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NEWSLETTER

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Yearly Memb'shp \$3 Includes Newsletter (4) ID Card - see blank Pg 12

FELLOW UNICYCLISTS: Our first quarterly newsletter, Jan. 1974 was very well received by unicyclists everywhere and the many kind comments on its material and format were most heartwarming. As before, we will try to bring you the latest news and information on the sport and hope you will continue to send in news items big or small, that we can include in the newsletter.

The appearance of Dr. Wiley's new book - THE UNICYCLE BOOK in bookstores has given new impetus to the sport and Stackpole Books, the publisher, has agreed to let us sell the book to members via your newsletter editor or secretary, and the usual bookdealer's profit will go to our treasury. This is a real break for us. By using a special order form and enclosing our own mailing labels, the associated paperwork is streamlined and we can get the book to members in a much shorter time than most bookstores. If you are interested in a copy, a check for \$7.95 to the Unicycling Society of America Inc., mailed to either Bill Jenack or Gordon Kruse will get you one in a hurry.

Probably the biggest single news item right now is the upcoming 1974 National Unicycle Meet scheduled for Aug. 17,18 in Marion, Ohio. Plans are under way to make it the biggest and best meet yet. See information on page 3.

Your Ed.

Bill Jenack

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For several years Wally Watts, a 24 yr old resident of Edmonton, Alberta, CANADA dreamed of riding a unicycle the breadth of Canada from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

In considering the mechanical viewpoint of accomplishing such a feat he reasoned that, as far as design was concerned, a very large wheel would mean less pedaling per mile and for such an extended trip might be a real asset. Such a unicycle is just not available however so Wally set about designing and building his own. Taking two ordinary 20" bicycle wheel rims he cut them, rolled them into half circles, and welded them back together in one big 40" rim that required 64 spokes. Spokes that length are not available either so he made them by cutting motorcycle spokes in half and extending them by welding in 8½" of stainless steel rod. Of course he had to build a hub too as hubs do not come with that many holes. Tires do not come in 42" sizes so he had a tire manufacturer make up a solid rubber tire. He realized that such a tire would ride hard but at least it wouldn't go flat. To minimize the rough riding he put 5½" of Curon foam on the seat to make it a fairly comfortable and well padded saddle for the long journey.

After completing the unicycle May 25th Wally flew from Edmonton to Vancouver, some 950 miles, taking it with him, and on May 26th was on the west coast of Canada ready to embark on his journey. At 10 AM on May 27th he pedaled out of English Bay in Vancouver and began his long ride east. Weather was of no help and it was as though nature was trying to tell him: "It Can't Be Done". It started to rain, and then to hail. Nevertheless Wally undaunted, accepted a good luck charm from an unknown admirer, left the shelter of a tree, dipped his wheel in the Pacific, and pedaled off in the rain heading for the Atlantic.

Although the roads Wally picked to travel were generally well paved the shoulders were not, so the ride was very hazardous at times. Wally discovered the Rockies of British Columbia were a real challenge and he accepted it with a determination to ride up every hill no matter how steep or long. One hill that gave him a real hard time was Jackass Mountain near Kamloops, British Columbia. Wally made it half way, rested a little while and then continued on to the summit where he arrived totally exhausted. Unlike a bicycle there is no coasting and no brakes on a unicycle and he had to fight each hill on the way down as well as up. For the first week he felt his legs were about to drop off each night but after that they seemed to harden to the task and, aside from a few muscle spasms during the first month, gave him no further trouble. Some 950 miles after leaving Vancouver he passed through his home town, Edmonton, and rode steadily eastward through two and a half days of rain - pouring rain. There was a big temptation to call it all off and go home to bed but Wally stuck it out and arrived in a torrential downpour in Vegreville, a little town east of Edmonton, soaked to the skin as he carried no raingear. After being stopped by a group of teenagers he was taken home by them, dried out, fed, and treated as royalty. A motel keeper gave him free room for the night and the next morning, after many interviews and dozens of pictures, a local merchant gave him a set of rainwear and once more Wally proceeded on his way in the rain. Later as he pulled up to the Ventura Motel in Vermilion, Alberta he was greeted by Chamber of Commerce Public Relations man Byron Moore. The C of C bought his supper at the Brunswick, provided lodging at the Ventura Motel overnite, and sent him happily on his way next morning after a hearty breakfast at Lee's Cafe.

Later in the journey Wally recalls another warm reception he received in the small town of Davidson, between Saskatoon and Regina. There he gave a talk to local school children and was very pleased with the warmth and friendliness of the people.

Whenever he paused on his journey, local citizens and tourists would stop and talk with him and ask if they could take pictures. Since Wally was traveling as light as possible and did not have a camera with him, he took advantage of the opportunity and replied: "By all means but would you please take the picture of us together and if it comes out please send me a print". They did, and he made many friends this way during his 93 days on the road. At this writing some vacationers are still just getting their films developed and are sending him photos and letters. He spends considerable time replying to each and marvels at the far away places from which some of them come.

On one stretch of road a RCMP Officer offered to check Wally out via his radar to see what speed he could make with his large wheel. He clocked him at 21 MPH. Two of the major problems encountered on the trip were - the saddle going flat and the crotch UNICYCLING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. - NEWSLETTER 4-74

of his jeans wearing out every three hundred miles or so. Shortly after crossing the borderline of the province of Alberta, Wally phoned your editor and reported he had solved both problems - He found a place where he was able to rebuild his saddle with a more resilient type of material that didn't go flat, covered it with other material of a slippery type, and lined the crotch of his jeans with leather. For the remainder of the journey the leather just polished the saddle cover and the saddle itself stayed resilient and comfortable.

Space does not permit the narration of all the humorous and fascinating situations that arose during the long ride but it is hoped that some day soon Wally will record his story in book form and include many of the interesting pictures he received from well wishers and from the press.

After entering the province of Ontario, Wally planned his route so as to pass through the capital city of Ottawa. A spectacular picture of him on his unicycle, with the Peace Tower in the background, appeared in the newspapers of Aug. 9, 1973.

From Ottawa it was still another 1100 long miles to the end of his journey. Good weather or bad, rain or shine, Wally rode every day - some days riding distances that even a bicyclist would envy. He tried to average 45-50 miles a day. On one outstanding day he covered 88 miles.

Three months and a day after leaving Vancouver, The Atlantic Ocean came into view - Wally had completed his 4550 mile ride almost exactly on schedule. The press covered his finish with a spectacular picture of him, in a spray of water, riding into the Atlantic Ocean in Halifax, Nova Scotia - the date - Monday, August 27, 1973.

Exciting and satisfying as the trip was, Wally elected to return home via automobile and after purchasing a used car drove back to Edmonton, Alberta taking his trusty steed with him. There he has returned to work with the Canadian National Railway and is busy answering letters from the many friends he made along the way and writing his own story of the most incredible cycle ride ever.

Editor's note: Aside from Wally's telephone calls while on the trip much of the information for this story was obtained from letters and clippings forwarded to your editor from another Edmonton Unicyclist, Cliff Otto, and from Wally's mother Mrs. Alice Wensley.

CURRENT UNICYCLING NEWS

1974 NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET

The 1974 National Unicycle Meet, under the auspices of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. is scheduled to be held in Marion, Ohio, Sat. and Sun. Aug. 17th & 18th. It is being sponsored by the Paul Fox Unicycle Club, Inc. of that city and all out efforts are being made to insure it will be the greatest. Tentative plans call for a general parade of all unicyclists on Saturday morning terminating at the Marion Catholic High School where a Unicycle King and Queen will be chosen. Various races will be held in the afternoon. In the evening from 7 to 8 PM preliminaries will be held in the Trick and Obstacle Riding categories. The five runner-ups in each of the categories will then compete for 1st and 2nd place on Sunday, Aug. 18th at the Coliseum.

Our next newsletter, July 1st, comes out a month and a half before the meet and will contain complete information on the program and the competitions to be held.

An advance registration form and information sheet may be obtained by writing to Paul Fox, 983 E. Center St. Marion, Ohio 43302. A self addressed stamped envelope will be appreciated.

UNICYCLE ROCKATHON - JUNE 15, 1974

The annual Rockathon of the Paul Fox Unicycle Club Inc. will be held at 10 AM on Saturday, June 15th at the Marion Plaza Shopping Center, Marion Ohio. All unicyclists are welcome. Six trophies will be awarded, three each for 11yrs and under and 12 yrs and older. In last years Rockathon John Foreman, age 15 rocked for 5 hrs, 5 min. followed closely by Cathy Fox, age 13 who rocked on her uni for 5 hrs, 2 minutes.

Pontiac Unicyclists announce opening of season practices - all unicyclists welcome
Weekly practice sessions are held Sundays, 2 PM Pontiac Mall Parking Lot, Pontiac, Mich.

The Gateway Regional High School Unicycle Club, Huntington, Mass. 01050, organized last year by Percy John Hill is holding their second annual Marathon on May 18, 19, 20, 1974. Purpose of the marathon is to raise money for Learning Disabilities. Last year they held a 10 mile marathon and 11 students and 3 adults participated. This year it will be a 10 1/2 mile marathon with over 40 participants.

Don Boyles of Guinness Book of Records fame (He skydived off the world's highest bridge in 1970) has given up skydiving and become an ardent unicyclist. Not only has he taught his wife and four children but has donated a unicycle to the local school and it looks like Tulsa, Oklahoma will have quite a group of unicyclists before long.

Goran Lundstrom of Solna, Sweden, whose 56" wheel unicycle was mentioned in last issue sent your editor a photo of his Pedoped, or walking machine. Its a giraffe uni with manikin legs that walk instead of roll. Its a paradox to see such a masculine figure pedaling above and such feminine legs walking below. Perhaps we can get Goran to send us a little clearer picture that we can reproduce in a future newsletter. It appears to be a very clever yet simple walking machine and others might like to try their hand at constructing something similar.

Rose Schultz, Phys Ed. Teacher at Walsh Jr. High in Ottumwa, Iowa writes that the unicycling which is part of their exploratory 45 Min. a day program for students is rapidly catching on. At present they have about 20 students who can ride. They are looking forward to public appearances and their first will probably be this spring when they will provide audience with entertainment before, and during the intermission, of a circus play being put on by the Drama Dept. What a neat idea for correlating the school's Drama and Physical Education Departments.

Father Moran's "Crazywheels" unicyclists of Newbury, Ohio appeared in the Cotton Bowl parade this past January and director Pete Hangach must have been very pleased with the amount of time the TV cameraman focused on them. The weather was bitter cold but the boys and girls didn't let that bother them and rode their spectacular 10' and higher giraffes beautifully.

Just learned that the outstanding young unicyclists appearing on national TV recently during half time of basketball game from Ohio were some of Dick Morrow's boys and girls from the Worthington Estates School, Worthington, Ohio. Their performance was quite impressive especially their riding up and down teeter boards on their giraffes.

We received just two questions for our Ques. and Ans. Dept this issue. They were general inquiries as to "What else can we do on our unis" and "Have any girls ridden long distances". In answer to the first we simply refer you to pages 7 & 8. In regard to distance riding: Jacquie Douglas of Newport Beach, Calif. received considerable news media coverage when she rode her uni from Costa Mesa to Cambria, a distance of about 250 miles in July 1970. Her destination was actually San Francisco (500 miles) but the Highway Patrol finally talked her out of riding any further on such a busy highway. The Edmonton Journal of May 28, 1973 carried a darling picture of barefoot 12 yr old Donna Betton of Fort Saskatchewan as she completed a 20 mile ride on her unicycle during a Bike-A-Peal marathon to raise money for the Evelyn Unger school which provides help for children with learning handicaps. Incidentally Cathy Fox rocking on her uni for 5 hrs and 2 min. as noted on pg 3 was no simple feat either.

Maureen Herron of Jenack Cyclists, Westbury, New York, recently mastered climbing on her six foot giraffe unicycle without the use of any curb or props and is quite elated.

To become a truly outstanding unicyclist early mastery of two things in particular will serve as catalysts and enable one to make exceptional progress. As mentioned in closing paragraphs of this department in the January issue the first is: Mastering The Solo Climb-On. It stands to reason if a beginner can climb on his unicycle readily without a helper or external aids, and do it consistently without a miss, he will have that much more time to devote to learning other things. Picture the beginner who, riding in a parade, falls off and has to run over to a curb or have someone help him remount before he can continue. This would be unnecessary had he practiced the proper climb-on each time he mounted the cycle while learning to ride. Ordinarily this skill can be mastered the second day, by a beginner, and often times he will have the climb-on completely mastered before he has fully mastered straight riding. In group riding if there is to be any semblance of smoothness in a performance it is imperative that riders possess this skill. For those who may have missed the Jan. issue here is a reprint of the paragraph on learning the proper climb-on.

"As soon as you find you can get along with just one helper, practice climbing on each time without the use of a curb. To do this place one foot on the pedal at bottom, step up onto the other pedal and draw it back one third to one half a revolution, straighten up and 'freeze' in this position and allow your helper to put you on balance. If you do this each time you climb on you will have it mastered by time you solo and your future progress will be extremely fast as you won't waste time trying to mount".

The second key to becoming an outstanding unicyclist in a hurry is to master riding backwards before you pick up any bad balancing habits from only riding forward all the time. Think for a moment about a unicyclist who, while riding very slowly, suddenly finds himself off balance to the rear and to the right. If he only knows how to ride forward he will switch his hips violently to the right 100 degrees or more, and ride in that direction to pick up his balance. Were he adept at riding backwards he would have instinctively switched his hips the opposite direction just a few degrees and pedaled backwards just a few inches to achieve balance. This latter maneuver is actually what occurs when an experienced unicyclist rocks back and forth in place and maintains his balance. You may say: "Fine, but how does one go about learning to ride a unicycle backwards". There are several fun ways of accomplishing this and by trying one or all of them the beginner will soon find it isn't near as difficult as he anticipated. Once again posture is all important and it is well to avoid the bent-over-forward position and strive to sit up straight. Speed is not the answer either so take it easy. In addition always try to have any helpers hand at side, not in front, so it will not inhibit the feel for the forward-back balance which is to be learned.

One fun way of tackling the backward riding is to ride along side by side holding hands with another unicyclist. Both stop, and without dismounting, take a half turn of their pedals backward, then resume riding forward again. After doing this a few times a full turn backward is tried before resuming the forward riding. Soon it will be found the riders can pedal backwards for considerable distances together. They can then let go of each others hands momentarily for longer and longer periods until they are fully confident and can ride backwards by themselves. The side by side support given each other in this method enables the riders to concentrate more on the forward-back balance and hastens the learning by eliminating a lot of unnecessary falling off while learning. If the riders will continually remind each other of posture and strive to sit up straight it will also speed up the learning process.

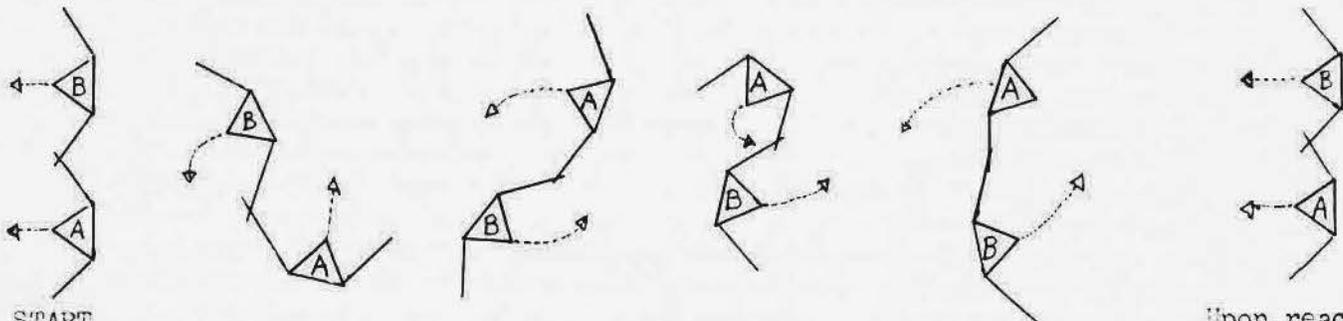
A second fun way to learn to ride backwards is a solo method and consists of riding along a wall or fence (preferably one you can't get your fingers caught IN or ON). As you ride slowly along the wall reach out and touch it and let the pressure of your hand on the wall turn you 180 degrees so you are facing the other way. Now use other hand against the wall to steady you while you back pedal a half revolution of the pedals. Then ride forward in the other direction and repeat using opposite hand and turning in the opposite direction next time. Increase the back pedaling to a full revolution of

the pedals and try to depend on the wall as little as possible for balance. You will soon find you have it mastered and no longer need the wall at all.

A third way that works out very well after practicing #2 above is to ride along side by side with another unicyclist. If the rider on the left will then speed up slightly and cut diagonally across in front of the other, take right hand in right hand, and, as his left pedal goes down make a half turn (180 degree) to right and immediately start pedaling backwards he will find his partner is in a very good position to give him support as he continues to ride backwards while his partner rides forward. There is a neat way of coming out of such a maneuver once skill has been gained in riding backwards and it will be discussed in the next issue. For the present it is suggested that after a few pedals in one direction the partners both stop in place without dismounting and then let opposite rider take a turn at pedaling backwards. This can be real fun and looked upon as a form of Jousting or Indian Wrestling.

NEAT MANEUVERS

In the last issue we described an Under-Arm-Turn-For-Two which makes a neat way for a couple to reverse direction smoothly and in a minimum of time. If this is followed immediately by a Left-Hand-Around and then one of the partners swings in making a left hand turn, changes hands with other partner and pedals backward while other rider continues forward the resulting maneuver is beautiful to behold and very professional looking. When the two riders reach the heading appropriate to come out of the maneuver the one riding backwards simply stops and starts riding forward and they proceed side by side. Below is a series of sketches depicting the maneuver from start to finish.



START
 Side by side Riding Fwd. 'A' swaps hands & cuts behind
 They do a L. H. Around
 'A' swings in, swaps hands
 They rotate 'A' Bkwd, 'B' Fwd
 Upon reaching desired heading both ride Fwd.

The above sequence makes a neat maneuver for stage use and if done immediately after an Under-Arm-Turn-For-Two will result in a truly professional looking act. Try it.

NOTE: One of the secrets of performing smooth turning maneuvers with a partner is to always maintain a little pull against each other as turns are being made. Another way of saying it is: "Lean slightly away from each other, not towards each other". This constant pull gives you a source of give and take energy from which you can add or subtract as needed to accomplish what appears to the audience to be perfect execution of a maneuver. If the slight pull is not maintained you will find yourself staggering through the maneuver and it will appear ragged to the audience. Therefore in even simple Right or Left-Hand-Around maneuvers if you will sit up straight and maintain a slight pull on partner you will find it not only looks better but feels better. Sitting up straight also enables you to make smooth pivots and spins as your back porch is not sticking out and giving you momentum problems.

We'll have more neat maneuvers and riding hints in the next issue. If you have a pet maneuver you'd like to share with others send it in.

This being the April 1st issue we would probably be considered remiss if we did not include something like the following (taken from one of Claude Shannon's recent letters)

UNICYCLING REQUIREMENTS

Apprentice Unicyclist

To Qualify as an apprentice unicyclist, a candidate must mount a unicycle without assistance of person or object, ride 100 yds, make right and left turns and dismount gracefully, with the unicycle in front of him.

Journeyman Unicyclist

An apprentice unicyclist can qualify as a journeyman by satisfying the following:

1. He will mount, ride fwd, rock 25 times, ride fwd. and dismount gracefully
2. He will mount, ride fwd, ride backward 100 ft, ride fwd, and dismount gracefully
3. He will execute sharp 90 degree and 180 degree turns both left and right.

Master Unicyclist

A Journeyman can qualify as a master by satisfying the following requirements:

1. He will ride 100 ft carrying someone half his wt. or more on his shoulders.
2. He will rock ten times using one foot only
3. He will pick up 3" or smaller ball from ground while riding.
4. He will ride in, skip rope 20 times and ride off.
5. While rocking in place he will juggle 3 balls for 25 or more catches - no misses
6. He will mount giraffe of at least 3/4 his height without assistance of any kind.
7. He will execute 10 complete rocks on a giraffe.

Lord of The Wheel

A master can qualify as Lord Of The Wheel by satisfying the following requirements:

1. He will juggle 5 balls rocking 1 ft, on ice, spinning ring on other ft ala Boy Foy
2. He will ride a 50" or larger unicycle for a mile in 3 minutes or less.
3. He will ride "Ultimate Wheel" wheel with pedals but no fork or seat, for 100 ft.
4. He will mount giraffe via teeterboard executing back flip on way up.
5. He will do cup and saucer trick: While rocking on giraffe with one foot, toss cups and saucers to head with other foot, until he has five of each - followed by sugar cube and spoon.
6. He will ride unicycle 50 ft in handstand position on pedals.
7. He will ride motor uni up ramp, leap 2 Mack trucks, and land on second ramp
8. He will ride 100 ft on a 32 ft. giraffe.
9. He will ride uni across Niagara Falls on tightwire with assistant on shoulders.
10. He will streak across Boston Common on ten ft. giraffe at high noon.

These requirements first written several years ago (plus a few recent additions) were inspired by seeing my wife work her way thru requirements for Apprentice weaver, Journeyman, and Master weaver. It occurred to me a similar set might act as incentive for budding unicyclists to improve their proficiency. After writing the Master requirements I was carried away with idea of a super set of stunts and thus was born "Lord Of The Wheel".

The L.O.W. requirements may seem outrageous but I believe they are all within human capability. Thus Boy Foy, a fine juggling unicyclist, has been doing tricks similar to #1 for years. #2 should be possible since people have covered mile on Hi wheel bikes in 1:53 - Note also Floyd Crandall did a mile on 24" uni in 4:46 at Pontiac Meet. Doubling wheel size should greatly increase max. speed. My daughter Peggy does #3 easily and son Andy does something close to #4 - mounts his giraffe from trampoline (no flip yet). The Cup and saucer trick was done by a Ringling Bros. unicyclist. Bill Jenack tells me of a 1 legged unicyclist, "Professor" Anderson who could handstand ride among his other incredible stunts. With development of motorized uni and speeds of 25-30 MPH jumps are possible. Steve McPeak has done #8 and no doubt is capable of #9. #10 merely requires a little joie de vivre and a little speed.

Claude Shannon

From time to time I receive exceptionally interesting letters from unicyclists about the country. I've asked Mr. Charles Berry, an ardent unicyclist and retiree of Watsonville, Calif. if I might share with you, one page of his recent letter. Since, as the saying goes, "One Picture is worth a thousand words", I think you will find Charley's hastily drawn sketch good reading and possibly the answer to "What can I try next?"

Your Ed.

PARDON ART WORK -
COULD DO BETTER

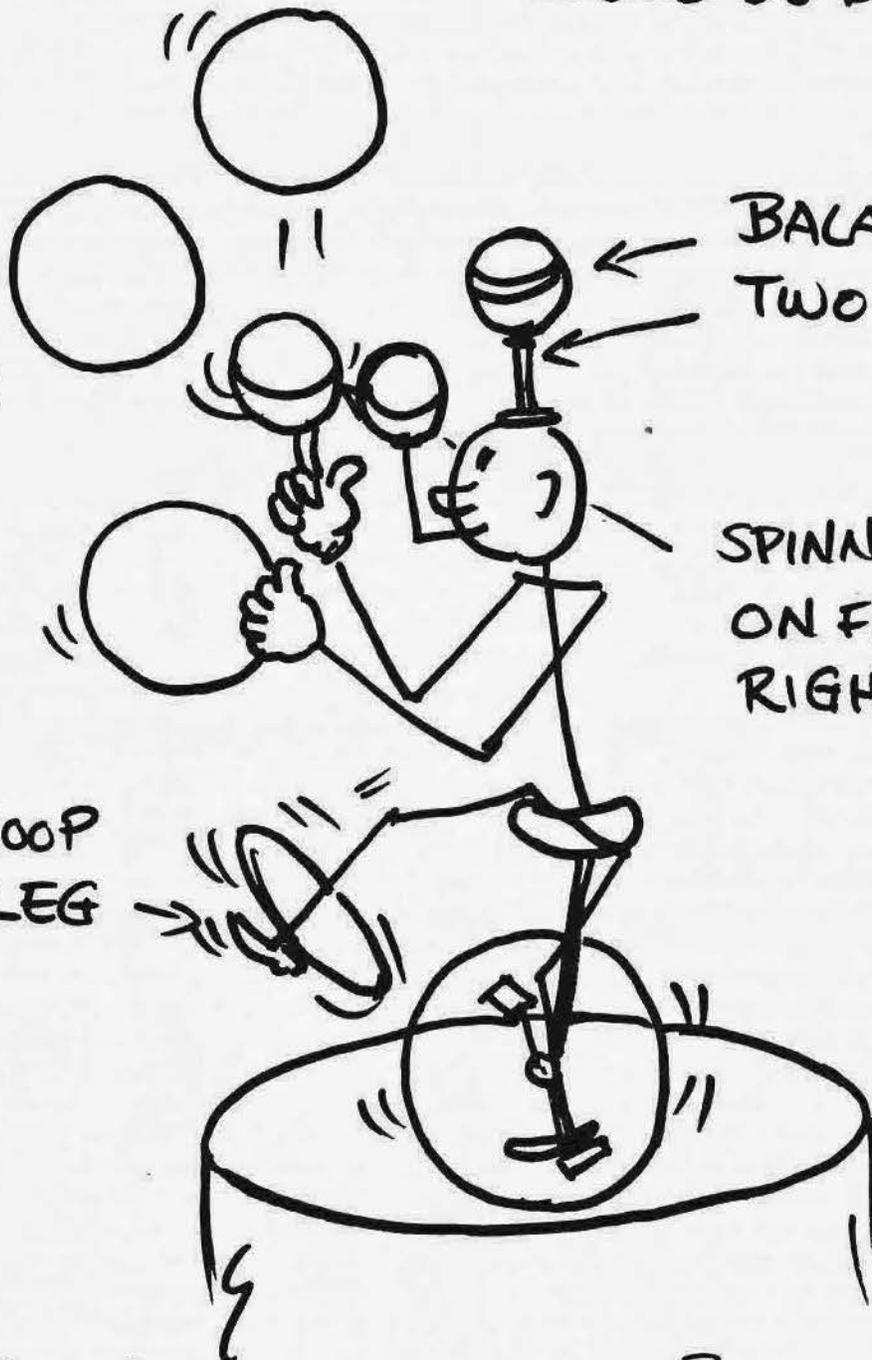
THREE
HOOPS WITH
LEFT HAND

BALANCING
TWO BALLS

SPINNING BALL
ON FINGER OF
RIGHT HAND -

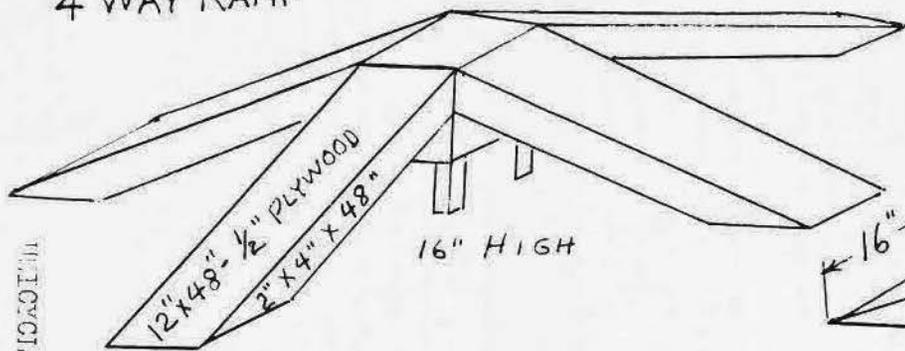
SPINNING HOOP
ON RIGHT LEG

THREE
FOOT TABLE

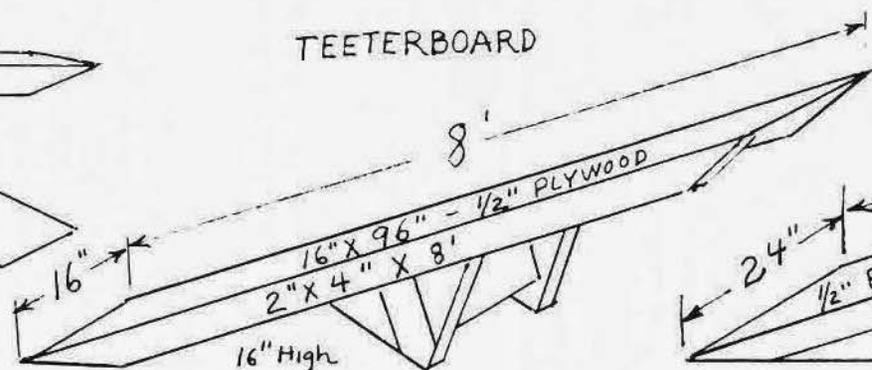


BILL DO YOU WATCH CIRCUS ON TV? THIS GUY WAS GOOD - CAN'T REMEMBER HIS NAME - THERE WAS ALSO A BICYCLE AND UNI GROUP - ABOUT EIGHT BOYS AND GIRLS - REAL GOOD - ONE GIRL SKIPPED ROPE ON UNI - C.E. BERRY

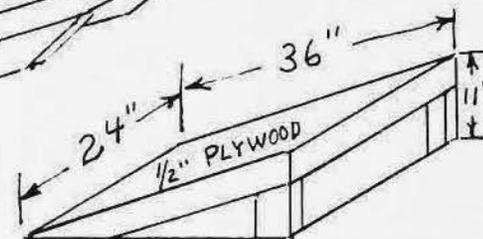
4 WAY RAMP



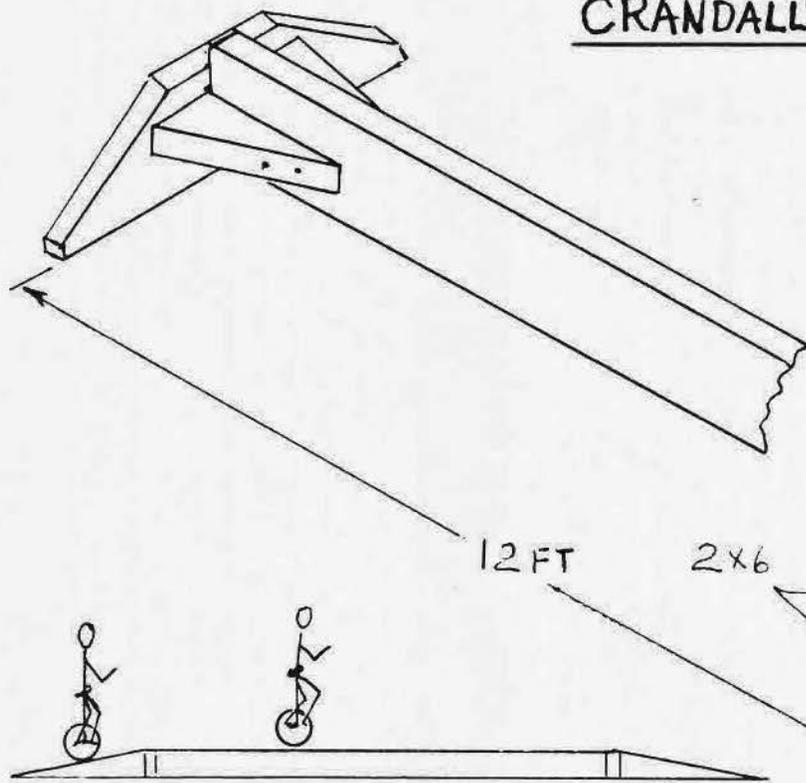
TEETERBOARD



JUMP RAMP



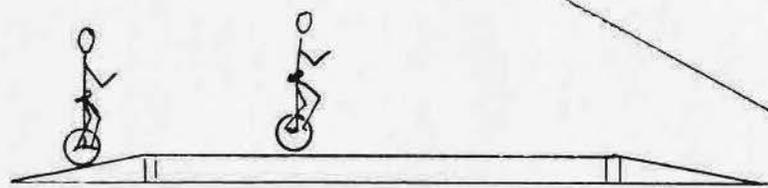
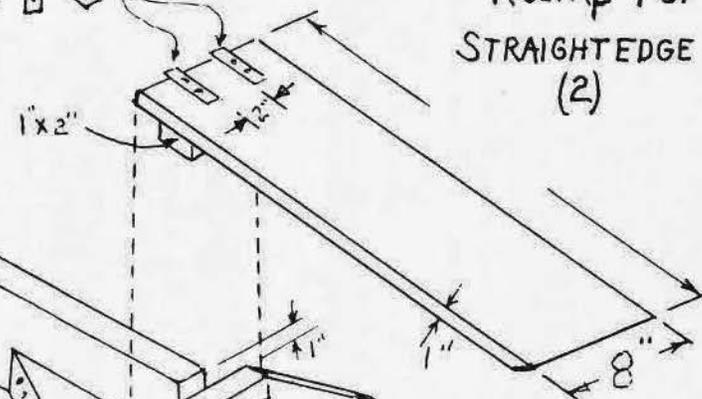
CRANDALL'S CONSTRUCTIONS



1/8" STRAP IRON



Ramp For STRAIGHTEDGE (2)



12 FOOT STRAIGHT EDGE

Unicyclists at the National Meet in Pontiac last summer liked the ramps and other props Bernie Crandall supplied so we asked him to submit a few sketches of them for the newsletter. They aren't necessarily to scale but the important dimensions are indicated and unicyclists should have little trouble duplicating them. Our thanks to Bernie for supplying this information. Incidentally these props will be available for all to use at the 1974 meet.

Peggy Shannon, age 15, of Winchester, Mass. amazes people with her skill in riding the Ultimate Wheel. For those who aren't familiar with the U.W. it is simply a wheel with pedals, but no fork or saddle. There are only a few people who have mastered them and Peggy is to be congratulated on her outstanding achievement.

Liz Ruscsak, Director of St. Benedict's Elementary School "Happy Wheels" of Cleveland, Ohio sends the following account of their recent unicycling activity:

St. Benedict's "Happy Wheels" unicyclists performed in the 16th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Detroit, Michigan March 17, 1974. Forty children paraded in green and white costumes, made by the parents, to the applause of tens of thousands of Detroit area people.

The children ages 7-13 performed near perfectly as TV cameras zoomed in on them and flash bulbs popped everywhere. The appearance and ability of "Happy Wheels" resulted in their being awarded the 1st prize trophy for novelty units, of which there were many in the massive parade.

Many volunteer adults have sacrificed to help the children. They are: Liz (director) and Rich Ruscsak, Chuck and Lois St. John, Jim Telepak, Donna Skvarenina, Mike Palumbo, Eileen Wagoner, Sister Mary Doreen and Sister Mary Bernice, all ardent believers in the Unicycle program.

Keith McWilliams, President of the Pitt Unicycle Club, University of Pittsburg, reports that they are a growing enterprise with a great future potential. They are now in their third year and were happy to learn of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc.

* * * * *

As mentioned in the Jan. issue, aside from each issue's feature write-up we plan to include paragraphs on two or more other cyclists or clubs. Here are stories on two outstanding young peoples circuses and their activities:

HAMILTON MINI CIRCUS

As this issue goes to press the Hamilton Mini Circus of Hamilton, Ohio, Publicized as "The Greatest Little Show Anywhere" is putting on their 4th annual performance under the direction of Jim Smith who incidentally is one of the founders of our organization. He is ably assisted by Miss Lynn Hoffman and a group of parents and backers known as "The Sawdusters". The performers themselves are boys and girls of the elementary schools of Hamilton, Ohio who have put in many after-school-hours to perfect a truly outstanding circus act including just about every phase of circus art except animal training. One of the arts they have mastered is unicycling. They ride their 10' units, built by Jim Smith, up and down teeterboards, through intricate maneuvers, and carry gymnastic equipment upon which other boys and girls perform. March 28,29,30 were the scheduled annual performance this year and it is hoped the last minute notices sent out with newsletters mailed after Jan 22 enabled some of our readers to take in one of their performances.

THE GREAT Y CIRCUS

The Great Y Circus Unicyclists, Redlands California, have been organized for 4 yrs as one act in the oldest community circus in the world by circus director Warren G. Wood. They now number over two dozen and will be part of the 36th annual show which plays the second and third weekends in May. In addition to trick formations, the unicyclists ride giraffes, unusual unicycles, Perform on low and high ramps and stairs, teeterboards, & ride over narrow beams. The Great Y Circus also presents all standard circus acts except those with animals - Webs, hanging perch, balance perch, Roly Poly, bike pyramids, teeterboard, double trapeze, side by side trapeze, multiple trapeze, ladders, Arab tumbling, tight wire, loop-the-loop, hand balancing, trampoline, cloud swing, shoot-through-ladder, juggling, plate spinning, etc. The group is anxious and willing to share ideas on unicycling and circus skills. Their cyclists now juggle balls, hoops and pins.

This interesting sketch and the accompanying note submitted by one of our members so fascinated me that I simply had to include it in this issue.

I too saw them perform this walk-on trick and would sure like to know how in the world they got the kid up there and ready to go offstage.

Here's Ken's note:

In December of 1972, in Chicago, I saw a performance of the Shenyang Acrobatic Troupe of The People's Republic of China and in their show they did a very nice unicycling trick. A male performer walked on the stage holding a parasol above his head. On top of the parasol there was a small boy on a unicycle . . . riding. As the boy pedaled, the parasol turned, therefore the boy and unicycle stayed in one place even though the unicycle wheel was turning. It was really a very nice trick.

Ken Bengé

Editor's Note:

Thanks Ken for sending this most interesting sketch and description of the act.

I hope our readers are as fascinated by it as I was. BJ

EDITOR'S NOTE:

As we bring this second issue of the newsletter to a close we would like to remind you once again that this is your newsletter and we would like to include what is of most interest to the majority of readers and consistent with the aims of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. which stated again are:

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.



Your suggestions on what to include in future issues and how to improve the newsletter in general will be most welcome. One of the biggest problems in editing is deciding which items to include in the limited space of 12 pages. As you may notice this issue makes use of the formerly unused half of the back page.

I would like to thank the many contributors who sent in items of interest for this issue. In addition I would like to thank the Herron sisters of Westbury, N.Y. for their help in collating and getting the letter ready for the mail. To my son John, age 17, I would like to say thanks for proofreading and correcting some of the most flagrant of my errors in grammar.

Your Editor,

Bill Jenack

