

AUGUST, 1984



MONTHLY MEANDERS



AUGUST
MEETING



Wednesday, Aug. 1 - 8 p.m.

HERITAGE PARK - 222 S. Wolf Rd.
(South of Dundee Rd.)

PROGRAM - This is our work night for the HARMON 100 invitational. Please come and help us prepare a mailing of 1000; also to take flyers to bicycle shops in your area. And don't forget- We still need many volunteers to work on or before the day of the big event, Sept. 9.

THE PREZ SEZ

There being many new members in the club, I believe it well to repeat one or two of John Storaasli's recent safety column tips. When a cyclist behind calls "car back", please repeat the warning if you think those ahead of you have not heard it. Most important, especially if we're on a road with yellow center stripes or with limited visibility, please form a single line as soon as possible. I have seen too many cases where we have forced motorists into the left lane, where they may face on-coming traffic. While it's true that bicyclists have equal rights to the road, it is a matter of courtesy that, as slower vehicles, we yield our right to the use of the full lane.

Another thing I've noticed that I'm sure cyclists wouldn't do while riding alone - that is riding in the left lane. All too frequently this happens on club rides on roads with limited visibility ahead. Please think about the possible consequences.

While on the rides, I have been reminding a few people of these dangers, and I hope the criticism is taken in the spirit it is given - the concern for the safety of all the cyclists and the prevention of ill will toward our group and cyclists in general.

Olympic Idealism

As you read this issue of the newsletter, the Summer Olympics are either imminent or have just begun. Even as I write this article, I hear the complaints regarding the so-called "commercialization" of the Games, as well as the deploring of the spirit of nationalism which is, according to the critics, in opposition to the "spirit" of the Games as espoused by Baron Coubertin (who is credited with the renewal of the Games in 1896).

However, taking a historical view, it is a pretty safe bet that vendors of various sorts were represented at the original games in ancient Greece, purveying figs, nuts, various liquid libations, etc. Somehow, this did not seem to diminish the purpose or validity of those ancient games and I would suggest that present-day commercial endeavors are, in reality, can be considered to be in keeping with the "spirit" of the Olympic games, as long as such endeavors don't get "too" crazy. (Boy, have I ever left myself wide open for debate, opposition and controversy, huh?)

As regards the emphasis upon "nationalism," it's hard to visualize the Athenian athletes and their coaches being any less proud of their national heritage than their Trojan or Spartan counterparts. Such being the case, where, indeed, does one go to find totally objective and unbiased officials, either back then or today?

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

WHEELING WHEELMEN
P. O. Box 581-D,
Wheeling, Illinois 60090

An  Affiliate

President:	Howard Paul	824-2941
Vice-Pres:	Elliott Kanner	459-1300
Treasurer:	Dick Ryan	381-1775
Safety:	John Storaasli	934-0039
Membership:	Pat Marshall	564-0346
Rec. Secy:	Marilyn Mathison	825-5470
Pool Rides:	Marilyn Mathison	825-5470
Program:	Phil Kahn	520-3114
Editor:	Phyllis Harmon	537-1268

Olympic Idealism

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Part of our inherent human nature is to root for the home team. Some people claim a purely aesthetic interest in sports, and say that it's the great athlete who counts, no matter which team he or she plays for. Well, okay. Of course we can always appreciate a good performance and the skills required, and we can even learn from such performances. But if that performance triggers a double play that snuffs out the home team's late inning rally, while you may appreciate the artistry, you don't really have to like it!

It is inevitable that we will see the Games as a contest between "us" and "them." All of life seems to be a contest with others...with business competitors...with anonymous motorists...with misunderstanding family members...with implacable repair people, etc, etc. And in these conflicts, no one ever wears a uniform and often we can never really figure out the rules...the scoreboard seems to be out order...and the game never seems to end! Most frustrating of all, we're usually not even given the choice of whether we want to play or not - we're in the game of life, regardless!!

So, too, with our involvement in bicycling and with the Wheeling Wheelmen. When we applied for membership in our club, we said that we wanted to be in the game. In some respects, even our on-the-road activities can be considered a part of the game, albeit a very serious game. Much of the above, as regards the gamesmanship, holds true. However, we are somewhat more fortunate in the actual riding, since the rules of the road (state highway statutes) are pretty much laid out for us. It behooves us to be aware of all the rules and regulations to which we, as well as all other persons using public highways, are subject.

I would also add that since we have all voluntarily joined the "game" of the Wheelmen, we have indicated our willingness to assist in all of the club activities. As an example, I would refer to the upcoming Harmon Hundred - Bob Klein needs the assistance of every member to stage a successful event. When he calls on you to help, or when any other member of the club calls for support, let's go out of our way to do what's required (whether we feel like it or not). **Club membership is, in every way, a participatory sport - not a spectator sport)!!**

Please note that I certainly am not casting aspersions or indicating in any way that Wheeling Wheelmen are anything less than great, nor that they ever fail to respond when called upon. My purpose is strictly one of reinforcement of existing patterns rather than being forced to "wish it were only so!" **Thank you all for giving your active support and involvement!**

HAVE A GOOD AUGUST!!

THE ULTIMATE BICYCLING EXPERIENCE
by Jenny Bruns

My fanny bumper for TOGIR, THE OTHER GREAT IOWA RIDE, hangs on my wall reminding me of a fantastic bicycling experience during the last week of June. The brightly colored orange sign proclaims my name, hometown, and registration number. Beneath the vital information is an advertisement consisting of the words "The Ultimate Bicycling Experience".

The search for the ultimate experience in our society has become an obsession as we search for meaning in a world that seems indifferently to our individual lives. People look for experiences that present a challenge in lives that are otherwise a tedious mixture of 40 hour work weeks and a multitude of commitments and responsibilities. The ultimate experience might be a goal or accomplishment upon which our efforts have been aimed and on which our lives are hinged. The implication is that upon completion of the ultimate experience, we will have found meaning in our lives.

Of course, each bicyclist has an individual conception of the ultimate bicycling experience. The TOGIR ride caters to bicyclists who look for a challenge in riding distance but desire the comforts of home after a long day on the road. The ride begins in Davenport, Iowa, at St. Ambrose College. During the ensuing week, the route goes to five additional colleges in NE Iowa located in small towns where the people are very hospitable. The colleges offer sleeping space, either in dorm rooms or in camping, and the food is unlimited for breakfast and dinner. A sag wagon carries all the gear. There is plenty of time during the day to sightsee, talk with local people, and even participate in additional activities such as tubing on the Upper Iowa River. Distances per day vary from 40 to 106 miles and there are nightly briefings explaining the following day's route. The bicyclist is well taken care of on TOGIR for a minimal amount of money.

TOGIR may have been an ultimate bicycling experience for many of the participating riders. If not, the ride certainly fueled the imagination of the remaining people in considering future bicycling trips leading to an ultimate experience. Escaping from our daily routines to the reality of the world we find when bicycling, gives us a chance to contemplate and find a deeper meaning to life.

"Healthy, free, the world before me,
The long brown path before me
leading wherever I choose.....

Done with indoor complaints.....
Strong and content I travel the
open road" Walt Whitman from
"Song of the Open Road"

Schedule

Aug. 5 - Kettle Moraine Ride, Wisconsin

Sunday, 9 a.m., approx. 52 miles. From railway depot in Eagle, Wi. -go U.S.12 and north on Wi.67. Limited sanitary facilities. Sack lunch is a must! A beautiful ride. Joe Tobias, 835-2547.



Aug. 11 - PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Saturday, 11 a.m. - Estimated 35 miles. From Phyllis Harmon's, 356 Robert, Wheeling, pedal to member's homes for various courses...and take all day to do it! Phone Phyllis if you are coming - 537-1268. Approximate charge, \$4.00.

Aug. 18 - HILL AND DALE RIDE, LONG GROVE

Saturday, 6:30 a.m. - 100 or 73 mile option from Kildeer School. Earn a L.A.W. Sanctioned Patch. Bring or buy lunch at McDonald's in Woodstock, or Harvard. The century route will branch off from the shorter route in Woodstock. Both routes are challenging; so carry an adequate water supply and food. Call if you need advice in considering your ability to complete either route. Jenny Bruns, 439-5345 evenings.

Aug. 19 - BREAKFAST RIDE, WHEELING

Sunday, 7:30 a.m. - 20 miles from Chamber Park on Wolf Rd, north of Dundee Rd. Ed Addison, 228-6012

Aug. 25 - CANTIGNY RIDE, HOFFMAN ESTATES

Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 45 miles from Eisenhower Jr. High, Jones & Hassel Rd. Go north from Higgins (Il.72) one block west of its intersection with Golf Rd. (Il.58) Bring sack lunch. Don Dereby, 255-3422



RIDE ON

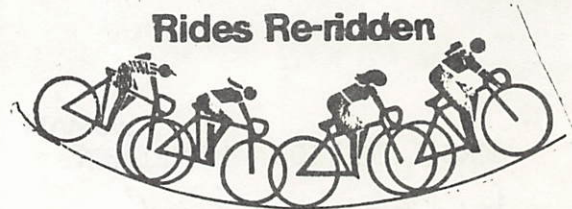
AUGUST WEDNESDAY NITE RIDES

Please arrive by 6:20 for a 6:30 start. The days are shorter and prompt starts are necessary.

- 1 From Heritage Park, Wolf Rd. South of Dundee Rd. Back in time for meeting-Come and help. Show'n go.
- 8 From Kildeer School, Long Grove Chuck Brenmark, 253-9025
- 15 From Chamber Park, Wolf Rd. north of Dundee Rd. Howard Paul, 824-2941
- 22 From Harper College - Euclid Av., east of Roselle Rd. Ruth Gaines, 541-8064

29-Last Wed. night ride this season. North branch Cook Cty, Bicycle Trail. Meet at Forest Preserve parking lot, 1 block south of Glenview Rd. on Harms. Conrad Iungerich, 298-2199.

Rides Re-ridden



Lamb's Farm Ride - Attendance in the low 20's which included many visitors.

Amishland/Lakes Weekend - This isn't a WHEELING WHEELMEN event but 23 club members attended and were rewarded with perfect weather and a great time. For our many new members - this is an annual event at Howe, In., where you ride 50 miles (or less) through Amish farm country on Saturday and 50 miles through lower Michigan on Sunday, where the route passes many lakes. Saturday and Sunday breakfasts and Saturday dinner are available along with sag stops that include blueberries, watermelon and the usual refreshments.

Huff and Puff - The day did not start out too promising it seemed. Dark clouds enveloped the skies but 25 persistent riders departed Long Grove at 7:45 and arrived in Algonquin before 9:00. There the skies cleared and 13 more riders joined the group. We proceeded towards Union with a slight head wind buffeting us, but a strong tailwind pushed us back to Algonquin and Long Grove, with most riders finishing around 4:00. Al Dargiel

Wednesday Night, Aug. 11, 17 riders - but no leader - gathered for a ride before the meeting. Pat Marshall volunteered to lead the group, and after fixing a flat tire, showed them some beautiful neighborhoods in the area. Pat now ranks as one of our more qualified leaders!



WOMAN
MRS. AMERICAN WHEELMEN
by Howard Paul

We're going to take advantage of Phyllis Harmon's (our editor) absence this month to give you a thumbnail sketch of her remarkable career in bicycling. We've solicited help from several of her many friends to piece together this history, but please forgive us for many omissions and inexact dates - because they go back a long way.

Phyllis started bicycling in the 1930's at the age of 12 and kept it as a continual part of her life, unlike many of us who picked it up again after intervening years. She helped to organize the Columbus Park Wheelmen, on Chicago's West side in 1940 and remained active with them for 15 to 20 years. During World War II she corresponded with the club members called into service and kept them informed of the club's activities.

The national bicycling organization, the League of American Wheelmen had been formed in early 1880's but disintegrated in the 1900's because of the decline of bicycling. Along with a few other dedicated bicyclists, Phyllis helped to re-form the L.A.W. in the 1960's and served in several important positions. With a change of leadership in the mid 1970's the organization was in trouble with severe debts, and again Phyllis was instrumental in getting them back on the right track.

Perhaps she will be remembered by most for instigating and editing the organization's periodical which was called the L.A.W. Bulletin and, at first, was very much like our club newsletter. She nurtured it into magazine form under the same name and it subsequently became the American Wheelmen and today is Bicycle U.S.A. Phyllis campaigned against the replacement of the traditional League of American Wheelmen name, but having lost, still supports the organization which she helped form. Incidentally, Phyllis did much of the foregoing while raising a family of six children. How many of us would have the energy to devote that much to outside interests.

When Phyllis moved to Wheeling in the late 1960's, bicycling was regaining interest as an adult recreational activity. Leaving no grass grow under her wheels, she formed the Wheeling Wheelmen, was (and still is) instrumental organizing charitable Bike-a-thons, and coordinated the planning of the 1974 LAW convention in Wheeling.

Phyllis met her first husband, Wilfred Hursthouse, and her second, Willard Harmon, through cycling and has known the sadness of losing them both to cancer. Willard Harmon was particularly active in organized recreational cycling, and it is in his memory that our annual invitational event, The Harmon Hundred, is named.

Phyllis is our current newsletter editor and it is one of the finest club publications in format and content. Phyllis, you are an inspiration to us all - on or off a bicycle!