

OCTOBER 1995



ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N



greater peoria's bicycle club

Afterthoughts on Diane's Ride '95

A short novel by Bill Clark

For the third year in a row, Bill Clark has made Diane's Ride possible. This year, 171 riders enjoyed the best of Central Illinois cycling while the club cleared over \$1,000. Besides running the whole show, Bill Clark also provided the personal touch. One participant rode to the start in Glasford from Bradley University. When heat and mileage took their toll, Bill gave the lonely adventurer a ride back to Peoria before finally retiring to his Pekin home.

THE WEATHER WAS PERFECT. If you are accustomed to riding in the desert. It was a balmy 92 degrees and the humidity was about the same. But that didn't stop 171 riders from showing up and spending the day pedaling over the country roads of rural Peoria and Fulton counties. Diane's Ride '95. This was a record-setting year for us. We had the best showing that anyone can remember. There are a few pats-on-the-back that need to be made, as I could not have pulled this off without help from some of the most dedicated people I've ever had the pleasure to know. Billy and Ruth Stevenson—my heroes. The one job I never look forward to is living on the phone for a month before the ride. These two took on the job and, along with Pat O'Brian, Ruth's friend, made all the calls to line up helpers for the rest stops. (Okay, so Billy did go biking in Colorado for two weeks and left poor Ruth holding the bag—he still helped.) They also arranged for cookie donations, and delivered them to the American Legion Hall the night before the ride. I hope that if I'm ever broke down, these two people come by, as I know they will do anything in their power to help. Thanks a lot.

Roger Stien marked the routes. If some of the out-of-town rides I've been on this year were marked this well, they would have been truly memorable. This is a very important job, as some of our roads seem to run into each other, and if you're not from around here, having good road markings makes the ride even more enjoyable. Thanks Rog.

Many volunteers manned or womaned the rest stops. There is not a word in the English language to express my gratitude at all you did. Without you, the ride would not have been half the success that it was. I had many a rider come back and comment how nice it was to have, not only the right number of stops, but the

courtesy with which they were treated at each of them. This is a true reflection on your dedication not only to our club, but to bicycling in general. Thanks to every one of you.

Special thanks also go to the men and women who picked up supplies before the ride, or delivered them back to the hall after the ride. This made my job much easier. Cindy Matthias: Thanks for your warm smile and all your help at the breakfast table. You were one of the first faces that our riders saw, and I'm sure that helping them get something to eat before they took off meant a lot.

Eric (we all know that last name): Well, what can be said about Eric, other than you did it again! All day long. Chopping and cutting, cutting and chopping. (I still wonder who got the end of your finger in his or her salad bowl—and yes, I'm just kiddin'). You put on one of the finest salad bars this side of Mother Tucker's. If anyone went away hungry from your salad bar, we'll have to have a talk with them out behind the barn. It was truly a work of art. And the advice you gave when I asked really helped. I guess the cat's out of the bag—I don't know it all.

Tom Parr not only manned a rest stop, but helped keep me awake after the ride by driving the entire route to take down all the signs. If any of you have been up since 11:45 p.m. the night before, you will appreciate this.

Quinton Smith: You did great. I always wonder how I'm gonna get all the supplies funneled back to Zion Church, and then back to the hall from there. You did a great job, and took a

New Members

David Sr., David Jr., Isaac, Mary & Simon Grimm.....East Peoria
Aaron & Connie Hellman & David PittmanPeoria
Everett & Margie Lyons.....Peoria
Mario, Mary & Peter Maroun.....Peoria
Christopher, Greg, Mark & Vicki Padesky.....Peoria
Patty & Todd Sage.....Henry
Chris White.....Peoria

Renewing Members

Joe Camp.....Washington
Bernie & Pat DempseyMapleton
Dick & Jo Hammel.....Peoria
Sheryl Hansen*Morton
Terry Jones & Jackie Robinson.....Peoria
Rick Long.....Peoria
Ken & Noreen Mettelmann*Groveland
Weldon Phelps*Dunlap
Dick & Dottie Rhodes*Pekin
Carol & Marc SquillantePeoria
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.....East Peoria
Laverne Wilson.....Morton

*Advocate-level membership



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ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N

newsletter published monthly

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**LEAGUE OF AMERICAN
BICYCLISTS**

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big load off my shoulders.

Steve Grube: Did no one notice our very own bicycle mechanic turned Mr. Magic Fingers? Mr. Grube, a full-fledged massage therapist, was set up to offer relief to tired, weary muscles upon the return of their owners to the American Legion Hall. Well, even though business was slow, Steve was not. He pitched in, helping out in the kitchen—where ever he could. Thank you, Steve. And folks, don't forget him the next time you need an expert rubdown. His home number is listed in the Wheelm'n's membership roster.

The guys who sagged the route—Robert from Vitesse, Scott from Little Ade's, and Kevin from Russell's—did terrific. They even got to practice some real repair skills. As hot as it was, their presence out there was greatly welcomed by more than one rider. The entire club appreciates the work you guys do, even though sometimes we forget to say

thanks.

Last, but not least, my wife Brenda gets my thanks. And you folks really need to give her a pat on the back. She put up with me for six weeks, planning this thing. She has been my driving force in putting together this whole event. Without her words of encouragement, I would probably be buried in a bottle somewhere by now. She showed up at 6:30 a.m.—no easy feat for her on a Saturday—and stayed the whole day. She registered riders, cleaned up tables, served food, and just generally did what ever needed to be done. Thanks, Brenda!

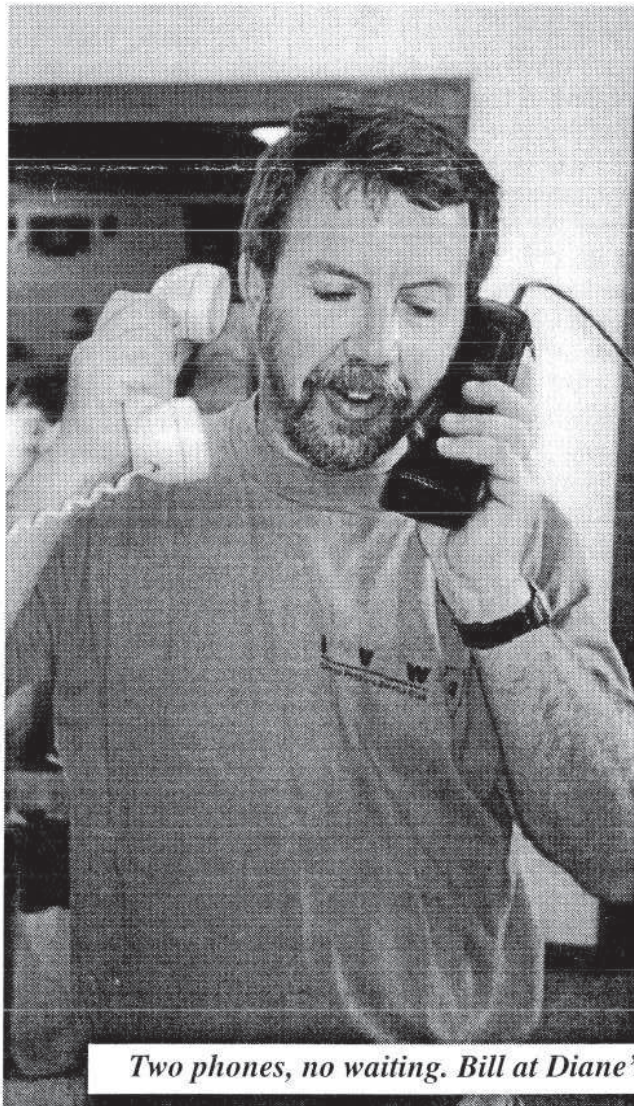
Here's a list of people who helped. If I forgot someone, call and yell at me. There were so many, and some people just pitch in and help—I know I can't keep track of everyone. To each of you a big thanks!

Ron Anderson, Tom Parr, Bill and Ruth Stevenson, Pat O'Brian, Gregg Benning, Tom Romanowski, Weldon Phelps, Franny Klees, Joe and Pam Alli,

Chuck Behrens, Sheryl Hansen, Mary Jane Konnor, Tom and Julie Coogan, Andrew Arnett, Sheldon Shafer, Judy Apici, George Dudley and Steve Shaffer. (Do any of these names look familiar? I think the 80/20 rule applies here.)

So what about next year? I think it's time for someone else to take the reins. We've a lot of talented people in our club, maybe a few who would like to take this ride on but may be a bit scared. Hey, so was I the first year. But, I'll make someone a deal. If you take over as Diane's Ride chairperson, I will see to it that Samuel prints your name in the newsletter. And I'll coach you all the way through. Heck, I might even help, a little.

—Mr. Bill (Clark)



Two phones, no waiting. Bill at Diane's Ride headquarters.

1995 ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N ANNUAL BANQUET

OFFICIAL RESERVATION/AWARDS FORM

Please reserve # _____ seats at \$11.00 each (amount includes taxes and tip) for a total of \$ _____.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

Here's my list of award winners:

MOST IMPROVED FEMALE RIDER _____

MOST IMPROVED MALE RIDER _____

HUB OF THE CLUB _____

(outstanding club volunteer of the year)

This form and payment must be received by Monday, November 6.

Send your check payable to the IVW to:

**Illinois Valley Wheelm'n, c/o Roger John, 512 N. 3rd RR1,
Dunlap, IL 61525. For more information, call 243-9191**



Beam me up now, Sheldon...

THIS PAST JULY, 160 riders went where "no cyclists had gone before," where only unmanned space probes had visited. Of the group, thirty riders even went beyond the limits of the most ambitious robot explorers—to the edge of the solar system. The ride, of course, was the Interplanetary Bicycle Ride, the first event of its kind in the Solar System.

Judging by the enthusiastic response of the riders, the event was a tremendous success, despite the 96-degree heat, with over 110 riders Saturday and 80 Sunday, including 46 walk-ons. Since the Saturday ride started half a billion miles from the Sun, near the planet Jupiter (CILCO's Pioneer Park facility), we expected frigid deep space temperatures, but as we found out many times that day, astronomers don't know everything about space near Peoria.

The ride was a collaborative venture of the Wheelm'n, Lakeview Museum of Arts and Sciences, the Peoria Astronomical Society, and the Peoria Academy of Sciences, so credit needs to be given to the numerous volunteers from each of these groups.

Rest stops at Uranus and Pluto were staffed by members of the Astronomical

Society, who also provided safe viewing of our nearest star in addition the refueling the many space vehicles which docked in planetary orbit.

The Geology Section of the Peoria Academy of Science staffed the refueling stop near Saturn, and provided displays about the local geology as well. Since Saturn was only half a billion miles from the starting point, we thought many travelers might "flyby" this stop. Again, expectations weren't reality; most travelers did stop to take in Saturn's gorgeous rings, or maybe it was the fresh home-baked dessert breads?

The Audubon and Botany Sections provided fuel and a parking orbit around Neptune, and were the aphelion point for most orbits that day.

George Dudley was my liaison with the Wheelm'n, and, in addition to coordinating route mapping and marking, worked closely with me on the "billions and billions" of details that go with an invitational ride!

The ride's sponsors also deserve a great round of applause. Terry Beachler of Beachler's Amoco donated a \$5.00 car wash coupon to each participant. State Farm Insurance donated copies of the Rand McNally Road Atlas. Phil and Mary Good (Good's Furniture) provided root

beer floats to everyone making it to Pluto (by bike or car—14 billion miles is a bit far, and no, it wasn't cold at Pluto either).

WMBD-AM 1470 and WMXP 93.3 FM provided generous air time promoting the event. Russell's Cycling & Fitness provided repair service along the trail (I saw them fixing several flats, one just a few million miles from Jupiter but I promised I wouldn't tell whose). Bradley University donated logo pencils plus food and staff for the Sunday Jupiter rest area (did anyone notice that there were two Jupiters? Planet cloning no doubt).

Finally, Illinois Central College donated food and staff for the Saturn rest stop, a stop that looked like the start of a buffet line—they must have known that WHOI (Channel 19) was going to show up and interview the participants.

Word about this first-year ride hasn't traveled farther than the "outer limits" of the Solar System (all but one rider from Illinois). Those to whom I talked planned to return next year, saying that Peoria has some of the greatest rides in the region.

We're already looking at dates for next year, and are considering July 27, 28. If anyone has any feedback concerning the date, positive or negative, please let me know before we set it in stone.

Or carve it in lunar lava.

—Sheldon Schafer
sls@bradley.bradley.edu



**Sheldon Shafer,
Planet Guy**

Education at speed, conference in Madison

HEARD IT ON THE PACE LINE GRAPEVINE. According to regular participant Dave Hansen, Steve Shaffer's Wednesday night "Thrills, Skills & Speed" ride has been a real success story. Steve initiated this weekly IVW ride this year to help teach endurance, speed and bike handling skills which he learned at Walden's School of Cycling. The group regularly practices paceline and breakaway/chasing techniques. Steve has also emphasized on-road safety—such as riding single-file when traffic dictates.

Due to training received in Steve's ride, some regulars have begun to compete in local events such as triathlons. Dave, who has also done fast-paced training rides with Chicago-area clubs, reports that Thrills, Skills & Speed is "one of the best rides I've been on in the last two to three years." —*Eric Hutchison*

BIKE ACTION 2000 CONFERENCE. I picked up some great tips at a September 16–17 advocacy conference held in bike-friendly Madison, WI. And some great statistics like these:

- The average freeway (such as the proposed Peoria/Chicago highway) costs \$2 million per mile to build. A bike lane costs one-tenth this amount (\$200,000 per mile).
- The average car-parking space costs \$30,000. A completely-enclosed deluxe bicycle parking locker costs about \$300.



The conference included a bicycle tour of Madison's cycling facilities. One highlight was University Street, which is a lot like Peoria's University Avenue in that both roads carry about 20,000 to 30,000 cars per day. The Madison version, however, comes equipped with bicycle lanes which attract up to 7,000 cyclists daily.

Tipped helmets to the Bicycle Federation of America, the League of American Bicyclists and the Rails To Trails Conservancy for a first-rate weekend. —*Eric Hutchison*

STATE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT BICYCLE POLICY. August 1, 1995, may be remembered as a red-letter day for Illinois bicyclists. The Policies and Procedures For Accommodating Bicycles in Highway Improvements went into effect that day. The policies require that on-road bicycle travel be accommodated in state highway improvement projects where bicycle travel is expected, except where bicycling is prohibited, where the project is resurfacing only, or where the design has already been approved.

The League of Illinois Bicyclists is among the organizations to be consulted by the state on bicycle travel. Too bad this policy applies only to state highways, and not county highways, township roads or municipal streets and roads. Maybe someday.

—*Al Sturges, LIB newsletter editor*

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SAFETY EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE of the Interagencies Bikeways Council met on August 29 in Springfield. The most significant item was that Bob Young of the IDOT Safety Programs Bureau agreed to survey all state agencies in order to compile an inventory of bicycle safety materials and services. This should be a useful step toward coordination of these programs.

The League of Illinois Bicyclists (LIB) contributed information on Wisconsin and Florida programs and a list of bicycle safety education resource people around the U.S., compiled by Barbara Sturges. We noted that several states spend hundreds of thousands of dollars annually on bicycle safety. Many of these programs "train the trainer," rather than going directly to the public.

Sgt. Terry Winson of the State Police, reported that copies of "The Law is For All," a video promoting the importance of enforcing the law for bicyclists, is being distributed to police units.

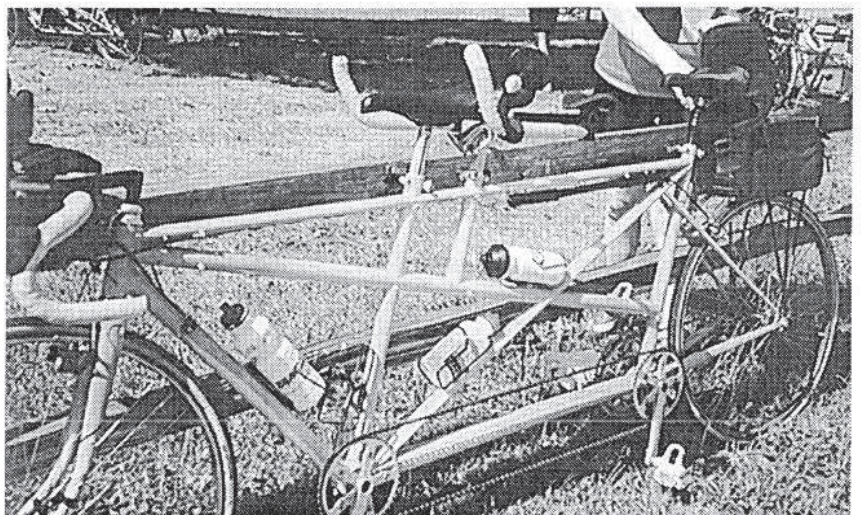
Jim Churchill, of the Board of Education, discussed the importance of bringing back materials from safety conferences for distribution in Illinois.

The meeting was chaired by Illinois Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator Craig Williams. Mark Wenneborg, Williams' associate, and Janine Toman of the Secretary of State's office, also attended.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 3. —*Al Sturges*

At the Midwest Tandem Rally—

This uptube-design tandem provides the stoker with plenty of room to stretch out. Used by its previous owners in the Race Across America (RAAM), the machine features a dummy headtube to hold the rear handlebar stem. One benefit of the design: captain's seat adjustments don't affect the position of the stoker's handlebars.



Who recognizes the blue 'Dale in the pic? If you said it's Rob Alexander's, you're right. But who are those people with it? Well, Eileen Dudley might be recognized by some, but who are those other folks? Well, a few months ago, there was an Internet posting by one of the Midwest Tandem Rally organizers, looking for a tandem to borrow for the Treesses.



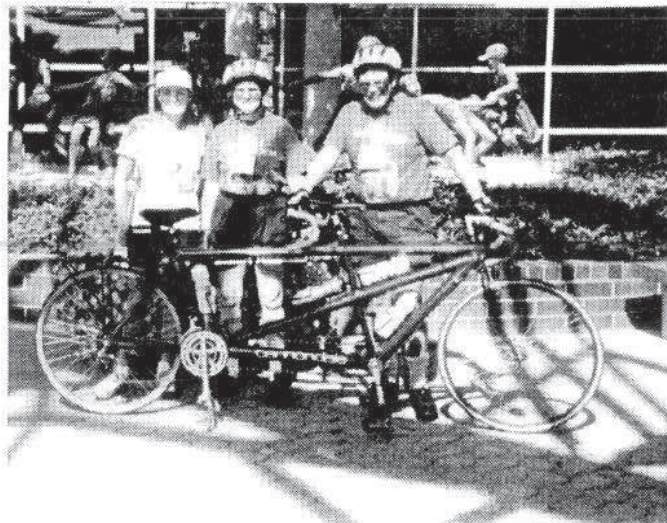
Now, who might they be? And why don't they just bring their own bike? Well it's a long haul from Kathmandu, to answer the second part of the question first.

Betty is a medical doctor and Donn is a university professor. They're giving of themselves in the missionary field for the Navigators. They've had two articles

in Doubletalk, the Tandem Club of America's newsletter. The first had a picture of all five Treesses underway on their trusty Burley tandem in Kathmandu. It was their sole source of transportation at the time. The second article described building a 20" tandem from two BMX bikes, using a local craftsman's talents.

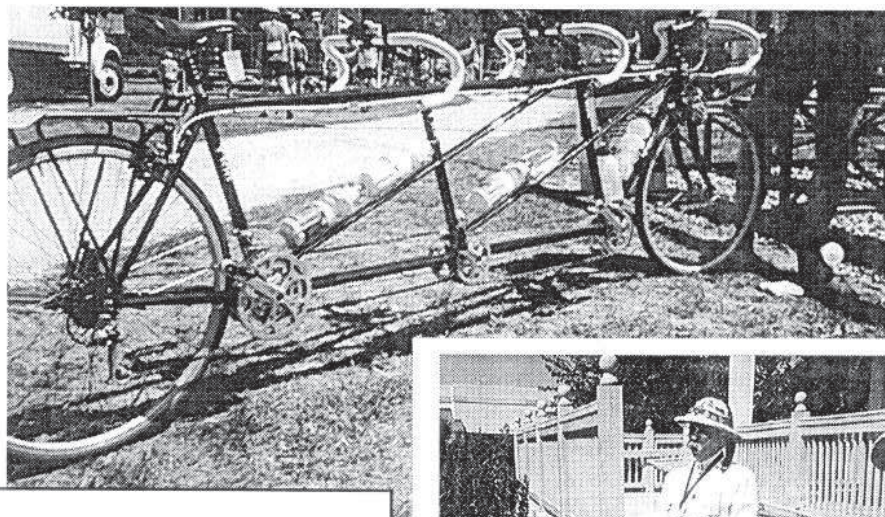
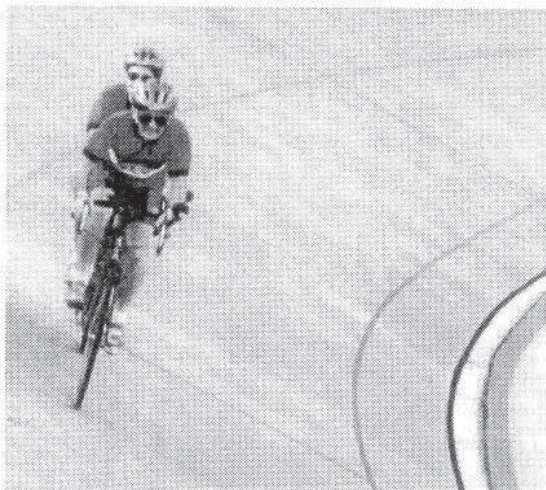
As it happens, both Treesses are from the Indy area, so it was fun to be with them for the ice cream ride at the velodrome. They knew where to eat in the area and how to get around.

And could they ride? Consider this: They usually live at about 5000 feet, and not much there is paved.



Betty told Eileen that Rob's bike was like riding in an airplane, and under the Treesses the bike flew. So MTR was a great success for us and for them. Our thanks to Rob for being both generous and courageous. We're all the richer for the experience. —GWD

Midwest Tandem Rally



Indianapolis—(from left) **George & Eileen Dudley** take a spin on the Major Taylor Velodrome. That's one way to keep a tandem on track. Santana is known for its triplets and quads, but this **Trek triplet** is a real one-of-a-kind. Indiana-native **Steve Clark** spent the weekend touting the merits of his late 1880s tandem tricycle.





October Ride Schedule

- EVERY SATURDAY** Washington Show 'n Go. Leaves from Washington Square. Please park away from square. Show 'n Go rides are recommended for experienced riders only. 8:30 a.m. No leader.
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1** Hucks gas station at Allen and Willow Knolls roads. 30-35 miles. 8:30 a.m. Steve Shaffer, 685-4726.
- MONDAY, OCTOBER 2** Campustown at Main & University. 25 miles. 8 a.m. Gary Hartzler, 674-3061.
- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7** Fall Harvest Ride. Pekin to San Jose via Green Valley. Easy pace. Cookies and more at Green Valley. Leaves from 301 Edgewood Drive in Pekin. Leaves at noon. Call Bill or Brenda Clark for details, 347-4841.
- SATURDAY & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7 & 8** Ride to the Hansen family farm near Kewanee. See this newsletter for details. Sheryl Hansen, 263-2870.
- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14** Mossville Grade School to Track Inn, Chillicothe. 8:30 a.m. Tom Parr, 274-6101.
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15** Field Shopping Center, Morton, to South Pekin. 8:30 a.m. Denny & Peggy Tresenriter, 387-6617.
- MONDAY, OCTOBER 16** Campustown at Main & University. 45-50 miles. 8 a.m. Gary Hartzler, 674-3061.
- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21** Mossville Grade School to Track Inn, Chillicothe. 8:30 a.m. Tom Parr, 274-6101.
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22** Campustown at Main & University, Peoria. 8 a.m. Gary Hartzler, 674-3061.
- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28** Heritage Bank, Hanna City. 30-35 miles. 10 a.m. Tom Coogan, 565-4007.
- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29** Fondulac Park District Building, East Peoria. 40 miles. 8:30 a.m. Steve Grube, 699-6956.
- MONDAY, OCTOBER 30** Campustown at Main & University. 25 miles. 8 a.m. Gary Hartzler, 674-3061.

Illinois History Weekend Ride

HHEY, IT'S NOT WINTER YET. Don't let your summer mileage lapse into mediocrity. You don't have to drive 100 miles to ride a weekend ride and pay an arm and a leg and a seat.

Intrepid IVW riders and anybody else can join me on two 7-plus-mile days from Jubilee Park to the Hansen's 1862 centennial Prairie Farm on Saturday, October 7, and return on Sunday, October 8.

Here's the preliminary route plan:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7:

Leave Jubilee Park at 8:30 a.m.

Ride last year's route through Princeville, Toulon and Galva, with a snack/lunch stop at Bishop Hill, a restored Swedish commune.

Visit the craft shops, blacksmith shop, restored church/meeting hall, old blockhouse living quarters, basket shop, spinning wheel exhibit, art museum or, just hang out and relax.

Go back south to Prairie Farm (an experimental B&B).

There are two showers, two double-bed bedrooms, one bedroom with two twin beds and one cot to be set up anywhere. Sleeping bags and/or couches should hold the leftovers.

For you pioneer spirits, there is plenty of tent space outside (coyote yelps, owl hoots and raccoon skirmishes are added attractions.) We have even caught glimpses of a prairie chicken (rare) and deer in the early morning hours.

Sunset barbecue chicken dinner provided by the LaFayette Methodist Church.

Any sag stuff (sleeping bags, tents, etc.) must get to Sheryl the week before.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8:

Return via Victoria (Route 167), then south to Oak Run Lake for eats at the restaurant, or a brief stop at the Amoco station in Williamsfield (whatever).

Head for Jubilee Park via Laura and Brimfield/Jubilee roads.

Fee:

\$20—You'll never find a more reasonable weekend ride. Proceeds will be donated to the LaFayette Methodist Church building fund for their new kitchen and Sunday School.

NOTE:

Make sure your bike and tires/tubes are in good riding condition. There will be no sag service (unless someone can be arm-twisted into doing it). Also, there are no official rest stops. We will stop enough to eat and resupply.

Ride at an enjoyable, relaxing pace (tandems welcome if you can manage that). Preregistrations appreciated but not required. Call Sheryl Hansen at 263-2870 or 766-0406.



In my years of riding, I've noticed that no matter how adverse the conditions, roadside weeds thrive. It doesn't matter if it rains too much or too little, whether hailstorms batter the Midwest or grass fires sweep over the prairie. Weeds are eternal. Anyway, I have two questions. How can we stay ahead of the weeds? And, where did they come from anyway?

—Interested Ernie, Delavan

First, the only way for cyclists to stay ahead of weeds is to keep moving. While weeds, unlike dogs, don't actually chase cyclists, I suppose that if one remained stationary long enough, tiny but tough tendrils would eventually reach the feet and



go on to engulf the entire rider. Seems a tad unlikely, but heh, so does the idea of objective journalism.

The answer to your second question is tougher. Most folks know that America was the land of milk and honey—free of weeds, foreigners and most forms of independent thought—until about 1967. So the only way weeds could have entered the country is by being stuffed in the upholstery of foreign cars. Or maybe, by floating across the watery border that separates California from the United States. This later theory is unlikely since most weeds are poor swimmers (it's a wonder they try at all).

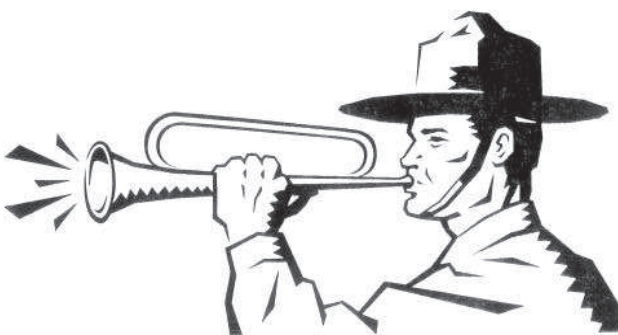
By the way, the best way to kill weeds is to exploit them economically. Once weeds are turned into cash crops, they become impossible to grow without large government subsidies.

—D.D.

Get yer red-hot nominations in!

Who's your pick for the next IVW President, Vice President, Treasurer, etc.? Be ready to nominate your friends and relatives for the club's leadership positions at the Annual Banquet.

Your club thanks you,
your country thanks you!



ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(please print)

NAME #1 _____ BIRTHDATE _____

NAME #2 _____ BIRTHDATE _____

NAME #3 _____ BIRTHDATE _____

NAME #4 _____ BIRTHDATE _____

NAME #5 _____ BIRTHDATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE () _____

SIGNATURE (NAME #1) _____ DATE _____

(parent or guardian signature needed if registrant is under 18)

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

ARE YOU RENEWING, OR IS THIS A NEW MEMBERSHIP?(CHECK ONE)

RENEWING NEW

IF NEW, HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THE CLUB? _____

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS? (CHECK ONE)

YES NO

BASIC MEMBERSHIP:

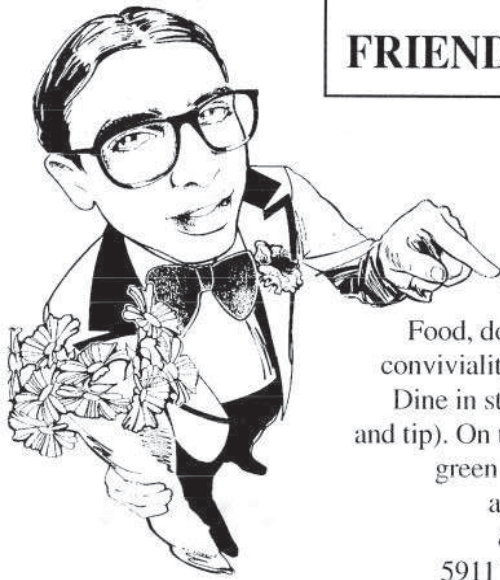
INDIVIDUAL (\$10) \$ _____

FAMILY (\$12) _____

VOLUNTARY ADVOCACY CONTRIBUTION

(\$5, 10, 15, OTHER) \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____



BRING A FRIEND!

To the annual IVW
AWARDS BANQUET

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Doors open: 7 p.m.

All-you-can-eat buffet: 7:30 p.m.

Food, door prizes, food, awards, food, group conviviality and food! (Did we mention food?) Dine in style for \$11 each (cost includes taxes and tip). On the menu: chicken, ham, pasta salad, green beans, **corn fritters fer gosh sakes**, au gratin potatoes, coffee, tea, dessert & more! Meet us at Fairview Farms, 5911 W. Heuermann Road in Bartonville.

For more info, call Roger John at 243-9191. Mail your check (payable to the IVW) and reservation form (p. 7) to Roger John, 512 N. 3rd, RR 1, Dunlap, IL 61525 before November 6!

Inside October

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

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit No.310
Peoria IL 61601

Your IVW membership expires: 10/03/95

RON ANDERSON
203 LOCUST
WASHINGTON, IL 61571

ANNUAL BANQUET...

7 p.m., November 10, Fairview Farms
Reservation form inside this newsletter!