



December 1997

ILLINOIS VALLEY WHEELM'N

greater people's bicycle club



Mr. Bill sez "So long."

Two years! Seems like a long time. That's how long it's been since I said, "Sure, you can put my name on the ballot."

Greater accomplishments have been made in less time, but none less important than the accomplishments that the club has made during my term as President. In the last two years we have come a long way in being recognized as an activity not only good for one's health, but one that is good for the health of the planet as a whole. The club is part of a national movement, too. Millions of dollars have been spent and thousands of people have expended countless hours to ensure that bicycling will be here for some time to come.

As one of the oldest forms of transportation, bicycling led us into this century and could save us in the next century. And some of us even call it fun! I am going to miss being directly involved with the board. Even though my term as president of your club is up, I intend to help fill other functions just as vital to keeping a club alive and healthy.



As a favorite writer of mine once wrote, "Nothing exists long when its time is past." "Wealth is important only to the small of mind." "The important thing is to do the best one can with what one has." I don't feel that my time is past. Leading the club has been the easy part. Now, I have the opportunity to take the things I have learned, the knowledge I have gained, and put it to good use.

I hope to put several rides together for next year, focusing on some of the area activities such as the Marigold Festival, the Pumpkin Festival, and the Popcorn Festival in Manito (yes, they really do have a popcorn festival). I am still trying to find a town that has an earthworm festival. No luck yet.

I also hope to put a sub-Level 1 ride together, for those who think five miles on a bicycle is "way more than I could ever do." We have potential century riders out there. We just need to reach them. To pull them in. To make them a part of the pack.

The most important thing I have learned is probably the most easily accomplished. I have learned from some of you that saying, "Sure, I can help," is the best thing I can do to help my club grow. Many thanks to everyone who helped in some way, during

my term. Your accomplishments were many, and have not gone unnoticed. I have never been involved with such a diverse group of people before, people who put wealth and status aside to enjoy and promote a sport that has benefits well beyond personal goals. I hope, in some small way, that the things we have accomplished together, have made some

difference for our future generations. That we have left a legacy rich in hope for our sons and daughters. If each of us could do some small part to pass on to our children something that will leave them strong of heart and bond them with others for such a worthwhile cause, then the whisper of our tires will be a sound heard far and wide, for a very, very long time.

It has been my honor and privilege to be your president. The new friendships I have made, the places the club has taken me, the

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knowledge gained through and from my fellow board members, will serve to make me a better person.

Oh yeah, as another favorite writer of mine wrote, "Do ya think you've heard the last of me?" "Well, ya ain't heard nothing yet!" See ya on the road. —Mr. Bill



RENEWING MEMBERS

Stan & Jan Geisz	.....	Washington
Mark Ferguson*†	.....	Peoria
Jefferson Gilkeson	.....	Washington
Gary Hartzler†	.....	Peoria
Charlie & Franny Klees*†	.....	East Peoria
Steve & Marsha Miller	.....	Peoria
Jewel & Debby Moyers*	.....	Hanna City
Lowell, Stuart, Nicholas & Sarah Schroeder*	.....	Morton
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission	.....	East Peoria

*Advocate-level membership

†LAB member

We now resume our regularly scheduled cranking.

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*
Robert Frost, The Road Not Taken

Someone once pointed out that the true rebel of the 1960s was President Eisenhower's grandson. During an age in which conformists wore long hair, mumbled sunshine promises and explored the wonderful world of illicit pharmaceuticals—hey, can the geriatric crowd be wrong?—the grandson wore his hair short, was polite to his elders and probably did his own laundry. While everyone else was trying to be different, he simply was different.

As it turns out, being different was popular. When the merry trippers turned away from the 60s, they turned toward Eisenhower-like respectability, hence the Baby Boomers. Recognizing that all but the most brain-damaged among them had changed in lockstep with them, Boomers continued their search for true individuality.

Most settled for membership in groups



that gave their members a sense of separation from the herd. This explains disco, Starbucks and the Peoria City Council.

A few Boomers joined bicycle clubs. (A few still belong.) And one of the strongest reasons for joining was that cycling in the '70s was different. Really different.

The attraction to cycling was also felt by those at the tail end of the Boom. When I joined the club as a high school sophomore, kids my age, let alone adults, weren't riding bicycles. Adult cyclists were the young Eisenhowers of their time—they represented a real alternative to the predominate youth culture.

Well, I liked Bike, and I liked the people who liked what I liked. They were different from any other people I knew.

Within a few years, various cycling subcultures gained their measure of public fame, including recumbent advocates, BMXers, freestylers, credit card tourists, bike messengers, mountain bikers, downhillers and retrogrouches.

Each one a different group—different in goals, attitudes and equipment.

Over the past 20 years, I have explored several cycling cultures. As a member of the antique bicycle culture, I owned a reproduction high-wheeled bicycle. The front wheel was 50 inches in diameter. The

rear was around 20 inches in diameter. Before I sold it to a gentleman in Michigan, I rode it over the better part of three annual 220-mile rides around Bloomington.

I liked it. It was different.

While skimming the British bicycling culture, I had racing tricycle built for me. It's the same thing as a skinny-tired racing bike, except it has two rear wheels positioned 30 inches apart. The left wheel is driven because it's connected to an English-built axle, but in America we ride on the right hand side of the road. The result is that whenever I apply torque to the left wheel on a slippery, off-camber surface, I can spin the wheel, which is amusing but not very helpful in maintaining forward momentum.

The tricycle was, and remains, different.

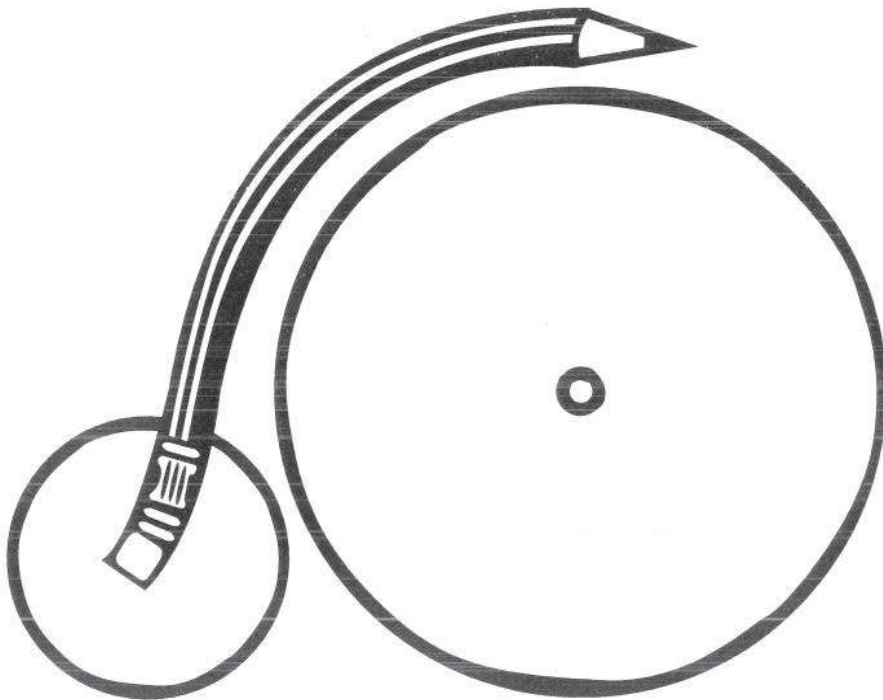
Though I've never come close to equaling mileage king Don Eberle's performance, I peddled through the edge of the high-mileage bicycle culture of the early '80s. I rode anywhere from 5,000 to 7,000 miles a year, a third of that mileage with the club and the rest alone, on a lightweight (two-wheeled) racing bike. (Over much of the past decade my mileage has stabilized at approximately 2,300 miles a year, the overwhelming majority of it on a tandem, accompanied by my wife.)

Over the past 20 years, my appreciation of the bicycle has deepened. Likewise, my relationship to the club has changed. When I was single, I looked for people to ride with, and club rides were the most important aspect of the IVW for me. Now that I'm married, my riding partner is always ready for a spin, and the rides begin from our front door instead of some club-ordained location. As a result, I've spent less time on organized rides and more time on organizing the newsletter.

The newsletter production culture has been my domain for the past six years. At first, producing the newsletter was a technical challenge, not only because I picking up the mail and answering phone calls, but also because I was trying to figure out how to turn on a computer. Now I'm leaving this adventure to someone else, which effectively gives me one more weekend a month.

And I'm expecting the addition of some free time to be really different.

—Samuel Joslin



ANNUAL DINNER REPORT

November 8, 1997. The annual Illinois Valley Wheelm'n dinner was a huge success again this year. Forty-seven people attended the gala event at the Lariat Club in Peoria. The food was good, and the company was great. Although Mother Nature tried her best to keep us home, cold temperatures and snow flurries could not dissuade seasoned riders from getting together to reminisce about bicycle rides spent in warmer times, and to do what we do best: EAT! Regretfully, because of a flat tire on their jet, Miguel and Greg could not attend, but a great evening was had with other cycling greats such as Charlie, Big Jim and Bill.

The evening was capped off with the election of new officers. Because of two year staggered terms, the posts of president and vice President were up for re-election this year. Rich Morris (alias "Stretch") was elected to fill the president's position for the 1998-1999 term. Jim Emmons (of the Lacon Emmons clan) was elected to the vice president's post. Both gentlemen were elected to their respective positions by a unanimous vote in both spots.

Rob Alexander will be taking over the communication position as newsletter editor. Samuel Joslin, long-time editor, announced

his retirement effective January 1998. Sam's efforts have brought our newsletter to the forefront of national attention with distribution as far away as Missouri [Hi, Mother and Dad —ed.]. We will miss Sam's wit and humor. Good luck in your new endeavors, Sam.

The financial report was read by Brenda Clark. The club is currently operating in the black, with a balance of \$5,917.34 in assets. This represents a \$535.14 decrease from the same time period of 1996. This was due in part to a recent donation of \$500.00 each, to the League of Illinois Bicyclists and the League of American Bicyclists. The IVW is affiliated with both of these organizations, and each of them rely heavily on donations from clubs such as ours for their operating costs.

Patty Sage was voted Most Improved Female Rider of 1997. Sheila Gribble ran a close second. "Big Jim" Degenhart was voted in as Most Improved Male Rider, closely followed by Jim Emmons. It was also announced that Mark and Vicki Padesky have been selected by the current board to assume the position of social/membership chair for the 1998-99 term.

And last but not least, Franny Klees. Franny was elected 1997 Hub of the Club. Franny's efforts to coordinate monthly club meetings as social/membership chairperson, and her devotion to club rides and functions, made her a obvious choice. The loyalty of these persons to the club, is a testament to their character.

Outgoing officers include Bill Clark,

president, Russ Goin, vice president, Samuel Joslin, newsletter editor, and Franny Klees, social/membership Chair. Speaking for all of us, I would like to thank each and every one who made our jobs easier by helping our club in their own way.

THE FEW, THE PROUD

Were looking for a few good (wo)men. The 1998 No Baloney Ride is looking for leaders. This is our spring invitational that will be held June 6. Leaders should be able to take abuse, as well as hand it out. To look diversity in the eye and sneer. To be able to dodge return fire, as well as have a screw or two loose.

Okay, so those of you who have done this before, know I am just kidding. The job is not as daunting as it may seem. A small amount of organizational ability is the main ingredient needed to head up our major fund raiser of the year. Simply select committee heads, and keep them coordinated.

Okay, so those of you who have done this before know that most bicyclists need help being coordinated. It's really no big job. The ride has several areas needing someone to ensure that all the small jobs get done. The ride chairman simply puts all the notes together to coordinate the entire event. For more information, call me, and we'll have your people get together with my people, and work something out. —Mr. Bill

Illinois Valley Wheelm'n Membership Application (please print)

Name #1 _____ Birthdate _____

Name #2 _____ Birthdate _____

Name #3 _____ Birthdate _____

Name #4 _____ Birthdate _____

E-mail address (print clearly) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone () _____

Signature (Name #1) _____ Date _____

(parent or guardian needed if registrant is under 18)

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 an LAB member? (check one)

Yes No

Basic membership:

Individual (\$10) \$ _____

Household (\$12) \$ _____

Voluntary advocacy contribution:

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

Total enclosed \$ _____

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 NORTH SHERIDAN RD STE 2, PEORIA IL 61614-2933

August 1997

I L L I N O I S V A L L E Y

WHEELM'N

greater peoria's bicycle club

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The New Year's Day ride will be held at the house of Charlie & Franny Klees. The fun starts at 10 a.m.. Bring a covered dish to share. Call Franny at 694-3674 for more info.



SWAP MEET

The folks at Illinois Cycle will hold a swap meet, from 6 to 9 p.m., December 9, at their bicycle shop located across from Northwoods Mall. The address: 4650 N. Brandywine. Call Troy for more info: 675-2919.

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6518 NORTH SHERIDAN RD STE 2
PEORIA IL 61614-2933**

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

Your IVW membership expires: 10/03/98

RON ANDERSON
203 LOCUST
WASHINGTON, IL 61571-2207

Inside October...

Checkout time.