



NEWSLETTER

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FROM THE CLUBS.....2
 PUNY CYCLES.....
 by Steve Gordon.....2
 UNICYCLISTS IN ACTION
 (pictures).....3
 LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS.....4 & 5
 SHOWMANSHIP.....
 by Ted Wade.....5
 THE PROFESSIONALS:
 THE SIKORSKY'S.....6 & 7
 1980 NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET
 RULES & REGULATIONS.....8
 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.....9
 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.....9
 MAP OF KOKOMO.....10
 WHAT UNICYCLING HAS MEANT TO ME
 by Mark Himmelberg.....11
 by Cathy Fox.....11 & 12
 BOOK REVIEW: THE BICYCLE BUILDER'S BIBLE
 by Jack Wiley.....12
 MISCELLANEOUS
 about people.....12
 ORDER BLANK and...
 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



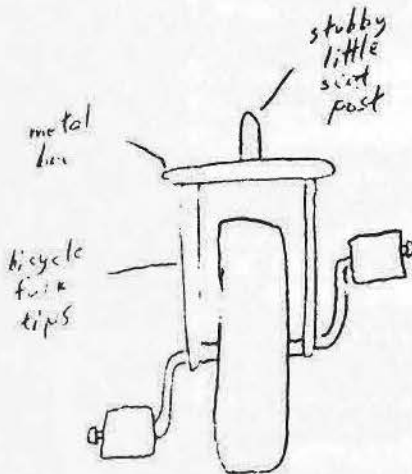
THE SIKORSKY'S

Pages 6 & 7

Quite a few unicyclists expend great amounts of time, energy, and money seeking to attain greater heights. These giraffe-fever infected individuals are pursuing a worthy goal, in my opinion, but it's a goal I'd just as soon not participate in due to a desire to remain bodily intact. Instead I've chosen to expend small amounts of time, energy, and money seeking to attain lesser heights. I'm referring to little unicycles, sometimes called lillipution unicycles, but which I prefer to call "puny-cycles."

With giraffe unicycles, the major difficulty is building them to be strong and reliable. Once built well, they aren't so difficult to ride if you can just master any fear of heights you may have. Puny-cycles, on the other hand, are simple to build; but as they get shorter, they get very difficult to ride.

I built and ride a twelve-inch high puny-cycle with a ten-inch wheel. It was very easy to build. I started with a child's tricycle wheel. Then I cut 5½-inch pieces off the tips of a bicycle fork, welded these tips to a thick metal bar and welded a stubby little seat post to the top of the bar.

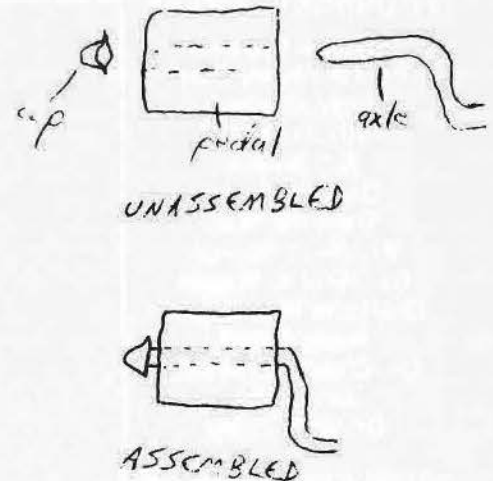


An easier way is to just use the forks from the tricycle. The wheel bearings bolt right into the slot at the tops of the forks. A regular unicycle seat is attached to the seat post in the normal manner.

When hunting for a tricycle wheel, be sure to get one that is strong enough to support your weight. A lot of them buckle under relatively light loads. Before you amputate some poor kid's tricycle, try sitting with all of your weight on the trike's handlebars. If you can feel the front tire flex or bend, it isn't good for this project. Some are made very strong and can adequately support an adult's weight. They usually have solid rubber tires or semi-pneumatic tires. These can be very

mushy, like an underinflated pneumatic tire and make riding tough. You have to keep hunting until you find a good one. I went through a lot of lemons before I found a good trike wheel at a garage sale. People with access to metal-working machines could make their own little wheels.

The pedals of most tricycles are not as sturdy as regular pedals. They have an axle which the pedal slips on to and a little metal cap is pressed on the end of the axle to hold the pedal on.



I had problems with the caps coming off, followed closely by the pedals. To cure this problem, I put a drop of Krazy Glue in each cap before hammering it onto the axle. In over five years they've never come off again.

Enough about construction. The real challenge is trying to ride the little buggler. The first problem I encountered was that I could not squat deep enough to sit on the seat with my feet on the pedals. You practically have to sit on your heels with your knees in your face. However, a couple weeks of leg muscle stretching exercises cured that. You can start riding by either free-mounting or holding a support. To free-mount, put one pedal towards the rear, rest your heel on the pedal and your toes on the ground. Sit on the seat and do the same thing with your other foot on the forward pedal. Then to take off, you just flex your ankles, lifting your toes off the ground, and pedal. Sounds easy, doesn't it? It's not!!! Having your legs bent so far cuts down on the power you can exert with them. Trying this method on a downhill grade will make it somewhat easier. Even still, it's a lot easier starting by holding onto a support because you can push off to get started. Again, because of the extreme bend of the legs, starting off is the hardest part. Once you get moving, it's not so bad. As you ride, you can help keep your balance by

occasionally letting your toes touch the ground. You'll find that you can also push the ground with your hands, which would drag the ground if you let your arms hang limp.

Turns on a "puny-cycle" must be done almost entirely by body twisting. Trying to lean into a turn will smack the pedal against the ground and cause a less-than-graceful dismount. On the subject of dismounts, this is where puny-cycles really have it over giraffes. For one thing, small wheels go slow, so you're never going very fast when you fall. When you do fall, you only fall a few inches. In fact, if you learn to dismount feet first and stand, you'll feel like you're falling up. In other words, puny-cycles are safe. I can honestly say I haven't been able to figure out a way to hurt myself on one yet.

One last thing I forgot to mention. When riding a puny-cycle, you tend to use a sort of waddling motion. So the first time you demonstrate it to your friends, be prepared for lots of duck jokes aimed your way. To which you can reply appropriately: QUACK OFF!

(ed. note: Steve included a picture of himself riding his "puny-cycle." Rather than print it in this issue, your editor would like pictures of other members riding their "puny's," like the one Seth Granberry sent of his son Glen riding over a ramp. Mail them to your editor for a special "Puny Page" in the Fall issue.

A BIT OF MIRTH

STEVE GORDON, Feature Writer for the U.S.A. NSLR., has written some unicycle jokes - along with sending a picture of the original giraffe unicycle. These will be used in this and future NSLR's. If members have other uni-jokes, send them to your editor.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT:

- ...the bicycle salesman who learned to ride a unicycle so that he could peddle them, too.
- ...the guy who ate breakfast, lunch, and dinner while riding a unicycle because he wanted to eat well-balanced meals.
- ...the angry unicyclist stair climber who was chopping mad.
- ...Steve Gordon who thought he was writing jokes when he really just went a little uni-psycho riding around on his looney-cycle.

UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

FROM THE CLUBS:

MOBILE UNICYCLE CLUB

The Mobile Unicycle Club has had its first two meetings. There is a nucleus of about 15 persons to start with and the group hopes to grow to at least 20 members by the end of the summer. There is one six-year-old member; six, between 10 and 12; five, between 18 and 20; and three, between 30 and 37 years old.

The club meets once a month with refreshments riding, and work toward skill patches.

The youngest Club member, DALE GRANBERRY, is now riding his newly received 16" Miyata, which was ordered from Japan. His brother, GLEN, is awaiting arrival of his six-foot Miyata.

The Mobile Unicycle Club was represented by GLEN GRANBERRY when he appeared on "Small Fry News," a TV program in Mobile. He was part of a musical play about the circus and Glen rode his unicycle made up as a clown. Also featured was the Westlawn Elementary School Chorus.

Anyone wishing to contact the Mobile Unicycle Club can do so by writing:

Seth Granberry, Jr.
3204 Desire Street
Mobile, Alabama 36606

Another club to be added to the rapidly growing list of unicycle clubs around the country is:

SUPER CYCLES

Patricia Hands
6021 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, Virginia 22205

OAK VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXHIBITIONAL ACTIVITIES CLUB

Unicyclists from the Oak View Elementary School Exhibitional Activities Club were featured in the school's 12th annual physical education show along with such circus acts as circus bicycle, Roman ladders, juggling, quartette adagio, tumbling, gymnastics, stilt-walking, rolling globe, and pyramids.

Pictures of several of the riders from this group are found at the top of page 3 in this issue

YOUR CLUB

Who don't YOU let other U.S.A., Inc. members know what your club is doing by writing a brief article and sending it to your editor. NEWSLETTER - SUMMER, 1980

ON SAFETY:

With the majority of the participants of the NUM being club members, it might be wise if clubs made an effort to "push for safety" by encouraging riders to wear proper footwear for gripping the pedals when riding standard or giraffe uni's and knee and elbow pads when racing.

SMILING FACES 4-H UNICYCLE CLUB

On April 15, 1980, the Smiling Faces of Findlay, Ohio, staged another successful regional unicycle meet. Races and the obstacle course were run in the morning, a pot luck at noon afforded a fine time for socializing, and the main event of the afternoon was "mixed couples." This concept was originated by CATHY FOX of the Paul Fox Unicycle Club and was a tremendous success a year before in a regional meet sponsored by the Fox Club.

For those unfamiliar with "mixed couples," names of all participants are put in a hat and drawn in two's. The partners then have a prescribed period to work up a couple's routine. The sharing of ideas and abilities have proved very worthwhile. It's a practice technique that could be used within a club.

Pictures No. 4 & 9 on page 3 show two pairs of "mixed couples" in the competition on April 15.

REDFORD TOWNSHIP UNICYCLE CLUB, INC.

Redford Club members are looking forward to hosting its 4th Annual Mini-Meet on September 27, 1980. This will once again be held at the Wonderland Shopping Center in Livonia, Michigan. As in the past, there will be racing, obstacle, individual, couples, and group competition. This year it is impossible to offer a rain date, so the meet will be held on the 27th no matter what the weather. Clubs will be receiving information in September. Individuals who would like to participate may learn the details by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Redford Township Unicycle Club
Dave Brichford, Director
24460 Lyndon
Redford, Michigan 48239

INDEX TO PICTURES PAGE 3

- 1) 2nd grader LISA WALKER performs a back arch on the balancing platform carried by OAK VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES CLUB unicyclists. Director JIM MOYER is shown at right
- 2) JOEL DEMPSEY (bottom), KEVIN GILDEA (middle) and ALICIA GILDEA (top) form a 3-high balance on a unicycle during Oak View's 12th annual show
- 3) CATHY FOX gives U.S.A., Inc. Director AL HEMMINGER's "bicy-uni" a try. This unusual "bicycle" built by Al can be ridden as a unicycle in a number of different ways
- 4) WENDY BAHORICH (Redford Township Unicycle Club) and JOHN DeMUTH (Smiling Faces 4-H Unicycle Club) were paired together in the couples competition at the regional meet sponsored by the Smiling Faces this spring
- 5) The high school age set start off on the one-footed race at the Smiling Face Meet
- 6) Traveling two high are TOM MILLER, President of U.S.A., Inc., (Kokomo Roadrunners) and BEV BIBLER, Mother of three Smiling Face unicyclists and a unicyclist herself
- 7) Fickle PAUL FOX chose a different partner this year for the regional couples competition when he paired with the director of the SMILING FACES and past President of U.S.A., Inc. JAN LAYNE
- 8) "Sticking with it" is sometimes all important in winning a race. HANS MILLS (Redford Township Unicycle Club) won the walk-the-wheel race when he was the only rider to complete the distance
- 9) The very thoughtful team of ANNE MARIE and BOB once again paired Redford and Smiling Face members in the couples competition on April 15
- 10) CINDY FOX, youngest rider in the Paul Fox family, gives a happy smile as she crosses the finish line - first.



(Since this column did not appear in the Spring issue, some of these letters are no longer timely. However, they are included because of their general interest.)

***MORE GUINNESS RECORDS?**

LARRY VAKSMAN, 5855 Drexel Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19131, participated in a charity marathon on March 21-22. He was interested in setting some records such as: longest time on a unicycle, longest time idling, longest time juggling on a uni while riding or idling. These events are not covered in the current Guinness book. Have they ever been? or are there other records for these events?

UNI-STAR, Randy Barnes, (see the Winter, '80 NSLR) would like to challenge the 100-mile record. He has built a special 27" unicycle (complete with tire-driven speedometer) for this event. Randy, in addition to challenging records, (He is also working on distance jumping and has achieved 11'8" with his ramps.) has appeared in the El Dorado Park (California) Recreation Expo where he demonstrated his riding techniques on a 4' x 8' piece of plywood. He is also beginning a new unicycle club in Bellflower, CA, called the "Uni-Stars of America" and gives each prospective rider an application to the U.S.A., Inc.

***WHEN THE SNOW FLIES...**

EVE BROWN, Secretary of the TWIN CITY UNICYCLE CLUB of Minneapolis, MN, writes that "having a winter practice area has helped our members to stay agile on their uni's." She also mentioned that her sons were able to ride their unicycles down streets that were impassable by car and that the unicycles were far less susceptible to theft than 10-speed bicycles.

***UNICYCLING ON THE SEAS**

KEN KRAKAT, 362767370, 32nd Mau Detachment "M", FPO N.Y., N.Y. 09502, says that the ship he is on now is not too good for unicycling because it rocks a great deal side to side. He would like to hear from his unicycling friends. He suggests that they "Just drop the letter in a mailbox because if you try to send a message in a bottle, some other ship might find it first and not even bother to forward it."

Another U.S.A., Inc. member who can be found at sea is Ensign JAMES B. STRICKER III, USCGO Northwind WAGB-282, General Delivery, Wilmington, NC 28401. Jim writes that he had a grand audience of penguins for juggling and uni'ing

UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

down on the ice of McMurdo Sound, Antarctica, when the Northwind was there in January, 1980, as part of Operation Deepfreeze 1980. This trip also took Jim to eleven ports in six different countries on three continents. Jim promised some pictures for a future issue.

***ATTENTION: PORTLAND, OREGON, UNICYCLISTS**

KEVIN SEAMAN, P.O. Box 93, Sandy, Oregon, has just moved to Oregon from Phoenix, Arizona, and is interested in finding a club or other unicyclists in the area.

***MANY EAGERLY AWAIT THE 1980 NUM**

The NUM is an exciting time, not only because of the spirit of competition, but because it also affords a time to renew friendships with other unicyclists from around the country and the world. This spirit of friendship and caring is expressed in letters from LUC TREMBLAY, Montreal, TED WADE, Kokomo, Indiana, and KATHY SKINNER, Pontiac, Michigan. Ted wrote that he greatly missed the regional meets this past year when his schedule would not permit him to attend. Kathy mentioned that your editor goofed on her status at Michigan State University. Kathy is a very active JUNIOR (sorry!)

***UNICYCLISTS IN ALASKA**

BRUCE BENTON, Box 632, Haines, Alaska, 99827, wrote that he found out about the U.S.A., Inc. at the store where he purchased his unicycle. He wrote on the 4th of July, the day on which he won a prize in a local parade. He is also riding in a melodrama performing in the area.

***.....AND HAWAII**

PETE SIMONSEN, Box 614, Naalehu, Hawaii 96772, learned to ride in 1966... "and I never heard of the U.S.A., Inc. until recently. There was an article and photographs in the newspaper about a United Airlines mechanic named BILL COLVIN who rides his unicycle on the job. (see NSLR Oct. '79) I called Bill and got your address." Pete is 32, a licensed broadcast engineer, and the only unicyclist in the southern-most community in the United States.

NEWSLETTER - SUMMER, 1980

*.....AND AUSTRALIA

PETER BARLOW, 15 Halcyon Ave., Glenverley, Victoria, Australia 3150, earned an "A" for Recreation Studies with his booklet on unicycling. (Peter wrote last year asking for help from U.S.A., Inc. members in preparation of this booklet.) The project is about done now and, hopefully, excerpts will be included in future NSLRs. Peter asked for permission to reproduce some material from past issues of the NSLR. Because the NSLR is copyrighted, permission for reproduction must be requested. Since the U.S.A., Inc. aims are "to foster...and promote...unicycling" permission would rarely be refused.

*ARE GIRAFFES DIFFICULT TO RIDE?

JOHN SCHNEIDER, 707 Sidney, Bay City, Mich.; DANIEL GALPIN, 2821 Niles St., Bakersfield, CA; and MARK HIMMELBERG, 1316 Bradshaw, Columbia, MO, are all in various stages of learning to ride new giraffe unicycles. John is making use of Jack Wiley's UNICYCLE BOOK, only available through U.S.A., Inc., in learning the technique. Mark, who is nursing some ulcers, is following directions printed in the NSLR on free-mounting the giraffe.

*100-MILE RIDES

JOAN SMITH of Buffalo, N.Y. and RANDY BARNES, CA, both mentioned planned 100-mile bicycle tours. Anyone wishing to better the unicycle record for speed might make the attempt on a planned course. If "challenging the Guinness," unicyclists must have considerable publicity for authenticity.

*WOULD LIKE MORE CONSTRUCTION IDEAS

Unicyclists have differing interests and KENNETH G. FUCHS, 3908 Ontario St., Ames, Iowa, would like to see more detailed ideas printed for unicycle and equipment construction. (ed. note: Members, please send in construction tips or complete plans for your successful projects. Members would be grateful for new ideas.)

*PROMISES - PROMISES

RICH ILLING, 232 55th st., Downers Grove, ILL. is so pleased with the job JOYCE JONES is doing as SEC.-TREAS. that he promised to leave her a million in his will.

SHOWMANSHIP.....by.....TED WADE

With the NUM coming up fast, many riders attending are still trying to plan a routine, with the exception of FOX (CATHY) AND SKINNER (KATHY) who wait until they perform before they know what they are doing! (ed. note: only a good friend could write something like that!) Whether it's individual, couples, or group trick; one thing plays an important role: showmanship.

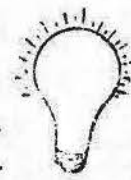
In the July '79 NSLR judges comments are listed from a regional meet to show riders what they are looking for. Some comments were: add variety, have greater control of the unicycle. PAUL FOX noted that in one of the first meets someone rode an ultimate wheel for three minutes to receive first place in ind. trick. (This was also done in 1979 by SCOTT WIXOM from the REDFORD TOWNSHIP UNICYCLE CLUB.) MIKE WILSON, also from REDFORD jumped rope on an ultimate wheel; with that unique trick, and others, he also won first.

These days you have to keep ahead of others with style. Since new tricks are hard to think of, you have to know which are best and how to use them.

Little things are noticed such as pointing the toe when riding one-footed, choice of music, or a big smile and eye contact. Non-unicycling judges don't always note the difficulty of a trick but are more impressed by the gracefulness of the rider.

Comedy routines are enjoyed by the spectators as well as the riders themselves. In Minneapolis (1978 NUM), MIKE LANE and I did a cop and flasher routine. Sure we muffed it (sorry, Mike), but we had fun until we forgot the act. (Even a muff can be a plus as long as the rider keeps smiling and finishes up the act.)

A word of advice to NUM newcomers, or to anybody: Don't think you're not good enough to enter competition! Competing now will make you a "pro" in the future.



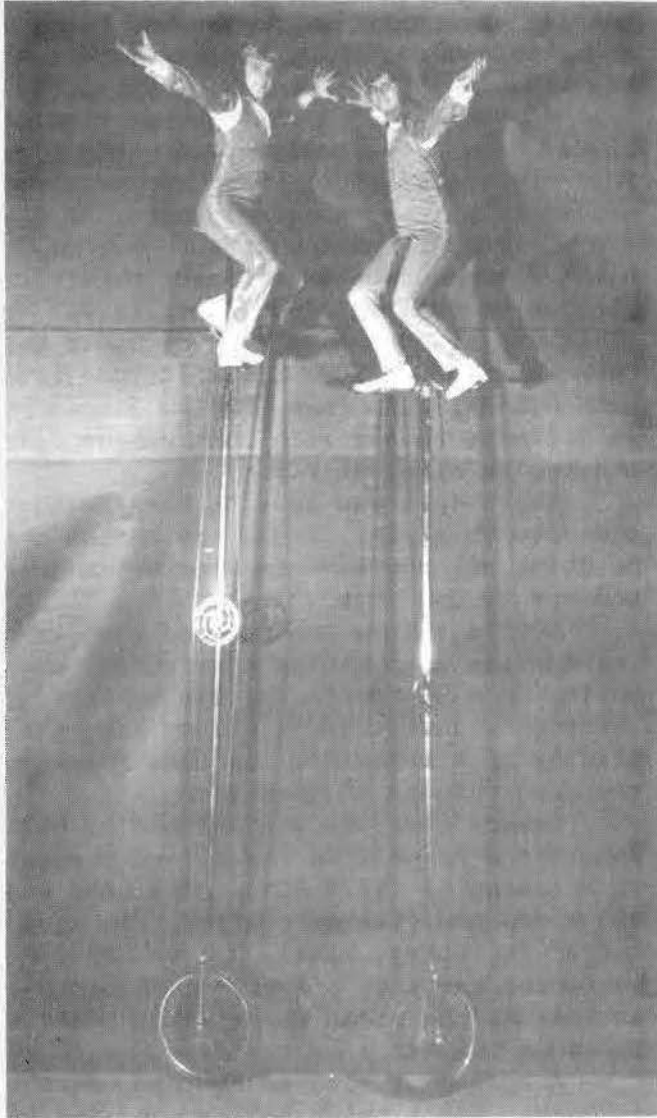
While the U.S.A., Inc. does not handle buttons, the patch (see order blank in this issue) can be turned into a pin to be used on various garments by:

cutting a circle of iron-on fabric the same size as the patch. sewing a large pin to the non-sticky side

ironing the fabric to the back-side of the patch. This turns the patch into a reasonably firm button.



The Whirling Wizards of the One Wheel





(The following article has been written from a press release of TAL World-Wide Productions, Inc. written by BERT SIKORSKY, President; an article in FAMILY CIRCLE magazine, July 15, 1980; and a brief write-up in THE CIRCUS REPORT, May 5, 1980.)

Thirteen years ago the Sikorsky's could be considered the "typical American family." The father of the family (BERT) was an agent for the Internal Revenue Service, the mother (ETHEL) was a fifth-grade teacher, and their school-age boys (TOM, ALBERT, and LARRY) were typical school-age boys. Then Bert was asked to be a clown for

a school bazaar in Baltimore, Maryland, and all of their lives changed dramatically.

The entire family fell naturally into the art of clowning; the boys learned to unicycle and juggle; and Mom began working on her sewing machine for costumes and serving as the family's secretary. Dad has served as President of Clowns of America and is currently Editor of the organization's official publication, CALLIOPE.

What began as a family hobby has now been turned into a full-time family business called TAL (from the first letters of the boys' names) World-Wide Productions, Inc. The business not only manages its own family act, but others as well; offers advice in public relations; produces training aids for the performer; and teaches juggling, unicycling, and related circus arts.

In 1980 the Sikorsky act expanded when it merged with the FANTASTIC FLYING Y'S of Norristown, Pennsylvania. This merger improved the juggling and rolling globes acts and gave the new group a newly routined and designed unicycling act, which promises to

be one of the best professional acts on the road this year. The unicycle act includes minis, regulars, 6-footers, 15-footers, zig zag, no-seaters, and other specials. More difficult tricks will gradually be incorporated as the group works more together.

Performing in this merger are Al and Larry Sikorsky, and from the Flying Y's BOBBY PLEIS and LEONARD DOUGLAS, who has designed most of the cycles and will be providing his talents of costume design, productions and the manufacture of juggling props.

Tom Sikorsky will no longer be touring but will remain in the office taking over sales, promotions, and bookings for the corporation. Tom and his wife Diane added another Sikorsky on Jan. 7 when JENNIFER ROBYN was born.

In addition to juggling, unicycling, and globes (They field one of the only 3-man, 3-globe rolling globe acts on the road in the United States.), they also have a comedy-skill trampoline act.

All of the young men, none is over 21, have amassed credits. They have worked in virtually all of the major state and county fairs in the Eastern United States and Canada, Expo 67 in Montreal, Theme Parks, Amusement Parks, National network TV - including the Mike Douglas Show, Symphony Hall in Boston, Hershey Theatre in Hershey, PA, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, and many circuses.

The Sikorskys will be performing on Prince Edward Island August 11-16, in Pittsburgh, PA on October 18, and in New York City, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania in December. They may soon be in your area. Look for them - and stop in and say "Hello." If you would like more information, call (301) 285-4848, 5161, or 5162 or you can write to:

Bert Sikorsky, President
 TAL World-Wide Productions, Inc.
 P.O. Box 3906
 717 Beverly Road
 Baltimore, Maryland 21222

The picture on the front page of this issue shows three of the performers juggling hatchets while idling on 6-foot giraffe unicycles.

A SUGGESTION: Bring your copy of Jack Wiley's UNICYCLE BOOK with you to the 1980 NUM and use it to collect autographs. A number of the people pictured in the book will be at the Meet.

- All races will be started with rider mounted, holding to support, except 2nd, 3rd, and 4th relay riders who will have a starting distance to receive the baton.
- Any rider fouling shall be disqualified for that race.
- Any rider intentionally fouling shall be disqualified and barred from further competition and shall forfeit any and all awards.
- Riders must ride across the finish line.
- If rider falls or dismounts, he is disqualified except in the relay, 330 or mile races.
- All riders must stay in their lanes.
- In the Obstacle Course each rider shall be allowed two (2) attempts with the best time being official. Pylons may be hit but not knocked over. If pylons are knocked over, the rider will be disqualified in that attempt. Ages 0-10 use 20" wheel or compete in 11-12 age bracket.
- In the slow race the rider must ride in a straight forward continuous motion. Rider may not stop, rock, bounce, or twist.
- All races are timed finals.
- Age group will be determined by the age the rider is on the first day of the Meet. Anyone falsifying age will be disqualified.
- Except for the big wheel race or trick riding competition, unicycles must have 20" or 24" wheels and crank arms at least 5½" long from center of axle to the center of pedal.
- Trick riding time limits are as follows: no props - 2 minutes; chain drive and open - 3 min. Couples - 3 minutes; Group - 10 minutes. Riders are asked to use minimum time for set-up.
- Trick rider(s) must nod to judges to start clock and routine.
- Trick rider(s) must indicate to the judges the end of their routine (nod, bow, etc.)
- A 30-second warning whistle will be sounded before the end of the allotted time. At the end another whistle will mean the rider(s) must immediately dismount - finished or not. Rider(s) continuing beyond the final whistle will lose points for composition.
- All riders MUST be registered by 9:00 on Saturday, August 16. A late registration fee of \$1.50 will be charged any competitors registering after July 31.
- Proper apparel must be worn for safety i.e. footwear for all events. Elbow and knee pads are recommended. Riders in the Big Wheel race MUST wear helmets and gloves.
- Any rider in the 0-10 year-old category who does not own or can not borrow a 20" unicycle will be permitted to race on his 24" unicycle with the 11 & 12 year olds.

If you have any last-minute questions concerning the 1980 NUM, call:

TOM MILLER
U.S.A., INC. PRESIDENT
1 (317) 473-6425

Two years ago the words to DON SHAFER's "National Unicycle Meet March" were printed for the first time. Here, again, are the words to the first verse:

At the USA Meet, everyone gets a treat - Exhibitions and parading in the street. It's a week of thrills, unicycling skills - and the expert demonstrations can't be beat. There are big wheels and small - some are short and some tall - and the amazing things they do are simply grand. So let's get a good seat for the USA Meet. It's the greatest one-wheel show in all the land.
NEWSLETTER - SUMMER, 1980

August 15 - 17

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY - August 15

- 9:00 - 10:00 Registrations: Haworth H.S.
- 10:00 - 12:00 Motocross, Ramp Jump and official NUM obstacle
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 - 2:00 Continue morning's events
- 2:00 - 5:00 Basketball competition
- 5:30 - 6:30 Dinner provided for all registered unicyclists and persons purchasing meal tickets
Presentation of awards for Friday's special activities

SATURDAY - August 16

- 8:00 - 9:00 Late registrations: Haworth High School (back door)
- *9:00 - 11:30 NUM Competition
Races: ages 0-10 & 13-14
Ind. Tricks: ages 11-12 & 15+
- 11:30 - 2:30 Lunch & Parade (see map for parade location and route)
- *2:30 - 6:00 NUM Competition
Races: 11-12 & 15+
Ind. Tricks: 0-10 & 13-14
- 6:00 - 7:00 Dinner provided for all registered unicyclists and persons purchasing meal tickets
- 7:00 - 8:30 Awards - Haworth H.S. gym
*Running continuously during these periods will be the official NUM obstacle course. Each rider must complete this course on Friday or whenever he has time during racing and trick riding on Saturday.

SUNDAY - August 17

- 7:00 - 7:15 Sunrise service - Courthouse 2nd floor, Main & Sycamore
- 7:15 - 10:00 U.S.A., Inc. Annual Meeting
- 10:00 - 11:00 Lunch
- 11:00 - 6:00 Couples, Group and Ind. Trick competition (Ind. Trick will be for the top 3 riders in each category)
Awards

The Haworth High School Band will be selling lunch at the high school for the convenience of unicyclists and their families.

UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

-It is recommended that unicyclists have advance reservations at motels since a major community parade will be drawing other out-of-towners

-Spring Hill Campground, (317) 883-7433, is located 9 miles out of town (southwest of Kokomo) - cost: \$5.00 plus extras

-Kokomo is NOT on Daylight Saving Time - so adjust your time accordingly!

-The five pylons in the center of the obstacle course are spaced 3 feet apart to the center of the pylon. Starting and ending lines are 3 feet from the center of the first and last pylon.

-Individual Trick and Couples' area will be half a standard high school basketball court (42 feet by 50 feet). The area for Group competition will be 84 feet by 50 feet.

-A sound system will be provided. Unicyclists should provide their own cassette tapes.

-Parade competition will be on unicycles ONLY. Cars or trucks will be permitted for safety, mounting, first aid or refreshments. They may be decorated, but they may be used for no other purpose. Bicycles or other non-unicycles that normally are used in parade will be grouped at the back.

-Friday's basketball games will utilize standard basketball rules. Teams will consist of five riders. (A team may consist of four riders but must expect to be at a disadvantage.) Elimination games will be 12 minutes long; the final playoff game will be 25 minutes.

-A 6-foot giraffe, donated by Schwinn, will be raffled.

-A big wheel and ultimate-wheel inserts will be auctioned.

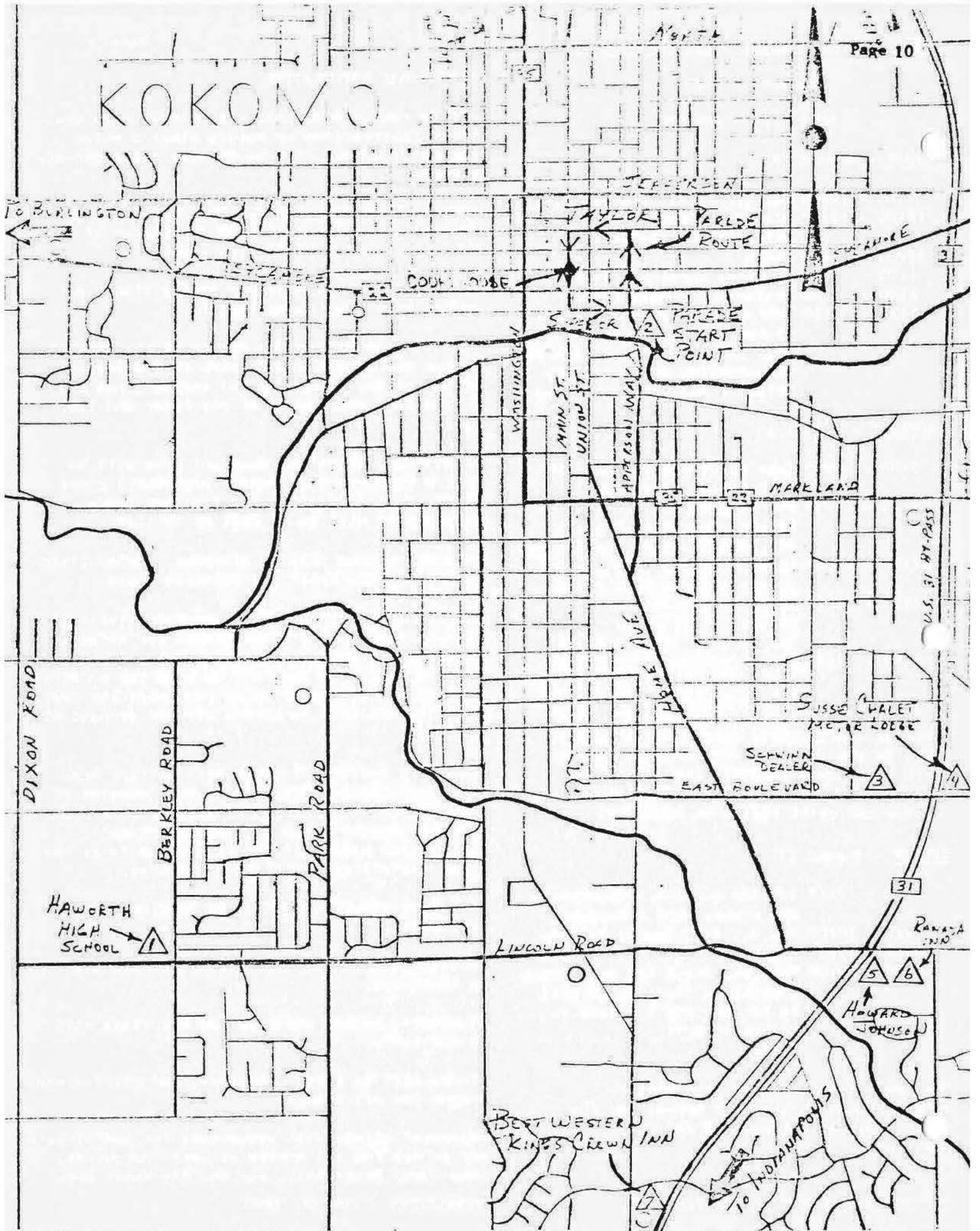
-T-shirts, bumper stickers and key rings will be available.

-There will be first-, second-, and third-place awards for all events.

-Winners' points will accumulate for individuals and groups for all events except: Motocross, Ramp Jump, Basketball, and the Big Wheel Race

NEWSLETTER - SUMMER, 1980

KOKOMO



(Some time ago your editor asked members to write what unicycling means to them. Following are two replies received.)



MARK HIMMELBERG, who is otherwise known as "Uni-Man," will be a senior this fall at Hickman High School, Columbia, Missouri. He submitted this story to fulfill an English assignment.

The stage was set for us on this hot, sunny day. There was a slight wind out of the southwest, and there was not a cloud in sight.

We were one-half mile away from the west face and slowly approaching it with an eye of bewilderment. It was, and still is said to be the worst possible climb for people of our experience.

When we reached the bottom of the west face, we stopped to rest our legs for the grueling climb ahead. While I was at the bottom plotting my course up, I recalled the other challenges I had faced before this and how this was going to be my toughest challenge yet.

We started our assault side by side until it steepened suddenly, so I took the lead. Because I was taking the west face faster than the rest of my party, my legs began to pain me early. I was one-third of the way up when I lost my first climber. It was awful, I heard him scream as he fell; the equipment was clanging, crashing down the hill upon him.

The farther up I got, the harder it was for me to get oxygen through my system. With my getting weaker as time grew on, I envisioned my falling down the west face just as my companion had done earlier.

As I was about three-fourths of the way up, I lost my second and last climber as she, too, met her match in much of the same way my first did.

With my being the last one on the west face, I knew I had to make it to the summit. I knew if I didn't I would just come back once more to test my abilities.

With this inspiration I reached the first summit. The sun was even hotter now and my body was in pain. My mouth was dry; I could barely see for the sweat had started dripping into my eyes. My knees had been ground to cartilage; my legs were shaking with weakness; my stomach was in a knot. I was wondering how much longer my equipment and I would hold up to the grueling torture of the west face.

The last fifty yards were murder, but I had

to concentrate on getting to the summit. I gave it all I had left. With my legs cranking and my lungs gasping for air, I trudged up to the summit.

Now I was looking at the west face from a different view. Looking down, I vowed never to unicycle up that acclivity again.

...And in a bright, rainbowed envelope, with the words, "Have a super duper day!" came the following from CATHY FOX college student and oldest daughter of U.S.A., Inc. Director, Paul Fox...

With a statement like "U.S.A., Inc. members must have many stories of the fringe benefits of unicycling" and "your editor would like to hear from members" I couldn't help but want to pour my heart out to you with the love I have and the honor I feel for what unicycling has given me.

I started riding a unicycle when I was 7 years old and with this blessing from God, I have received nothing but pleasure ever since. My great father, who wanted to culture his children, made it possible, through hard work, time and love, to build a unicycle club which took us all over the state of Ohio learning of festivals and to meet and love people from all over. My mother played an important role in the tedious matters of running this club of ours. It was a family affair with me, my two sisters, daddy and mommy, plus every kid who joined the club and traveled with us. We have had people from almost every state of this beautiful United States reside at our house. We have also been honored to have people from Canada and Japan stay with us. I have ridden with world record-holder Wally Watts and juggled with John McPeak. Unicycling has taken me to New York to spend time with the most precious Jenacks and has given me the feeling that, if need be, there is an open door wherever a unicyclist lives. I not only have acquaintances with unicyclers, but I have loving friendships with people all over this country from California to New York, Michigan to Texas. I am a part of their life and they are very much a part of mine.

Sometimes to my embarrassment I have also been on the front page of newspapers and have been on TV. The least of the benefits of unicycling, I have had the great opportunity to win trophies and medals which gives me a strong sense of accomplishment.

I have learned to eat out of a vending machine, sleep in a bumpy bus, get along with people, appreciate the ideas of others, work hard for a

BOOK REVIEW:

THE BICYCLE BUILDER'S BIBLE
by Jack Wiley

Jack Wiley's long-awaited pedal cycle book has just been published by TAB BOOKS of Blue Ridge Summit, Pa. It is 376 pages of jam-packed information and photos on how to modify, build, select, buy, use, repair, and recondition bicycles and pedal-operated vehicles. . . plus how to make novelty and specialty cycles and construct a pedal-driven electrical generator. The exploded diagrams of rear-wheel hubs and other intricate cycle parts are exceptionally clear and just what many home cycle mechanics have been waiting for. One entire chapter of 35 pages is devoted to unicycles and has been found to be quite complete. It is now available through the U.S.A., Inc. at \$8.95 for paper back and \$14.95 for hard cover. See the order blank in this issue.
..... reviewed by....Bill Jenack

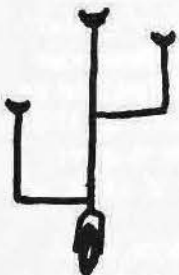
goal, and even work hard for a goal and come up short. But I have tried and I have learned to love the smile of a winner as he or she crosses the line first - or one hundred and first - and I have learned to pick myself up and try again, even with 13 stitches in my knee.

No, it is not all sunshine; there are many hard hours of practice. But in my eyes it is worth it all. I am now in college and because of the experience of coaching the unicycle team, I want to make coaching and working with kids a part of my life to come.

When the question is asked the super St. Helen's Unicycle Drill Team, "Why do you do this?" the answer is, "For the honor and glory of God." I keep this thought with me always whether on or off a cycle, clown face or none, juggling balls in hands or not, performing for the crowds or practicing on our lonely street corner. For every new accomplishment, such as riding the 18-foot unicycle on my day of graduation, I do them all for this purpose. I also try to do it for the honor and glory of my family and friends.

I have always believed that unicyclers are a special breed of people. They could be from any part of the world, but they are special; and my life has been rewarded three fold over by being a part of this special group. I would like to tell them all how very much I love the ones I know and how anxious I am to meet the others. For you all are a gift from God to me! I have had and still look for "fringe benefits" through unicycling - and the ones I've mentioned are only a few.

Cathy Fox



TRIPLE-DECKER GIRAFFE

One of the highlights of the "Challenge the Guinness" meet was to be the successful riding of a three-man giraffe unicycle. The engineering problems encountered in designing a safe vehicle of this type proved to be insurmountable. The sketch is of one version that was attempted but later scrapped. Anyone with an idea may send his drawings to:

JACK HALPERN, 6-21-39 Nobidome,
Niiza-She, Saitama 352
JAPAN

MISCELLANEOUS:

- *JOHN McPEAK, known for his tremendous juggling abilities, is one of the stars appearing in the show "Burlesque 80" at the Nevada Palace in Las Vegas.
- *DAVID SHARPE, a movie stunt man, died this Spring at the age of 70 of Parkinson's disease. Sharpe was considered one of the best stunt men because of his versatility. He was a swimmer, diver, pilot, horseman, unicyclist and boxer.
- *SEM ABRAHAMS' 72" unicycle ride, which took place in March, 1980, in Japan, has been mentioned in papers and magazines around the world. Even the NATIONAL ENQUIRER included a half-page picture and article in the July 22 issue.
- *GORAN LUNDSTROM, Sweden, has completed and successfully ridden an 80" big wheel which he hopes to have accepted by Guinness.
- *JOHN JENACK is now teaching a circus arts class at his home twice a week. Not only the students are attempting the tightwire that he sets up in the front yard. Family and neighbors are enjoying the thrill, too.

FROM YOUR EDITOR:

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

Date _____

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_____	THE BICYCLE BUILDER'S BIBLE by Jack Wiley (soft cover)	@ 8.95	_____
_____	(hard cover)	@ 14.95	_____

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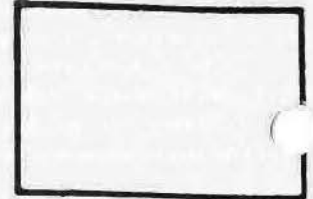
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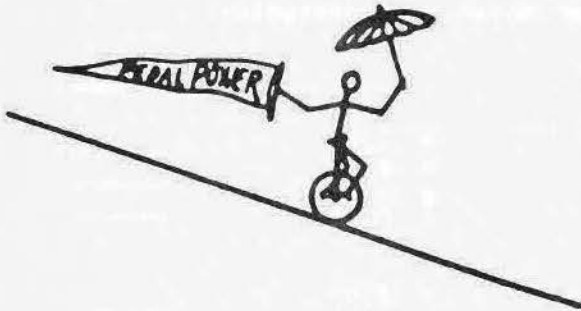


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14



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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.



Fill in and mail to:
Joyce Jones, Secretary Treasurer
UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.
P. O. BOX 40534
Redford, Michigan 48240

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