one-wheel transport, and not a week goes by without someone describing to me "this tall businessman whipping about on a monocycle" (which is what the English tend to call unicycles.)

Jay is American but washed in London some 13 years ago after serving with the U. S. Army in Germany. He is a peculiar unicyclist in that he specializes in street work, the way others specialize in juggling, or tricks or height. He is now investigating the possibilities of motorizing a wheel, gearing, or even a practical braking system. He has the engineering expertise, having designed and built much of his own camera equipment. He is also, having read of Wally Watt's trip, looking into the possibility of a bigger wheel. Strangely, Jay claims that shorter cranks, as short as 4½ inches, make for better street riding.

Anyone who wants to swap stories on the uni as a means of transport may write to Jay at his fashionable address.

DR. MacCREADY'S "FLYCYCLE" WINS AWARD

Former U.S.A., Inc. member Dr. Paul MacCready made news around the world on Tuesday, June 12, when his Gossamer Albatross successfully completed a flight across the English Channel by human power alone. This was the second time that Dr. MacCready's design and bicyclist BRYAN ALLEN's stamina joined together to win a coveted KREMER PRIZE. On August 23, 1977, Bryan pedaled the Gossamer Condor in a 1.15-mile figure-eight pattern to be the first to meet the criteria and win the \$100,000 Kremer award.

The flight that won the second award was 22 miles in length and took 2 hours and 40 minutes. The 26-year-old bicyclist felt marvelous upon completion of the feat but admitted to having hard cramps in both calves and one thigh while in flight.

The Albatross, with a wingspan of 90 ft., weighs only 70 lbs. It resembles a giant dragonfly with its fragile framework covered with plastic film. Successful flight required that there be winds of no more than 5-6 m.p.h. with no gusts. It took three weeks of waiting for the ideal weather that lead to another "first" for Dr. MacCready and Bryan Allen.

GOOD
IDEA

When 6'1" DAVID BRICHFORD, director of the REDFORD TOWNSHIP UNICYCLE CLUB, wanted to learn to jump rope, he discovered that the plastic encased jump ropes that are available in sporting goods stores were not long enough for his needs. He was, therefore, forced to make himself such a rope, which turned out to cost less than half of the ready-made cost.

After experimenting with old clothes line to determine an adequate length, he purchased nylon rope and carefully melted the ends to form a hard, sharp point. One-quarter inch inner-diameter plastic tubing was cut into one and three-eighth inch lengths for the plastic "beads" which cover the rope. Both the rope and the tubing were available in the local hardware store. (Anyone who has broken "beads" from a ready-made rope could make replacements from this same plastic tubing.)

The "tie-downs" which most rope jumpers use to hold the unicycle saddle in position when jumping, are available with an adjustable feature. The metal strap may be purchased by length and then the hooks attached at the proper spot. These are also available at hardware stores.

INEXPENSIVE, EASY-TO-BUILD UNICYCLE EQUIPMENT

Somebody out there in "unicycle-land" has built and is using equipment that other unicyclists would enjoy knowing about. PLEASE take the time to write the details - or send a sketch. This NEWSLETTER can only be as good as the contributions made to it!

UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

ULTIMATE WHEEL RIDING MADE EASY

from an interview with BRETT SHOCKLEY

The ultimate wheel (the vehicle that consists of only a wheel and pedals) can be learned easiest down a hall where the rider can balance by placing a hand on each wall. A 24" wheel is easier to ride than the 20" so this should be taken into consideration when building such a unit. In riding the ultimate wheel expect the tire and rim to rub on the leg coming up along the back. The beginning rider may wish to protect the leg by wrapping it with an ace bandage.

The ultimate wheel is free mounted with the pedal at the bottom.

Once the rider masters the basics, there are a few tricks he can learn. To go backwards, the rider should expect to have the wheel hit the opposite leg from the one that was rubbed on the forward motion. Control of the wheel can be gained by riding through a series of cones. DR. REYNOLDS has often demonstrated his prowess on the wheel at National Meets by going through cones forward and backward. Redford Township's MIKE WILSON jumped rope on his ultimate wheel. His secret was to use toe clips to keep his feet on the pedals. BRETT SHOCKLEY's skill on the wheel is such that he has no difficulty riding it with a passenger riding on his shoulders.

Since ultimate wheels are not available at your local bike store, here are a few tips in constructing one. The closer the pedals are together, the easier an ultimate wheel is to ride. Simply taking a unicycle wheel with a standard hub which puts the pedals several inches apart probably will not result in a wheel that is rideable. The best method is to cut an aluminum plate or wooden disk to fit within the rim of the wheel. The wooden disk is held in place with wood screws which go through the holes originally used for the spoke nuts. Sheet metal screws are used for the aluminum plate. "U" bolts may be used to hold the crank arms and pedals to the wooden disk. On the aluminum plate holes for the pedals are drilled 13" apart and the pedals alone are held in place by lock nuts. (Brett says that since lock nuts this size are not easy to come by, he uses the ends of old crank arms for this purpose.)

Your editor would like to hear from anyone else who has further suggestions for either riding or building the ultimate wheel. NEWSLETTER 7-79

(A letter from ANN THERESE FERGUSON in the Apr. '79 NSLR asked for tips in learning to see mount her 6' uni. The following article was written by JACK HALPERN, President of the JAPAN UNICYCLING CLUB. It is a sequel to his "FREE MOUNTING TECHNIQUES" which appeared in the Apr. issue and will give Ann and others some ideas to use as they learn to master the art of "free mounting the tall ones.")

The discussion below assumes a left-footed rider (a rider who normally places his/her left foot on the bottom pedal when idling.) Right-footed riders substitute "right" for "left" and vice versa.

1. Standard method described in THE UNICYCLE BOOK by Jack Wiley: right foot on wheel-well, left pedal down and back. Hold uni by frame and saddle and tilt forward. Quickly bring left foot up to left pedal and straddle over saddle while bringing right foot from tire to top pedal.
2. Same as Method 1 above but with left pedal in down position.
3. If uni is short enough (4-4½ ft.) or if you are tall enough, place foot on bottom-positioned left pedal and straddle over saddle as you hold uni by frame and saddle. This is rather similar to mounting a standard uni.
4. RUNNING MOUNT: tilt uni toward you and hold it by saddle as you run forward with wheel rolling on ground. At proper instant place left foot on down pedal and with one jump mount saddle, using your inertia to straighten uni. Timing is extremely important. (Jack comments, "I find that catching the bottom pedal early--even before it reaches the down position--is effective. I mount my 5½ ft. giraffe this way most of the time. Mounting a giraffe in motion will absolutely amaze all spectators.")
5. Right foot forward, left crank horizontal forward. Roll uni forward ½ turn and step on left pedal as wheel rolls toward you. Mount saddle and pull back on right pedal to start idling immediately. (Jack comments that he can only do this with a giraffe less than 5 ft.)
6. Small giraffes (4-4½ ft.) can be mounted as described in Method 1 for standard unicycles. (Down pedal slightly back. Put full weight on down pedal, step on top pedal as wheel rolls back. The ride off with forward lean.)
7. Right foot on wheel-well, cranks horizontal.

- Hold uni by frame and saddle. Straddle over saddle with one jump, with both feet landing on the pedals simultaneously.
8. Tall giraffes (prox. 7-9 ft.) can be mounted as described in THE UNICYCLE BOOK by using a special rung as a second step. Technique is basically the same as Method 1, but left, not right, foot should be placed on wheel. (Jack writes that he has heard of some riders who have built a rung coupled to a braking device that stops the wheel when stepping on the rung.)

EDITORIAL

(The following article was recently given to your editor. It has been slightly changed to make it more meaningful for this publication, but the meaning has not been altered. Perhaps U.S.A., Inc. members could give this article some sincere thought as the time for the next Annual Meeting draws near. Your editor would also appreciate a few more "someone elses" when each publication date comes around.)

"I have some very sad news. We have learned this past week of the sudden and unexpected death of one of U.S.A., Inc.'s most active members, Someone Else. Someone Else's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for years and everyone of those years Someone did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for that leadership and the expected fine results.

"Someone Else was a wonderful person, almost superhuman. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things we were always too willing to let Someone Else do?"

(As we draw closer to August 4, please do some soul searching. You might be just the person who could richly benefit from doing Someone Else's job.)

*KEN BRITTON, Director of the GREAT BRITTONS which were featured in January, wrote that he answered three inquiries about riding backwards, rocking in place and one-foot riding. He adds that he is "so busy mowing grass at \$6.00 per hr. with my gasoline mower that I don't have time for my own garden and yard." (Ken recently "retired" and is looking forward to attending this year's N.U.M.)

*VIOLET WAGNER writes, "Greetings from Depoe Bay, Oregon. I am STEVEN and JOHN McPEAK's Mother and I'm wondering if the unicycle fans watched the Guinness World Book of Record on t.v. Sunday, May 20, 1979, and saw Steven and another young man walk the 39^o wire for a world record. Also on the same show Steven walked his 25' high stilts to break the world record. Amazing to see my son on t.v.

"I would also like to inform you that John had an engagement juggling at the Treasury Hotel on the Strip in Las Vegas and also had a request to do one of his very famous juggling shows at Ceasars Palace.

"Enjoy reading the NEWSLETTER very much. It reminds me much of the times my boys first started on their unicycles.

"We have a charter boat here in Depoe Bay and we fish here in the Pacific Ocean. Fishing is real good for Snapper, Ling Cod and Sea Bass. Got a 70 lb. Halibut the other day. I would like to invite any of the unicycle and juggling members to look me up if they get over to the West Coast. Mrs. Violet Wagner, Box 373, Depoe Bay, Oregon 97341."

*ROB SPENCER is another unicyclist who began riding after first clowning and juggling. He writes that this past fall he was hired to clown and juggle to the music of the Fairfax Symphony on t.v. "At that point I felt comfortable enough to incorporate unicycling into my clowning act. It was a tremendous success and my entrance onto the stage on the high (6' for me was still high) unicycle was a highlight of the act. By now people in my neighborhood are used to seeing a smiling clown riding happily up and down the streets perched atop a 6' unicycle"

*Another member is eager to start and club but needs some ideas on how to go about it. BOYD WEEKS, 198 Dowling Ave., Walterboro, South Carolina 29488, would appreciate hearing from members with some constructive suggestions.

*JIM STEVENS' plea for "Help" in learning how to ride was printed without an address. He may be

reached by writing P.O. Box 7461, Atlanta, Georgia, 30357. (Anyone who needs help in learning to ride or suggestions for more advanced techniques would benefit by reading THE UNICYCLE BOOK by Jack Wiley, which is for sale only through U.S.A., Inc.)

*SUSAN BURT, P.O. Box 407, Glenmont, Ohio 44628 writes, "I met Mr. JENACK a week ago at an Amish greenhouse in Berlin, Ohio. Such a fascinating man!

"He and your newsletter have captured my interest--maybe even I can learn to ride!" (Good luck, Susan!)

*BILL JENACK and his wife MARY visited THE GREAT BRITTONS KEN BRITTON on their vacation recently. Bill writes that he and Ken got up before 7:00 AM and worked out on their unicycles in the YMCA in Canandaigua, N.Y. "What a great way to start a day! Then we tossed toobees in the gym with the local District Attorney and the Director of the "Y" for about a half hour. They provide a nice exercise, the toobees - you have to keep bending down to pick them up!" (From what your editor can ascertain, a toobee is like a cylindrical frizbee.)

*MIKE JOHN, 702 Kings Lane, Fort Washington, Md. 20022 throws out a challenge to unicyclists in his recent letter. "The U.S.A., Inc. should do something to get some more recognition in GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS - teetering records, travelling backwards records, fastest mile, fastest marathon, youngest and oldest unicyclists, etc. The possibilities are endless. And I intend to set some of these records!" (Anyone interested in setting a record should inquire as to the proper documentation, etc. so that the effort does not go in vain. Perhaps a U.S.A., Inc. member could write an article on the proper method of submitting a record to GUINNESS so that it could be printed in a future issue of the NEWSLETTER.)

*More international news comes to us from ERNEST WURBLUP, 73 av. du Bois de la Chapelle, 1213 Onex-Geneva SWITZERLAND. "I am an American, graduate of Springfield College in Springfield, Mass. I have been living here in Geneva, Switzerland for 11 years. (I teach school and coach competitive gymnastics in a local club. Twice a week at school I run an optional gym club where

the boys and girls can learn to juggle, ride the unicycle (we have seven 24" and one giraffe), tumbling, mini-tramp, chair balancing, acrobatics, and gymnastics. With all this activity we naturally put on shows. I am hoping that more members of the U.S.A., Inc. will write about unicycle stunts for shows. I need help in this area so as to add more variety to the shows. Most of my ideas come from the U.S.A., Inc NSLR anyway. Any member of the U.S.A., Inc. who wishes to write....don't hesitate and if ever in Geneva, Switzerland, you'll be most welcome in my home."

*STEPHEN NALLY, 4008 Patricia St., Annandale, Va. 22003, saw JAN STEENBLIK's article in BOYS' LIFE and, as a result, sent an inquiry about the U.S.A., Inc. He writes that he and his friend are 15 years of age and have been riding unicycles (all sizes) for 4½ years. They have performed in shows and parades. (Are Stephen and Rob Spencer graduates of JIM MOYER's program at Oak View Elementary School?) Stephen included one of their cards:

"CLOWNING AROUND"

BIRTHDAYS, PARTIES AND
SPECIAL OCCASIONS FOR CHILDREN
(JUGGLING, UNICYCLES AND MAGIC)

256-1114



(PAUL FOX very generously ordered copies of the March, 1979, issue of BOYS' LIFE which he gave to a number of the persons who attended the Fox-sponsored Super Silly Spring Meet in Marion, Ohio. Your editor can now identify all of the unicyclists who appear on page 26 of this article: That's bubbly CATHY FOX top center beneath the grease paint and mop. The line-up of big wheel riders is (from left to right) BRETT SHOCKLEY, SALLY WHITE, MIKE LANE, BILL JENACK, and TED WADE. Brett is the director of SPECIALTY CYCLES in Minneapolis. Sally has spearheaded two different unicycle clubs in Penn. Mike and Ted are both active KOKOMO ROADRUNNERS. And, of course, Bill is the backbone and organizer of U.S.A., Inc. In the three pictures at the bottom of the page are: DENNIS DeWITT from Redford Township riding a "bicy-unf" built by Director AL HEMMINGER. Brett is riding his zig zag. And STEVE TOUGHILL is shown going through the cones in the middle of the obstacle course. Steve is a member of Specialty Cycles.)

Founding Member CHARLOTTE FOX ROGERS did some research to find the current address of WARREN C. WOOD, long associated with the Great Y Circus of Redlands, CA. Since her search, BILL JENACK

has learned that Warren is working full time as a trapeze artist. His home address is 1315 Sterling Rd., Redlands, CA 92373.

Charlotte also wrote that her daughter, Dawn, who recently moved to Hawaii, was still without her unicycle since her carton of belongings had not traveled as it should have when she and her husband moved. Dawn is now quite near the unicycling mechanic of United Air Lines, WILLIAM COLVIN, and Charlotte hopes that Dawn will be able to work a meeting into her busy schedule.

Charlotte also sent several articles about unicyclists that have appeared in the Los Angeles papers. These are mentioned in "Unicyclists in the News" in this issue.

*PETER BARLOW, Unit 2, Ballarat College of Advanced Education, Student Residences, Mt. Helen, Victoria, AUSTRALIA 3350. Peter is a student at Ballarat College and is doing a report on unicycling for his final project in Recreation Studies. He writes that in addition to fulfilling the course requirement, he hopes to sell the P.E. Dept. on the idea of incorporating unicycling in their program. He is a unicyclist, having learned at the SPRINGVALE COMMUNITY YOUTH CLUB 12 years ago when he was 10.

In addition to a feasibility study for the P.E. Dept. and an instructional booklet and slide presentation on learning-to-ride techniques, his report will also consist of all possible uses of the unicycle. For this he would like to know whether the uni is used in the United States for:

- 1) the teaching of balance and gymnastics
- 2) outdoor recreation (touring, backpacking, day tours, etc.)
- 3) as transportation alternative to walking
- 4) as part of P.E. in schools or colleges
- 5) for day-to-day commuting, shopping, etc.
- 6) as a recreation or sport for people who, for medical reasons, cannot run or jog
- 7) game application - unicycle basketball
- unicycle hockey
- unicycle polo
- 8) as an alternative to running or jogging to keep fit
- 9) unicycle athletics
- 10) newspaper deliveries, etc.
- 11) family recreation

Peter's deadline on this project is soon, and hearing from U.S.A., Inc. members will help him in his research. Members may benefit from Peter's list by getting new ideas for "fun on one wheel."



A last-minute, hold-the-presses letter from President, JAN LAYNE, gives some additional information that will be of help and interest to U.S.A., Inc. members planning on attending the National Unicycle Meet.

The obstacle course has been changed from the tennis court to a new blacktop parking lot which has some shade. This lot will also be available Friday and Sunday for practice and on Saturday when the obstacle course is completed.

The only way a person may eat at the cafeteria is to take the whole \$28.00 package deal (six meals and two nights) or pay \$21.00 IN ADVANCE for all 6 meals. No one will be permitted to buy just one meal, the kitchen cannot accommodate walk-in trade.

There is a Kentucky Fried Chicken and a Soup-R-Sub close by. It is about 10 blocks to Wendy's, MacDonald's, Frishes, Roy Rogers, Ponderosa, Pizza Hut (off I-75 at 224).

The rooms each contain two bunk beds. Don't forget to bring your own bedding - including pillow - towels, etc.

There will be seating in the gym but not at the track or obstacle course. It might be a good idea to bring some lawn chairs along for some place to sit during the races.

Camping is available in the parking lot for self-contained units only. There is a private camp ground 1½ miles from the college, Lakeside Travel Trailer Park & Camping, 1101 Trenton Ave., Findlay, Ohio 45840. Phone: 1-419-422-8198. \$5.00 per night, Electric and water hook-ups, dump station,

shower house, 6 blocks from the eating places at I-75 and 224. This camping area can be seen on the west side of I-75 at Exit 159.

Another camp ground about three miles from the college is Shadylake, 11506 Allen T.R. 101, Findlay, Ohio 45840.

Since the life guard must be on duty for a minimum of two hours each evening, swimming will be available from 8:30 to 10:30 both Friday and Saturday night. So don't forget your suits, bathing caps and extra towels.

The patch at the left is the official U.S.A., Inc. patch that will be available for the first time at the 1979 N.U.M. After the meet it will be included as an item available through the order blank included at the back of every NSLR.

The April, '79 NSLR, included a listing of four skill levels sanctioned by the U.S.A., Inc. Those riders who have fulfilled the requirements for each level will be eligible to wear chevrons in different colors (indicating Level I, Level II etc.) The fabric chevrons will be worn beneath a U.S.A., Inc. patch. These have been ordered (along with cards that will also indicate the level, etc.) and, hopefully, will be available - to one adult representative of each club only - at the Eighth Annual National Unicycle Meet.

JACK WILEY's ACROBATICS BOOK received world-wide acclaim when the BULGARIAN ACROBATICS FEDERATION ordered copies for their use. This book is available through U.S.A., Inc. along with three other books by the same author.

PLEASE NOTE

Send all articles to be printed in the NEWSLETTER (stories, club events, personal events, riding techniques, new equipment, pictures, etc.) to:

CAROL BRICHFORD, Newsletter Editor
24460 Lyndon
Detroit, MI 48239

Send Membership Applications, and orders for books and newsletters to:

JOYCE A. JONES, Secretary-Treasurer
P. O. Box 40534
Redford, MI 48240

Joyce Jones, Secretary-Treasurer
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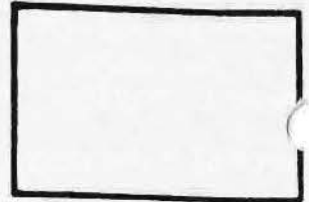
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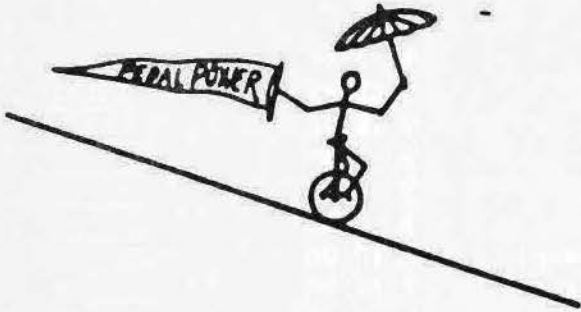
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FIRST CLASS



FIRST CLASS



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

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