



# On One Wheel

Volume XVI

Number 3

1989/90



# the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. Aims:

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

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# COVER:

When the Houghton Mifflin Company contacted AL HEMMINGER, Sec-Treas of the INTERNATIONAL UNICYCLING FEDERATION, for a photograph to be used with the word "unicycle" in their 1992 dictionary, Al called upon the talents of USAm ARISTIDE ABRAHAMS. Aristide used TIM WINTERS, also a USAm, as the model while shooting a number of black and white pictures. This is one of several mailed to the publishing house and may be the one selected to be included in the next dictionary put out by the Trade and Reference Division.

\*\*\*Contest\*\*\*Throughout this issue there are small pictures of USA Director JAMES GREEN. See page 18 and find out why!



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ON ONE WHEEL

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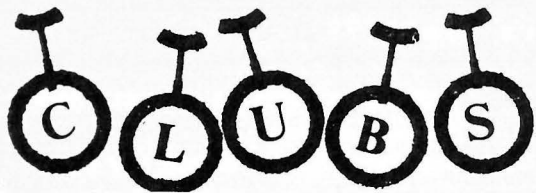
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The WOOD ONE WHEELERS

by AMY SCHLOSSER  
WOW member-6yrs.

The WOOD ONE WHEELERS from Bowling Green, OH once again held its annual beginner unicycle lessons. They ran from January to March, 1990. This has been the most successful group of new riders we have ever had. Through these classes we almost doubled the size of our Club! We acquired about 35 new members to make a total of 75 riders (including adults) in the WOOD ONE WHEELERS!

The classes were wrapped up on March 11 when we held a six-hour practice/potluck. It was lots of fun for all who attended. We gave out awards to all who participated in the beginner unicycle classes and had to say "Farewell" to those who had decided not to join our Club. The new members tried for their Level 1 patches and our advanced riders tried to achieve the upper levels.

W.O.W was very fortunate to have 3 special guests: SEM and TERESA ABRAHAMS and AL HEMMINGER (Teresa's Dad and Sec-Treas. of IUF). Sem and Teresa did a terrific performance that really boosted the enthusiasm of the new and old members alike!

As you can see, holding beginner unicycle classes can be very beneficial to your group as well as a great experience and lots of fun for everyone!!!

The REDFORD TOWNSHIP UNICYCLE CLUB

by CHRISTIAN MARCILLO

The Redford Township Unicycle Club did its first performance to an enthusiastic audience. The performance was done in front of over 100 Girl Scouts who applauded every move and could not wait to get information on the Club and learn how to join.

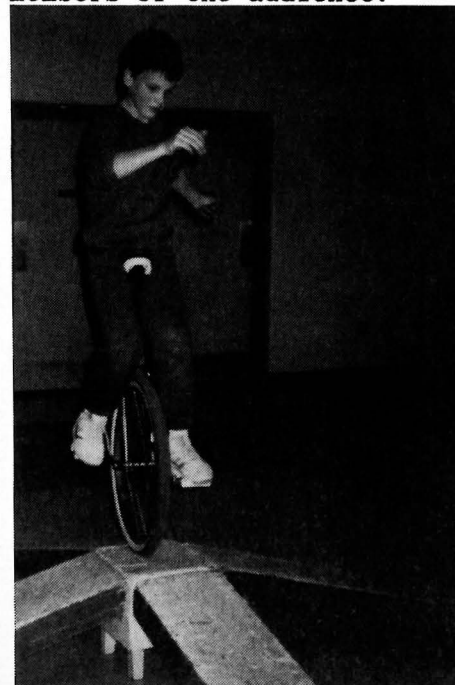
April 18, 1990 gave the Club a chance to see what it would be like to go out for a performance without knowing what to expect. A couple of days before this event the Club was informed that it would be doing a parade and performance at a strip mall to draw attention to the mall. The day was cloudy, damp and dreary. Very few people showed up, other than those involved in the event. However, it did give us a chance to practice and have some fun.

In May we had a beautiful day for a double performance in Rochester, MI. A private, laboratory-style school there has begun teaching unicycling as part of the curriculum and is hoping that local schools will see the benefits and adopt the program. The performances by RTUC were a part of educating the community so that it will be enthusiastic when the plan is presented.

(picture - below) STEVE CURTIS spent many hours practicing the equipment so that he would be able to participate in Club performances. In his solo part of the program, Steve rides his unicycle around the stage as he rapidly blows up balloons and creates balloon-sculpture animals, which he gives to eager members of the audience.



The picture above features a number of W.O.W. riders - and Peter Rabbit - at a recent activity. W.O.W Director and 1990 NUM Director is JAN LAYNE.



UNICYCLE CLUBS AROUND THE WORLD - Is yours listed??

**BAKER CYCLERY**

"Red Stick Riders"  
940 Main St.  
Baker, LA 70714  
Jimmie & Nelda Davis

**BALLS CREEK P.E. CLUB**

Balls Creek Elem. School  
RT. 2, Box 566  
Newton, NC 28658  
Randy Bernhardt

**BOYS CLUB OF ST. FRANCIS**

102 Seymour St.  
Buffalo, NY 14210  
Bro. Timothy Dauenhauer

**CHARITON UNICYCLISTS**

417 South 8th  
Chariton, IA 50049  
Dave & Vicky Edwards

**CHRIST THE KING UNICYCLISTS**

701 Wall Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50315  
Karen Messamer

**CHRISTCHURCH UNICYCLE CLUB**

22 Purewell  
Christchurch, Dorset ENGLAND BH217QW  
David Mariner

**DETROIT 4-H UNILIGHTS UNICYCLE CLUB**

11164 E. Outer Drive  
Detroit, MI 48224  
James Green

**HUTCHINSON ONE WHEELERS**

422 Jefferson St.  
Hutchinson, MN 55350  
Constance Cottor

**KINGWOOD UNICYCLE CLUB**

301 S. Price St.  
Kingwood, WV 26537  
Dr. Paul A. Getty

**LONG ISLAND UNICYCLISTS**

20 Turn Land  
Levittown, NY 11756  
John Foss

**MINNESOTA UNICYCLE TEAM**

8368 Lower 138 Ct.  
St. Paul, MN 55124  
Dusty Kelm

**MOBILE UNICYCLE CLUB**

3204 Desire St.  
Mobile, AL 36606  
Seth Granberry

**NAPLES UNICYCLE CLUB**

328 Mel Jen Drive  
Naples, FL 33942  
Jim Steed

**NORTHGATE UNICYCLE CLUB**

767 Buckingham Ct.  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598  
Ray Abraham

**ORLANDO ONE WHEELERS**

1416 Francis Road  
Orlando, FL 32806  
Art Van Zandt

**OAK VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**EXHIBITIONAL ACTIVITIES CLUB**  
5004 Sideburn Road  
Fairfax, VA 22032  
Jim Moyer

**OXFORD 'WONDERWHEELS' UNICYCLE CLUB**

Oxford Elementary School  
Rt. 1  
Claremont, NC 28610  
Bob Eliasson

**PRINGLE'S UNICYCLES**

17400 NW 82 Ct.  
Hialeah, FL 33015  
George Pringle

**REDFORD TOWNSHIP UNICYCLE CLUB, INC**

P.O. Box 40732  
Redford, MI 48240  
Ed Winters

**RUDOLPH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UNI CLUB**

5200 2nd St. NW  
Washington, DC 20011  
Chelo Gwathmey

**St. HELEN'S UNICYCLE TEAM**

15407 Auburn Rd.  
Newbury, OH 44065  
Larry & Carole Evans

**SEM CYCLISTS**

P.O. Box 1675  
3600 BR Maarssen HOLLAND  
Sem & Teresa Abrahams

**THE SUPERCYCLES**

14158 Willard Road A & B  
Chantilly, VA 22021  
Tricia Hands Deering

**TORONTO UNICYCLISTS**

246 Blantyre Avenue  
Scarborough, Ontario CANADA M1N 2S1  
Mike Rocks

**TORONTO UNICYCLISTS UNICYCLE HOCKEY CLUB**

71 Jasper Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario CANADA M6N 2N2

**TWIN CITY UNICYCLE CLUB**

5275 Oxford St. N  
Shoreview, MN 44126  
Bill Gilbertson

**UNICYCLE USA**

385 Freeman Bridge Rd.  
Marietta, SC 29661  
B. J. Watkins

**UNICYCLING FEDERATION OF EARTH**

Iowa State University  
Ames, IA 50013  
Dave Fritts

**UNICYCLING FOR CHRIST**

40 Rorrer Circle  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
Barry Knowles

**VECTIS UNICYCLE UNIVERSITY**

121 Sandown Road, Lake  
Isle of Wight ENGLAND PO36 9JY  
Stuart E. Allbrighton

**WAYNE SOCIETY OF UNICYCLISTS**

516 W. Wayne Ave.  
Wayne, PA 19087  
Brian Campbell

**WESTERN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

W. Main Street  
Lexington, OH 44904  
Gary Hundertpfund

**'WHEEL PEOPLE' UNICYCLE HOCKEY CLUB**

6940 Estepa Drive  
Tujunga, CA 91042  
Hal Gordon

**WHITTIER UNICYCLE CLUB**

14015 Oval Dr.  
Whittier, CA 90605  
Jim Colwell

**WOOD ONE WHEELERS 4-H UNICYCLE CLUB**

303 E. Lincoln  
Findlay, OH 45840  
Jan Layne

yet to be named

329 N. Russell Ave.  
Geneseo, IL 61254

Bob Graham & Bob Kuhns

## UNICYCLING IN PUERTO RICO

by Alberto Ruiz

In 1969 Mr. Francisco Dumeng bought a unicycle from a military surplus store at the former Ramey Air Force Base near his home town of Isabela, PR. Although he never learned how to ride it, he did teach his sons and friends. There are confirmed and documented reports of previous unicycle riders, including an old San Juan hand-crafter who used to sell his paper flowers riding a unicycle with all the flowers over his head. There is a Tourism Department poster of him from the mid-1960's. That poster influenced other would-be riders, but we consider the Dumen'g purchase the Genesis of what today is the FEDERACION DE UNICICLISMO DE PUERTO RICO.

Dumeng's group became the pride of Isabela and he began performing in neighboring towns, sometimes driving an outdated car that had problems climbing roads leading to mountain towns. Often the kids ended up pushing the car to be able to perform. Always short of money and sponsors - but full of enthusiasm - the group rejected sponsorship from tobacco or alcoholic beverage companies, a policy still followed in Puerto Rico today. During the 70's the group performed on a TV program in PR similar to "That's Incredible." I was able to locate them through the host of that program.

In the early 80's Isabela's Club broadened in different ways. Some of the original boys (i.e. Charlie Perez) matured and accepted the challenge to develop younger boys. Since PR is a small island, we all have an innate desire to show what we accomplish and to learn new things from lands at the other sides of the oceans. So the top priority was to travel - once a year, if possible - to international unicycle competitions. The Isabela Club also made a concerted effort to develop clubs in other towns.

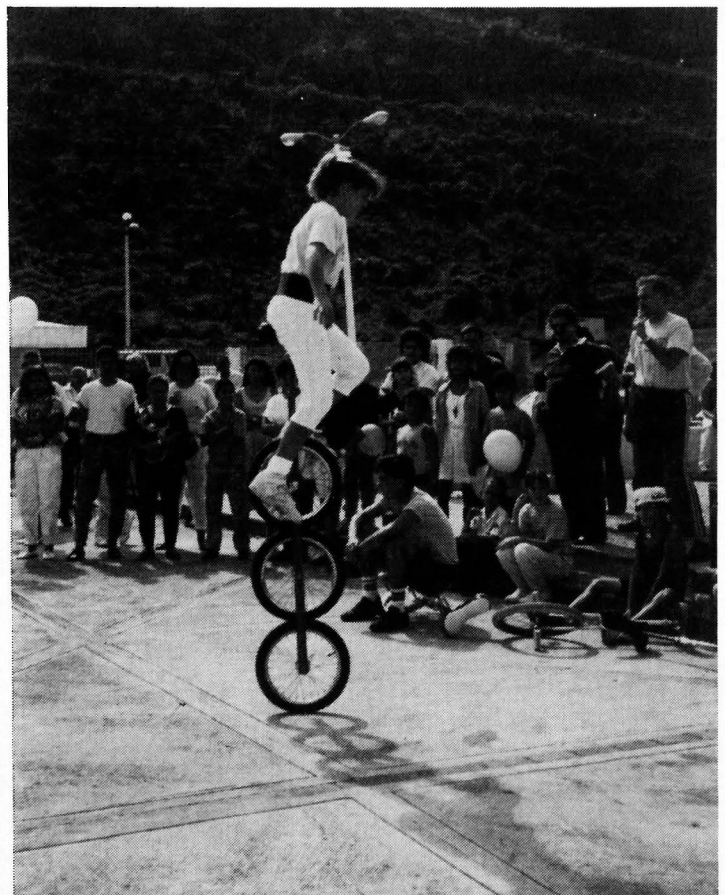
From our international travel we found out we had a lot to learn. We also made good friends. By definition, a unicyclist is persistent. Once he sets himself a goal, he will achieve it. This characteristic creates an empathy between riders around the world. When I see a picture of Jean Ascher arguing with a policeman, I somehow feel like it is me - although I have never met

him and have never been in Denmark. (No comments on whether I have argued with policemen.)

Our first rider to to be recognized internationally was DANIEL DUMENG, one of the sons of the Club's organizer.

After attending several NUMs and UNICON 1,2,& 3, we lived our dream to host a UNICON and be able to give a warm "bienvenida" to our good friends from around the world. The problems we encountered were due to our inexperience, loss of sponsors, and late registrations which made scheduling impossible. On the plus side, we probably had the best group of riders ever assembled. We enjoyed 5 days of competition with all the regular events plus some new ones like downhill gliding, distance coasting, UMX on a beach (hard sand most of the time), and the 8 kilometer (5 mile) marathon.

Hosting UNICON 4 was one of the highlights of our lives. Our only regret is that we could not spend more time with our friends, showing them our island. This we will do if you ever return!



MARGARITA RUIZ demonstrates the 3-wheel unicycle on a typical January day in Puerto Rico.

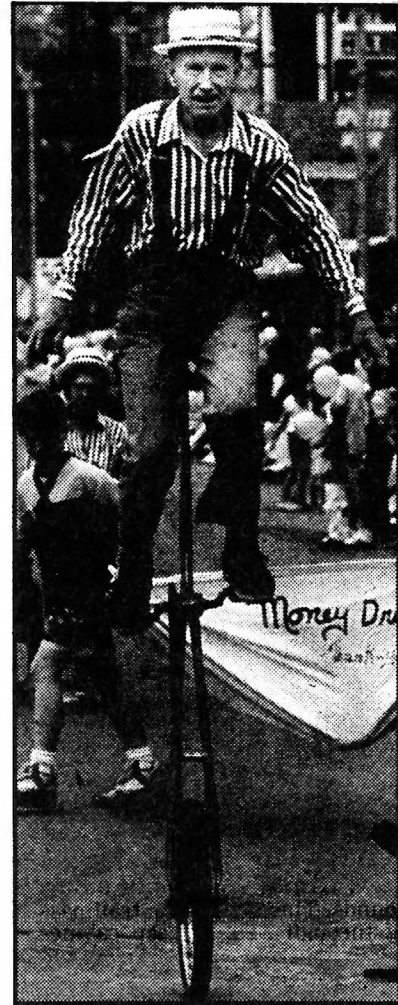
Something very interesting happened the year before and after UNICON 4. All of our young riders blossomed! Sure, they were good riders to start with and we anticipated improvement. But they exceeded our wildest expectations! They were thrilled to be able to compete in the World Championships and worked hard the year before. Their success and the nods of approval from their idols carried them the year after.

In summary, we are very proud of our riders. In PR we have some disadvantages and some advantages. We are short of equipment and sponsors and it costs us more to travel to competitions.

But we have a long history of unicycling. Some of the older riders have stayed to help develop the younger ones. Our climate is good year around so we don't have to rent a gym for the winter months. We have been able to provide opportunities for our riders to attend major competitions. This develops them because they practice to do well before they leave and they return with much that they have learned from others. But more important, it develops them as persons and they make international friends.

So, if you want to develop your kids, there is little you can do about the weather (except attempt to avoid further destruction of the ozone layer), but I would recommend that you encourage your kids to participate in as many unicycle competitions as possible. The best opportunity is to host a major meet yourself! As for us in PR, we are proud of all the unicyclists in the world and hope to see most of you when we travel to Ohio to participate in the 1990 National Unicycle Meet.

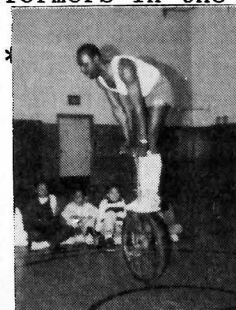
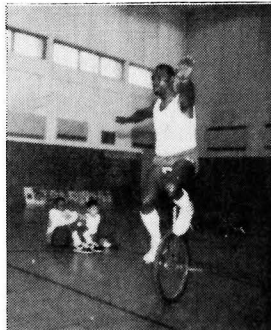
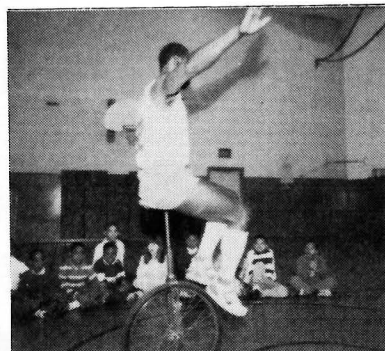
The picture below appeared in THE HERALD-TIMES of Bloomington, IN and was mailed to your ed. by NANCY BRICHFORD. It is reproduced here because Nancy received the necessary permission from the photographer, Sandford Gentry, as well as from the editors of the paper. While your ed. often receives newspaper pictures of unicyclists, they may not be used in OOW unless accompanied by a letter of permission.



Staff photo by Sandford Gentry

**ORLEANS - Willard Tillford, a 74-year-old unicyclist from Bloomfield, garnered first place in the miscellaneous judging division.**

In talking to the photographer, Nancy learned that Mr. Tillford appears in all of the local parades, often riding his 6-foot while dribbling a basketball. He is also one of the performers in the local circus.

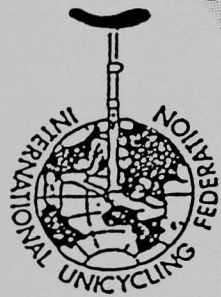


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 Cyclogist  
 Newsletter  
 Ex-Redskin Rooter  
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 Gapes, Gasps!

Big-Wheeling Unicyclist  
 Cyclogist  
 International  
 Federation  
 Where do I Convert?



By Curt Morgan  
 Editor, The Cyclogist

**T**he best player ever to tote a football down a gridiron is Herschel Walker, halfback, formerly of the Dallas Cowboys, now of the Minnesota Vikings. That's my opinion, anyway - and I'm a longtime fan of the Cowboys' arch-rival Washington Redskins team, to boot.

That's an unusual lead for a story in a unicycle newsletter, but hang tough and I'll try to connect Walker and unis.

Cowboy coach Tom Landry took early retirement last year. Oh, he's 60-something, f'sure, but he wanted to coach a little longer, so it was early for him.

Anyway, Dallas threw a retirement parade in his honor, putting out a call for entertainers to march down Commerce St. I grabbed a gee-whiz red-and-green jester's suit off my wife's sewing machine, coated my face with blue Cowboy stars over a base of white greasepaint, and took my Tom Miller 40" big wheel uni downtown.

**Please Pay Attention!**

I found a Hella Shrine clown group, made some quick friends, and was invited to tag along with them in the parade. While waiting for events to begin, who walked by with a gaggle of Cowboy footballers and climbed up on a float? (If you didn't guess Mr. H. Walker, you *haven't* been paying attention).

Playing it cool, I didn't rush up and fawn all over Herschel. Instead, I was hoping that he would see my uni (between

autograph-seeking fans), and would want a closer look.

Did Herschel ever rise to the bait? Sorry to say, he never did come by. But wait! Two other Cowboys, equally large and nearly as famous, called over to me: "Hey, let's see your ride that thing!"

Of course, I mounted and rode it on over. After a bit of shucking and jiving, I ventured, "This is the only thing athletically I can do that you can't!"

**Maybe His Sport is Really Unicycling**

Picking up the gauntlet, one Cowboy climbed off the float, clambered ungracefully but purposefully into the saddle of the 40-incher, and, in spite of my well-meaning protests, launched the uni...and rode a very credible five or six yards before carefully dismounting.

While we're talking professional athlete here, folks, and probably one who'd ridden a standard uni as a kid somewhere. Still, that's a remarkable feat.

"That was great," I stammered. "Tell you what. I'll stand on the float, you can ride down here with the clowns."

I did my own riding that day, of course. Crowd reaction was terrific! Vendors left their stalls to exchange high-fives with me in mid-parade. A clown came by and said, "I just saw you ride that thing, and I still don't believe you can ride it!" And my kids at home caught me hanting it up on TV, captured on tape on the VCR.

Doesn't everyone love a parade?



## Dave Mariner: Old World Craftsman Building Unis With Space-Age Materials

**D**ave Mariner has made "thousands" of unicycles over the past 20 years. I spent Christmas Day with him last year, visiting him in his shop in Christchurch, Dorset, England.

**The Cycologist:** How did you come to build your first unicycle, Dave?

**Dave Mariner:** It was in 1969, when I was in my early 20's. I was building aircraft parts at the time in a shop. I saw a unicycle on TV and took a fancy to it. I decided to build one for myself.

**TC:** Could you ride one yet?

**DM:** Not only could I not ride, I really didn't even have a sample uni to copy. I just sat down and built what looked about right to me. I happened to pick the right wheel size (a 20" bicycle wheel), but the cranks available at the time were too long. I kept cutting them in half and welding them back together, till I got the length right. Also, I used a seat off an old bicycle.

**TC:** Did you begin manufacturing more unis straight away?

**DM:** Not quite! As I was learning to ride, a friend asked me to build one for him. After that one, I started to get the hang of making unis. I made up a few and put them in a shop window down the road. I also registered my design.

**TC (examining Dave's first unicycle carefully wrapped in plastic):** Your frame looks a bit like the Lloyd design from here in Britain, which Schwinn bought and use today as their own.

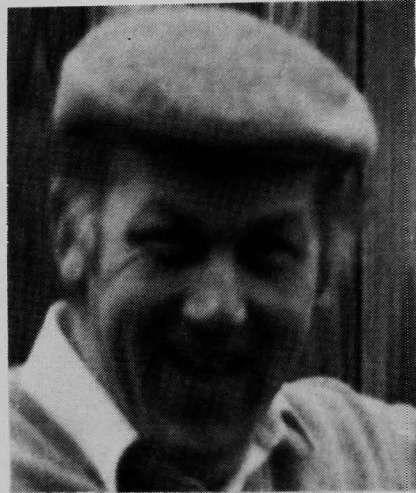
**DM:** Yes, it's a clever design, simplifies manufacturing. Semicycle uses the same basic approach, too. But, I'd not seen a Lloyd, or Schwinn, for that matter. In a way, the Semicycle has

extended the life of my design. People began to think the design was a bit old-fashioned.

**TC:** What happened to those first production units in the shop window?

**DM:** They just sat there for months, much to my dismay. In fact, I finally took them back. Eventually word got around and I sold those first few. Slowly, orders began to trickle in. It was five years before I was able to go into business for myself, setting up my own shop.

**TC:** I imagine you've made many improvements to your design in the last 20 years.



**DM:** Actually, I still make my "standard" line of unis even today, based on my early design. But, my top-of-the-line is the "Ringmaster" design, however. I use aircraft tubing, chromium molybdenum, that goes into helicopters and such. It has three times the strength of standard tubing.

**TC:** What other improvements have you made?

**DM:** I've learned that the heart of unicycle design are the stress points.

One must surround the bearings tightly. You need a good spindle. I start with high-quality steel, then have them hardened in a cyanide bath. (Draws a file along a treated and an untreated spindle). As you can see, the untreated spindle shows the effects of the filing, while my treated one does not. Also, on my models I paint, I plastic coat them; this means the paint won't chip, not so easily, anyway.

**TC:** What parts have become commercially available in the last few years that you've been able to incorporate into your designs?

**DM:** The production of BMX bicycles, with their fatter tires, stronger wheels and special pedals, are revolutionizing unicycle manufacture. Factories can't produce special parts for unicycles economically, so often we must use parts readily available for mass-produced items, like bicycles.

**TC:** Where is your 'test track'?

**DM:** The ultimate test for unicycle design is to turn over a new uni to a bunch of youngsters and let them bash them about. They'll jump up and down on them, and they'll bend if they're weak and will be of no use in no time.

**TC:** Since you can sell every uni you make, why not raise your prices?

**DM:** Well, there's something called competition! Lately, a fellow in Stratford-on-Avon (*famous as Shakespeare's home*) has gone into the uni building business. In fact, he's been a bit of a thorn in my side! If it weren't for young whippersnappers like him coming along, I probably would think more about raising prices.

**TC:** Do you have any plans for selling in the US?

**DM:** Americans have a reputation for ten years ahead of us here in Europe. I would be curious as to how my design was received over there. But, at the moment I am fully occupied with my European trade. *Cont page 3*



Truth is stranger than fox-tion, Pg 7



## The Pedalboy Interview, cont.

TC: How are your designs received over on the Continent?

DM: Curiously enough, they won't buy my 'standard' at all. Five or six years ago, the Japanese designs made my 'standard' look a bit old-fashioned, and the 'ringmaster' is all they want now.

TC: I imagine you must know most of the unicyclists here in Britain.

DM: Actually, no. Oh, in my first ten years in business, when I was selling direct, I met a great many. Since then, however, as my volume has increased, I've sold mostly through agents. Not so many riders stop by any more, and I must say, I miss that direct contact with my unicyclists.

TC (picking up a half a unicycle): What's this, Dave? It looks like half of a *Semcycle!*

DM: It's the *only* unicycle I ever bought. I wanted to take it apart and have a good look at it. I also had to know the price.

TC: To know the price, you just ask. This all seems like a spot of industrial espionage!

DM: No, I had to buy it, to make sure that it would be sold at that price. As for 'espionage,' well, it's been done to me, on occasion. I've met and talked to Sem, and he was very forthcoming with me. But, we *are* business competitors.

TC: I hear you were asked to accept a rather large delivery of tires recently...some sort of mistake, wasn't it?

DM (laughing): Well, yes, a large articulated lorry (*tractor trailer to us Yanks*) from Michelin Tyre Co., pulled up in front of my shop a while back. The driver popped out and announced, with a straight face, "Just where do I put this load of 10,000 unicycle tires, guv'nor?" The tire distributor is a friend of mine, he was just having a bit of a leg pull, really! ●



## I talked to Wally Watts

and passed on your request for an update on his activities. Look forward to hearing from Wally shortly.

Conal Mullen

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

*Conal sends a clipping circa Sept 1973 about Wally's trans-Canada trip atop a unicycle. Due to the publicity, knowing he was out of town, a burglar paid Wally's home a visit. - Ed.*

## Cornwall, England, being

farming and peasant country, is *not* cycling country. We who cycle are considered strange, and if we happen to be aged, are regarded as minor witches, and with awe and envy. As being able to ride on one wheel - they would probably burn unicyclists at the stake!

When three of us were having a drink in a local pub on the way to Lands End on a wet day when it was pelting with rain (which kept the roads clear of automaniacs), one of the peasants asked, "Where are you going and what are you doing out in this weather?" When we said, "Just to enjoy the ride," they all drew away from us, as if we had the Plague, or were touched in the head. Ourselves, we feel sorry for those whose sole method of transport is a glass-sided coffin.

Dr. Richard Swann

Four Corners, Cornwall, UK

I'd like to block off several blocks in Chinatown, put on a show and races, and introduce unicycling to the public. DuPont Circle is also a very good place to ride, also on the Mall and around the Lincoln Memorial. We need an outdoor tournament in the summer in the park.

Chris Armstrong

Washington, D.C. USA

## I wish to ride across the U.S.

on my unicycle. I came to Los Angeles last summer, but couldn't find a sponsor for my trip. Also, I need help in making my ride. It would be too dangerous by myself, a woman!

Atsuko Koga

16 Sanei-cho, Shinjuku-ku  
Tokyo, Japan 160

*"CoCo the Clown" (Koga = CoCo), 31, has appeared in SONY advertisements, amusement parks, New York night clubs and various festivals and openings all over Japan.*

May your holidays be happy and warmer than N.Y.! (this written on a Xmas postcard; a unicycle is barely visible in a snowdrift; icicles threaten from overhead: is this un-icicling?)

John Foss

Westbury, NY, USA

## Hey Crazy Man!

I call you crazy man because any guy crazy enough to send a convict a buck, and have faith to believe it was well-invested, has to be crazy. Well, it paid off! I hope what I'm sending you will help you out. (Ron contributed the three animal drawings for "Gettin' Ghostly Goblins" in this issue - Ed).

I have worked for the best bicycle shop in Minnesota, Penn Cycle Schwinn. Have you ever considered building your own unicycles? Three different kinds: The Fox, a hot version. The Raccoon, built for comfort. The Skunk, the all-around beater!

I'm doing time on possession of theft tools. What can I say, I used to crack safes, but those days are over!

Ron St. Martin, Box 55

Minnesota Corrections Facility,  
Sillwater, Minnesota

# Unicycling French, African and Kentucky

Take a peek under an old-fashioned "Big Top" in North Texas last Fall, and a devotee of one-wheeled performances would have been surprised to find three of the better unicycling performers around - one man, one lady, and one "it" - working under tents in Sulphur Springs, Waxahatchie, Lancaster, and other remote Texas burghs.

'Cycling cognoscenti wouldn't be surprised to find the 73-year-old Mel Hall, now of Mesquite, Texas (a Dallas suburb) still performing in his own back yard. The Poxville, Kentucky native ("Mother was a contortionist in a circus, and Poxville was where my folks happened to be performing the night I was born") is staging a comeback, of sorts.

### Heckzapoppin'?

Mel was the premier unicyclist of the 1940's, starring in "Hellzapoppin!" and "Sensations of 1944", sharing top billing with the likes of Bob Hope and W. C. Fields. As his superb skills



began to fade, he sold off his unicycles, devoting his time to the instruction of his four children in the circus arts ("as well as a few chimps," Mel recalls).

The man who free-mounted 10 foot giraffes ("well, actually it was nine and one-half feet") and rode ultimate wheels on his hands apparently swore off one-wheelers forever in the 1950's. "My youngest son never even saw me ride, until quite recently," Mel recalls.

### Hand...What?

His act also included "hand-bouncing." This is the art of performing any number of stunts on one's hands. "I read that someone could ride an "ultimate wheel" on his hands, and that gave me the idea for using it in my 'hand-bouncing' act," he reminisces. "Ken Woods to the contrary, I didn't actually invent the ultimate wheel."

In the early '70's, with Mel's children grown and enjoying circus careers of their own, he found himself living near a promoter for whom he'd constructed a unicycle 35 years earlier. The promoter asked Mel to try his hand at clowning, to fill in the time between other acts.

"You've heard of the Goodwill folks?" asks Mel, smiling. "That's where I got my first clown costumes. Smearing some of their lipstick all over my face, when I should have been using grease-paint. It must have looked atrocious," he roars in remembrance of circus rings past.

### Freak on a Wheel

In Mel's heyday, "I was sort of a freak. My performance featured unicycling acts of skill. Most other unicycling vaudevillians built their acts around comedy, not sheer competence on one wheel, as I tried to do."

Among the best of Mel's slapstick cohorts on unicycles were Walter Neelson. "He wore a 'misfit' suit and squealed a lot," Mel recalls. He also rode a giraffe from New York to California as a stunt, and just about



by Scott  
Duncan

Special  
Correspondent

Left, Dominique balances a sword on a dagger, as brother Jacques stands by with Band-aids. Above, the beast man won (he also does weddings).

ruined his health in the process."

In addition to his clowning, Mel gets considerable mileage from a uni-and-handlebar unit, a bicycle all of 12" high, and a 5 1/2 foot giraffe with an impossibly U-shaped seat. "I formed it that way so I can rise up off the seat," Mel confides, "but the uni stays put, doesn't get away from me."

When rotund ringmaster Bobby Gibbs, of Seagoville, TX, concludes Mel's act, he briefly summarizes Mel's career. The audience wildly applauds, although, in all fairness, few are aware of who they have just seen.

# Natives Trip over Tumbleweeds, Barbeque in Texas Heat

## A Three-Cycle Circus

If the presence of Mel on the marquee of a humble touring circus was not enough, he was but *one* of the *three* unicyclists the audience was to see that night.

"Miss Dominique," 28, of Nantes, France, puts her aptly-named "Quick" brand French-made 20" unicycle through its paces on the nearly unridable floor. The riding surface consists of several sheets of plywood, unblocked underneath, and is coated with slippery blue paint on top.

She jumps rope, juggles clubs with terrific speed, and waltzes about the uneven floor with Continental aplomb on her unit (in French, a "mon-cycle").

"In European circuses, we are *professionals*," the blond French damsel recounts with resignation to *The Cyclogist* while relaxing in her trailer after her show. "Here, it is simply a *carnival*."

She taught the circus's third unicyclist all he knows about the single cycle: he's a ten-year-old chimpanzee!

"Animals are very difficult to train," Dominique says of her three chimps, varying from seven to 14 years old. "First, they are *seven* times as strong as a human, and can be dangerous. In comparison, learning to ride a unicycle myself was very easy. And nowadays, with rising insurance costs, and with people complaining about dressing up the chimps (they wear Mexican and Chinese costumes during part of the act), animals can be a real problem."

To add to animal act trainers' difficulties, self-professed "animal lovers" also harass acts such as Dominique's. "They complain about alleged mistreatment of our animals, things like that," she moans. "But they don't know what they're talking about! *We couldn't* treat them badly, and still have them perform!"

## Chimps on Dope?

As if to emphasize her point, during our conversation another member of the circus troupe came up and complained, accusing Dominique of feeding her chimps tranquilizers, something she vehemently denied.

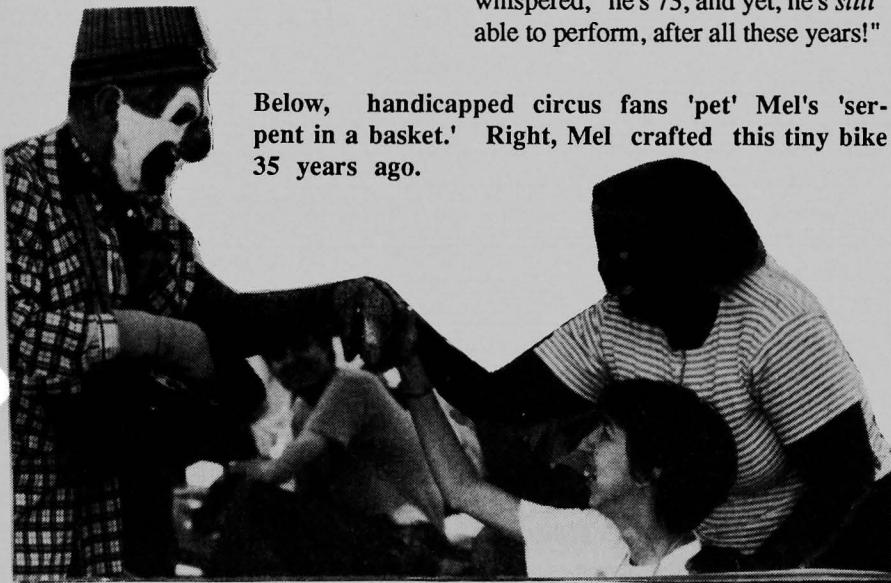
Dominique wasn't the only chimp-on-a-uni trainer about that day. Back in the '50's, Mel Hall himself trained chimpanzees to ride the single wheel. "I welded a pipe to the back of the seat support, and screwed their shoes to the pedals. They didn't learn to ride overnight...took about three or four months of *hard* work."

At the same time, Mel taught his 18-month-old granddaughter to ride a uni, a feat which later earned him a place in "Ripley's Believe It or Not!"

Dominique's cozy, air-conditioned trailer is decorated with pictures of her boyfriend surrounded by the animals he features: he's a tiger-trainer! Perhaps it's just as well *The Cyclogist* managed to keep his hands to himself...given his *severe* allergic reaction to tiger bites and scratches.

Next to her boyfriend, the man she most seems to admire is none other than...Mel Hall. "*Imagine*," the stunningly-attired *bebe* of Nantes whispered, "he's 73, and yet, he's *still* able to perform, after all these years!"

Below, handicapped circus fans 'pet' Mel's 'serpent in a basket.' Right, Mel crafted this tiny bike 35 years ago.



## Vivian Assaults John O'Groats!

The record for unicycling from Land's End to John O'Groats is in mortal danger, as we pen these words. As you read them, however, the deed has either been done or undone, whichever the case may be.

Vivian Goodland, 29, of Camborne-Redruth, Cornwall, England, is scheduled to make the trip between the southernmost and northernmost tips of Britain, beginning May 16th. The current record is 19 days and change, held by a Scot.

Vivian has three unicycles ready for the assault, which is to benefit the RNLI charity.

Vivian, incidentally, is a *guy*.

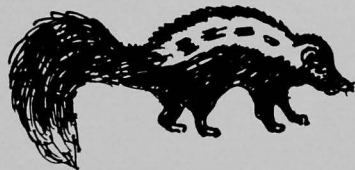


Rock climber Lynn Hill fell 85 feet - backwards - off a cliff, Trip Gabriel reports in the New York Times Magazine. Result? Well, it *did* knock her out cold...but her only injuries were a dislocated elbow and a broken foot bone. Horrified on-lookers assumed she was dead meat.

Go to your garage and dust off your 85 foot unicycle. It's safer than you thought! - Ed.

We've seen a "Unicycling Wedding" (Teresa and Sem's, of course). What about the other end of life? Sheila Rule, reporting in the New York Times (10 January 1990), mentions, in passing, that "the sons of a former circus worker performed a solemn juggling routine in front of his coffin" (at a secular funeral in London, UK).

After which mourners placed pound notes in the decedent's hat? - Ed.



All roads lead to aroma, Pg 7

Artwork by Charles Berry  
Watsonville, California

## Stunts We'd Like to See

*From the "Mobile Outreach" program at Saint Patrick's Friary, 102 Seymour St, Buffalo, NY:*

Brother Timothy (getting up there in age) and one of his little blind boys (Kevin) from the Boys Club of St. Francis for Special Children, made the complete 25-mile charity ride for the Blind Association ride on a tandem bike recently, while many others were falling by the wayside.

Kevin is blind, 12 years old, and weighs in at only 64 lbs.

Brother Tim did not get up at four A. M. the next morning as he usually does. Kevin hopes to do the ride again, but Brother Tim probably will have to be pushed into it.

*And a note from Brother Tim:*  
A most happy season to you! Our new Boys Club building is 75% finished and will soon open for use. We now have six unicycles!

Kevin, our blind boy, looks good on a unicycle, but needs help yet. Next year he should be better! We all are improving, and, with time, should be able to ride with the best.

Whatever happens...it's a lot of fun!

## We Want Your \$\$

Did you see Sports Illustrated's annual swimsuit issue this year? If not, you missed a couple' big treats. Tucked away 'mongst the girls modeling this year's beachwear fashions (actually, a lot of girl, a spot of fashion) was "The Utah Chain Saw Juggler." Apparently if it's in the hardware section at Sears, Bill Gnadt juggles it. Yes, he even turns the chainsaws on before tossing them about! Author Douglas Looney quoted Bill Giduz, our friend at Juggler's World, for some background info about the J sport. You can get Giduz's rag regularly for \$25 from the IJA, Box 443, Davidson, NC 28036.

## What are the top ten opening

lines a guy could use to meet a gal at a juggling convention? How about, "Would you mind juggling my balls for a minute?" Talk about going right for the jugular! So quit reading over my shoulder...get your own copy for \$10/yr (\$14 foreign) from: Suspended Animation, 14 Meadow Ridge Dr., Shelton, CT 06484.

## Don't be a sideshow freak! Step

into Kaskade (European juggling unicycling magazine) and see how our sports are art forms...over there. \$15 in Yankee cash to Gabi and Paul Keast, Annastr 7, D-6200 Wiesbaden, West Germany. You'll freak out.

Special on Unicycle Factory "Mad Unicyclist" tee-shirts (blue design on white)! Regularly \$12 post-paid, now only \$9 with your unicycling photo (b/w only) or amusing uni anecdote. Kid's M, L. Adults S, M. Order from The Cycologist, address below.

In our Spring '90 issue we spelled uni speedster F. Crandall's first name F-R-A-N-K, while he prefers F-L-O-Y-D. F-U-B-A-R, we guess.

The Cycologist is the newsletter of the International Unicycling Federation, Jack Halpern, Pres., Al Hemminger, Sec-Treas, Curt Morgan, Editor, 5109 Vera Cruz Drive, Garland, Texas 75043 USA. (214)-270-9332. Subscriptions: \$15/yr (\$25 foreign). Copyright 1990 IUF. Editors emeritus: John Foss, Jack Wiley.



**T**here's always someone - or *something* - out on the bike path at after dark. In wintertime, that's the only time I have to ride my 'cycle, weekdays anyway.

Usually there's a stray jogger or hiker, a biker or two...but never any unicyclists, 'cept me of course. When the leaves are off the trees and a gibbous moon echoes faint sunshine down through the bare branches, the grey concrete pathway can be seen well enough to follow it through the lowland park.

### Low-Tech Lighting

At first, I carried a flashlight in my hand, the better to identify the unidentifiable. I graduated to a miner's helmet, with a light from England ("British Made Premier") mounted front and center. This light is not high-tech. You drop some calcium carbide granules into a little canister, blend in a few tablespoons of water, and screw it into the lamp reflector. Up from this slurry bubbles a flammable gas.

A match, and voila! A game flame, a light in the night guides your flight. Even at full tilt boogie, no wind you're likely to unicycle through can douse this tiny flamethrower. While it sits a bit



heavy on your head, as you wind your way down the illuminated bike path, surrounded by the blackened nether world, it's easy to imagine you're really working a coal seam deep in the bowels of the earth.

Later, I found a two-unit battery-powered torch in a hiking supply store. An elastic strap holds one unit on your noggin, the other bulb clips to your waist. Thusly equipped, creatures of the night can easily

track you coming and going...in the unlikeliness that they didn't hear you coming first.

### Bears in the Night?

And what nocturnal dwellers are you likely to encounter? Well, what's black and white and smells all over? One trotted in front of my skidding 'cycle as it made its way from the pond to Duck Creek one evening. In my beekeeping class at Penn State some 15 years ago, Bill Clarke taught us that a dousing with tomato juice counteracts the



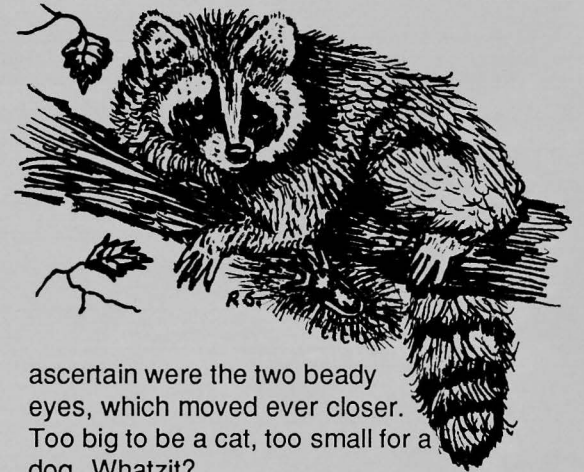
## Gittin' Ghostly Goblins

by Levi Neal

skunks odoriferousness. (Skunks hang out in beeyards, scratching at hive entrances, and eating the guard bees as they respond to the alarm: beekeepers are forever making acquaintanceships with polecats). Shoot! (*Slap to forehead*). I shoulda packed a V8 with me on my ride into the wintry solitude that night!

A less threatening, but still exciting, encounter in the evening began with the detection of two glowing eyeballs headed in my direction. I hurriedly dismounted

my wheel, the better to confront this unknown beastie. As it continued its hostile advance on me, I twisted my miner's helmet, attempting an identification. Still, all I could



ascertain were the two beady eyes, which moved ever closer. Too big to be a cat, too small for a dog. Whatzit?

### Jog, Cycle and Scamper

A few yards before impact, the largest 'coon I ever almost met looked, liked me not, veered off the bike path and into the safety of the underbrush.

Immediately behind him was one of those intermittent joggers you'll find plodding the bike path at unsociable hours. Rocky Raccoon had been fleeing from him, thus his hasty near-arrival at my lap.

I have also photographed foxes in these woods, and assume there are other Mother Nature creations which, should their own travel after sundown intersect with a unicycle tire, would bite, scratch or snap.

### It's a Zoo Out There

In truth, they are not the animals which concern me most. Easily the most hazardous part of my journey occurs when the path momentarily snakes out of the woods and runs parallel to a four-lane roadway. I have been hit by the (paper, glass and metal) excrement of these wilding ones and had my ears assaulted by their honking and radio-blasting utterances.

The nocturnal creature to be feared over all others is, of course, *mobilius horrbilius*, genus *auto*. By comparison, the 'coon, the skunk, the fox, they are but welcome diversions as I glide silently through the night.

# Yesteryear Unicycles: The Final Act

Notes from the back of photos from my collection of unicyclists of yore:

The famed *Goetche Brothers* were a headline circus act of the 40's and 50's. They produced an excellent routine, the most notable part being their "three-high." I know of only one other act accomplishing this, a Japa-

by  
Ken  
Woods

nese male and female troupe that included other bits of extreme difficulty. And, just recently, Chuck Marquette and family have achieved similar feats.

*Masy and Brach*, a delightful young couple from Denmark, did a superb ballet-type routine on higher-than-average giraffes.

His giraffe was always double-chained. They both were grace personified.

For their finale, Brach would end by supporting Masy overhead while riding an 8-footer. The grace in which this "turn" was accomplished had to be seen to be appreciated. It was done in a series of eye-blinking, swift fluid movements. They would come out on separate giraffes, do several pirouettes about each other, then come side by side, rocking. He would reach down and lift her as an assistant darted out to catch her 'cycle. Before you realized what was happening, he had her overhead, crowd gasping.

Brach was also a consummate juggler. I have a photo of him on an 8-foot giraffe with no fewer than 11 rings rotating and rotating. This is the record.

Tragically, Brach lost Masy, took a hiatus for a number of years, then reappeared under the pseudonym, "*Jim Dandy*," doing an entirely different type of routine as a single.

*Speck and Spot*, a brother act, did a hilarious waiting-on-tables routine. They balanced trays of food and drinks, while weaving through the tables at speed: precision comedy at its best.

The *St. Clair Sisters and O'Day* consisted of Grover O'Day and his charming wife and daughter. They

worked well together as a charming, graceful act. The women supplied abundant feminine pulchritude, which he interspersed with comedic interludes.

The indefatigable Grover's performing career probably spanned more years than any other. He was possessed of a vivacity that belied his years. As the years progressed, and his erstwhile partners fell away, Grover wound up doing a solo for various Shrine Circuses. He was still free-dropping off the giraffe in his 70's while with Ringling's.

Grover was always upbeat, with his "never say die, say damn," and press on. Grover had the unusual distinction of being the Mayor of Paw Paw, Michigan. I feel assured that Grover was the only professional unicyclist who achieved the stature of Mayor.

*Joe Jackson* and his famous "Tramp" set: Joe was a master at pantomime. He was the only unicyclist to make the transition from the stage to performing with the Ice Follies. Using a special metal-studded tire on the ice, he was tremendous.

Well, so much for the days of yore. The anxiety and butterflies while waiting in the wings for your call...the swelling roar of the crowd as you come off, reinforcing your feelings of a triumphant finish, the kudos, accolades, the warm camaraderie of after-performance parties: all time-enhanced, but dimming memories of glorious, golden, halcyon days and the persistent feeling that your next call from the wings will be the greatest.

I still do the odd "turn" at some of my grandson's school activities, but that's about it. The "spirit is willing," but....  
*We are what we repeatedly do  
We are best at what we repeatedly do  
Excellence is not an art but a habit.*

Left: Brach, the consummate juggler. Eleven rings rotating: count them! This is the record. Orpheum, April '42. Right: Brach plucks Masy off her giraffe. Not your basic level 3.

On November 1, 1989 my wife, USA Historian **CHARLOTTE FOX ROGERS**, and I started driving west from Pennsylvania to California by a very round-about route. Along the way we were privileged to visit most of the officers of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. and several other distinguished unicyclists.

Our first stop was in Findlay, Ohio, at the home of **JAN** and **EMIL LAYNE** who are the hosts and Meet Directors of the 1990 National Unicycle Meet. In addition to their fabulous collection of unicycle curios and memorabilia, we were shown the campus of the University of Findlay and the excellent facilities which will be available during the National Meet.

Our next stop was Redford, Michigan, where we visited **AL** and **DORA HEMMINGER**. Al, who is Sec.-Treas. of IUF, has a fine collection of unicycle books and artifacts as well as the stock of items for sale by Semcycle. Later that day your OOW editor, **CAROL BRICHFORD**, and her husband, **TOM**, hosted a dinner at their home in Farmington Hills, MI. for us, **HEMMINGERS**, **DAVID** and **KAREN BRICHFORD**, and "Mr. U" (USA Dir. **JAMES GREEN** of Detroit).

From Michigan we traveled to Hutchinson, MN where we had a long talk with USA V-P **CONNIE COTTER**. Those of you who read the article on the **HUTCHINSON ONE WHEELERS** in OOW will appreciate how much effort Connie has put into starting and training the Hutchinson Club.

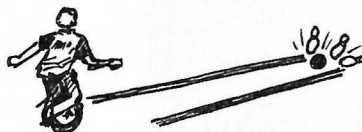
From MN we drove south to Des Moines IA, where we were met by USA Treas. **KAREN MESSAMER** and her family. Together we drove south to Chariton, IA and the home of USA Sec. **VICKY EDWARDS**. Before, during, and after a pizza dinner we discussed unicycling in general and the 1991 NUM in particular. At the annual

USA business meeting a presentation will be made for the 1991 NUM to be held in Chariton, IA.

We arrived in CA for a two-month stay. While there we were able to visit **Dr. JACK WILEY**, a Founder Member of USA and author of such important books as The Unicycle Book and Basic Circus Skills. Jack's mother and wife Ana hosted a mid-day meal in Lodi where unicycling was again the major topic of conversation. Jack showed us his latest assortment of mechanical toys which permit the user to see wooden unicyclists and other circus performers in action. (see book review in this issue) We also enjoyed seeing the Wileys' memorabilia collection and Jack's publishing equipment.

Another unicyclist who we visited in CA was **CHUCK MARQUETTE** of El Cajon. (look for an amazing picture of Chuck in a future OOW) He, his wife Donna, and her daughter Christine perform on weekends at San Diego's Balboa Park. Chuck showed some of his unicycles and video tapes of his and others' performances. As usual unicycling issues were discussed and the get-together was topped by a visit to the nearby pizza parlor.

We left CA on Feb. 1, 1990, to return home to PA. On our way we visited **LARRY CHEBOWSKI** (Mr. Arnold Wheels) in Tempe, AZ. Larry, whom we first met at a parade in 1966, directed an outstanding unicycle club in the Phoenix area. In addition to being a Level 10 unicyclist, Larry has preserved his club's memorabilia in well-organized notebooks. He continues to perform as an entertainer-for-hire in the Phoenix area. One other note on Larry: for several years he bowled in a bowling league on his unicycle. His average was 168 (better on one wheel than most of us on two feet).



During our brief stay in Dalla, TX IUF Cyclogist Editor **CURT MORGAN** kindly visited us in our motorhome in an RV park. Once again unicycling was discussed.

After we returned to PA we arranged a day trip to Herndon, VA to visit the family of **WAYNE BRESSLER**, the newest USA Director. Their club is sponsored by a dance studio and is very active in the Washington, DC area (see article, this issue).

One other officer of USA remains to be visited. Unfortunately, we were unable to get to Marquette, MI to see USA Director **ORLAND "DOC" REYNOLDS** because of a mechanical problem. It was a shame to miss this visit because: (1) Doc has a great deal of wisdom to offer concerning unicycling issues and (2) he is the only other native Idahoan unicyclist I know - besides myself.

The issues discussed during our visits were:

1. How much more safety gear is needed? Should elbow pads or helmets ever be required for participation in NUM events?
2. Can we agree on a standard for conducting the NUM? In particular can we agree on a specific procedure, including the exact words to be spoken when starting all races?
3. Can we agree on standards for artistic riding and for the judging of artistic riding?
4. Can we improve the accuracy of our race timing by adopting a specific set of procedures to be used at every NUM? Is there available technology (mechanical/electronic timing systems) which could be purchased by USA and transported to every meet?
5. Can we decrease the amount of time taken by the awards ceremony and still adequately honor the winners? Can disputed awards be adjudicated before the ceremony?
6. How can we get more publicity for the NUM at both the local (NUM site) and national levels?
7. Is it really desirable to have separate awards for USA riders who do not live within the 50 states?

"HEY, ARE YOU A CLOWN OR SUMPHTHIN?"

Snappy and Elegant Comebacks for Unicyclists

by

Arthur Chandler

I often go on bike trails and travel to deserted parking lots with my two sons, Corey and Colin (ages 9 and 12), who are avid unicycle riders. Inevitably, people jog or bike by who have never seen or heard of a unicycle outside of the circus. Some passersby just give a curious glance then go on. Others seem genuinely impressed. They break out in a grin and shout something encouraging:

- "Hey, that's great!"
- "I wish I could do that!"
- "Keep it up - looks terrific!"
- "That looks really hard. How 'ja learn?"

These remarks always ring sincere and make my kids quite happy and proud of their achievements. It's especially nice for a 9-year-old and a 12-year-old to have accomplished something that most adults can't do - and could not do without considerable effort and some danger to bodily well-being!

There is another class of comment, though, that's not so nice. Usually (but not always) these remarks come from other kids who are either jealous or feel that unicycle riders must be riding or doing their tricks only to show off. These scoffers have never felt the thrill of mastering a difficult unicycle maneuver, or just the plain joy of maintaining a state of dynamic equilibrium. So, confronted with something they either can't or won't understand, they resort to "put-downs" - sometimes mild, sometimes insulting.

- "Hey, did 'ja lose the rest of your bike?"
- "You trying out for a circus?"
- "Am I supposed to be impressed?"
- "Show-off!"

It's easy just to say, "Thank you" to the nice comments. But the cuts and insults deserve a bit more attention. Of course, the unicyclist can simply ignore the unkind remarks and ride on. But there are times when a deft come-back can make even the most peace-loving one-wheeler feel better. Here are some suggestions which I have divided into two categories: Tai Ch'i and Karate. The Tai Ch'i comment takes the insult in stride but turns it to good account, either by making a joke of the whole affair or by turning the intended insult into an occasion

to promote the cause of unicycling. The Karate comment is aggressive, returning blow for blow. Only you, the reader/rider, can decide which kind of come-back is right for the situation.

Tai Ch'i

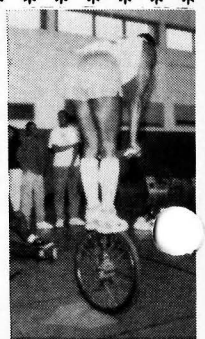
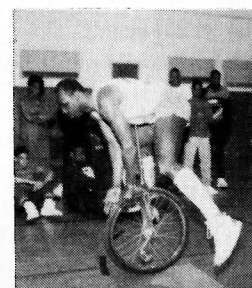
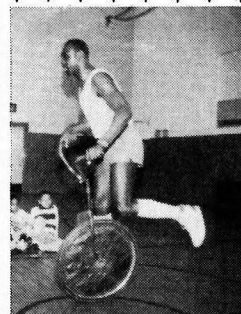
- To comments about the supposedly odd look of the unicycle: "I got my bicycle at a half-off sale!"
- To anyone, but delivered with a religious, or mock-religious, tone: "Hey, man (woman), like, I'm balanced!"
- More mysticism: "I'm into unity!"
- "What goes around, comes around - only once!" (Meaningless - but the resulting bafflement will give you time to ride away and maybe even leave an impression that you're a profound thinker.)
- To a bicyclist: "I see you've still got your training wheel on." (This is close to a Karate-style comment - unless delivered with a winning smile.)

Karate

- "Hey, I don't bother you when you're going through the garbage cans." (Again to a bicyclist, after giving his wheels a disapproving look:) "Dualism is disunited." (Looking at the dog who has been yapping at you - pointing at the owner:) "Can't you keep that man (woman) under control?" (Attributed to Bo Diddley:) "Don't let your mouth write no check that your tail can't cash!"

Needless to say, the Karate come-back should be used with discretaion and an accurate assessment of the insultee's power and likelihood of retaliation. In another article we can take up the potential of the unicycle as a combat weapon when swung in 360 degree arcs like Thor's hammer.

\* \* \* \* \*





CLASSIFIED - and other good stuff

In addition to the items mentioned in the SEMCYCLE ad on this page, the company also merchandises

## SQUEEZ-ITS

-those bright, comfortable juggling bags that stay where they drop! A real plus for unicyclists! Available in bright, glossy colors, they make even a beginner look professional!

Another OOW advertiser, THE UNICYCLE FACTORY, is now offering custom-colored Miyata seat covers at \$9 ea. The 10 available colors may be mixed in any way a customer wishes. The FACTORY is also manufacturing the world's smallest production unicycle: a 3" mini-wheel giraffe with chrome-plated frame and rubber wheel. You may find out more about these and other items by calling TOM MILLER at (317) 452-2692 or by talking to him in Findlay, OH at the 1990 NUM.

If you are a unicycle devotee who prefers keeping his feet on the ground, JACK WILEY's latest publication may be just right for you. Entitled THE WHIRLIGIG BOOK, it includes detailed instructions for building the "Unicycling Roadrunner," "Circling Unicyclists," and four other fascinating whirligigs. This, (at \$19.95 plus postage) and other books by Jack Wiley, may be ordered from USA (see order form) or directly from SOLIPAZ PUBLISHING COMPANY, P.O.Box 366, Lodi, CA 95241.

### 1990 NUM Rules:

Space prevents printing all of the rules governing the upcoming NUM; however, they will be sent to anyone mailing a S.A.S.E. to the USA, PO Box 40534, Redford, MI 48240

Briefly: Clubs must be registered (see list in this issue) and must send to hosting club the names and addresses of 2 people who will serve as judges and 2, as timers.

Participants MUST be USA members.

They must wear shoes with full uppers as well as knee pads and gloves for all races. Riders age 10 and under must use 20" wheel

# SEMCYCLE

• SHOWS • WORKSHOPS • EQUIPMENT SALES

## SEMCYCLES

20", 24", 26", 6" CHAIN DRIVEN

## SQUEEZ-ITS

MANY COLORS, IN 60 MM (4 OZ) AND 72 MM (5 OZ) SIZES

## XL UNICYCLES

An all new line of affordable SEMCYCLE-designed unicycles featuring the best of conventional unicycle technology. Available in 16", 20" and 24" wheel sizes.

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35 inspiring minutes of unicycling ideas  
VHS only  
\$ 20.00 + \$ 2.50 postage & handling

order from:

The Unicycling Society of America  
P.O. Box 40534  
Redford, MI 48240



**WANT TO BUY:** Big Wheel Unicycle, prox. 40"  
ROB EELLS, 4211 62nd St. - Apt. #4  
Des Moines, IA 50322 - ph. (515) 270-8655

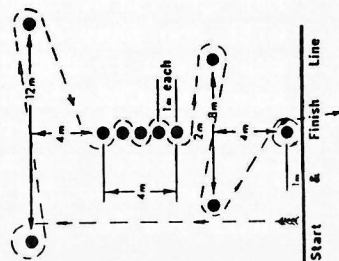


for ALL races. Races with standard unicycle only (24" with 5" crank, 20" with 4 1/2").

Performance times: 2 mins. for 10 and under - 3 mins. for 11 and up.

FUN EVENTS (no points): 50m juggling, ultimate wheel, water balloon on unicycles, UMX and relay.

"new" obstacle course:



# 🚲 CALENDAR: 🚲

1990 INTERNATIONAL JUGGLERS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION \* July 17 - 22 \*  
UCLA campus, Los Angeles, CA. For information contact:  
Sandy Brown, PO Box 3069, Ft. Leavenworth, KS 66027 or  
Ginny Rose, 15 Montcalm, Buffalo, NY 14214

19th NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET \* July 27 - 29, 1990 \* University of Findlay  
(formerly Findlay College), Findlay, OH. Rules available by sending  
S.A.S.E. to USA post office box. Registration form in this issue.  
Additional information: JAN LAYNE, 1990 NUM Director  
303 E. Lincoln  
Findlay, OH 45840 ph. (419) 422-8959

14th ANNUAL MINI-MEET \* September 8, 1990 \* on the campus of Madonna  
College, Livonia, MI. First event: 9:30 a.m. For more information  
write REDFORD TOWNSHIP UNICYCLE CLUB, Inc.; PO Box 40732; Redford, MI  
or phone: Ed Winters, RTUC President, (313) 591-0815

## Unicycle Basketball Game

Hosted by the Detroit 4-H UNILIGHTS and its Director, JAMES GREEN, this hotly contested event featured the UNILIGHTS pitting their skill against the members of the REDFORD TOWNSHIP UNICYCLE CLUB. The ample audience was treated to many exciting moments before the final buzzer sounded and the UNILIGHTS rode off the court in a 45 to 43 victory!

JAMES GREEN, who also serves as one of the three Directors of USA, is to be commended for the work he did in organizing this basketball competition. In addition to the organization, James also contacted several local television stations and was rewarded for his efforts by having good coverage from both Channels 4 and 50.

The game was held on a regulation high school basketball court using normal basketball rules. The professional referees who officiated the game made no allowances for the one-wheeled players.

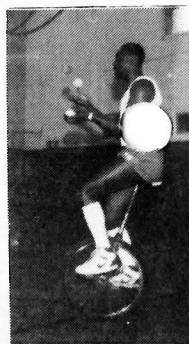
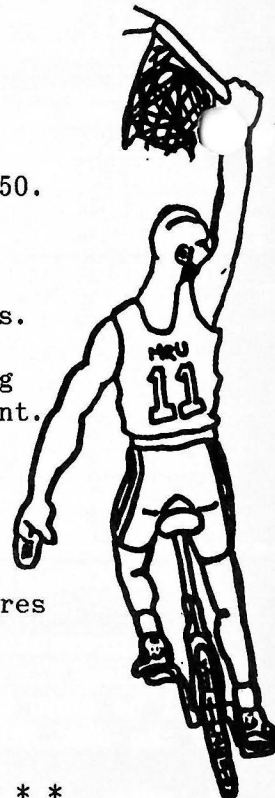
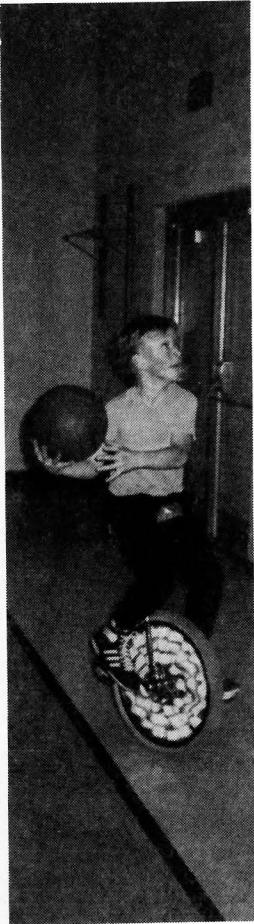
Pictures with this article are: (1) RTUCm DANNY SEEDER practicing a free throw and (2) a sketch from the poster advertising the event.

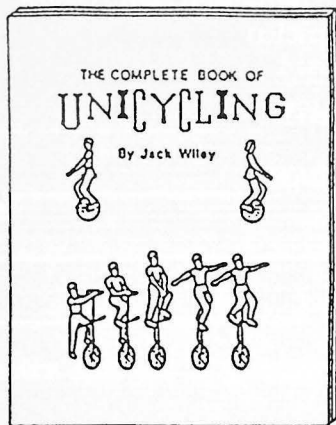
Half-time entertainment was entitled "Extravaganza on Wheels." The small pictures of JAMES GREEN found throughout this issue are from a similar exhibition held recently.

\*\*\*How many of the riding skills that James is doing in the pictures can you identify? Mail the list of all that you find and can accurately name to USA; PO Box 40534; Redford, MI 48240. The winner will receive a one-year membership to USA. In case of a tie, the earliest postmark will be considered the winner.

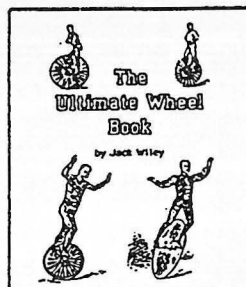
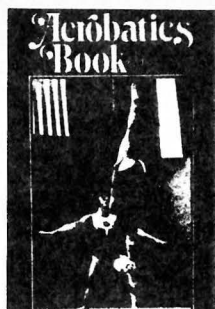
\*\*\*\*\*  
My article still isn't in this issue!

For the first time in memory, your editors have found themselves with too many excellent articles and not enough space. Preference was given to dated material and to that with accompanying pictures. Readers LOVE pictures. Please include a picture (b & w preferred) or sketch with articles. To be able to include more pages in future issues, the mailing format has been changed for XVI, no. 3. If your issue did not arrive in good condition, please let us know! Thank you for your contributions! Your article will appear soon!

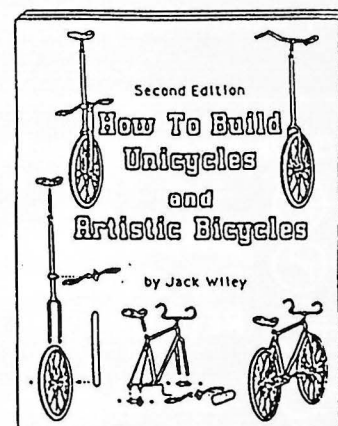
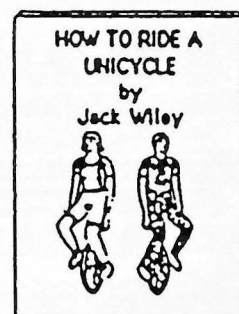
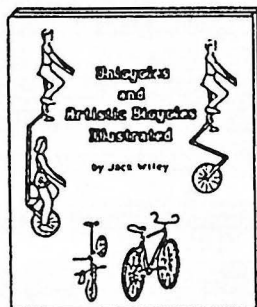




# ORDER FORM



Qty.		Total
_____	THE COMPLETE BOOK OF UNICYCLING - Jack Wiley	\$27.95
_____	HOW TO BUILD UNICYCLES AND ARTISTIC BICYCLES - Jack Wiley	\$15.95
_____	BASIC CIRCUS SKILLS (2nd ed.) - Jack Wiley	\$17.95
_____	HOW TO RIDE A UNICYCLE - Jack Wiley	\$ 6.95
_____	THE WHOLE UNICYCLE CATALOG - Jack Wiley	\$ 6.95
_____	UNICYCLES AND ARTISTIC BICYCLES ILLUSTRATED - Jack Wiley	\$26.95
_____	THE ULTIMATE WHEEL BOOK - Jack Wiley	\$ 6.95
_____	NOVELTY UNICYCLING - Jack Wiley	\$ 6.95
_____	ACROBATICS BOOK - Jack Wiley	\$ 5.95
_____	THE ART OF JUGGLING - Ken Bengé	\$ 4.95
* _____		\$ _____
_____	4" embroidered U.S.A. patch	\$ 2.50
_____	Achievement level patches: rider 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th	\$ 1.50 ea.
_____	Unicycle charm	\$ 2.50
_____	Unicycle pin	\$ 2.50
_____	Complete set of newsletters (1974 - present) 54 issues	\$60.00
_____	Newsletter back issues	\$ 2.50 ea.
_____	Vol. _____ No.(s) _____	
---->	Postage: \$1.00 per book-states \$2.00 per book-foreign	
-->	U.S.A., Inc. Membership see form on revers side	



Pin & Charm actual size

Newsletters are available as follows:  
 Vol. 1 (1974) 4 issues, Vol 2 (1975) 4 issues,  
 Vol. 3 (1976) 4, Vol. 4 (1977) 4, Vol. 5 (1978) 4,  
 Vol. 6 (1979) 4, Vol. 7 (1980) 4, Vol. 8 (1981) 4 + NM,  
 Vol. 9 (1982) 3, Vol. 10 (1983) 4, Vol. 11 (1984/5) 3,  
 Vol. 12 (1985/6) 4, Vol. 13 (1986/7) 4, Vol. 14 (1987/8) 4.

Make all checks or money orders payable to:  
 UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.  
 P.O. Box 40534  
 Redford, MI 48240

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: \$10.00 annual dues - includes subscription to quarterly newsletter, membership card, voting privileges, and National Unicycle Meet participation

Foreign Membership: \$15.00 (U.S. funds only) - newsletter mailed Air Mail

PRINT ALL INFORMATION

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Please check here only if you do NOT want to be listed in the roster (no phone numbers)

I learned about the U.S.A., Inc. through \_\_\_\_\_

My unicycling and related interests include: \_\_\_\_\_

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