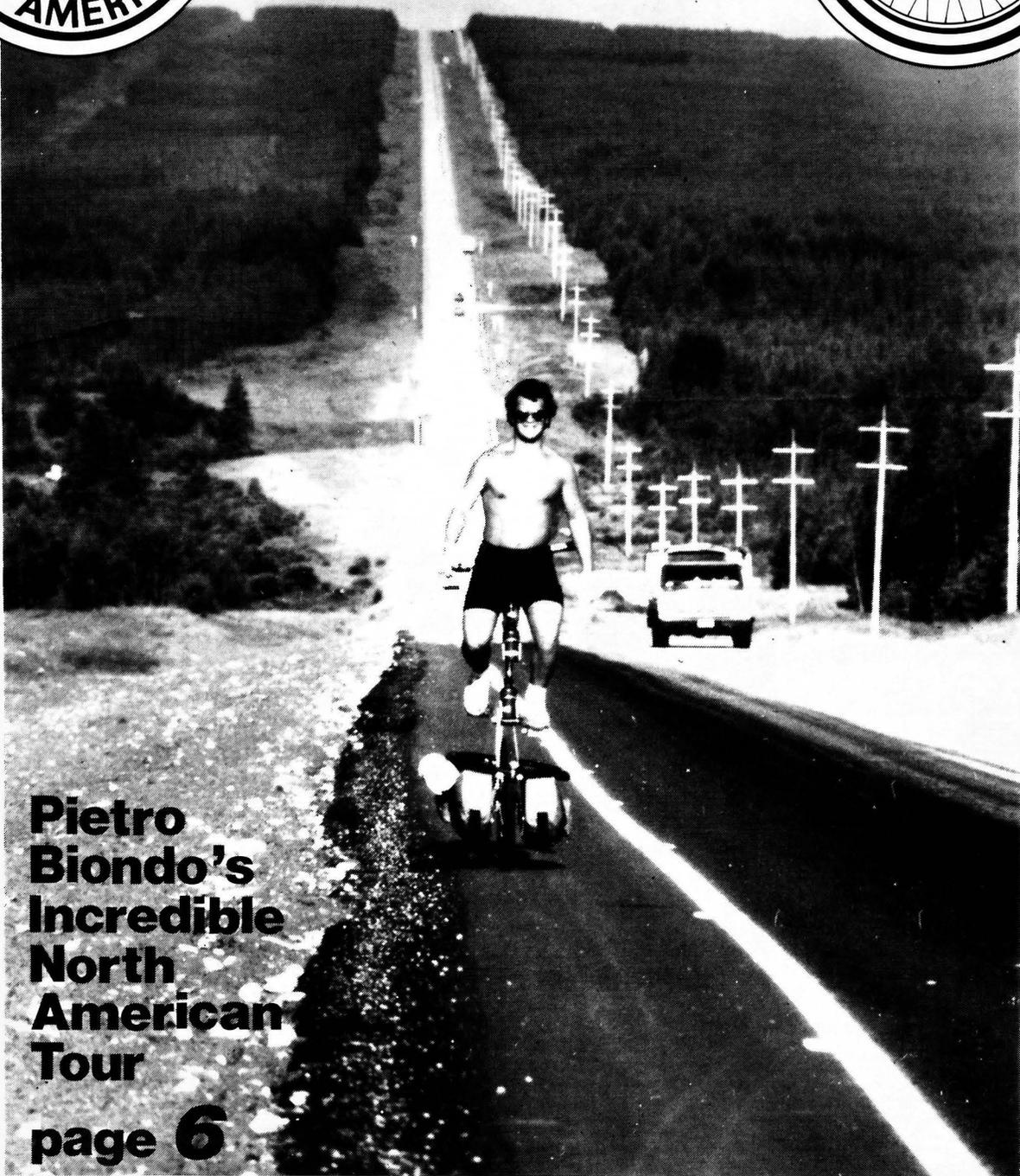


Official publication of the Unicycling Society of America...

# ON ONE WHEEL

Volume 11 No. 1 Winter 1984

Quarterly



**Pietro  
Biondo's  
Incredible  
North  
American  
Tour**

**page 6**

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Send news about yourself, your club, or any other news or articles to be published in the newsletter to:

Unicycling Society of America, Inc.  
ON ONE WHEEL  
P.O. Box 40534  
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Send membership inquiries, book and merchandise orders, etc., to:

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**UNICYCLE HOTLINES:** Call these people for up-to-date information on unicycle news, and the upcoming National Unicycle meet.

JAN LAYNE (OH) 419-422-8959  
OR JOHN FOSS (MI) 313-476-0507

or write to:

JAN LAYNE  
303 E. Lincoln St.  
Findlay, OH 45840

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We are not responsible for articles and pictures unless accompanied by a request for their return and a self-addressed stamped envelope. Please include same with any inquiries requiring an answer.

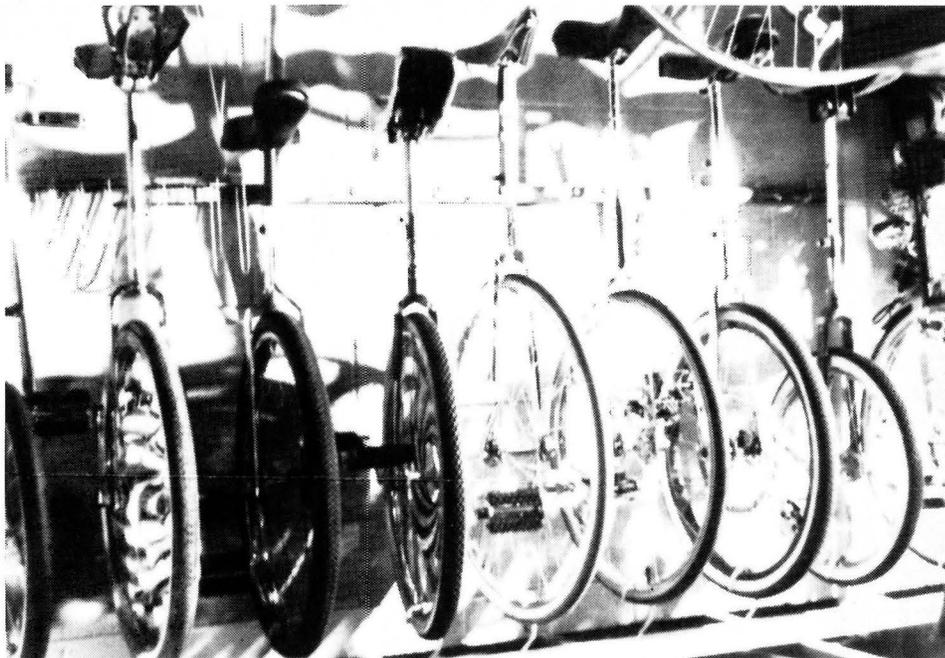
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# the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. Aims:

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.



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"A PLEA FROM YOUR TREASURER, WHO HANDLES MEMBERSHIPS...

For the first time, newsletter address labels have been printed by computer. Your USA membership No. is listed beside your name. Please verify your name, membership No. & address for any errors. If you find an error, kindly notify us at once so this may be corrected. If you move, please send us your change of address so you will not miss any mailings of 'ON ONE WHEEL'.

Those whose membership/subscription expires with this issue will note that information stamped on the label as 'Jan. X 1984'. Renew today!!!

Thanks, USA Treas., Barb Marquart"

ED Note: Barb has been working endless hours preparing address labels and bringing our roster up to date. A big 'THANK YOU' is certainly in store for her. Please remember that duties of the officers in this Society are large at times and no salary compensation is involved.

USA MEMBERSHIP LISTINGS

Since the National Meet which was staged in Syracuse, NY the number of new members who have been subscribing to our newsletter has steadily increased at a rate of approximately one new member a day. This is a great happening. Majority of the new people are persons who reside outside of the Midwest states. Perhaps our past President **KEN FUCHS** did make a good choice in having the National Unicycle Meet staged outside the Midwest states after a period of several years of the event being staged in that area. In answer to the question on our membership application for regarding where various people heard of our organization, there are numerous sources given. Many indicate names of our members, which is a clue that each of us is beginning to tell other unicyclists of our group. Other sources of information include various newspaper articles and other news sources. There is a continual response of people requesting information about unicycling. These people are sent a prospectus, and an order blank, plus other information and/or comments as necessary. It would be of great aid if these inquiries would send a self addressed envelope with a stamp attached. This would aid in the postal expense required to return information. If anyone is aware of people writing about our Society and they wish to include our address, please inform them that a S.A.S.E. would be greatly appreciated for anyone who may wish to write us for information.

There is a minor indication that a few memberships are not being renewed. In some cases it may be possible that a membership is lapsing from a listing that was initially fostered from a member who had given the first subscription as a gift. It may be wise for each of us to check such matters from time to time as our records may not indicate who the lapse notice of membership should be addressed to. The practice is for us to place a note in the newsletter as it is mailed as an aid to save on the postal charge.

A great number of members are now responding to renew their memberships for several years in advance. Others are ordering books as they renew their subscriptions. They are beginning to realize that our annual charge is very low in comparison to other groups and can receive a book at minimum charge to pass on to others. Still other people continue to add a few dollars to the cost of their dues each year as an aid for the Society to help spread the word of unicycling to other people. It is indeed a good feeling to know that our members are responsive and aiding in our group to keep low membership costs possible for those who are in need of the low annual fee to continue their membership in our organization. Other people are sharing their newsletter with groups or unicycle riders where each and every rider cannot become a member because of the cost to belong.

AH

SPRING UNICYCLE MEET

The Athens Unicycling Society from Athens, Ohio, has scheduled a unicycle meet for May 12 & 13, to be held in conjunction with the 2nd Annual Athens Art & Crafts Fair. The meet will consist of racing and artistic riding events. There were over 5000 people attending the Art & Crafts Fair last year, reports USAm **FLOYD BEATTIE**, who is the organizer, so there should be plenty of chance to show unicycling to the general public! The details are still being worked on. For more information, write to **FLOYD BEATTIE**, 7 N. Congress, Athens, OH 45701.

And in July....

1984 NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET - FINDLAY, OHIO

Jan Layne, current President of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. and Director for the 1984 National Unicycle meet has been hard at work planning the magic weekend. The event will be held on The Findlay College Campus, Findlay, Ohio on the week end of July 20, 21, and 22, 1984. The dormitories, track, and gym are all in a very close area. A tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Friday evening - July 20 - registration, room assignments, get acquainted, unicycling, swimming, etc.

Saturday - July 21 - opening ceremonies, all races, parade competition - outdoor track - Findlay College. Awards - Gym, Findlay College, U.S.A., Inc. Meeting.

Sunday - July 22 - Sunrise service, all Artistic Riding competition and awards - Gym, Findlay College.

The racing track is an outdoor track. In case of rain on Saturday the races will be on Sunday and the Artistic riding competition will be on Sat. There is no seating available at the track, so you might want to bring a lawn chair.

The gym floor where the artistic riding will compete is a large rubber surface, with plenty of seating available in the gym.

1984 NUM T-SHIRT CONTEST

All interested U.S.A., Inc. members are invited to submit a design for the 1984 NUM T-Shirt. The design may be for the front or back or both.

An impartial committee will choose the winning design. The person whose shirt is chosen will receive a free shirt. Please submit your design before April 1, 1984. Address:

Jan Layne  
303 E. Lincoln Street  
Findlay, OH 45840

More details and registration forms will be in the Spring issue of ON ONE WHEEL!

Wait, there's more!....

## INTERNATIONAL UNICYCLE CONVENTION, JULY 27-29

1983 USA President KENNETH FUCHS has taken on the task of organizing the World's first International Unicycle Convention. It will be the weekend following the National Unicycle Meet, and will be taking place at Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York. All unicyclists are invited! Cost for the event will be similar to that of the 1983 NUM, which was held in the same facility.

Events will include races, including a 100 meter sprint for the Guinness book, artistic riding events, workshops, and more. The artistic riders will be vying for the first unicycling World Championships. Riders of all levels are encouraged to participate. The event will involve two separate performances by the riders. The first, a preliminary or compulsory, will involve just the rider and on regular unicycle, performing tricks for points. Here the riders will be judged mainly on their riding skill. The second part will be very similar to the Open Class riding at the NUM's. Riders will perform with music, costume, and any props and unicycles desired. Here they will be judged on their showmanship, choreography, timing, ability to interpret a theme into the unicycle performance, etc. Artistic riding by couples and groups (more than two unicyclists) will be performed as well.

A large public show is planned as well, and it is hoped that the nation will have its eyes turned to Syracuse to witness the goings on! All details are still in the planning stage, and anyone that would like to help out with the organizing and planning, or just be there, is encouraged to read the article below.

### HELP!!!

USAm and American IUF Representative KENNETH FUCHS needs your help in the planning and preparation of the International Unicycling Convention! If you would like to be involved with this event, which is sure to be a mark in unicycling history, you are urged to contact him soon. No special skills are necessary, just a love of unicycling. The IUF (International Unicycling Federation) has no official membership as of yet, and no large sums of money to draw on to get this convention going. Your help, whether it be financial or merely your time, will be most welcome. You can write or call Ken: KENNETH FUCHS, c/o Circus Education Specialists, 67 Lion Lane, Westbury, NY 11590. Phone (516) 334-2123. Note: Please send SASE.

### EASTERN ROUNDUP - AMHERST, MASS.

All the unicyclists and jugglers in the East are invited to return to the site of the 1979 IJA convention for three days of fun and excitement. The Amherst Mini-Convention will be April 6-8th on the Hampshire College campus in Amherst, Mass. The festivities will begin at 8:00 PM Friday and will continue non-stop until 10:00 PM Sunday. Registration is \$10.00 per person. Sleeping space has been arranged for those with sleeping bags. The convention this year will feature workshops and special events. Dealer inquiries for booth space are invited. For more information, contact: Carol or Dave at (203) 787-1399.

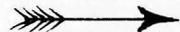
## UNICYCLE TOUR TO SYRACUSE

USAm DAVID GOLDMAN is itchin' to go on a long distance unicycle ride, and is inviting as many other unicyclists as possible to join him! The ride will be from Buffalo, NY to Syracuse, NY, a distance of about 150 miles. The ride will probably start Tuesday, after rest, recovery, and a drive up from the National Unicycle Meet in Findlay, Ohio. With some strength and stamina, they will make the distance in three days, arriving in Syracuse in time to recover some more as the International Unicycling Convention warms up. Can you imagine the sight of 5 to 10 unicyclists on the open road like Pietro Biondo on the cover of this issue? What a great publicity generator! You don't necessarily have to ride the whole distance, maybe you'd just like to ride the last leg of the journey on Thursday. David is open to suggestions, and he'd like to hear from you soon! Send SASE to DAVID GOLDMAN, 9318 N. Kildare, Skokie, IL 60076. Phone: (312) 677-6229.



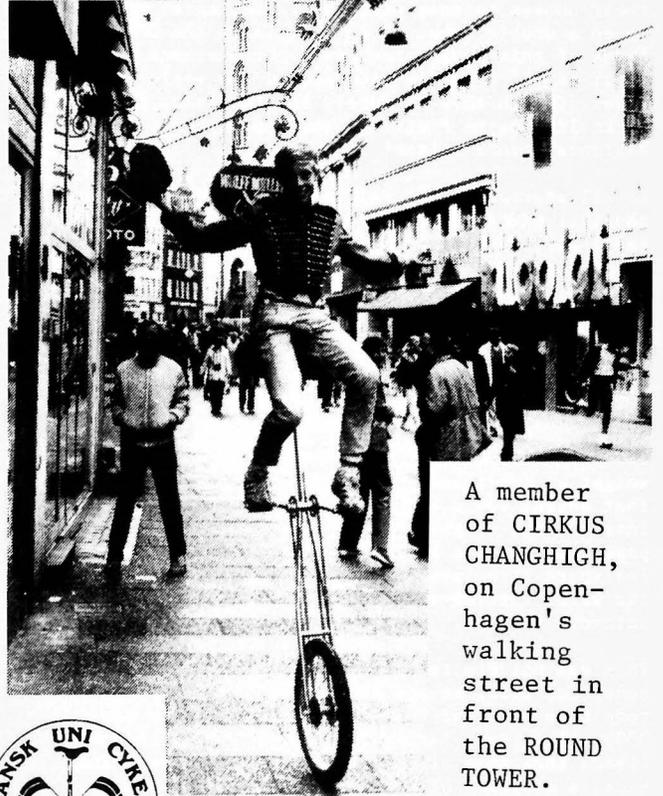
### IUF REPORT

The International Unicycling Federation is a concept that goes all the way back to USAm JACKIE WILEY's "The Unicycle Book"; even further back. It was an idea our founder, BILL JENACK had, even before he started the USA, Inc. But it was USAm JACK HALPERN, Executive Director of the Japan Unicycling Association who first pushed the idea in a big way, after a trip around the world to promote unicycling in 1980. He wrote a detailed proposal for the organization of IUF, and sent it to the prominent unicycle people of the world, and anyone else that wrote to him.



Of course the big news now is the upcoming International Unicycling Convention, which is hoped will be attended by everyone who can make it there after the National Unicycle Meet in Findlay, Ohio. The IUF declared itself officially alive on June 1, 1982, but is as of yet mainly a group of devoted unicyclists who would like to promote their sport on an International level. Almost all of the IUF people are USA, Inc. members, and the IUF's aims are quite similar to those of the USA, Inc.; the main change being "World", instead of "Country". The ultimate goal is that of elevating unicycling to the Olympics. This will not happen until unicycling is far more popular even than it is now, and to achieve this end we must all work to popularize unicycling in our own countries, and to help it get started where we can in others.

If IUF sounds interesting to you, as the structure of the organization forms there will be updates on progress in ON ONE WHEEL. If you'd like to get your name in now, try to make it to the IUF Convention this summer, and the National Unicycling Meet as well. Remember, these two events will not be merely the same event on two successive weekends, but quite different and individual. International unicyclists have always been welcome at the NUM, and this year will be no means be an exception! Hope to see you at both unicycling weekends! ♪



A member of CIRKUS CHANGHIGH, on Copenhagen's walking street in front of the ROUND TOWER.

You're invited!



inside of the spiral, all the way up. The racers ride up on the outside lane, turning 180° when they reach the top, and down on the inside. The central wall up the inside of the tower is a circle about 10 feet in diameter, and this gives an idea of how steep it is on the way down. But even though it is steep, it's impossible to let the unicycle go really fast, because the floor is paved with old bricks that get quite rough in places. As it goes over some of these bumps the tire jumps outward, and the rider has to keep steering inward even more. Current records for the Round Tower Ride are 2:05 for a boy, 16, with no falls, and 1:50 for a boy of 15 with one fall. Off the record, your Ed's time was 1:50 with no falls, and Jean Ascher's was 3:25, at age 39.

There will be more about JEAN ASCHER and his CIRKUS CHANGHIGH, and the now-118 member Danish Unicycle Union in the next issue of ON ONE WHEEL, when your Ed. tells of his visit there. ♪



# RUNDETÅRN

THE ROUND TOWER EVENT 1984: ALL UNICYCLISTS INVITED

USAm JEAN ASCHER, Chairman of the Danish Unicycle Union, invites all unicyclists from everywhere to come and join in the fun of the third annual Round Tower Event. It will be taking place the second of June, at the Round Tower in Copenhagen, and Jean can provide accomodation for 3 or 4 cyclists. There is an article about the first Round Tower event in the Winter 1983 issue of ON ONE WHEEL. The tower, which was built in 1642, is nothing but a round building with a spiral ramp up the inside. It goes around 8 times, raising more than 10 feet each time, and covering a distance of 210 meters up the center of the ramp (but seems farther). At the top is an old observatory, and nowadays tourists can walk up there for a small fee and view the city from one of its highest buildings.

The core of the event is a race up and down the tower. Age groups are 0-10, 11-16 and 17-UP. All cyclists, to add to the festive air, are required to wear some kind of costume as well. A line is drawn up the center of the spiral track to divide the UP and DOWN lanes, and another close to the inside wall to mark a division between the competitors and spectators & judges that stand along the

## PIETRO BIONDO RETURNS FROM HIS 12,193 MILE UNICYCLE RIDE

On November 7, USAm PIETRO BIONDO returned to his home in Montreal after 15 months on the road and 12,193 miles around North America on his home-built unicycle. That day he met all his family and friends he hadn't seen since July 25th, 1982, and they were surely a welcome sight for him!

Your Ed. enjoyed the wire service article about Pietro that began: "passing motorists gawk. People run from their houses to snap pictures. Even stray dogs seem to do a double take..." An article in the Oct. 1978 issue of this Newsletter gives the distance of USAm WALLY WATTS' unicycle ride around the world as 12,000 miles. Though this is surely not the exact figure, it looks like maybe Pietro is the new unicycle long-distance record holder!

It all started in the Fall of 1980 when Pietro, a physical education major at the University of Quebec, saw a girl waiting for a stoplight on a unicycle as he rode past on the bus. "I have to try this" he thought. And try he did. After three weeks he had the unicycle mastered. "It was so much fun...Freedom," he said, "I said to myself, I have to do a trip."

He spent a year designing his unicycle and three months building it, and as you can see on the cover photo, he did a super job of adapting the unicycle for long-distance travel. He put as little baggage weight as possible on his own body, because all of that weight would bear down on the saddle with him. Instead, the weight is as close to the ground as possible, to make the cycle as stable as can be. The spare tire lays on top of the saddle bags, and two water bottles complete the image of the serious unicycle tourist.

This was not Pietro's first long ride. For their honeymoon trip, he and his wife, DIANE CHAGNON, rode from Montreal to Vancouver, a distance of 3500 miles, on a tandem (bicycle). The next summer (1980) they rode all the way to San Francisco and back, a distance of 5500 miles! They enjoyed it so much that Pietro was feeling a bit depressed the following Fall, and that's why unicycling captivated him so much.

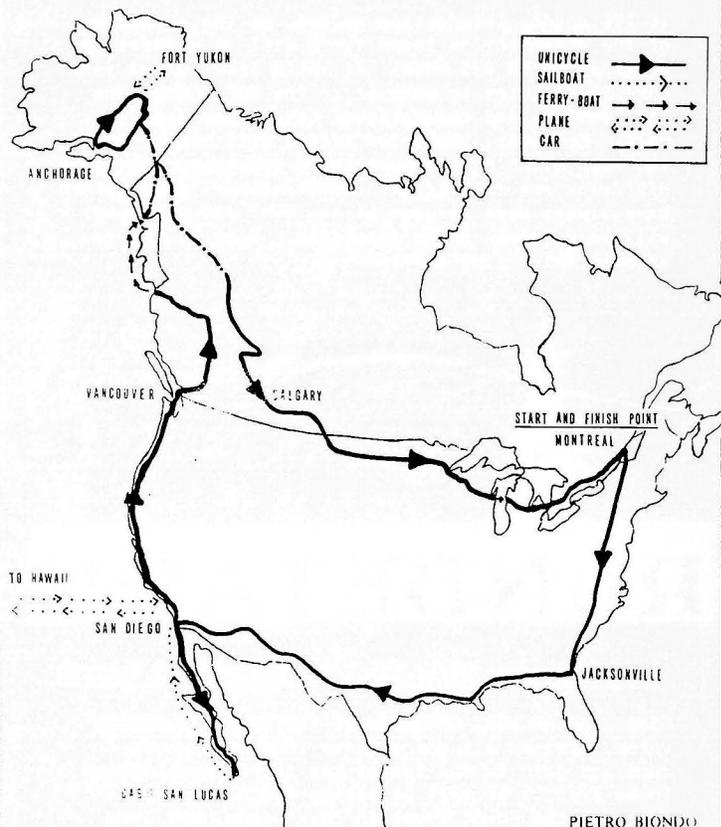
Pietro taught unicycling and juggling at Maisonneuve College and the University of Quebec for four sessions. In the Summer of '81, he began to think about making a trip on a unicycle: TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT. He and a friend built the unicycle, with special racks to hold the saddle bags, which were made by Diane. He also carried a waistbag containing his camera, glasses, maps, etc.

On July 25, 1982 he left Montreal, with \$6000 dollars in travelers checks in his pocket, and one wheel on the ground. He was in Florida in Sept., California in Dec. (When he rode through Mobile Alabama, USAm SETH GRANBERRY was able to meet him and get his address; this is how we first got in touch with him), Baja, California in January and February, came back to San Diego on a private sailboat, and followed the West Coast to Los Angeles where he took a plane to Hawaii. He rode the Big Island Circle in Hawaii before flying back to L.A., continued north to Vancouver in Spring, rode the Fraser Valley, and was in Prince Rupert at the end of June. Pietro then rode the ferry to Haines, Alaska, rode all of the Alaskan circle starting at Delta Junction, passing through Anchorage and Fairbanks and back to Delta Junction, and on to Dawson Creek (B.C.). From Dawson Creek he rode through Jasper and Banff National

Parks in August. He reached Duluth, Minn, on the western edge of Lake Superior, in September. He crossed Michigan and returned to Canada through Port Huron, finishing the last legs of his trip in the gathering cold, to arrive home on November 7.

To ensure a safe night's sleep, he would pick a house, knock on the door and ask if he could pitch his tent in the back yard. "People are wonderful; they always say 'yes'," he said. "If they don't want me, I go next door. On rainy days, he rode into small towns and asked for the Mayor. No mayor turned down his request for a spot to sleep on the firehouse floor, he said.

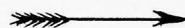
## UNICYCLE TRIP



Pietro found cycling along the shoulders to be quite safe, partially because most people were so amazed to see him, they would slow down to get a better look. One of his main problems was to find the tires to fit his small wheel (looks like 24"). He used a total of 21 on the trip, and always carried a spare.

The best part of the trip, he said, was meeting new people. "The scenery is good, but the main thing is the people. It would take 20 years of regular life to meet all those people."

After returning home, Pietro's plans are to write a book about his trip and to try to find sponsors, especially for the technical equipment he will have to buy in order to make a slide show and a video of his adventures. If you think you can help him on this venture, interested sponsors, ideas..Please let him know; he'd be more than grateful.



Pietro Biondo and Diane Chagnon  
542 Aylwin  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H1W 3B4

Ed's Note: Many thanks to Diane Chagnon, wife of Pietro, for sending the materials that made this article possible, and the gorgeous photo that helped to make the cover of this issue our best ever! ☺

#### UNICYCLIST FROM INDIA TO CROSS THE U.S. THIS SUMMER

##### SHRI. ADI BALBHIM VYAYAM SHALA, SANGLI, INDIA

Shri. Adi Balbhim Vyayam Shala, Sangli (Maharashtra), founded 1913, has contributed greatly to the cause of physical education and physical culture in this part of Maharashtra. The institution has pioneered various new projects and organized physical culture feasts and activities all through its long and illustrious career.

Shri. Dipak Shivaram Lele is an outstanding member athlete of this Vyayam Shala and has already made a name for his prowess in Mallakhamb. For the last few years, he has been performing feats on a monocycle. Essentially enterprising and adventurous by nature, Shri. Lele set out to perform endurance feats by going from place to place on his monocycle.

As a result, he covered the distance of two and a half miles (between Sangli and Haripur) in 45 minutes. He then went on to cover the seven miles between Sangli and Miraj in 60 minutes and followed it up with another performance of covering about nine miles between Sangli and Tung in 85 minutes. Last year he made news by going up and down the Khambatki-Ghat on the National Highway No. 4 near Satara riding his monocycle through the Zig-Zag Ghat for about six miles (4 miles up the Ghat, going up several hundred feet, and 2 miles down the Ghat) in a record time of 55 minutes. Various newspapers in Maharashtra carried the news and congratulated him on this creditable achievement and paid tribute to the adventurous spirit of youth displayed by Shri. Lele which was an example for adventure-loving youngsters.



USAm SHRI. DIPAK SHIVARAM LELE is planning a trip across the U.S. on his unicycle this summer

Enthused by these consecutive successes Shri. Dipak Lele realized his dream by achieving his precious goal of a 1000 mile journey on the monocycle. He set out for this unique solitary adventure on Jan. 20, 1982 and went through the heart of India crossing several states and performing very hard work of climbing and descending the curving ghats of 13 high mountains. He was accompanied by three friends on two wheeled cycles. This journey lasted for 40 days, meeting people of Indore, Dewas, Agra, etc. on the way and he arrived in Delhi on March 2, 1982 and heartily welcomed by many prominent social figures like MPS and Officials of various institutions. Honourable Vasant-Dada-Patil, now Chief Minister of Maharashtra was present and welcomed him.

Prime Minister Honourable Mrs. Indira Gandhi also incited him on March 4 and congratulated him for his adventurous journey.

He returned with great success to Pune (Maharashtra) on 7th March 1982. Many a newsman and representatives of reputed newspapers were present for his interview. Then came world wide articles, writing comments on this adventure on so many newspapers and magazines like Times of India, Sakal, Kesari, Kirloskar, Sadhana, Sports in U.S.S.R., Namaskar of Air India, etc.

When he arrived in Sangli (Maharashtra - His home town) thousands of people were present and garlanded him giving flowers and fruits.

He also was honored by his department where he is working. He is Junior Engineer in Public Health Department (Maharashtra State) Sangli Circle. Prominent Institutions welcoming him were City High School (His own secondary school), Walchand Engineering College, Sangli, Rotary Club, Lion Club, Vasant Vyakhyan Mala Sangli and Miraj (Series of Lectures in month of May), Mill Owners like Gajanan Weaving Mills, Miraj Spinning Mills, Sangli Municipality, Bank like Bank of Maharashtra, Sangli Bank, State Bank of India, Urban Co-Operative Bank and hundreds of local mandals.

Now he wishes to visit United States of America during the period of April 1984 to July 1984 and hopes to cover over 5000 miles distance from New York to Los Angeles.

His trip will take him through states of NY, PA, NJ, VA, TN, MO, TX, NM, AZ, CA.

We appeal to all men of good will to extend to him all necessary help and co-operation.

ED. NOTE - The above article was submitted to our Society by Rtn. Dr. Vijay Tuljapurkar who is the Secretary of Rotary Club of Miraj in India. We were also informed of Mr. Lele's tentative trip through the United States by Mr. S. K. Mangalmurti from Rockville, MD. Mr. Lele is now a paid member of our Society. We encourage members to welcome and aid Mr. Lele in his journey across the United States. We have a detailed course which Mr. Lele intends to follow and will send it to any member who is interested. Please enclose a SASE envelope for response. This is very necessary as we are not able to afford postage and expense if SASE is not enclosed with request. ☺

UNICYCLISTS AT THE  
INTERNATIONAL JUGGLERS CONVENTION

In 1983 the USA Inc. National Meet and the IJA Convention were held in the same state -- New York -- on consecutive weeks in July. This made it possible for many jugglers to attend the NUM, and for many unicyclists who also juggle to attend the IJA Con, a feat which had often been impossible in the past. In many ways unicyclists and jugglers alike benefited from this exchange.

With the exception of the Japanese competitors, all of unicyclists from other countries who were at the NUM also attended the IJA Con, and more than one third of the total NUM registrants did as well.

Unicycles were very visible at the convention, and USA President **KEN FUCHS** even managed to give two workshops on unicycling. The first was a beginner's session, in which the 60 or so spectators were shown how to select, adjust and ride their unicycles. The crowd responded very enthusiastically. USAm **ANDY D'ALLESANDRO** of "Andy's Odd Sports" had unicycles for sale, and sold a number of them to the workshop attendees who wanted to learn right then and there. The second session dealt with more advanced unicycling skills, such as one foot riding, riding with the saddle held to the front or rear of the rider, and walking the wheel. There were demonstrations by USAm's **WAYNE HAINES**, **PETER HOLMGREN** and **JOHN FOSS**. John performed his entire NUM competition piece with his costuming and music. The crowd of over 200 jugglers was thoroughly impressed by the unicycling skills presented, and membership prospectuses were handed out to everyone who was interested.

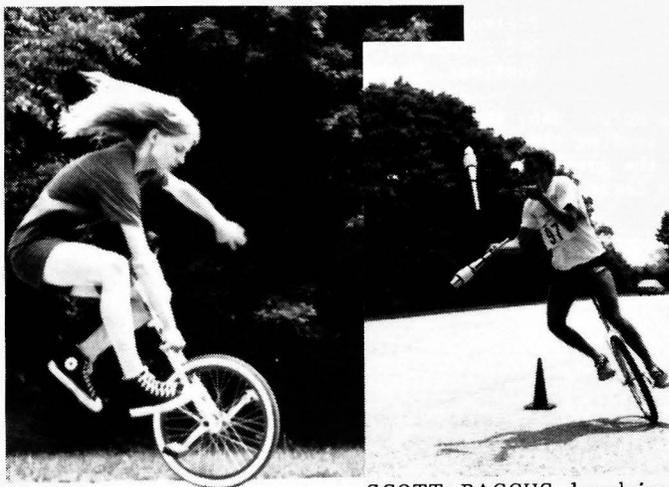
Many new USA members were signed up at the convention, including a re-subscription by **ANDY RUBEL**, one of our founding members. **DR. CLAUDE SHANNON**, also a founding member, was present and juggling. Other USA members in attendance included **JONATHAN SEGLINS**, **DEMETRIUS ALCARESE** (A seven ball juggler!), **RANDY JUDKINS** (who performed on his unicycle in the public show), and **MERYL SCHAFFER** (Managing Director of the **NO ELEPHANT CIRCUS**, a USA affiliated organization).

The IJA includes two unicycle events in its competitions: the unicycle juggling races. USA members took all of the honors in these events, and the results were as follows. The 100 meter race (juggling any three non-bouncing objects) was won by **JOHN FOSS** (17.67 secs.), 2nd place **SCOTT BACCUS** (18.32 secs.), 3rd place **SEM ABRAHAMS** (19.98 secs.). The 50 meter juggling race through an obstacle course involved zig-zagging through a number of cones to cross the finish line. 1st place went to **SEM ABRAHAMS** (18.60 secs.), 2nd Place (a tie) **BOB RICE & JOHN FOSS** (18.65 secs.). There were 15 entrants in each of the races.

When it came time for the jugglers to perform, the unicyclists put their cycles down and watched the action, enthralled like everyone else. It wasn't at all necessary to be a hardcore juggler to enjoy the convention, as there was plenty for all to see and do. There are also quite a few more people than at the NUM, over 600 jugglers in attendance this year! Next year's IJA convention will be at the Showboat Hotel, in Las Vegas, Nevada during the third week of July, 1984.

Unfortunately, due to independent planning groups, the NUM coincidentally falls into the same time period next year as the IJA convention. In future years, perhaps special provisions can be made by both organizations to coordinate the scheduling so people may attend both gatherings.

JF & JPJ



SCOTT BACCUS banking around the turn with 3 clubs a-flying!

HAKAN FURUSKAR of Sweden, demonstrating his "flying jump mount" for a NY TIMES photographer.



SCOTT BACCUS demonstrating yet another unorthodox way of riding a unicycle!



Juggling unicycle racers get ready to go.



Beginning Unicycling workshop conducted by USA President KEN FUCHS.



476 people juggling 1867 objects; a world record! Some jugglers in the rear are on giraffe unicycles.

BULK RATE POSTAGE!

As you may have noticed on your envelope, the USA, Inc. now has a bulk-rate mailing permit. This reduces our postage costs by about two-thirds, on domestic mailing. For this reason, we can no longer afford to send our overseas issues by air, because the great cost would be borne mainly by our domestic members. The extra \$2.00 foreign members pay for their subscriptions still pays for the surface mailing, which takes about six to eight weeks. If foreign members would like their issues of ON ONE WHEEL to continue to arrive by air, you can set up an airmail account with your membership by sending an additional \$6.00 (\$14.00 Total).

UNICYCLING ARTICLE TO APPEAR IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC WORLD MAGAZINE!

The popular children's magazine WORLD will be including an article about unicycling in their April 1984 issue. The story and pictures taken at our 1983 NUM in Syracuse, NY will be featured (many of you may remember New York photographer RANDA BISHOP taking thousands of pictures at the meet!). If you do not subscribe to this publication and are interested, the rates are currently \$8.95/USA and \$15.00/Canada (\$12.00 U.S.), and all other countries \$14.15 U.S. funds for twelve issues a year. This magazine is always filled with gorgeous, very colorful photos, and your Ed. can't wait to see the unicyclists!

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY  
Post Office Box 2330  
Washington, D.C. 20013

JEFF NAPIER'S ROCHESTER UNICYCLISTS (1978)

USAm JEFF NAPIER was pictured and mentioned in the Fall 1983 ON ONE WHEEL. At the NUM in Syracuse he rode an ultimate wheel, interestingly made in the shape of a corrugated steel cross. He also demonstrated a unicycle with two juggling torch wicks in the spokes, which he lit, and then rode outside at night at the same time he juggled three torches. As he rode, the effect was as if he was perched on a wheel of light; quite a spectacle!

At the International Juggler's Convention, he told your ED. an interesting story about a group of unicyclists he had started in his home town. His story is reproduced here just as he related it to your ED.'s tape recorder.

"This story is about 11 junk unicycles I built over the course of the Winter when I owned a bicycle shop about five years ago, and about 30 kids who lived in the neighborhood of the bike shop. It was not a good neighborhood, it was a neighborhood where kids run pretty wild on the streets, where most kids were smoking cigarettes by the age of 8 or 10, and whose parents were not good examples of the adult condition.

"As such, I decided that if I could interest the kids in something that would be a little better than mini-crimes and smoking grass, that it would be a good idea. So I had these unicycles I'd made of old bike parts I had laying around. I rode around on my unicycle, and this is what got the interest growing.

"As I rode around on my unicycle, just for my own purposes, the kids were always asking if they could try it, and wanted to know how it worked and everything like that.

"So I built some uni's they could try, and I sort of lent them to the kids and let them pass them around the neighborhood. We had all these unicycles, and pretty soon there were 30 or 40, and pretty soon even 100 kids who could ride unicycles in the neighborhood. There were 10 or 15 real serious ones, some of which even got it together to buy their own unicycles, which was profitable for me.

"So anyhow, the kids rode around on these unicycles. About two months after this, strange things started happening, like the kids weren't ripping people off anymore, and they weren't standing around on the street corners, talking about mini-crimes, like who they shop-lifted from. Instead they were talking about all these neat things they could do on their unicycles. You know how kids have to have their macho outlet, they could be macho on unicycles instead of being macho by way of doing mean things to people.

"Other things started happening too. Kids who never read a book by their own choice in their life read THE UNICYCLE BOOK. They loved that. It taught them that they could be proud of something they did, which is just the beginning.

continued on page 19

## SCHWINN UNICYCLES OUT OF PRODUCTION

The Schwinn Bicycle Company of Chicago, IL, is right now in a state of change, primarily in moving factory operations on various products from one location to another. During this time (the year 1984) they have discontinued the manufacture of adult triwheelers, tandem bicycles and unicycles. There are no unicycles left in stock at their midwest distribution center, and there are no plans to order from any source.

This comes as a serious blow to the USA Inc. as its aims are to promote unicycling, and Schwinn has probably accounted for more than half of the unicycles ridden in this country (and others). The 20" and 24" standard unicycles were extremely sturdy and saw endless years of service to thousands of unicyclists, and will surely still be in use for many, many years to come. The Schwinn Giraffe™ model was, in many a riders' opinion, the best giraffe ever on the commercial market.

On the brighter side, Schwinn still has all the equipment to make their unique unicycles, and it didn't take a lot of room when they made them in Chicago.

"Hopefully," says USAm JIM KUCERA, Schwinn Consumer Relations, "We'll either resume making them or contract for somebody else to use our fixtures to make and sell them back to us." Meanwhile, Jim has kindly taken the time to write for ON ONE WHEEL an article on how to build a regular unicycle. Thank you, Jim, it could not have come at a better time.

### BUILDING A REGULAR UNICYCLE - By JIM KUCERA

Unicyclists are, by their very nature, tinkerers. The U.S.A. Newsletter has previously described how to build Ultimate Wheels, Giraffes, and a host of unusual contraptions that are not easily available elsewhere. With the temporary (we hope!) discontinuation of the Schwinn line of unis, this may also be the case for regulars. Or, you may just want to have a good uni and be able to say you built it from scratch. Here's how:

**Materials:** If you can find a unicycle hub and saddle, it'll save a lot of work. If not, you'll need a complete cotterless crankset minus sprockets; a pair of matching pedals; a wheel rim with matching spokes, tire, tube, and rimstrip; a narrow steel-based bike saddle; a pair of industrial sealed bearings (5/8" hole, 1-3/8" outside diameter with retaining clips); and two pieces of flat steel strips (at least 1-7/8" wide and 1/8" or 3/32" thick, length determined by your leg length) -- cut up steel bed rails might work.

**Tools:** You'll need a good hacksaw, a rattail file and a half round file, and a drill with a 1/10", 3/8", 5/8" set of bits. A 1-3/8" steel-cutting hole saw saves a lot of work, but requires a drill press and a heavier drill than most of us might have. Finally, you'll have to have access to welding equipment (or pay someone to do it) for the small job of attaching hub flanges to the crank axle, and a grinding wheel to remove bearing races from your crank axle.

**Finding Your Size:** If you already have a unicycle of any type (provided that crank arm length is the same), simply measure the distance from the bottom of the saddle to the crank axle center and add 6" (six inches) to get the length of each steel flat

the same for the other flange, be sure spoke holes are one half out of phase with the first flange. Paint the hub in your choice of color.

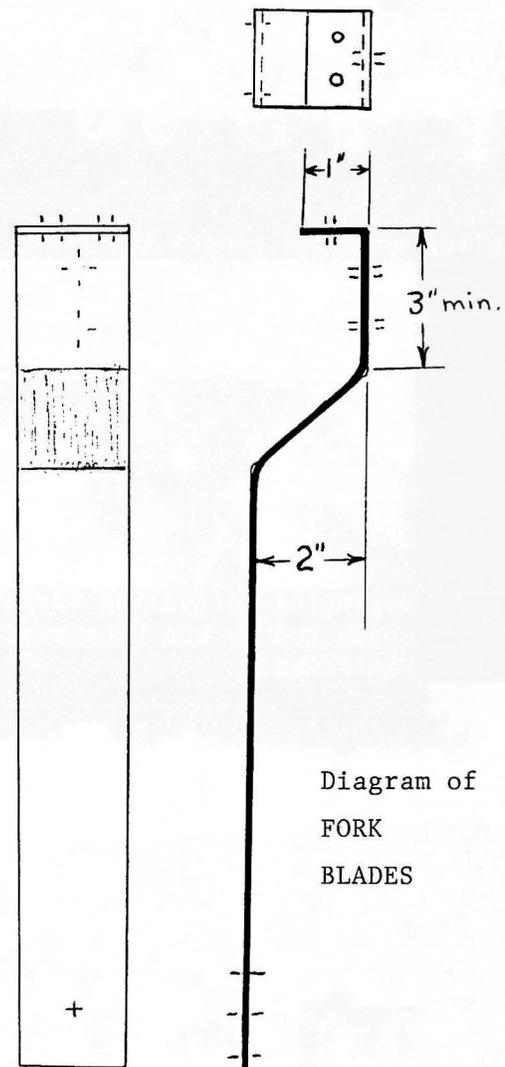


Diagram of  
FORK  
BLADES

strip that you'll need. Your new uni can be made with any wheel size provided, of course, that you'll be able to straddle half the diameter plus your crank length and four inches on top.

**Making the Hub and Wheel:** Cut a square piece from each of the steel strips, scribe a circle on each of them and use the hacksaw and file to make them round, to be your hub flanges. Drill a 5/8" hole through the centers. Mark off 18 equidistant spoke holes (if your rim has 36 spoke holes) around the perimeter of each flange, and drill them out with the 1/10" bit.

Grind the bearing flanges off the crank axle to the point at which flanges fit tightly on the axle with room for sealed bearings and crank arms on each end with 1/4" space between crank arms and bearings. Mark this point on the axle where flanges will be welded (or better, brazed) to the axle. Remove crank arms and bearings, then weld one flange to the axle with the weld on the inside. Before doing

Build the wheel (or have a good bike shop do it) and install the rim strip, tire and tube. The project is now about half finished.

Building the Fork Blades: If you have the 1-3/8" hole saw, cut a hole near one end of each of the steel strips, keeping 1/4" of material on each side. If not, scribe a 1-3/8" circle at this point, drill as many 5/8" holes as you can, just inside the circle, then use files and hacksaw to round it out. Stop when one of the sealed bearings fits tightly in the hole.

Assemble these fork blades onto the wheel and mark the point at which the tire will have clearance when the blades are bent together. It's a good idea to make more clearance (considering your leg length) in case you later want to make a larger wheel for the uni. Bend each fork blade at this point, then bend them back when the top sections are approximately 2" offset towards each other (a total of 4" between bottoms). As you are doing this bending (in a vise or in a crack between two immovable objects), take time to frequently check the blades against each other and with the wheel. It is important that blades are symmetrical, not only for good looks, but to keep your uni from going around in circles by itself. The last bend is at the saddle connection, one inch from the top at a right angle. See the diagram for particulars.

The final step simply involves drilling 3/8" holes in the blades and the seat to hold everything together. First drill two holes through the saddle connection and the seat on each side, assemble everything together, and check the saddle height. If it's too low, all you need is a block of wood or other spacer between the seat and the fork tops. If the saddle is too high, you'll have to cut the fork tops off and rebend them, then drill new holes in the same places. Round top stove bolts are best for securing the seat to the fork blades.

Two more bolt holes through the blades where they meet will finish the unicycle, at least on a functional basis. Be sure to file down sharp edges, paint the fork blades in your choice of color(s), and you're ready to roll! 

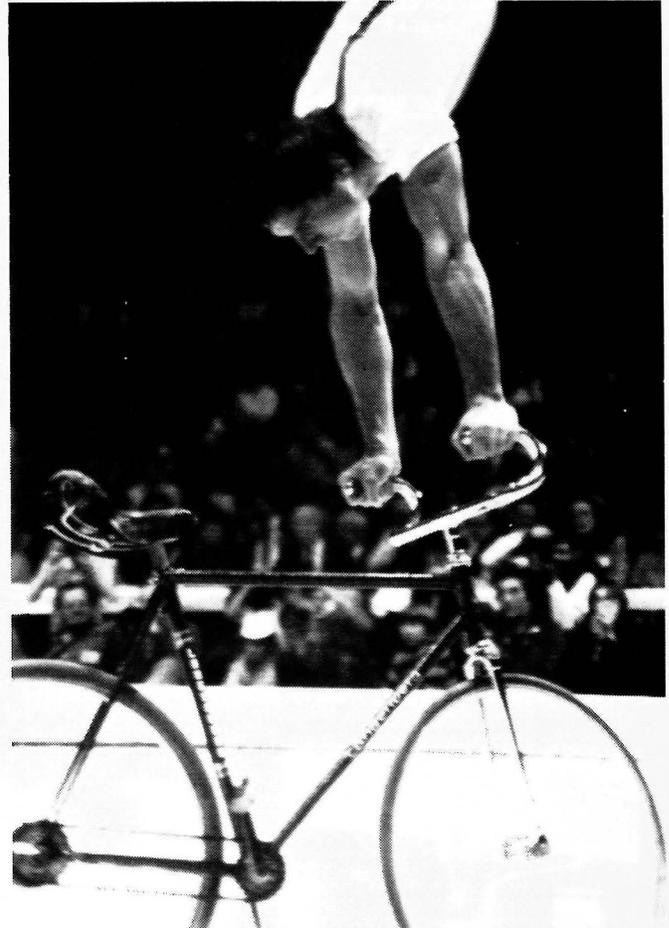
#### THE AMERICAN GERMAN EXPERIENCE

USAm's BOB & NANCY MUELLER responded to the "The Germans are Coming!" article in the Spring '83 issue of ON ONE WHEEL, and ultimately ended up having two groups of German indoor cyclists staying with them in Queens Village, NY, before going off on their separate tours. Here they tell us about their "experience".

After an introductory letter, a quick return from HANS BORN, and couple of phone calls to Germany, it seemed we were to host two groups of visiting German cyclists. One group included the four-man unicycle team, and ERIC WENNER, artistic bicyclist from France, who was then sixth place in world standings. In the other group were USAm STEFAN BORN (son of HANS), FRANZ KRATOCHVIL, the single men's artistic bicycle World Champion 1979-82, champion cycleball players the KING Brothers, Swiss artistic bicycle champion HERRMANN MARTENS, and three other riders. Not having had any experience with artistic bicycling or cycleball, we didn't realize what was in store for us.

Being students of Spiritual Master SRI CHINMOY, who advocates and actively supports the development of circus skills, sports, running and self transcendence, all of

which are part of our spiritual discipline, we felt this was a great opportunity to meet some of the world's best cyclists. Each group gave an astounding performance for our meditation group and Sri Chinmoy awarded each with a medal of commendation. It was certainly a rewarding experience for us since the German cyclists proved to be great sportsmen and individuals alike.



FRANZ KRATOCHVIL, Men's singles World Champion from 1979 to 1982, retired from competition after his 1982 championship performance, seen here. He's performing a very difficult Handlebar Handstand!

The following is a quote of Sri Chinmoy, respected Spiritual Master, and inspiration behind "MADAL CIRCUS", an amateur circus whose performers comprise solely of students of Sri Chinmoy: "Please feel there are various ways to meditate. Circus is a form of meditation. Meditation is freedom from tension, depression, worry, anxiety and mental illusion and delusion. The circus has an immediate answer to all of these problems. God wants us to show him a happy face!"

Thanks, BOB & NANCY MUELLER

Editor's note: The group of cyclists with Herrmann Martens and members of the German National Team went on to do a performance in New York's Washington Square Park.

Police told them to stop, angering 100 spectators who wanted the show to go on.

"The police said we were creating a disturbance. And the people became disturbed when the police said we had to go away," Stefan said. "Some of the people



started hitting the policemen." Two officers were slightly injured and 11 people arrested before peace was restored! None of the cyclists was hurt, however, and they continued on in their rickety old van to stay with the MARCINKOSKI family in Latana, Florida for a week. Then they went to Indianapolis to stay with USAm STEVEN SMOCK, a professional unicycle performer, and on to Montreal to the home of USAm LUC TREMBLAY before flying back home. ☺

THE UNI-CYCLONE ON HIS EUROPEAN TOUR, PART I

The last newsletter was crammed out and taken to the printer by your bleary-eyed editor on Oct. 18. That afternoon, he took off for Germany and a few other countries in Europe! It was another International Training Course in Artistic Bicycle arranged and hosted by USAm HANS BORN. Hans is also Secretary of CIS (Commission Internationale de Cyclisme in Salle, or International Indoor Cycling Commission), and a heavy promoter of indoor cycling throughout the world. There were six cyclists in attendance from Hong Kong, with two trainers and four trainees. USAm LUC TREMBLAY was there (his 4th year!) from his home of Montreal, USAm SIMON Mc CLAY was there from England, LENE JOSIASSEN from Denmark, and many more. Simon Mc Clay had read about the 1982 training course in the Winter & Spring issues last year, and had contacted Mr. Born because he was interested. He was the first British cyclist to participate in the World-championships; after only one week of training! (he has recently purchased a 5', double-chain giraffe from D.M. Engineering, and loves it, and would now like to get a two wheeler.)

After days of intensive training (and fun!) we, and about 100 other German cyclists, family members and spectators

filled two busses and headed for Vienna, Austria and the Indoor Cycling Worldchampionships. The event was super, and unforgettable, similar to last year. You can read about last year's event in the Winter & Spring issues of 1983, but there is not room to tell about it this year! German cyclist PETER NIERATSCHKER finished first in the men's singles category, with a starting score of 328.0, & finishing score of 324.35 points. Points are taken off for each mistake the rider makes by a panel of six judges; each figure done is worth a certain pre-determined no. of points. HERRMANN MARTENS of Switzerland (see article on page 11) finished in second place; 328.4/319.55, USAm ERIC WENNER (he demonstrated his skills at the NUM last summer in Syracuse!) fourth place; 312.4/307.15, LUC TREMBLAY, Canada, 13th place; 277.6/235.65, JOHN FOSS, U.S.A., 14th place; 245.2/228.5, SIMON Mc CLAY, Great Britain, 15th; 220.4/206.75.

USAm's LUC TREMBLAY and JOHN FOSS are both working on starting classes in artistic bicycling in their areas. You can write to your Ed. for more info. on the sport of indoor cycling, or to HANS BORN, Gaustrasse 77, D 6520 WORMS, W. GERMANY. Artistic bicycles from Germany are available in a limited number from USAm JIM BAYLISS, 2409 East Side Drive, Austin, TX 78704. Send SASE and get yours soon!

There is not space in this issue to tell more of your Ed's. wonderful experiences in his trip to Europe, but wants members to know that he plans to go again this Fall, money permitting, and invites other USA members to come too, if they are interested in artistic bicycling! In the next issue, there will be stories of your Ed's stays in Holland with USAm SEM ABRAHAM and his family, in Denmark with USAm JEAN ASCHER (see Round Tower article page 5) and the unicyclists there, and in Sweden with USAm PETER HOLMGREN and his meeting with USAm GÖRAN LUNDSTROM!



Your Ed. taking a ride on one of the 2 meter giraffes used by German group riders back in the 50's. When asked when the last time one of them was ridden, Mr. Born said, "oh, ten, fifteen years!"



Cycleball action! It is worth the trip just to see the game between the German team & the Czechs. Amazing speed and dexterity on bikes in such a small area!



MANFRED HARTUNG, German unicyclist, has been practicing some tricks that aren't in the German book! He amazed your Ed. with one foot wheel walking, attempts at coasting and a beautiful sweatshirt that said (in German) "Unicycling Is Tops!"



USAm SIMON Mc CLAY, wearing a bold union jack while riding his program in front of the crowd in Vienna.



Training course participants visiting the German Juniors Championships for 14 and under (amazing skill!), from L to R: SIMON Mc CLAY, LUC TREMBLAY, STEFAN BORN (in front), CHENG FU-CHI, LENE JOSIASSEN, WILFRED SCHWARZ (he was part of the group of German unicyclists at the NUM in Syracuse!), WOO CHEUNG-SHING, KWONG KWOK-LAM, ANTONIO (trainer), USAm CHAN PAK-CHEUNG and NG YAT-MAN.



HANS BORN assisting LENE JOSIASSEN of Denmark with a one-footed wheelie during the training course.



ERIC WENNER attended the NUM in Syracuse, and finished in 4th place, his best yet!



In case you wondered, cycleball bike parts are not long-lasting. This bent-wheel bike is about to be chucked over the heads of startled photographers and replaced by a fresh one.

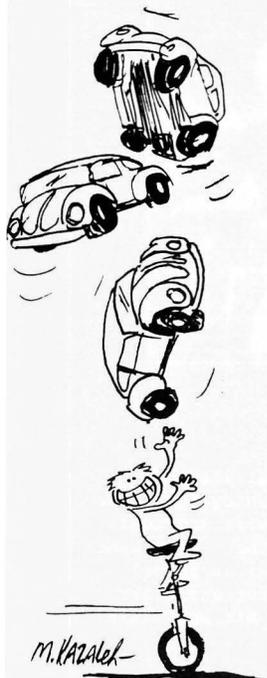


Men's doubles champions ROLF HALTER & HELMUT SCHNEIDER come to a stop, then spin twice around, clasping hands again afterward. An astonishing trick!

KOKOMO ROAD RUNNERS ELECTION

The Kokomo Road Runners Unicycle Club wishes members to know that they are continuing to perform and ride, and as in past years have informed us of the results of their election. Keep on riding!

- President: VALERIE KIRKMEYER
- Vice President: SHELIA RHOADS
- Secretary: MIKE HAWK
- Treasurer: JUDY MENDEZ
- 1st Instructor: MONICA BUSCH
- Board Chairman: JACK QUILLEN



## A GREAT EXPERIENCE IN THE GREAT STATE OF TEXAS

USAm JIM BAYLISS viewed "Sensations of 1945", a film featuring a number of variety acts and starring tap dancer Eleanor Powell on TV a short time ago. In that film, there is a sequence with a unicyclist in formal dress doing several tricks. One trick which made Jim blink his eyes several times in disbelief was one in which the unicyclist rode upside down with his shoulders on a modified seat while pedaling with his hands. This was done on a giraffe. Having never seen this trick before, Jim knew that this had to be a unicyclist of note. Jim goes on to report the following:

Well, I recently had the opportunity to learn first hand who this was doing this phenomenal trick. In late May 1983, I did some Shrine Circus dates in North Texas as Tumbleweed the Clown. The other clown I worked with was Happy the Clown from Beaumont. Now, if I had memorized my U.S.A. Newsletters more thoroughly, I would have known whom I was working with from the beginning. But, that was to come later.

One of the clown acts Happy did was a very nice unicycle number using a handlebar unit. I could tell that he knew something about unicycles. He mentioned that he had had a professional act, had been on television and in the movies, and furthermore that his act had been with unicycles. I asked him what movies he had been in and he mentioned "Sensations of 1945". Well, after picking my jaw up off the ground, I had to guess his name. On the second try, I got it.

Interestingly, there were several other people with this particular circus who knew him well, but had not recognized him as Happy the Clown. One of these people was a performer with a monkey act whom he had once won a bet from when he trained a monkey to ride a unicycle.

He mentioned that he had pretty much quit doing his upside down unicycle stunt at about age 35 and had pretty much quit his own unicycle act at around 45. At that time he was devoting his time to developing his kids' unicycle and animal acts with various shows and circuses, and Irving, a fine unicyclist, is currently with Ringling's Red Unit with a monkey act.

By now, a good many of you know I am talking about MELL HALL (see USA Newsletters Vol. 4, Issue 3 and Vol. 8, Issue 1). About his unicycling career, he mentioned that he was sometimes criticized for "practicing too much", but related that it was his profession and he treated it as such, frequently practicing 8 hours a day. About his upside down trick, he said it took "lots of practice" and helped establish his reputation, but that it takes "style" to really sell a unicycle act. Mel most graciously took me through his scrap books and photos and helped make this circus experience a most memorable one for me. He is now in his 60's and, as mentioned earlier, is still doing some very nice unicycling (among other things). Next time "Sensations of 1945" plays on late night cable television in your area, don't miss it!

THANK YOU JIM for sharing your great experience with us.



PART OF OAK VIEW UNICYCLISTS' TROUP WAIT FOR START OF PARADE IN ROCK CREEK PARK

## OAK VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXHIBITIONAL ACTIVITIES CLUB

A busy fall schedule has had the unicyclists from Oak View participating in a variety of parades, festivals, school and church shows, fitness fairs and athletic contests.

The highlights of the fall season involved participation in Everybody's Bike Day in Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the U.S. Bicycle Manufacturers Association. After a 2-Mile parade with bicyclists, the unicyclists were joined by tumblers, balancers, jugglers, gym wheelers and acrobats to stage several shows for large audiences in the Park. - Jim Moyer



## UNICYCLISTS IN ISRAEL!

USAm YAMY R. O'BRIAN joined the society last year, with an outcry for "HELP!!" and information on unicycling. He is one of at least four riders in his kibbutz, and wants to learn everything possible about unicycling. Yamy wants members that the USA is extending out as far as Israel and even farther, and would like to hear from any other members that would like to correspond with him and share their unicycling experience!

YAMY R. O'BRIAN  
Box 57 Kibbutz Yaheel  
D.N. Eilat 88850 ISRAEL

## Riding high on one wheel

Though he often pedals his unicycle 10 miles a day, and once rode 30 miles, James Green admits the one-wheeled bike "is not a good means of transportation, but a good means of excitement."

Green, 29, teaches unicycling at the Detroit Urban League's Education and Youth Development Center, at Maxwell and Canfield, on the city's east side. Most of his 20 students are youths, but the oldest is 41. The youngest is 7, and, said Green, "If I had a little smaller unicycle, I could work with four-year-olds."

A dedicated student can master the tricky one-wheeler in a day, he said. Green, who volunteers his time and talent at the Urban League, works at Detroit's sewage plant and teaches unicycling on his days off. He took his first ride about 10 years ago when he was living in New York City. "I was sitting on my porch and these guys came down the street (on unicycles) doing all sorts of things."

Green was inspired to build his own unicycle. "I took me a tricycle wheel and part of a chair . . . and started practicing." He has four unicycles now, including a couple more than six feet tall.

Unicycles are more versatile than you might think. Green and his students use them to play basketball and to box. "I was thinking about hockey, too, and softball," he said.

For information, would-be unicyclists may call the Urban League center at 571-5600 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

— Martin F. Kohn



Unicyclist James Green: The one-wheeler "is not a good means of transportation, but a good means of excitement."



New USAm JAMES GREEN attended the Redford Mini/Regional meet, where he was acquainted with other members.

### HI FROM THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

An old fire was rekindled in me when I saw three unicycles leaning against our new neighbors garage. The "Try It Once For Fun" unicyclist does not have three unicycles, so I knew I was in for some fun. HANS and IVAN OSS did not take much arm-twisting before they joined the U.S.A., Inc. Not more than two weeks after I met them, they had received their first newsletter. They are making fast progress on newly learned tricks and displayed their talents as uni-clowns on Halloween. If there are any other unicyclists in the Denver area, please notify Hans and Ivan at 7851 S. Carr St., Littleton, CO 80123. Phone: 303-973-6148. Welcome to the Society!

Sally White Wackowski - Correspondent

ED Note: The 4th unicyclist in the picture is Sally's husband (RON) of course. Since this letter was received Sally and Ron have given notice of change of address and now can be reached at: Sally & Ron Wackowski, 1936 E. 1375 S, Vernal, Utah 84078. I'm sure that they will be on the lookout for still new members in their new home area.



FROM THE MAIL

New USAm Lee Gilpin writes - I live in Petersburg, Alaska. I have been an active member of U.S.A. for six months, and have been riding the unicycle for about one year. Could any member give me some tips on riding backward and rocking? Two other people whom I know that ride are quite a bit older than I am, so I am not around them very much. Thank you.

Lee Gilpin, P.O. Box 949, Petersburg, Ak 99833.

Note: While the Society officers do make it a point to answer each letter that comes through the mails, they also would like to share such inquiries with our general membership. Perhaps you may also wish to aid Lee with this request. Another such letter follows:

I would like to comment on the very stylish membership card I received today. I've been a member since 10/80 and have really noticed a big change since then. The newsletter is really looking sharp! By the way, is N.U.M. '84 going to be in Ohio? I have seemed to have read that, but can't exactly remember. Even though I have not been to one, they seem to be getting farther away and farther away from California every year. Who knows, I might make it this year. If possible, I'm interested in knowing if there are any clubs or U.S.A. members in the Southern California area? I have never heard of any and have often wondered if any existed? Like they say stay in touch and stay on top!

Gregg Roberts, 905 S. Gilbert, Fullerton, CA 92633

Note: While USAm and Officer, Barbara Marquart did answer this letter it would be very nice if some of our California members would also respond to Gregg. Could it be possible that a few people from California might share in expenses to come to the NUM this year?



PERU WIZARDS UNICYCLE CLUB

A new group! The PERU WIZARDS UNICYCLE CLUB, under the direction of USAm ANITA HARRIS was in full force at the Regional/Mini Meet held by the Redford Twp. Unicycle Club last September, after only about three weeks of practice. Many of the riders were brand new, and had a super time. Let's hear more from you!

REDFORD TOWNSHIP REGIONAL/MINI MEET

The Redford Township Unicycle Club held its annual Mini/Regional Unicycle Meet last September at the Wonderland Shopping Center. Approximately 75 riders came from as far away as Minnesota and Marion, Ohio. As usual it was a wonderful day that was all too short. There is a Spring Unicycle Meet coming up. See Page 3 for the details!

ERIC HEATH -- T-SHIRT UNICYCLIST

We recently received this suprising letter from one of our new USA members in Syracuse, NY!

HI,

I am a professional clown, 1981 graduate of Ringling Bros. Clown College and am now a college student and cheerleader for Syracuse University. For the past three years I have appeared at football and basketball games doing unicycling, juggling, acrobatics, and cheerleading in such places as Madison Square Garden, Giant Stadium, Boston Garden, and of course the world famous Carrier Dome. (Editor's note: the Carrier Dome was across the street from the dormitories where unicyclists stayed at the NUM)

Last year a friend of mine showed me a great cartoon of me riding a unicycle and eating an apple-- I was even more surprised when I visited the USA Convention and saw it printed on the Convention T-Shirt! I fell in love with the shirt and would love to purchase one -- Is it possible to obtain one at this late date?

Thanks, Eric Heath

Well, if Eric can fit into either a small or X-Large, he's got it made. Your Ed. put together the T-Shirts with the design from the book mark above. He never thought it was a real person. He just thought it was a character that someone drew. Welcome to the Unicycling Society of America, Eric!



ELAINE YOUNG and BRIAN RUSH of the Smiling Faces Club in a delightful performance on six-footers

# q's & a's

This column is reserved for any question you may have about anything to do with unicycling. Don't be afraid to ask!

New USAm STEVEN KAPLAN of Miami, FL learned to ride a unicycle several years ago but never knew or even heard of such a group as the USA Inc. until he joined the International Jugglers Association recently and received his first copy of their JUGGLERS WORLD magazine. Inside, he found our address. Thanks, IJA, P.O. Box 29, Kenmore, NY 14217, we are turning many of our members on to you too!

Steven's letter went on to say that he is working on combining juggling and unicycling, and would like some pointers on juggling while rocking, and mounting the giraffe unicycle in the open.

For juggling while on a unicycle, naturally the first thing to learn is each of the skills separately until they can both be done smoothly and strongly. Juggling while riding forward is little more than a matter of practice, but juggling while rocking, which is usually preferred because stages or riding areas have limited space, is a little more difficult. USAm LARRY VEE, who performs numerous stunts simultaneously (See photo in Fall '83 issue) recommends practicing rocking with your hands held in your back pockets. When juggling on the unicycle, the arms cannot be used for balance and this is a good way to learn to balance without them. At first, your shoulders will probably be bending and twisting around a lot. Try to develop to the point where your whole body stays still from the waist up, and then you can use your arms to upper body for further skills while on the unicycle. Besides juggling, you might also try spinning rings on your arms and one leg, balancing objects on your head or hands, even working puppets; anything you can think of.

Space does not permit your Ed to go into detail about giraffe free-mounting. A clue to the "secret" is that it's 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration that will pay off. Just keep practicing. You can look in THE UNICYCLE BOOK by JACK WILEY for complete details, as well as July 1974 and Fall 1980 issues of this newsletter. Other articles on giraffe mounting appear in the July 1979 and Winter 1982 issues.



Spectacular catapault mounts by DON BURSELL and BILL KARBO, who came all the way from Minn. It's hard to imagine them not crashing into each other!

# BOOKS:

HOW TO BUILD UNICYCLES AND ARTISTIC BICYCLES  
By Jack Wiley covers construction of standard unicycles, handlebar units, giraffe unicycles, and artistic bicycles. 72 pages, plastic ring bound. \$7.95 per copy plus \$2.00 handling and shipping charges. Available from:

Solipaz Publishing Company  
P.O. Box 623  
Stockton, CA 95201

CIRCUS TECHNIQUES by Hovey Burgess covers juggling, equilibristics, vaulting and is still available in soft cover for \$11.00 from:

Frank Barry  
707 S. Warnock St.  
Phila, PA 19147

## THE LAUGH-MAKERS

USAm CATHY GIBBONS, Editor of the magazine THE LAUGH-MAKERS has been listing our NUM which is scheduled July 20-22, 1984 in Findlay, Ohio, on the convention pages of her magazine ever since the 1983 NUM. Our 1984 President, Jan Layne reports that she has received response from this listing. The magazine is now about two years young and is faithfully filled with very interesting articles about Clowning, Magic, Ventriloquism, Mime, Juggling, Puppetry, and Storytelling. Cathy stated that she would also welcome people to submit articles of interest on unicycling. Since our NUM in Syracuse the magazine now includes an illustration of a Unicycle on the cover of the magazine. It is a Bi-monthly publication (6 issues per year). Subscription: \$15.00/U.S. (\$20.00/foreign) per year, post paid. Write:

The Laugh-Makers  
108 Berwyn Avenue  
Syracuse, NY 13210



BILL KARBO riding TOM MILLER'S creation, the Wheelbarrow! Behind him is the HAINES FAMILY CIRCUS van, from Marion, OH



This photo of USAm TOM MILLER was taken from a Kokomo, IN tourist brochure!

FROM A MEMBER! HELLO!

The following is part of a very informative letter from USAm VINCENT RICHARD who lives in Canada:

My son Jean-Fransois (8 years old) is in a group concerned with many little scientific experiences and other things. In their August Newsletter, called in French "Je Me Petit-Debrouille" (I Myself Little Extricate) a picture was presented: a girl working hard on a tandem! In the Sept. issue they presented the second and last part of the story: a women's liberation action! Maybe you would like to present this story to other members of the USA in the next newsletter. . .

Second thing, many members present many subjects concerning unicycling. It's great! I would like to know if somebody would be able to tell us how to send and fix plate and cup on the head in utilizing one foot? If somebody is familiar with that, I would like to know if it is possible to present a kind of "Learning Progression" in the next Newsletter...

My son and myself are able to ride unicycles. My two other children, Anne Marie (5 years old) and Jonathan (2 years old) will soon be able to ride.

I have a masters degree in Sport Psychology, but I am especially interested in teaching Tennis, Volley Ball, Badminton. Every student in my group is able to try my unicycle and tries also to juggle. It's great! We have fun! On Dec. 12, 1982 I met William Jenack at his home! I bought from him a 16" unicycle for my children. I sent him a picture of my son riding it. I passed a great Sunday afternoon with the Jenack family. Unbelievable, because on a letter dated February 23, 1983 from Bill, I received good news from him. But, a few weeks after, I heard that he died on Feb. 24. He was a great and nice human being with a big great heart for sharing and learning experiences.

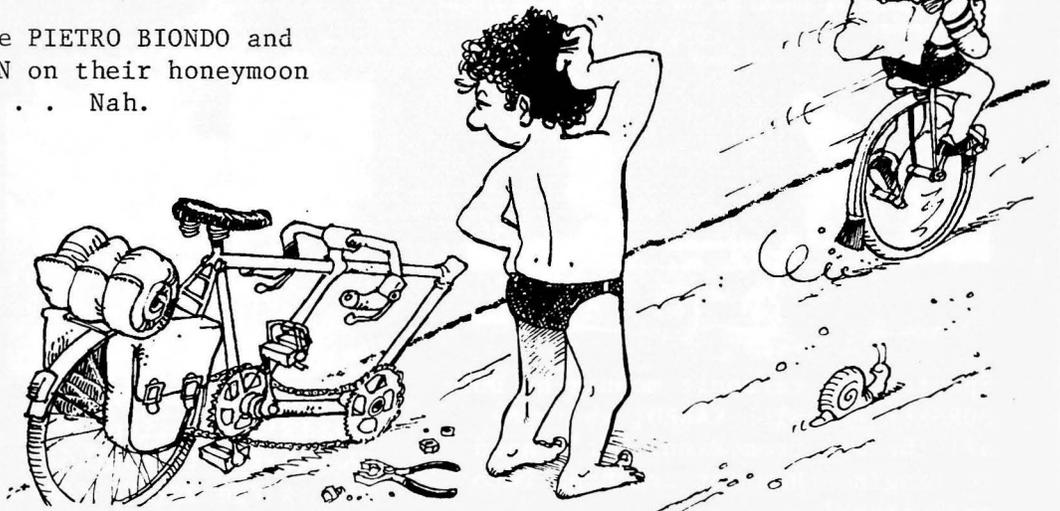
Vincent Richard, 2445 Du Haure, Longuevil, Ouebec, Canada J4L 2G1.

Note: Vincent went on to tell that Pietro Biondo was also a good friend of his and gave us a few facts on Pietro's most recent unicycle ride. An

Could this be PIETRO BIONDO and DIANE CHAGNON on their honeymoon trip?? . . . Nah.



Vous vous souvenez de cette scène, publiée dans le dernier numéro, où Simon se paie du bon temps au détriment de Caroline... eh bien, voici ce qui s'est passé par la suite...



NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES

All issues are still available at \$2.00 each or 4 for \$6.00. Many of our members have also taken advantage of our recent bargain price for the first nine years of the NEWSLETTER, Jan 1974 to Fall 1982. This whole set of 36 newsletters is available, while they last, for only \$40.00 plus postage. If you think that all of the information in these issues is out-dated, think again! There are articles about famous unicyclists who will be famous forever. There are stories about ordinary unicyclists in extraordinary circumstances and articles on how to build dozens of different unicycles. And of course there are the pictures; from the National Unicycle Meets dating all the way back to 1974! So don't miss out! If you really want to be knowledgeable about the subject of unicycling (or are just curious), you can't possibly do it without these! To complete your unicycling history, you need the UNICYCLE BOOK by JACK WILEY. See order blank...

THE MOBILE UNICYCLE CLUB CONTINUES TO GO STRONG

The Mobile Unicycle Club rode for the half-time show of the University of South Alabama and University of Southern Mississippi basketball game, Jan 19th. They had a total of 24 members participate. They did about a 7 minute program that included group riding, a basketball game with a slam dunk on the 8½ ft. giraffe, six 6 ft. giraffes, a ½ cycle, a Kangaroo cycle, a horse cycle, shoulder riding, juggling, jump roping, walking-the-wheel, riding with seat held in front & behind, jump & side mounts, and ultimate wheel riding. The crowd of about 5,000 strong were greatly impressed.

They also had 14 of their members perform during the halftime of the Senior Bowl All-Star Football game in Mobile on Jan. 14, 1984. The main attraction was the Florida State Flying Circus. The unicyclists all wore clown suits & make-up and rode on the football field using six 6 ft., one 8½ ft., one horse cycle, and six regular unicycles.

Group director Mr. Seth Granberry continues to report that he is currently building a two-wheeler.

RIDING THE  
NUM "HIGH"  
WITH T.J.!



Most unicyclists who have attended National Unicycle Meets in the past have probably experienced what is known to some as the "NUM High". This is a period of intense unicycle fever and enthusiasm that immediately follows the meet, and usually lasts for about a month or so. Within this time, however, the unicyclist is "high" on unicycling; practicing very hard, and promoting the sport with an unusual vigor! This is undoubtedly a result of good times had at the meet, and is hopefully followed by attendance at the next year's meet (the same is sure to be true of Jugglers Conventions and the like). An example of the NUM High was that of USAm SKIP TANNEN, who showed evidence of his in an article in the previous issue.

This is the story of the 1983 NUM High phenomenon, and how it overlapped onto another unicyclist; one who had never even been to a meet before! He was circus performer T.J. HOWELL, now a USA member. Right after the NUM and Jugglers Con, a very small circus came to town in the Redford, Mich. area and played in some shopping malls. Billed as the BACK TO SCHOOL CIRCUS, it consisted of several widely varied acts, lasting an hour, but with only seven actual performers doing all the work! T.J. did two acts, sort of opening and closing the show. His opening act was juggling; with up to five billiard balls & clubs, up to six rings, torches and cigar boxes. His second act was, of course, unicycles, using several types and finishing up with a high speed ride on the six footer, through cones spaced only about 18 inches apart!

T.J. contracted the NUM High from the several people that kept on coming to watch the show and got to know him: USA members Joyce & Debbie Jones, Al & Teresa Hemminger, Carol Bahorich, Ken Krakat, Mark Schafer and your Ed. to name a few. They spent a lot of time with him, riding and juggling, and driving around the town. Late one night in the parking lot outside T.J.'s trailer, the group of tired unicyclists sitting on the ground were asked by some passing bicyclists if they could 'really ride those things'. At first, none wanted to show off, but when finally coaxed, the biker was quite impressed and invited them all to come and perform for five minutes in his local night club! They all chimed in 'yes' at his mention of a small sum of money, and days later enjoyed a short-n-sweet show on a tiny dance floor surrounded by happy people and strobe lights. T.J. did his best to juggle under the low ceiling, while your Ed. almost took out some of the lights with his head. Debbie, Teresa and Carol performed magnificently. After their tiny show, the cyclists were treated to a ride in a \$70,000 Cadillac limousine up & down the boulevard. What an experience!

T.J.'s picture recently appeared in THE CIRCUS REPORT, a weekly publication of USAm DON MARCKS, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, CA 94530. He is a circus person through and through, with circus blood (his mother was once in a bicycling act), and is even an acquaintance of unicycling great MEL HALL (see article page 14), among other famous performers. We're hoping to hear from T.J. in the future on

the success of his career, and how his unicycle act is doing after exposure to some of the better amateur unicyclists in the country, who were all riding their NUM Highs! Ⓟ

continued from page 9 . . .

"If a kid decides that he wants to learn to ride a unicycle, then accomplishes that, the next time he feels he wants to do something, he may feel he can actually approach that and do it! So I think it helped the kids.

"The place was "Rottenchester" New York, the street was South Clinton Avenue, at the corner of Goodman. The bicycle shop was Rochester Bike Shop, which I have since sold, and is now a Karate institute.

"The reason the whole thing ended was that because after the Summer season, I tried to find all of the unicycles, and I could only come up with three of them. The other eight had been sold, run over by cars, stolen, or generally rusted away. And that was the end of that.

"George was a kid who was maybe the youngest kid in the group, maybe eight. Most of the kids in the group were ten or twelve. There were some girls in the group, and so it didn't seem to have so many problems. I was very concerned because there were a lot of kids in the group that were stealing things, and it was an important part of belonging to the social climate of that neighborhood. If you were a twelve year old kid and you didn't steal stuff, you were really not with it at all. Anyway, George was the youngest and also the worst, because he hung around with the older kids and he had to continually prove himself. He was one of the kids I wouldn't even let in the front door of the bike shop. I wouldn't let him in because he'd just take things. Things would stick to his fingers like you wouldn't believe! So through riding the unicycles he got to the point where I could trust him. He could sit on the workbench and talk to the mechanics all day, and all he ever talked about was unicycling, and the things he could expand into. I don't think he had any dreams before he started. I don't think he wanted to become anything. All he wanted to do was just be a street kid the rest of his life, probably end up spending a few years in jail for this or that, and occasionally work as an assembly line worker. This is the pattern that I would see.

"I don't know about this particular kid, but he got into the unicycling quite a bit, and, you know, he became fairly articulate. He could talk about crank cotters to the bike mechanics that worked there, and do this and that, and he became what you might call a legitimate kid.

"One of the things we did too, was that the neighborhood was a very small isolated area, and it was kind of a borderline neighborhood. If you went a mile towards town you'd come to an even worse neighborhood, but if you went a mile in the other direction, you'd come to one of the richest streets in America. So of course where do you think we all practiced? We all piled into my VW bus after hours at the bike shop, whoever wanted to come along, and we'd go to this rich street, and all these city kids would be cruising around there on their unicycles.

"Before long, all of the rich kids would come out of their houses, and it was sort of a non-forced integration. All the little white kids were thought of as wimpy by all of the big black kids, as all the black kids were thought of as non-intelligent by the white kids. But lo and behold, the white kids proved that they weren't wimps at all, and the black kids proved that they knew what they were doing and were quite intelligent.

"Pretty soon some of these kids started hanging around together besides unicycling. And that's the end of the story. Cool, huh?"

(Editor's note: Perhaps if more people were like Jeff and took an active involvement in the youth of their communities, using tools like unicycling to promote participation and cooperation between different groups of kids, things would be "cool" all over. The USA Inc. would like to commend Jeff Napier, for working so hard with kids in a way that truly reflects the aims and purposes of our organization, and wish him the best of luck in all of his future unicycling endeavors. Ⓟ JF & JPJ)

USAm JACK HALPERN, Executive Director of the Japan Unicycle Association, writes that he was very excited to hear of the upcoming IUF Convention, and plans to attend. He hopes to bring his entire family, and a team of Japanese unicyclists. We hope they plan to spend two weeks in the States and come to the National Unicycle Meet too. Jack feels, with the upcoming IUF Convention, and upcoming finish of his comprehensive Japanese/English dictionary, that his life is coming toward a climax. The dictionary project, which has kept him extremely busy for the past year, has been financed entirely by grants. Jack, together with a staff of fourteen are using four computers to input and process the manuscript, which will be edited and typeset wholly by computer. At the same time, they are building up a database that will serve as a basis for producing some ten to fifteen dictionaries and teaching materials for specific applications.

Jack has translated his Japanese booklet on unicycling, ANYONE CAN RIDE A UNICYCLE, into English, and hopes it can serve as the first official publication of the IUF. The Japanese version of this book greatly contributed to the spread of unicycling in Japan, where the unicycle evolved from an obscure circus art to a sport officially recognized by the Japanese Ministry of Education. He hopes that this publication can help to do the same thing throughout the rest of the world.

As usual, Jack has built a new "Secret Weapon" that will put his 1.5 wheeler (See the Summer/Fall issue) to shame. There is only one way to see it, he reports, come to Syracuse!

THE  
UNI-CYCLONE  
REPORT



John Foss

Have you read all the way through, now? If you have, I hope you're saying "wow". Your Ed. worked really hard again this winter to bring up the quality of our newsletter a few more notches. Your comments on the design & style are always welcome. Many thanks to USAm BILL GIDUZ, Editor of JUGGLERS WORLD, the International Jugglers Association publication. He has done a tremendous amount to improve the quality of that organization's publication, and your Ed. is following his example, and ideas. Those of you that are IJA members have no doubt noticed the similarities between ON ONE WHEEL and JUGGLERS WORLD popping up here and there.

Of course it is a lot of extra work to do all of these design things anew, and this accounts for this issue being behind. Also the fact that, after returning from his trip to Europe in early December, your Ed. has gotten himself two jobs (to pay his debts!).

I'm driving my UNI-BUS delivering Domino's Pizzas on weekend evenings, and working in an advertising agency as an artist during days. Many thanks to the people and facilities of Meldrum & Fewsmith Inc. Advertising, for their assistance in the preparation of this newsletter.

Many of this issue's photos were screened there, and the new cover and other artwork found herein were prepared with equipment found there. We should be saving some money in this area, because I can use many of these materials at cost, instead of at exorbitant retail prices. This, in addition to our new Bulk-Rate mailing permit, should enable the Society to do some new and better things during this upcoming year.

Though it is the dead of Winter, the unicycling activity, at least in preparations for this Summer's events, is hot hot hot! Have you been out riding your unicycle lately? Your Ed. has been sitting inside typing!

It is shaping up to be a big year indeed, with three (count 'em!) unicycle gatherings already on the planning board. More are likely to come. The Spring Meet in Athens, Ohio should be great and informal fun for everyone that can make it there. The 1984 NUM, sponsored by JAN LAYNE in Findlay, Ohio, is the event many unicyclists are fondly looking forward to at this time every year, and promises to be as successful as ever.

An exciting new event will be the International Unicycle Convention, following the NUM, in Syracuse, NY. We will try to get the largest group of international unicyclists together ever, to promote unicycling on a worldwide basis. Though the aims of the USA Inc. say "country", there are scarce few members that really want the aims to stop at any certain borders. There are no English-speaking IUF people who are not USA members, and it is in no way an event intended to compete with the National Unicycle Meet.

Your Ed. had to CRAM to even get everything into these 20 pages, and there were still a few things left out! The next issue will probably be back to 16 pages, to stay within 2 Oz. mailing, and will have detailed information on the upcoming unicycling events, especially the NUM.



FOUNDER MEMBER - DR. MILES S. ROGERS

He rides a unicycle! His interests include construction, riding for transportation and recreation, and giraffe. Other interests are prop construction, parade and show performance and choregraphy.

The six members of the Rogers family are WONDERWHEELS UNICYCLE DRILL TEAM. Though we retired from active parade performing in 1974, we hope to revitalize our team at some future date. Our primary interest is and has been performance in parades, halftime shows, and stage (or parking lot) shows. Our routines were based on dance, skating, and drill team movements. Costumes and props were an important part of our visual impact. Please see the Wonderwheels article in the U.S.A. Newsletter Vol. 2 No. 2, April, 1975.

CHARLOTTE FOX ROGERS - Correspondent

ED Note: Charlotte is also one of our founder members and continues to post us with information each year or more often when necessary. Her family was recently responsible for the award which was presented at the 1983 NUM in Syracuse which went to the oldest rider at the meet. Thank you Charlotte and be advised that our membership is beginning to show signs of increase in the California area.