

AUGUST 1994



ILLINOIS VALLEY

WHEELM'N

greater peoria's bicycle club



Transportation By The Numbers

At the end of 1993, bicyclists in U.S. (millions).....	100
Percentage increase from 1983.....	33
Fraction of U.S. cycling population that is adult.....	1/2
Number of bicycles sold in 1993 (millions)	13
Mountain bikes sold in '93 as percentage of total.....	95
Percentage of U.S. urban space devoted to roadways ...	50
Percentage of Americans living less than 5 miles from their jobs	54
Number of traffic lanes needed to accommodate 40,000 autos per hour.....	12
Number of lanes needed to accommodate 40,000 bicycles per hour.....	1
Percentage of disposable income spent on transportation by the average American	20
Bicycles that can be parked in the space of one car.....	12
Calories of energy used in 10-mile bicycle commute.....	350
Calories of energy used during 10-mile trip in 20-mpg car.....	18,600
Average work days per week needed to pay for driving expenses.....	1
Number of people per car in U.S.	1.7
Number of people per car in Japan.....	3.3
Number of people per car in China	652
Number of people per car in Bangladesh.....	1,740
Cost in cents per mile to operate an intermediate-size car	45.15
Percentage of American households that don't own a car or truck.....	10
Percentage of Americans households with three or more motor vehicles.....	20

First five numbers from the U.S. Department of Transportation via the May newsletter of *Folks on Spokes* (Homewood, IL).
 Next nine numbers from the League of American Bicyclists (LAB). Last seven numbers from sources cited by the *Chicagoland Bicycle Federation* in its May newsletter.

AS THIS NEWSLETTER goes to press, Mary Scroggs remains in critical condition after being mowed down by a car in front of Caterpillar headquarters downtown on July 18th. Mary and two other victims (Mary was hurt the worst) were walking on the sidewalk during lunch at the time. The driver was cited for D.U.I. Bob was working in Denver at the time and was returned to Peoria on the company jet. Prayer would be the appropriate action.

—George Dudley

NEW MEMBERS

Andrew Arnett	Varna
The Bicycle Bus (Tim Beeneey, Mike Winkler—owners)	Peoria
Shaun Burnett.....	Peoria Heights
Dustan Mattingly	Chillicothe
Mary Muller & Dane Nichols	Peoria

RENEWING MEMBERS

Bayo Adanri.....	East Peoria
Sharron Baird	Chillicothe
Julie & Thomas Coogan.....	Hanna City
Judi & Rick Gentry.....	Peoria
Bill R. Keefner	Peoria
John & Ken Kiley.....	Peoria
Connie, David & Steve Klein	Morton
Ken & Noreen Mettelmann.....	Groveland
Lee Nugent	Peoria

ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N
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DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

If it's not the heat . . . it's the humidity, the rain and the flat tires

SATURDAY, MAY 28 Nine cyclists rode to from Banner to Chillicothe with Mike Pula and Gregg Benning for breakfast. Four riders stretched the ride to 28 miles. 75-80°. SSW wind @ 10-15 mph.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1 Four riders, including especially petite Denise Tresenriter, attended the Women's Morton ride. Four other women's rides from Morton (6/8, 15, 22 and 29) were attended by Laverne Wilson, Sheryl Hansen and an unidentified rider.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16 Three riders, Bill Wright, Quinton Smith and Allen Carr, braved the heat to explore the new section of the Rock Island Trail just north of Pioneer Park. The 25-mile off-road ride led to Princeville and yogurt. 95°. SE wind @ 10 mph.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21 Says Mr. Wright: "Summer begins on a hot note. We took a shady tour down Cedar Hills along Ivy Lane and up Hallock Hollow. Turned out to be a beautiful night." 27 riders, including James and Sarah Emmons of Sparland, 25 miles. 90°. W wind @ 10 mph.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23 Game called on account of rain.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26 Sheila Hansen reports that "10 people were foolish enough to show up for this ride. It was raining." Camilla Rabjohns and the rest of the group rode from Wilder-Waite G.S. to Brimfield for breakfast at the American Legion. 30 miles.

TUESDAY, JUNE 28 Bill Wright says, "Traveled a couple of roads we haven't been on this year coming in from the northwest corner of Princeville." 20 riders met for Mexican food after the ride. 35 riders, including Gary Hartzler of Peoria and Dave Schaufelberger of Chillicothe, 26 miles. 85°. NW wind @ 15 mph.

THURSDAY, JUNE 30 Amy Buysee, Alan Carr, Rick Long and Quinton Smith joined Bill Wright on his Thursday night off-road ride along the Rock Island. Says Bill: "Did you know the pipe under Route 6 has a blacktop path through it?" 24 miles. 85°. S wind @ 10 mph.

SATURDAY, JULY 2 Early thunderstorms kept attendance low on this 30-mile ride from Washington to Metamora. Two flats for Weldon Phelps reduced the field to four riders. The remaining cyclists enjoyed a tailwind ride back

from breakfast under clearing skies. 70-75°. N wind @ 15-20 mph.

MONDAY, JULY 4 Discover Peoria Ride. Fireworks started early July 4. The 8 a.m. thunder was accompanied by only a light sprinkle, however. Riders who stared down the potential storm were rewarded with visits to High Point Road (and the "secret passage" to Skyline Drive), Randolph St. historic homes and Flannagan House

(Peoria Historical Society headquarters and sight of Eric & Jennifer Hutchison's 1988 wedding . . . and no, he didn't wear bike shorts with tux). Both road and mountain bikers fared equally well in the stop-and-go riding with some occasional climbs up the bluff. A broken chain suffered in route to the ride by Team DeDecker was fixed by a stop-off at Bill

Stevenson's house. Bill came along and joined the ride afterward. The broken-chain gang met up with the group by riding the route backwards (a fairly sure-fire way to catch the leader).

TUESDAY, JULY 5 Heat index on this one was 108°, but that didn't keep 15 riders, including Sharree Tate, John Antram and Mark Olson, from putting in 28 miles on Wright's Tuesday night easy-pace ride. 94°. SW wind @ 10 mph. Avanti's on Sterling was the reward after the ride for 12 participants.

THURSDAY, JULY 7 Geez! Here's Illinois two inches down on rainfall and Bill's Thursday off-road ride is rained out again. Got any good mud sports?

TUESDAY, JULY 12 Randy Cooksey joined the group for his first club ride and survived. Sheila Hansen, subbing for the congenial Mr. Bill, says of Randy, "I'm sure he'll be joining us on more rides in the future." 26-30 miles from Dunlap to Princeville.

SATURDAY, JULY 16 The Family Breakfast Ride on the Rock Island attracted seven people with four last names. "Seven of us rode to the Bicycle Inn. Good day for an easy 10 miles," Mike Pula reported. 70°. No wind.

MONDAY, JULY 25 Six riders paid homage to Peoria's Frank Lloyd Wright landmark (on Moss Ave.) as sunshine broke through light sprinkles. The reward went to the courageous when the group saw a fabulous double-rainbow over downtown Peoria. 20 easy miles. 85°. Light west wind.



Ted tapped to be top treasurer

WORKING TOWARD A BICYCLING FUTURE. The IVW continues to provide input into the Tri-County's long-range transportation plan. A recent letter to Bayo Andanri of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) stressed the need for "door-to-door" bicycle access to successfully promote the bicycle as part of the transportation mix.

Specifically, the IVW is promoting changes to the TCRPC's original mission statement within the Bicycle and Pedestrian Element of the long-range document. The original March 31 mission statement was "Provide a selected bicycle and pedestrian road network which provides connections to destinations normally served by motorized transportation."

The IVW's proposed mission statement is "Create a transportation system which provides bicycle and pedestrian access to all destinations normally served by motorized transportation." By eliminated the reference to "selected" and broadening "road network" to "transportation system," the revised mission statement would provide for better sidewalks for pedestrians, bicycle access to public transportation and underline the importance of "door-to-door" access. In short, the proposed revision is more appropriate to a long-range transportation plan. Accompanying the proposed revision is a list of 12 specific strategies to meet the mission statement's goals. The list includes the need for routine accommodation for traffic-tolerant bicyclists in all new road construction, more intelligent land-use planning, subdivision codes that specify bicycle connections between residential areas, and a public education program.

—Eric Hutchison

There are 1,000 police bicycle patrols in the U.S., according to the July/August issue of *Bicycle USA*, newsletter of the League of American Bicyclists. In addition, membership in the highly successful International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA), a division of the League, stands at 850. IPMBA membership has doubled each of the past three years.

From the June newsletter of the **Central Illinois Cyclists** (Mattoon): The Mattoon police department is experimenting with a bicycle patrol. Three mountain bikes were donated by Harlan Oakley of Oakley and Son in Mattoon.

Ted Sanders, Region 8 Director for the League of American Bicyclists (Region 8 includes Illinois), was elected treasurer of the national organization at the July board meeting in Salisbury, MD.

Robert Nordvall of Gettysburg, PA, was reelected President. (BikeMidwest posting by Steve Gottlieb.)

Safety is an important word for bicyclists—in every language. 30,000 English copies of *Safe Bicycling In Chicago*, a free, 32-page illustrated booklet, have been printed while another 10,000 copies address the city's Spanish- and Polish-speaking cyclists in their own languages. Funded by a federal highway safety grant given to the **Chicagoland Bicycle Federation** and the City of Chicago, *Safe Bicycling* booklets include a full-color bicycling map of Chicago. For more information call CBF at (312) 42-PEDAL.

CBF reported in its June newsletter that *Hiking and Biking in Lake County, Illinois*, is "an accurate, easily readable 128-page paperback." The book covers more than 230 miles of off-road trails and bike paths. *Hiking and Biking* is available from the publisher, Roots and Wings, at (708) 234-7174.

Last year's floods hit Missouri's **KATY State Park** hard. And while some sections of the river-hugging trail were completely washed out, volunteers are working to restore cycling to the former railbed. Before you head over to the Show-Me state, call 1-800-800-KATY for the latest trail conditions.

The Bicycle Bus in Peoria carries a new publication called *Dirty Talk*. Get your mind out of the gutter—the newsletter, published six times a year, is dedicated to mountain bike riding in the Midwest. The premier issue contained the editor's introductory comments, a racing schedule and several stories on Wisconsin's Kettle Moraine area. Subscriptions are \$7.25 per year. *Dirty Talk*, Martin Thomas Group, 347 Heather Ave., Grayslake, IL 60030. (708) 233-1343.

Dave Gerbig, editor of the **Bloomington (IN) Bicycle Club** newsletter, has these words of wisdom for would-be writers: "The BBC newsletter does not require you to be a professional writer to contribute.

The staff is not professional; why should we expect higher standards of you? We are not going to pay you, even if you are professional. We prefer your contributions be written in English, and we also accept Hoosier." And that goes for IVW writers, too.

Also, according to the BBC's July newsletter, 230 riders tackled the big miles at the 12-Hour Personal Challenge (known formerly as HUMOR/2). Cyclists racked up a total of 23,331 miles during the event, including 222 by top mileage-getter Matt Bond of Dayton, OH, 193.5 by top female rider Sue Curfman of Winchester, VA, and 167.5 by top tandem team, John and Ann McKinley of Waynesville, OH. Nine riders broke the 200-mile mark.

A favorite read of many Illinois Valley Wheelm'n members is *Silent Sports*, a magazine dedicated to Midwestern human-powered activities, including running, skiing, cycling, canoeing and more. Hard to believe that editor Greg Marr has been manning the helm for 10 years already. Congratulations, Greg.

Subscription rate for the monthly mag is \$16. *Silent Sports*, Waupaca Publishing Company, 717 10th Street, P.O. Box 152, Waupaca, WI, 54981-9990. (715) 258-5546.

Tim Garvey, writing in the July issue of the **McLean County Wheelers** newsletter, reported on a cycling trip to Southern Illinois. Many cyclists can appreciate what it means to come upon a highway truck dumping rock—"chunks, not pea gravel"—on the road. However, Tim says the roads in Marion and Fayette counties are so bad that "a layer of heavy rock often improved the surface!"

Peoria's **Pimiteoui Trail Association** is celebrating its 10th anniversary August 21 with a hike from the Grandview Drive trailhead. For more information on membership and club activities, call Carol Hallock at 688-1165.



Nothing To Do On The 11th

The IVW receives many ride notices. Listed below are rides sponsored by bicycle clubs and other cycling organizations in the Midwest. For unlisted information on charity rides and tour companies, call Samuel Joslin at (309) 688-0922. Remember, do not send money without first filling out a registration form. Phone numbers for more information are included whenever possible. In addition, SJ may have registration blanks available for many of the listed events. Plan ahead, plan early.

AUGUST

- SAT 6** Canton Classic Triathlon. Canton. For info, call 309-647-1345.
- SAT 13** Roun' da Manure. Sharon, WI. 15, 30, 45, 60, 100 miles. Call Debby or Roger Henning at (414) 736-9229.
- SUN 21** Moonlight Ramble. St. Louis. Sponsored by Ozark chapter of AYH. For info, call (314) 644-4660.
- SUN 21** 11th Annual Bike Psychos Century. Coal City, IL. 35, 70, 100 miles along the scenic Illinois River. Large waterbottles to first 600 registered. Showers available after ride. \$12 by August 14, \$15 thereafter. Bike Psychos. Call Mike Rossiter at (312) 239-8772.
- SUN 28** Dog Daze Double. Big Rock. 31, 62, 100, 124 miles. Sponsored by Oak Park Cycle Club. For info, call (708) 912-3553.
- SUN 28** Tri-State Metric. LaCrosse, WI. Flat and straight-billed as the "World's Laziest Ride." Call James Asfoor at (608) 782-4630.



SEPTEMBER

- FRI 2-MON 5** Midwest Tandem Rally. Rochester, MN. Send SASE to Joe Roque, 917 19th Stree NE, Rochester, MN 55906-4243. 1995 version to be in Indianapolis, IN.
- SUN 4** Tour of Hog Heaven. Kewanee. 25, 62, 100 miles. Call Don Lundberg at (309) 852-3735.
- SAT 3-MON 5** 13th Annual Pantagraph Area Cyclists Ride Around Corn Country (PACRACC). 3-day, 220-mile ride around central Illinois. NEW ROUTE TO PONTIAC. \$60 (late fee) before August 19; \$80 thereafter. 100 mile, 2-day option available (COMPAC-RACC). Includes breakfasts and dinners, camping and showers. Highly recommended by the editor. PACRACC '94, The Pantagraph, 301 W. Washington St., P.O. Box 2907, Bloomington, IL 61702. For recorded message, call 309-829-9000 and enter 2453 (BIKE).
- SAT 10** Fifth Annual Lena Fall Festival Bike Tour. 10 miles, 50 and 100 kilometers. Before the ride, breakfast by Chris Cakes, The Amazing Pancake Man from Iowa. Showers available. \$10 before August 27, \$12 thereafter. Le-Win Jaycees, P.O. Box 394, Lena, IL 61048. For more info, call Dennis Robinson at 815-235-6088.
- SUN 11** 24th Hancock Horizontal Hundred. Findlay, Ohio. 28, 62, 100 miles. Biggest hill: interstate overpass. Showers available. \$12 late registration (no registrations accepted after August 31. Sponsored by The Hancock Horizontal Handlebars Bicycle Club. For info, call Del Nichols at 419-422-7440 or Sharon Weddell at 419-423-5613.
- SUN 11** Harmon Hundred. Wauconda, IL. Registration \$12 early. \$14 day of ride. Call Ron Hattendorf at (708) 362-5997.
- SUN 11** 13th Annual Crank Country Century. 25, 50, 62, 100 miles. Valparaiso, IN. \$9 by August 20, \$12 thereafter. Includes light post-

ride meal. Calumet Crank Club, Inc., P.O. Box 126, Valparaiso, IN 46384. Call Lynda at 219-462-1803 for more info.

- SUN 11** 22nd Annual Capital City Century. Springfield. 25, 62, 100 miles. \$10 individual/\$25 per 3 member family for 62 and 100 routes before August 27; \$13/30 thereafter. Quarter Metric \$6/\$15 before August 27; \$8/\$20 thereafter. Post-ride party. Free water bottle to first 600 registrants. Call Linda Schrodtt at (217) 546-0505.
- FRI 16-SUN 18** Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival. Cable & Hayward, WI. Mountain bike events include: Chequamegon 40-mile, Short & Fat 16 mile, Rough Stuff Rendezvous, and the Cable Criterium. Registration limited to first 2,500 riders. Over \$15,000 in merchandise awards including 3 Trek 8700 mountain bikes. For information, write Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival, Inc., P.O. Box 267, Cable, WI 54821, or call 715-798-3811, ext. 644.
- SAT 17** Hope Ride. 13, 32, 50, 62, 100 miles. Hope, IN. Includes gourmet-style lunch on three longer rides. Coffee mug to first 750 registered. \$11 before August 17. For info, send SASE to Hope Ride, P.O. Box 115, Hope, IN 47246. Questions? Call Paul Ashbrook at (812) 545-5708.
- SAT 17** Diane's Ride. 35, 67, 100 miles. Glasford, IL. Includes breakfast and post-ride meal with vegetarian option. \$12 until September 3, \$15 thereafter. T-shirt available. Illinois Valley Wheelm'n. Bill Clark, 309-347-4841.
- SUN 18** 11th Annual Spoon River Scenic Century. 30, 65, 100 miles. Canton, IL. Includes lightly traveled roads, the first apple cider of the season and post-ride shower facilities. \$10 before September 4, \$12 thereafter. Spoon River Wheelmen. Dave Tomlinson, 309-647-6436. Make it a weekend of riding in Central Illinois. Combine Spoon River with Diane's Ride.

- SUN 18** Haldeman Hundred. Stillman Valley. Post-ride meal. Call John Konetski at (815) 874-4344.
- SAT 24** CATS (Chicago Area Tandem Society) Dick Tracy Ride. 36 miles from McHenry College to Woodstock, home of cartoonist Chester Gould. Call Hans & Diane Predel at (708) 255-4029.
- SUN 25** Prairie Cycle Club Fall Century. Champaign. 35, 65, 100 miles. Call Claudia Washburn at (217) 359-6537.
- SUN 25** Apple Cider Century®. Three Oaks, MI. 25, 50, 75, 100 miles through orchards, forests and wine country around Three Oaks. 7,000 cyclists in '93; send registration in early—1,500 were turned away last year. Includes spaghetti dinner and ice cream social. Apple Cider Century '94, P.O. Box 7000, Three Oaks, MI 49128.

OCTOBER

- SAT 1** Ride to the Depot. Champaign. 35, 65, 100 miles. Visits Allerton Park and Monticello's Depot Festival. \$13. Sponsored by the Champaign Touring Society. Call (217) 352-7600.
- SAT 1** Fall Color Tour V. 15, 30, 62 miles. Sturgis, MI. Watch the leaves turn as you pedal through the scenic countryside of St. Joseph and Branch counties in Michigan and LaGrange County, Indiana. \$13/\$15 before Sept. 16, \$18/\$20 thereafter. Includes post-ride meal, door prizes. Sturgis Chamber of Commerce, Box 165, Sturgis, MI 49091. For more info, call the Chamber during business hours at 616-651-5758.
- SUN 2** Kampsville Kookout. Jacksonville. 50, 100 miles. \$13. Sponsored by Jacksonville Bicycle Club. For more info, call (217) 245-6603.
- SAT 15, SUN 16** Hilly Hundred. Bloomington, IN.

Mapping Progress in Mapping

ENGINEERS AND BICYCLISTS PLAN PEORIA BIKE MAP. Urged on by interest from the City Council, Peoria's Traffic Engineering Department is working out the details of a city bike route map/plan. City Engineer Jim Baumann held a meeting in late July to discuss the IVW's suggested city bike routes (compiled by 12 IVW members early this year).

Most of the IVW's recommendations will be used to create the map. Some projects to expand the local bikeway network are already being discussed (example: improved Main St. crossing near upper Bradley Park). Engineer Baumann emphasized the importance of the I-74 overpasses, especially at Sterling Avenue, to a Peoria bike route network (the IVW has been pressing for Sterling Avenue improvements since day one of our advocacy efforts). The city will also ask IDOT to plan bike-friendly overpasses in future projects to upgrade I-74 through Peoria/East Peoria.

Expectation is that the map will now emphasize long, continuous routes as opposed to the short neighborhood loops first created by the city staff. Plus, the city is no longer advocating sidewalk bikeways, a demon in the Forrest Hill/Gale debates. Finally, Peoria agrees with the IVW that lower-volume streets are not necessarily safer for cyclists than nearby main arteries (example: Big Hollow Road (narrow blind curve with hill at railroad overpass) versus west War Memorial Drive (higher traffic volume, but shoulders and good visibility).

A series of follow-up engineer/bicyclist meetings to finalize the Peoria bike map/plan are forthcoming. Funding sources will be presented to the city's Community Growth and Development Committee, chaired by council member David Ransberg, early this fall.

Peoria Map Meeting Participants:

Jim Baumann, Peoria Traffic Engineering
Jim Wittmer & Eric Hutchison, IVW
Maureen Addis, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
Jack Fuller, Peoria Park District
Bayo Andanri, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC)

RON ANDERSON REQUESTS IMPROVEMENTS TO SOUTH MAIN IN WASHINGTON. Clinched teeth, heads up, eyes down and quick prayers for safe passage to that paved shoulder oasis shimmering in the distance—beyond the pothole desert. Such is the common experience of Washington bicyclists traveling on their city's

only southern route, South Main Street.

Beyond the city limits, thanks to the Tazewell County Highway Department, Main Street has become a very bicycle-accessible route with paved shoulders. Riding to the limits from the heart of the city remains a dash-and-pray challenge, however, due to South Main's crumbling shoulders and impressive potholes. IVW member Ron Anderson recently took action to eliminate this notorious bottleneck for bicycle traffic. Here's Ron's letter to IDOT Engineer Dale Risinger:

"As a bicyclist, motorist and resident of the City of Washington,

I'm concerned about the condition of that portion of South Main Street in Washington between Melvin Street and Guth Road. I understand that maintenance of that portion of South Main is the responsibility of IDOT.

"The edges of this concrete roadway are crumbling and drop off to a shoulder which itself needs repair. In its present condition I feel that the roadway—the only southern access to the city—presents hazards most certainly to cyclists, but also to motorists.

"I would like to request that attention be given to immediate repairs to the roadway and shoulders and consideration be given for reconstruction with paved shoulders."

Ron's letter opens the door. Now he needs your help to turn paper into pavement. There are no government "bad-guys" here, just the normal situation of more projects than dollars. In order to set priorities, IDOT and the City of Washington need to get the message that more

than on bicyclist wants to see South Main improved. Help make up their minds—write a short letter to Kirk Brown today.

Incidentally, your letter will also let the government of Washington know that its bicyclists need streets as well as trails. Bicycle attention to date in Washington has focused almost exclusively on proposed north- and west-side recreational trails.

Write to:

Mr. Kirk Brown, Secretary of Transportation
Illinois Department of Transportation
2300 S. Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62764

Send copies to (list names at bottom of letters):

Mr. Dale Risinger, District Engineer, IDOT
(401 Main St., Peoria, IL 61602)
Mr. Donald Gronewold, Mayor, City of Washington
(115 W. Jefferson St., Washington, IL 61571)
Mr. Norman Johansen, County Engineer, Tazewell County Highway Dept.
(21308 IL Route 9, Tremont, IL 61568)
Mr. Eric Hutchison, Illinois Valley Wheelm'n bicycle club
(209 W. Crestwood Dr., Peoria, IL 61614)

What to say:

- Outside of Washington city limits, Main Street is bicycle-friendly (pass along any compliments to the Tazewell County Highway Department).
- Repair and upgrade of South Main within city limits is needed to complete a vital north-south route through the city.



Some Thoughts From July

It seems like yesterday that we were at the Melon Metric, and as a matter of fact, it was. That's a ride produced by the Naperville bike club—you know, one of those Chicago 'burbs with about a jillion members. Well almost—there are about 150 of them, operating in concert with the DuPage County Park District. I believe the co-op effort is mainly directed at this ride, but I intend to get to the bottom of it.

Anyway, let's consider some similarities and differences with our recent Tour de Prairie. The Melon had 880 riders, but we had better scenery and probably more challenging terrain. However, we'd probably do well to find some flatter stuff for the short-distance people (we are short-distance people ourselves, as Eileen regains some riding ability after her back injury). Even before we got to the ride start, we saw something we all thought was pretty neat: some two-foot square, bright yellow signs with a bicycle icon and the word "CAUTION" on them. They were placed wherever the route crossed or joined a major road. They were constructed of some durable-looking plastic so they should be good for next year.

Lots of things are a matter of opinion, but I'll take one of Rob Alexander's maps any time for its inclusion of enough detail to permit a cutoff if required. Naperville's sag service was apparent on the course, as it should be. Watermelon is a great item at food stops on a July day. Mercifully, both the temperature and the wind were down from last year, but we still had the year's best riding weather ordered for Tour de Prairie.

Lots of interesting rider types out there. We learned to look for the unhelmeted, sneaker-wearing fat-tire riders out on and all over the road. And then there were the two overly tanned young ladies

in combat boots who did 80 miles on their knobbies, sounding like runaway tractors coming down the road. If you're a Prairie Home Companion fan, you might have even recognized the Norwegian bachelor farmer out there.



Our friends the Kohls were there, providing their magic 15 minutes on the massage tables. We're looking forward to their professional return to central Illinois and Diane's Ride. The Kohls are about to embark on another Race Across America (RAAM), this time in support of Haldeman and Sirangeli. By the time you read this, RAAM will be over and the iron couple from northern Illinois may once again own a new cross-country speed record.

I hope you caught the big feature article in the July 17 Journal Star. It was about our hometown Rock Island Trail and a nearby Grand Illinois Trail which could eventually tie into a nationwide American Discovery Trail. Don't scoff, folks—look what the Friends of the Rock Island Trail have accomplished. Whether or not trail riding is our personal thing, cycling in this area has enjoyed a big boost from that trail, and I'm here to say "Thank you, George Burrier."

—George Dudley

ON THE MEND: Roger Jensen is currently an out-patient at the Marion Joy Rehab Center in St. Charles, IL, recovering from injuries sustained in a June 4 bicycle accident. He would enjoy hearing from his friends at (708) 513-7281.

Updated **IVW ROSTERS** are available. Membership Chairperson Elizabeth Heuermann has new rosters containing names, addresses and phone numbers of all current IVW members. You'll get a new roster automatically when you renew your membership. If you want one now, call Elizabeth at 673-0098.

The mission of the **LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS** is to promote and encourage bicycling for recreation and transportation, and to protect and defend the rights of bicyclists through advocacy and education. The Illinois Valley Wheelm'n supports this mission.

It's nearly **BROKEN SADDLE TIME**. To be in contention for the IVW's prestigious overall-mileage award, you must confirm your mileage with a written mileage log at the annual meeting. It's never too late to start a mileage log. To get an extra copy, call Samuel Joslin at 688-0922.

Planning your profitable non-profit volunteer efforts for 1995? Consider serving on the **IVW EXECUTIVE BOARD**. Members serve two-year terms promoting bicycling in Central Illinois. Contact any club official listed on page two for more information. Board work isn't a bowl of oatmeal, but it's still the right thing to do.



Gambling On Progress

Shouldn't Illinois be paying more attention to the needs of cyclists, especially considering how successful Wisconsin has been in luring Illinois bicyclists to that state? —**WEIRD ERNIE, GLASFORD**

Of course bicyclists should be accommodated. But as any politician will tell you, what seems a simple matter, never is. Bicycles and tourism in Illinois, for instance, are usually overshadowed by Illinois' other growth industries: gambling and prisons.

Finding deep enough water to float hundreds of gambling boats in Illinois is a meatier challenge for politicians than legislating road access for bicyclists. That's right—bicycle access is too simple a problem. Moreover, gambling requires boats that float; bicycles sink.

And prisons provide an important source of revenue to the tax-poor towns and cities that accommodate them. Bicyclists either camp under the stars, providing nearby towns with few economic benefits or, while staying in motels and hotels, spend more time at the pool than in the room—the same room that could have housed conventioners who pay extra for premium cable channels and room service.

The solution to bicycle apathy on the part of government is synergy—in this case, the combination of tourism, gambling and prison industries. Here's how it would work:

Illinois, through publication of colorful brochures and television campaigns, encourages out-of-state criminals to use bicycles while committing non-lethal crimes in Illinois. (Those criminals intent on burglary are offered the use of state-owned bicycle trailers at a low daily rental rate.) In order to promote this off-shoot of tourism, widespread

bicycle access is given top priority by the governor.

As an incentive, criminals pleading guilty in advance to their potential offenses (thus avoiding any potential inconvenience to the public and the expense of a trial to the taxpayers) receive a free lottery ticket with every five tickets purchased at time of arraignment.

In addition, at a nominal \$1-per-year lease from the state, every Illinois locale with over 500 people is given a riverboat to house either gamblers or criminals as the population of either group expands or contracts. (A minor change to state law allows land-locked towns to lease riverboats on wheels.)

As a side benefit, the more resourceful cities may choose to improve educational standards by teaching criminals how to gamble, gamblers how to commit crimes and both groups how to change a flat tire.

Synergy. Yeah, that's the ticket. —**D.D.**



FOR SALE:

1934 TRACK BIKE (fixed gear). 21-inch frame, Parsons saddle, double-butted spokes. "Bent" chain and seat stay tubing. \$100. Glen Thompson, 925-3343.

4-BIKE ROOF RACK for vehicles w/raingutters (fits '84 Volvo perfectly). \$40 or best offer. Georgia Glynn, 263-2400.

TREK 560. 56cm Reynolds 531 frame. Shimano 105 parts, aero rims, 2 water-bottle cages. \$350 or best offer. **SHIMANO 105 6-SPEED FREE-WHEEL**, 14-34 tooth \$25 new in box. Larry Davis, 691-3060.

TREK 1400 ROAD FRAME AND FORK. 52 cm, all aluminum, includes Shimano 600 headset. Never ridden, never built. \$299. **165MM SHIMANO DURA-ACE CRANKSET**. Never used. \$125. **TUNTURI ROWING MACHINE**. Excellent condition. \$89. Samuel Joslin, 688-0922.

ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(please print)

NAME _____ BIRTHDATE _____ LAW (Y/N)? _____
(list other family members on reverse)

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE () _____

CHECK ONE INDIVIDUAL (\$10) OR FAMILY (\$12)

CHECK ANOTHER ONE NEW MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWING

APPLICANT SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

DISCLAIMER: In signing this form, I understand and agree to absolve the officers and members of the Illinois Valley Wheelm'n bicycle club of all blame for any injury, misadventure, harm, loss or inconvenience suffered as a result of taking part in any activity sponsored or advertised by said organization.

Make check to: Illinois Valley Wheelm'n, 6518 N. Sheridan Rd., Peoria, IL 61614

Membership in the LAB automatically qualifies you for membership in the League of Illinois Bicyclists, the statewide organization of bicyclists



LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I want to join the national organization of bicyclists. Please start my subscription to BICYCLE USA magazine. Also send my membership materials, including bike and window decals, and a membership card.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE () _____

CLUB: ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N, PEORIA, IL

LAB MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

- Individual: \$25
- Family: \$30
- Advocate—Individual: \$35
- Advocate—Family: \$40

Send check to:

League of American Bicyclists, 190 W. Ostend St.,
Suite 120, Baltimore, MD 21230
(410) 539-3399/FAX (410) 539-3496
Membership Hotline 1-800-288-BIKE

Don't miss the HEALTH FOOD RIDE, August 31. The fun starts at Lake of the Woods Plaza on Route 88 between Mossville Road and Cedar Hills Drive at 6 p.m. Members and friends are encouraged to bring along their favorite health food—bread, veggies, fruit salad, etc. Drinks will be provided. Best of all, the ride is guaranteed to be at your pace. In other words, everyone is welcome. Can't ride? Then show up at 7:15 p.m. for chow. For more information, call Gregg and Liz Benning at 243-5206.

Terrific Trio of Tentative Rides

DISCOVER PEORIA. Please join us Mondays, August 8 and 22 at 6 p.m. for this continuing, right-in-your-own-backyard, adventure. Easy-paced ride starts behind the Glen Oak Park greenhouse. NOTE: My work schedule is ever-changing; please call me to confirm the ride a day or two beforehand.

LINCOLN BALLOON/ART FEST ride preview. On Sunday, August 28, I hope to ride to the festival in Lincoln. I'm still working out details, but here's a sketch:

- Leaving from somewhere SE of Morton (Mackinaw, Hopedale or Armington).
- Shooting for 50 miles tops, but the ride will still consume most of the day due to the festival activities.
- We'll probably miss the balloons (as friend Bill Clark would say, it would take an "O-Dark-Thirty" start to make the 6 a.m. launch), but there's still plenty of art and classic cars to gawk at. My favorite is the 1800s craft fair at the old Postville Courthouse.

If you'd like to hitch along, give me a call the week before the ride and we'll fill in the details. —Eric Hutchison, 685-3921.

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Illinois Valley Wheelm'n
6518 North Sheridan Road
Peoria, IL 61614

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Peoria IL 61601

Your IVW membership expires: 10/03/94

RON & SHELLY ANDERSON
203 LOCUST
WASHINGTON, IL 61571

Diane's Ride is Sept. 17...
Get your red-hot ride forms here, call (309) 688-0922!