

*Official publication of the Unicycling Society of America...*

# ON ONE WHEEL



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**Quarterly**



**FEATURE ARTICLE . . . by CHARLOTTE FOX ROGERS**

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1987 - 88

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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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# **COVER:**



The picture on the cover is of Loyd Smith's Unicycle Wranglers. It comes from his personal collection of photos, which he generously loaned to our historian, CHARLOTTE FOX ROGERS. She has written the fascinating story of Loyd Wicker Smith's involvement with unicycles and uniclists that appears on pages 3 - 5 of this issue. The little sketches found throughout are from a poster advertising the Wranglers.

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### INFORMATION ON ADVERTISING IN ON ONE WHEEL

Cost for camera-ready ads: full page.....	\$40.00
half page.....	\$25.00
quarter page.....	\$15.00

The U.S.A., Inc. reserves the right to reject any ads and cannot endorse any company or product. Ads must be prepaid.

Deadline for the next issue: February 29, 1988

## ALL ABOUT . . . LOYD WICKER SMITH

by Charlotte Fox Rogers

LOYD SMITH, unicycle builder, club organizer, team director, and a major force in the development of present-day unicycling, is little-known to current members of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc. simply because his innovative activities had already run their course before USA was organized. The excellent design and production qualities of his Loyd unicycle live on in the Schwinn, to which he sold his manufacturing interests. He initiated a unicycle club in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in the 1950s, had a unicycle polo team which played against another team in the 1960s, and directed a beautifully costumed, well-choreographed professional performing troupe in the 1960s and 1970s.

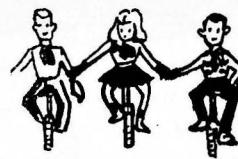
The show-business flair which Smith brought to unicycling had its roots in an earlier occupation: he spent 20 years as a professional drummer in dance bands but quit the music business as a full-time occupation after marrying.

Smith settled in Albuquerque in 1946 and opened a small bicycle shop. In 1953 a customer walked into the shop seeking material with which he and a friend could build a unicycle. Smith gave them enough parts to make two unicycles, and the three men taught themselves to ride. They attracted the attention of youngsters at a nearby junior high school who wanted to learn. During the next few years, hundreds of unicycles were built and sold in the shop, or given to children who could not afford their modest price.

By 1961 Smith had gone into partnership with Dudley E. Cornell III and Robert A. O'Connell in the production of the Loyd unicycle, after Smith had taught O'Connell to ride. He eventually built 5,000 high-quality Loyd unicycles which were advertised in bicycle journals.

Smith feels that one of his highest achievements was his first instruction pamphlet, a handsome four-page brochure illustrated with photos detailing a step-by-step method, including hints on what not to do and tips on vehicle maintenance. Smith's second instruction pamphlet, "How to Ride in 90 Minutes," was featured in January, 1961

issue of Bicycle Journal, which also carried an ad for Loyd unicycles and polo kits. The production company later adopted the name



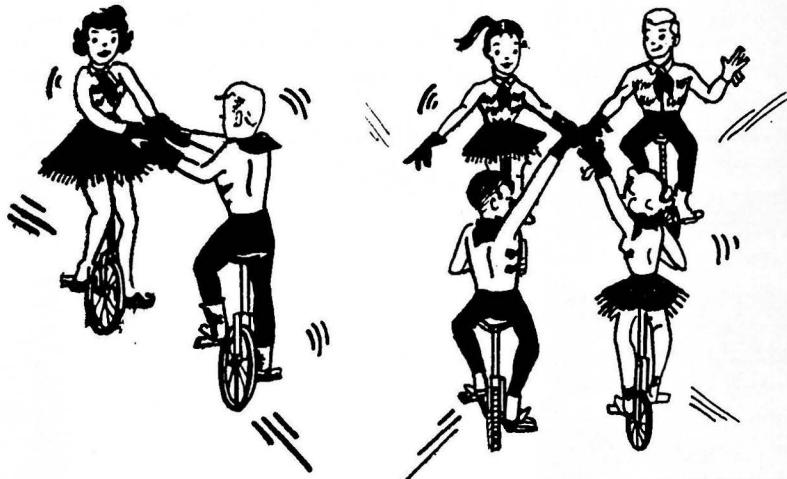
Unicycle Corporation of America and eventually became a division of Pushbutton Container Corporation, which sold the patents to Arnold, Schwinn & Company of Chicago.

Smith's unicycle club came into being as an activity for the junior high students who did not find an outlet in the usual team sports at their overcrowded school.

"The kids went crazy over unicycles," says Smith. "They needed something in which to excel."

The Albuquerque Unicycle Club was incorporated in 1953, probably the first such club to have that legal status. With about 100 members by the mid-60s, the club played unicycle games and rode in parades, using routines with such themes as "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and "The Wizard of Oz."

The more talented of the younger riders were organized into a second group trained by Kenneth Littell, who later lived in Phoenix, Arizona. These youngsters, called Little Wheels, provided a feeder system for a third group, the Wranglers, who were excellent riders in need of something more challenging to do. Smith, who had perfected his own skill as a unicyclist and instructor, directed the Wranglers' team of eight riders plus two reserves who acted as understudies and prop handlers. Square dances and precision routines were developed for the Wranglers, who wore Western costumes and expensive cowboy boots.



These sketches are from a poster advertising the Unicycle Wranglers that were "Available for Booking" doing the "Impossible" on wheels.

The Uniques, established in 1962, was Smith's top performing group, culled from about 150 youngsters who had been riding in Albuquerque over an eight-year period. Membership in the Uniques was limited to seven riders and one alternate at any given time, with Smith as director. They traveled, with their costumes and equipment, in a custom-built 12-passenger limousine.

Terpsicore - in this case, dance on wheels - was the specialty of the Uniques. Square dance, jitterbug, and go-go routines were choreographed by dance studio owner Kay Windsor, who as also their booking agent when the Uniques sought professional engagements through the West. Loyd Smith's wife Nancy, who "rode a little," worked on costuming, makeup, and refinement of the teams, and gave moral support to the activity. In 1966 the costumes were made of royal blue satin with gold fringe trim. The boys' neatly pressed dark slacks set off the girls' mesh hose and dressy flat-heeled shoes. Cowboy hats were worn for the opening number.

The Uniques, who practiced five hours a week and performed to music, rode 20" standard unicycles and 3½', 4', and 6' high models in their act. A feature of their square dance routine was a double-decker Texas star, with three boys riding in a "three hands round" formation, each rider with a girl sitting on his shoulders. Circus feats included a trapeze act, with the youngest girl on a trapeze suspended from a bar which was supported by two boys riding 6' unicycles (see picture); a rider supporting the liggle girl while she did a headstand on his head; a girl doing a high kick while riding on a tightrope; mini-trampoline work; and jumping from one unicycle to another while riding. Another stunt featured a 150-pound rider carrying on his shoulders a 125-pound boy, with a 50-pound girl topping the stack - all on a Loyd unicycle, which easily carried their combined weight.

In the realm of organized unicycle sport, unicycle polo was played in November, 1961 between the Albuquerque Unicycle Club and a team of four University of Colorado freshmen. After



Albuquerque won the match, Smith wrote to the Sky-Hi Unicycle Club of Phoenix to set up a polo game in spring of 1962. Intrateam games were also held in sunny Albuquerque.

Like William Jenack, Loyd Wicker Smith corresponded with unicyclists from all over the United States. His students included a man over 60 years old, a man from Canada, and an airline engineer who came to Albuquerque for lessons while off duty from Seattle-to-Hawaii flights. Another student was a surgeon who used unicycling as therapy to unwind. Smith taught a one-legged child to ride.

In 1972, after his wife Nancy's death from cancer, Loyd Wicker Smith came to Los Angeles and devoted himself to church work as an assistant minister. He also continued to train unicyclists and meet with other established riders in California. After several years of graduate study in Germany, he founded the Total Living Center in Sylmar, a Los Angeles suburb where he now lives with his present wife, Betty.

The man who performed as a unicycling Santa Claus in 1958 (This picture will be on the cover of the 1988 Holiday issue.) should be paid tribute as the designer and manufacturer of an excellent vehicle, author of what was probably the earliest instruction book for riders, trainer of unicyclists, organizer and manager of outstanding early sport and performing teams, and visionary of what unicycling could become in future years.

(The little sketches found throughout this issue are from the advertising poster for the Unicycle Wranglers. The pictures-----> are of the Uniques. Note the precision of the hands - all of the pictures in the collection showed superb use of arms and hands along with the difficult trick maneuvers.)



## UNICYCLING SKILL LEVELS 1 - 10

At the 1987 Annual Meeting of the Unicycling Society of America, Inc., President LEN SALVERDA requested a motion from the members to adopt ten achievement levels, expanding the original four to provide a greater challenge. SEM ABRAHAMS said that he had questioned many unicyclists and had created a list of skills in ascending difficulty based on the results of these interviews. Following the meeting, Sem divided these skills into ten levels. These were voted upon by the U.S.A. Board and accepted as presented. Following are the NEW, EXPANDED skill levels:

GENERAL INFORMATION: In order to be eligible to achieve a level, a rider must have achieved all previous levels.

All skills start and end with the rider riding forward, seated with both feet on the pedals - except for the side ride (Level 10). All mounts end with the rider riding forward, seated with both feet on the pedals.

### PROCEDURE:

To achieve a skill level a rider must pass a skill level exam with an authorized examiner. Examiners must be authorized by the U.S.A., the I.U.F., or a connected organization. In order to pass an exam a rider must perform all but three skills in the level at the first attempt. (The three skills must be successfully performed at the second attempt.)

### LEVEL 1

- Mount unicycle unassisted
- Ride 50 meters
- Dismount gracefully with unicycle in front

### LEVEL 2

- Mount with left foot
- Mount with right foot
- Ride 10 meters between two parallel lines 30 cm. apart
- Ride a figure eight with circle diameters smaller than 3 meters
- Ride down a 15 cm. vertical drop
- Make a sharp 90 degree turn to the left
- make a sharp 90 degree turn to the right

### LEVEL 3

- Demonstrate three types of mounts
- Ride a figure eight with circle diameters smaller than 1.5 meters
- Come to a stop, pedal half a revolution backward and continue forward

- Ride with the stomach on the seat for 10 meters
- Make a sharp 180 degree turn to the left
- Make a sharp 180 degree turn to the right
- Hop five times
- Ride over a 10 x 10 cm. obstacle

### LEVEL 4

- Demonstrate four types of mounts
- Ride Backward for 10 meters
- Ride one footed for 10 meters
- Idle with the left foot down 25 times
- Idle with the right foot down 25 times
- Ride with the seat out in front for 10 meters
- Ride with the seat out in back for 10 meters
- Make a sharp 360 degree turn to the left
- Make a sharp 360 degree turn to the right

### LEVEL 5

- Demonstrate five types of mounts
- Ride backward in a circle
- Ride one footed in a figure eight
- Idle one footed with the left foot 25 times
- Idle one footed with the right foot 25 times
- Ride with the seat out in front in a circle
- Ride with the seat out in back in a circle
- Ride with the seat on the side in a circle
- Hop-twist 90 degrees to the left
- Hop-twist 90 degrees to the right
- Hop standing on wheel 5 times

### LEVEL 6

- Demonstrate six types of mounts
- Ride backward in a figure eight
- Ride with the seat out in front in a figure eight
- Ride with the seat out in back in a figure eight
- Ride backward with the seat out in front for 10 meters
- Walk the wheel for 10 meters
- Ride with the seat on the side in a circle to the left
- Ride with the seat on the side in a circle to the right
- Ride one footed with the left foot for 10 meters
- Ride one footed with the right foot for 10 meters
- Backspin
- Frontspin
- Spin



### LEVEL 7

- Demonstrate seven types of mounts
- Ride backward with the seat out in front in a circle
- Ride one footed with the left foot in a circle

## LEVEL 7 cont'd

- Ride one footed with the right foot in a circle
- Walk the wheel in a circle
- ( Walk the wheel one footed for 10 meters
- Hop-twist 180 degrees to the left
- Hop-twist 180 degrees to the right
- Ride backward with the seat out in back for 10 meters
- Spin to the left
- Spin to the right

## LEVEL 8

- Demonstrate eight types of mounts
- Ride one footed with the left foot in a figure eight
- Ride one footed with the right foot in a figure eight
- Walk the wheel in a figure eight
- Walk the wheel one footed in a circle
- Ride backward one footed for 10 meters
- Glide for 10 meters
- Hand wheel walk for 10 meters
- Pirouette
- Backward spin



## LEVEL 9

- Demonstrate nine types of mounts
- Walk the wheel one footed in a figure eight
- Ride backward one footed in a circle
- Ride backward with the seat out in front in a figure eight
- Ride backward with the seat out in back in a circle
- Walk the wheel one footed with the left foot for 10 meters
- Walk the wheel one footed with the right foot for 10 meters
- Walk the wheel backward for 10 meters
- Drag seat in front for 10 meters
- Drag seat in back for 10 meters
- Ride backward one footed with the left foot for 10 meters
- Ride backward one footed with the right foot for 10 meters
- Ride one footed with the seat out in front for 10 meters
- Backward pirouette

## LEVEL 10

- Demonstrate ten types of mounts
- Ride backward with the seat out in back in a figure eight
- ( Ride backward one footed in a figure eight
- Walk the wheel one footed with the left foot in a circle

- Walk the wheel one footed with the right foot in a circle
- Walk the wheel backward in a circle
- 180 uni spin
- Sideways wheel walk for 10 meters
- Coast for 10 meters
- Side ride for 10 meters
- Walk the wheel one footed backward for 10 meters

(ed. note - Some riders have indicated confusion with terms used in the levels. They appear here as they were accepted by the Board. Further amplification [i.e. sketches, etc.] will appear in a future issue of OOW. If you are unsure of the meaning of a particular term, please write to U.S.A., Inc., P.O. Box 40534, Redford, MI 48240, Attention: Sem Abrahams.

Unicyclists everywhere owe Sem and the many others who contributed out of their experience a "THANK YOU" for the hours spent in creating and organizing these Skill Levels. As you read and ride through the various levels, please keep in mind that the level of complexity was determined by the majority of those responding to Sem's questionnaire. You may find that you are able to do something in Level 8 and can not do something in Level 5. Riders differ greatly in their motor skills. It is impossible to create a list in order of complexity that everyone agrees upon! The levels as they appear were organized thoughtfully and scientifically. If they do not parallel your skill riding abilities, be grateful that you find something easier to do than the majority - and practice harder on those skills with which you are having more difficulty.

May your riding ability and creativity be challenged by this list!

For you riders planning on attending the 1988 National Unicycle Meet in Ypsilanti, MI on July 29 - 31, there will be many opportunities for you to earn your level patches throughout the event. It is also hoped that there will be a video available showing each riding skill and the proper way it should be done.)

\* \* \* \* \*

## UNICYCLE MEETS

In this, the year of the Olympics, there are already FIVE unicycle meets being planned. And there is still time for YOU to plan one in your area!

## A LITTLE ABOUT A LOT

by LESLIE J. BORBELY

(Leslie, who has sent in a number of different observations on ultimate wheel riding over the last few years, recently mailed this assortment of comments on various subjects.)

>ON ARTISTIC OR TRICK RIDING - Ideas and hints for unicyclists may be garnered (with salt) from other source books on: skateboarding, surfing, ice and roller skating, dancing, and other "off-beat" individual sports. Many techniques, performing ideas, and tricks can be adapted to the unicycle from these sources. He goes on to say that he believes that trick/circus/artistic unicycling will take off soon and he would like to see the U.S.A., Inc. in the forerunner's position in the movement.



>ON ULTIMATE WHEEL RIDING - Leslie reports that he has made many breakthroughs in this specialized skill. His experience has taught him that riding rapidly either forward or backward is not as difficult as he had anticipated. "I don't believe that anyone need shy away from ultimate (wheel riding)." He did find, though, that idling, rocking and riding slow require the most balance and conscious know-how. He plans to write a "troubleshooting and hints column" for ON ONE WHEEL; because, as he writes, "like most balance and acrobatic skills, using technically proficient methods makes accomplishment a joy."

One concession that he has made is more and better protection for the calves. This, he finds, is a must at slow speeds where your "calves emulate the fork." I'm not so good that I don't wobble. Particularly starting and idling - the pad around the inside of the knee doubles as the brake, leverage arm, curb, etc. However, as I guessed when unicycling, the faster the ultimate wheel spins, the greater angular momentum and stability."

>ON PRACTICING ANYTHING NEW - Leslie suggests that learning anything is facilitated by: cooler temperatures and privacy. Practicing in the heat of the day with a distracting audience can cause discouraging results. More can be accomplished when you're cool, rested, and alone!

>ON JUGGLING - Leslie's latest time-consuming interest is juggling - he is now able to master seven balls - BACKWARDS! He says he is working with 4" balls rather than the standard 2½" or bean bags. He says that the reverse cascade - though causing more pro-

blems because of the arm extension - allows him "to switch patterns and shower and dominate seven objects more vociferously."

Now that Leslie is working with seven objects, he would like to know if any member knows how to make "a feeder or rack for holding many balls or other props in suspension for starting juggling." If you can help him on this, please write to:

Leslie Joseph Borbely, Jr.

P.O. Box 640

New Martinsville, WV 26155-0640



Leslie promises to write a "how to" column on juggling during the winter months. He will have more time then since the weather will prevent him from practicing both the ultimate wheel and juggling outdoors.

>ON IDEAS FOR UNICYCLE AND ULTIMATE WHEEL PROPS - An automobile steering wheel and gear shift mechanism (whether actual or created in the workshop) can add interest when riding. Riders can "steer" around corners and "shift" into faster speeds.

Yo-yo's, hula hoops, swinging clubs, or spinning soccer balls all add interest in a riding routine. This is true whether for an audience or a practice session.

Leslie also suggests that learning ventriloquism is a good second skill for a unicyclist. It, in itself, will amuse an audience. But learning ventriloquism helps the performer to practice the ongoing patter necessary for performing in the streets (busking).

For those members unfamiliar with the term "ultimate wheel," picture a unicycle with no frame or saddle. This is, basically, the ultimate wheel. However, the further the pedals are from the center of gravity, the more difficult the wheel is to ride. Most ultimate wheels are made from a rim and tire with either a wooden or metal insert on which the pedals are mounted. Perhaps one of our members can write an article for ON ONE WHEEL on "The Creation of the Ultimate."

While the ultimate wheel is often used as a part of a trick riding routine or performance, in 1979 sixteen-year-old SCOTT WIXOM performed his entire three-minute competitive routine at the NUM on his ultimate wheel. He included a number of different mounts, rode the wheel over ramps, rocked, rode backwards, etc. etc. It was the first time the ultimate wheel had ever been used exclusively for a routine and is a feat that has never been repeated.

WELCOME NEW U.S.A., INC. MEMBERS

JEFF PORTER	RD #3, Box 132	KUNKLETOWN, PA 18058	Jeff is a returning member.
CARL P. GENTILE	9222 Grant Farm Trail	ST. LOUIS, MO 63126	Carl learned about USA through JOHN FOSS.
JSAN J. MERRILL	2826 Adams St.	LA CRESCENTA, CA 91214	Susan mailed in a form from many years ago. She will be pleased to know cost of membership has not increased Brandon is one of many new members who learned of USA from library references PAUL WLY told Brad about the U.S.A., Inc.
BRANDON STONE	1011 Prospect - Apt 501	HONOLULU, HI 96822	Marc learned about USA through JOHN FOSS and the LONG ISLAND UNICYCLISTS Luke is the cousin of BOB OJALA and is probably the only unicycling cadet at West Point.
BRAD NIDEY	457 E. 11th Ave.	SPRINGFIELD, CO	Gary learned about USA from the Best Bike Shop in Mansfield.
MARC S. HELD	15 Canterbury Rd.-Apt.B-25	Great Neck, NY 11021	Scott is a professional (SPUNKY) who performs magic, juggling, balloon sculptures, stilt walking, unicycling, and hands out "free hug coupons."
LUKE LOZIER	P.O. Box 897 U.S.C.C.	West Point, NY 10997	Jeremy asks that info. about upcoming events be published earlier.
GARY HUNDERPFUND	Western Elementary School West Main Street	Lexington, OH 44904	Cannie is another new member who learned of USA through NAT. GEOG. WORLD. This new members learned about USA in the literature that accompanied his new unicycle.
SCOTT ERTL	702 Coleman Dr.	Williamsburg, VA 23185	Dan read the small print in the SEMCYCLE ad from an IJA publication which gave the name and address for the USA.
JEREMY REYNOLDS	7 Toomey Rd.	Danvers, MA	
CANNIE R. BRIDGERS	225 Heritage Trail	Lexington, SC 29072	
WILLIAM F. GERMAN	3 Frost St.	Greenville, SC 29611	
DANIEL AMYX	4517 S. Hale Ave.	Tampa, FL 33611	
GEORGE SWANWICH	426 W. Cherry St.	Clyde, OH 43410	George learned about USA from and friend and requested additional copies of the prospectus for others.
JAMES W. COLWELL	14015 Oval Dr.	Whittier, CA 90605	James does artistic riding for recreation and learned about USA from <u>UnoWheel</u> .



While we usually do not mention members who renew for another year, the following are deserving of special note because . . .

The GILLIGANS of Arcadia, Ohio, are now ALL members - we welcome MIKE and THORA in addition to JAY and TODD.

And a big THANKS!!! to ROD WILLIAMS from DesMoines, IA, who renewed not for only one year - but for THREE!!!

GEORGE SWANWICH 426 W. Cherry St. Clyde, OH 43410

George learned about USA from and friend and requested additional copies of the prospectus for others.

JAMES W. COLWELL 14015 Oval Dr. Whittier, CA 90605

James does artistic riding for recreation and learned about USA from UnoWheel.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS (cont'd)

ALAN TRENT 4609 Sherry Wichita Falls, TX 76310

JUSTIN M. MCPHAIL 276 Albion St. Wakefield, MA 01880

Dr. GARY D. WILLDEN 5582 S. 700 E. S. Ogden, UT 84405



JEFF WILLDEN

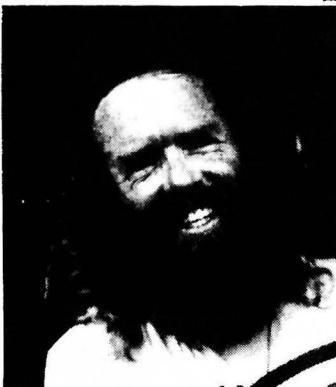
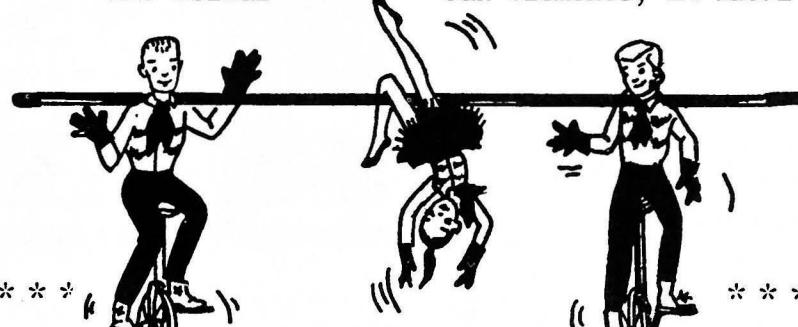
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JEFF HOLCOMB P.O. Box 502 Clayton, GA 30525

SUSANNAH HORGAN - BEHMAN Pox 436, Bon Accord Alberta, CANADA T0A 0K0

JEFF SAVAGE 125 DelMar San Clemente, CA 92672



TECHNICAL

TIDBITS

by

FLOYD BEATTIE

Riders are becoming quite attached to their unis. In the past, people have tried toe clips and other things to try to keep their feet on the pedals; this year's NUM had two more variations - the strapless pedals and velcro.

JEFF PLAKE, no stranger to OOW, gave Alan a membership to U.S.A. for his birthday. Justin enjoys riding "just for fun-and transportation". Dr. Willden is a "Ph D" (Doctor of Phunology) as LUPO t. Clown. In his other life he is a Dept. Chairman at Weber State College. Both learned about U.S.A. through the Schwinn brochure and found the Society address in Jack Wiley's book. JOHN FOSS and MARC HELD told Kathleen about U.S.A. through the LONG ISLAND UNICYCLISTS.

Jack Wiley's publications were the source of information for Stephen, also. WARREN BLYE, a Physical Education Teacher, told Jeff about U.S.A. Susannah, who included this sketch, ordered Jack Wiley's HOW TO RIDE...

Good Luck! to both Susannah and Jeff! Jeff wrote, "I own 24" uni which I can't ride; and a friend gave me his 6' tall unicycle, which he can't ride either. So, if you don't want to hear of my getting killed, please rush "survival" instructions ASAP.

The strapless pedals, or "look" system pedals lock the foot in place. As such, they suffer the same drawback as toe clips: a fall results in injury to the rider. But they increase control dramatically, thus making the likelihood of a fall much less. And they increase the speed that a rider can achieve.

The velcro idea comes from Europe by way of the Abrahams. In Europe, riders are gluing and sewing velcro onto their pedals and cloth onto their shoes. This gives almost as much control to the rider as toe clips or "look" system pedals, but with the big advantage of allowing the rider to disengage during a fall. It seems to be an ideal compromise in the feet slipping vs. toe clips argument.

## TECHNICAL TIDBITS by Floyd Beattie (cont'd)

Another nice idea at the 1987 NUM was the use of a small square of sandpaper glued to the frame for one-foot riding and coasting. The added control easily outweighs the slight disfigurement of the unicycle.

Miyata has gone from 5½" cranks to 6" cranks back to 5½" cranks on their 24" deluxe unicycles. Semcycles are coming with 5" cranks as standard on the 24". The use of 5½" cranks in the future NUM's because it is "the industry's" standard carries less weight. The idea of dropping this rule was discussed. A word to the wise, though, before rushing out for the smallest cranks available: realize that small cranks can result in a rider having less control over the unicycle.

On wheels, with a year more of testing, the bladed spoke wheels are proving to be almost as fast as discs, with far fewer problems. Bladed spokes come in two styles - the "dt" spokes, which require a hub modification; and the "hoshi" style with the "s" bend by the hub. The hoshi style will probably not take the abuse of bouncing and kick-up mounts. The dt's, as of yet, are usable only with the Schwinn S5 or S6 type rim.

It keep asking. They are definitely the finest quality spokes on the market.

(Floyd, an Associate Editor of OOW, will have a story on his perception of the 100 mile "challenge the Guinness record" held in Japan following the 1987 UNICON [the International Unicycling Convention]. in the next issue.)

Of a more current nature, Floyd writes, "As you will notice from the address above, I have moved. I have sunk myself into debt for an old farm house and 56 acres of land out in the country. This has put me on two wheels much more so than one. But when the weather turns nice, I will redo my TUF big wheels and ride them in and out of town. (It's only 8.4 miles each way.)

In a year or two, I will probably get back into some kind of riding form, but till then I will be more of a spectator.

Floyd's new address is:

11320 Wesley Road  
Millfield, Ohio 45761

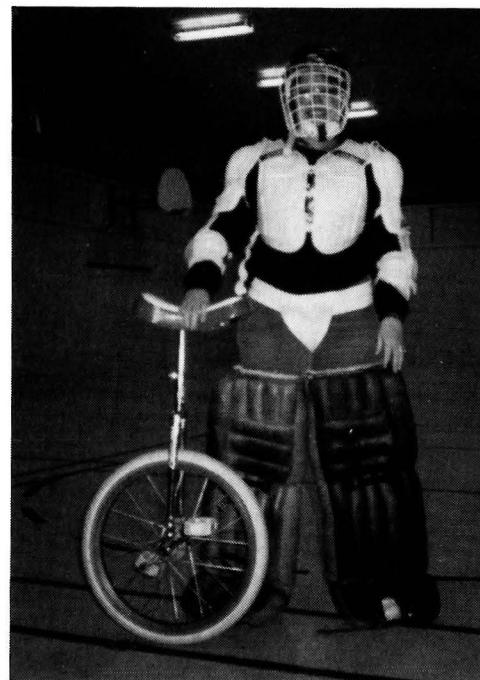
...If you plan to move soon, please send your new - and old - address to U.S.A., Inc., P.O. Box 40534, Redford, MI 48240.\*\*\*

## HOW DOES A PARENT LEARN TO RIDE A UNICYCLE?

by Shirley Shultz

The TWIN CITY UNICYCLE CLUB offered training sessions exclusively for parents who wanted to prepare for the special parents' race at the 1987 NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET. This special race was invented to master this one-wheel critter.

How does one prepare for a unicycle lesson? To protect the innocent, every piece of safety equipment available must be worn. Football and hockey equipment are excellent. Pillows come in handy, too.



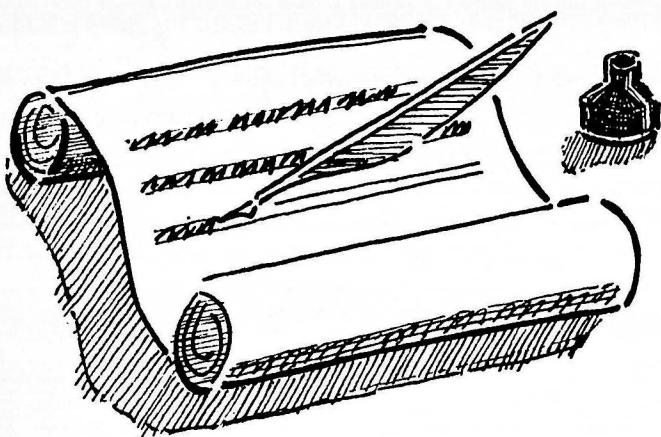
This photo shows what I looked like at the first practice session. How many falls would this stuff have to protect me from? You can't be too careful with old, brittle bones.

These special lessons were restricted to parents only. No kids or VCR cameras were allowed. Cameras were prohibited. This is the only picture that I could smuggle out.

After I shed my protective gear and my legs could bend again, I made progress. Maybe next year I will be able to ride without any assistance. The lessons went well using the guidelines outlined in the Miyata book.

Using two assistants to start with each rider, we can report that no injuries resulted and that no serious falls occurred.

Our club will continue these fun social get-togethers for our parents.



#### FROM OUR READERS:

LORI WIKOFF, who lives at 401 E. Rogers Dr. in Stillwater, OK 74075, sends the following letter:

I read in a little boy's WORLD MAGAZINE about your school. I have had no unicycle training at all, but I think that I'm better than any of your school kids. Even the girl who rides that big one!

I started riding when I was in the 6th grade (summer before). I learned on our tennis court behind our house. Right now I'm in the 8th grade. I can: ride backwards, on one foot, pick up a dime, ride on my stomach and while holding the seat. I have tried everything under the sun; and if it's possible, I can do it.

I have one of those great big unicycles, too, and I can ride it as long as I want as far as I want - and I can ride it backwards. If your "Unicycle Society" has any tricks I can't do, I'd like to know.

Oh, ya (sic), and if you know where I can get a GREAT BIG (bigger than great big) unicycle, please let me know and also give me the cost.

(ed. note - Lori will be sent this issue with the ten levels. It may give her some new ideas on which to work this summer. Lori is probably referring to a giraffe rather than a big wheel when she uses the term GREAT BIG. CONGRATULATIONS!!! to any unicyclist who masters the art without the incentive and encouragement of a club or group of other unicyclists. To clarify a point: the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC WORLD article was written about a National Unicycle Meet and not a school. Many of the competitors at meets are self-trained, just as Lori is.)

From Australia comes a letter from TONY SAGE, 2 - 16 Thomas St., Maroochydore 4558, Queensland:

Well, hi there! This is Tony from down under. I started riding my unicycle around mid August and, boy, am I having fun - fun fun. Yes, lots of fun.

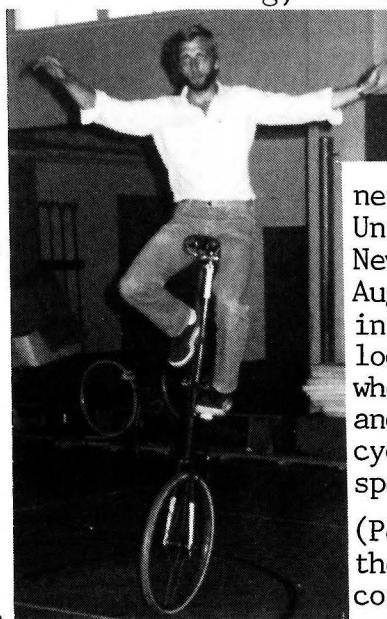
I would like to know the name and price of the best unicycle in the world. Could you also let me know what sort of books and magazines are available. And if it's possible, could you send me a list of the names and addresses of all the unicycle riders in Australia. And the last favour you could do for me is, what is the name of the biggest unicycle club in America? And, are there many (clubs in America)? I heard that there is a big craze on unicycles up there in America.

PS Is Miyata the best unicycle and what do you think of the unicycle called Nissan? And would it be O.K. if I join your club? How much would it be for a unicycle 4 feet high, or even 3 to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet high?

(ed. note - Back issues of OOW have had letters from individuals in Australia interested in providing training and information about unicycling in their country. Anyone writing to the Society for information receives a sheet of general information as well as the familiar order blank that accompanies each issue of ON ONE WHEEL.)

GERHARD DELKESKAMP, Dorotheastr. 4, 2850 Bremerhaven, West Germany, sent the following:

Hello, I am Gerhard Delkeskamp from West Germany. Last year I wrote my dissertation to become a teacher about the history, building, and learning of the unicycle.



I have been a unicyclist for five years, but my favoured sport is artistic indoor cycling. After finishing my education next year I want to visit the United States (first stop is New York) from July until August and I am looking for interested places and cheap lodging. Who can help me or who is interested in performances and learning artistic cycling. I shall take my special bike with me.

(Perhaps Gerhard will be at the 1988 NUM since the dates coincide with his visit.)

12 Gerhard built this giraffe himself.

(ed. note. One of the two questions most asked by persons writing to the U.S.A., Inc. is "Are there unicycle clubs in my area?" [The other is, "How do I learn to ride?"] Many of the Society's Presidents have dreamed of having unicycling districts in the United States. In an effort to have this dream become a reality, the current U.S.A., Inc. President has prepared the following letter and questionnaire. He urges you to complete the other side of this page, remove it from this issue, fold (in thirds - so that his name and address is on the outside, forming an addressed envelope), place a 22¢ stamp as indicated, and mail it as soon as possible. The results from this questionnaire will be printed in ON ONE WHEEL.

\* The ten skill levels mentioned here appear on pages 6 and 7 of this issue.

January 1988



Dear Unicyclist:

My name is Seth Granberry, Jr., a unicyclist enthusiast, President of the National Unicycle Society of America, father of two unicycling sons, husband of a unicycle riding wife, and founder and director of the Mobile Unicycle Club in Mobile, Al.

During the past year, Len Salverda of the Twin City Unicycle Club, St. Paul, Minnesota did an outstanding job as both President of the National Unicycle Society and Director of the National Unicycle Meet at Bethel College. Len is also working on the completion of Skill Levels for the National Society which would expand the current four levels to ten levels. At the present time Sem Abrahams is in the final stages of making the ten levels a reality.\*

As President of the National Unicycle Society for 1988 one of my primary goals is to locate existing clubs that are not affiliated with the National Unicycling Society of America along with establishing new clubs across the United States so that the sport of unicycling can grow to its full potential.

I and my family became interested in the sport of unicycling about nine years ago, when my oldest son, Glen, was eight years old. We moved to Mobile, Alabama in 1979 and with about ten other neighborhood young people and the help of Mobile Schwinn Cyclery we organized the Mobile Unicycle Club. With helpful information from the Unicycling Society of America's newsletter "On One Wheel" our club has grown over the past eight years to it's present membership of about 40 riders. We meet twice each month for practice, fun, and fellowship. We've ridden in various local parades, performed for the University of South Alabama Basketball games, 1984 Senior Bowl Halftime Show, 1984 New Orleans World's Fair, 1986 & 1987 Azalea Square Dance Festival, The "Salute to America" 4th of July parade in Atlanta, Georgia, and at Six Flags over Georgia on July 5th, 1986, and many other festivals, civic functions, and church events.

For the past six years our family, and a few members of our club, has traveled north to Ohio, Minnesota, New York, and Michigan during the last weekend of July for the National Unicycle Meet. We have met many wonderful new friends and learned much about the sport of unicycling. If you have never been to the National Meet, I recommend it very highly. This year it will be held at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan, the weekend of July 29, 30, & 31. The Meet Director is Tom Brichford and the hosting club is the Redford Township Unicycle Club. The fourth annual International Unicycle Meet "Unicon IV" will be held in Aquadilla, Puerto Rico, August 12th-August 17th, 1988.

If you or anyone else that you know is in a unicycle club or would like to help start a club in your town, or if you'd just be interested in participating in any of the events listed on the enclosed questionnaire, please take a few minutes to fill it out and drop it in the mail to me.

*Seth W. Granberry, Jr.*

22¢  
postage

From \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Seth W. Granberry, Jr.  
President Unicycling Society of America, Inc.  
3204 Desire Street  
Mobile, Alabama

36606



Please fill out, fold, and return to: Seth W. Granberry, Jr. 3204 Desire St.  
Mobile, Al 36606 Ph. 205 476-8635

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**fold** City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip" \_\_\_\_\_ **fold**

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

I've been riding a unicycle for \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months.

Please answer the following Yes or No.

I'm in a unicycle club (or group) now.

Name of Club (or group) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I'd be interested in starting a unicycle club in my town.

I'd like to know more about the National Unicycle Meet at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan, July 29-31, 1988.

I'd be interested in coming to the Southeastern Regional Meet at Mobile, Al, June 11-12, 1988.

I'd be interested in attending the 1989 National Unicycle Meet IF IT IS HELD IN Mobile, Al the weekend of August 25--27, 1989. **fold**

I'd like to know more about the International Meet "Unicon IV" to be held in Aquadilla, Puerto Rico, August 12-17, 1988 at Lamie Air Force Base.

Please list other Unicyclists that you know, that I could contact about promoting Unicycling in the United States of American.

Thank you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## KAREN MESSAMER'S 200+ UNICYCLISTS

from the THE CHARITON LEADER  
January 5, 1988

While the United States celebrated the 200th birthday of the Constitution (1987), Chariton, Iowa, had its own reason for celebrating the number 200. Karen Messamer's school training program passed the 200 mark in number of unicyclists who had successfully learned the art of riding "on one wheel."

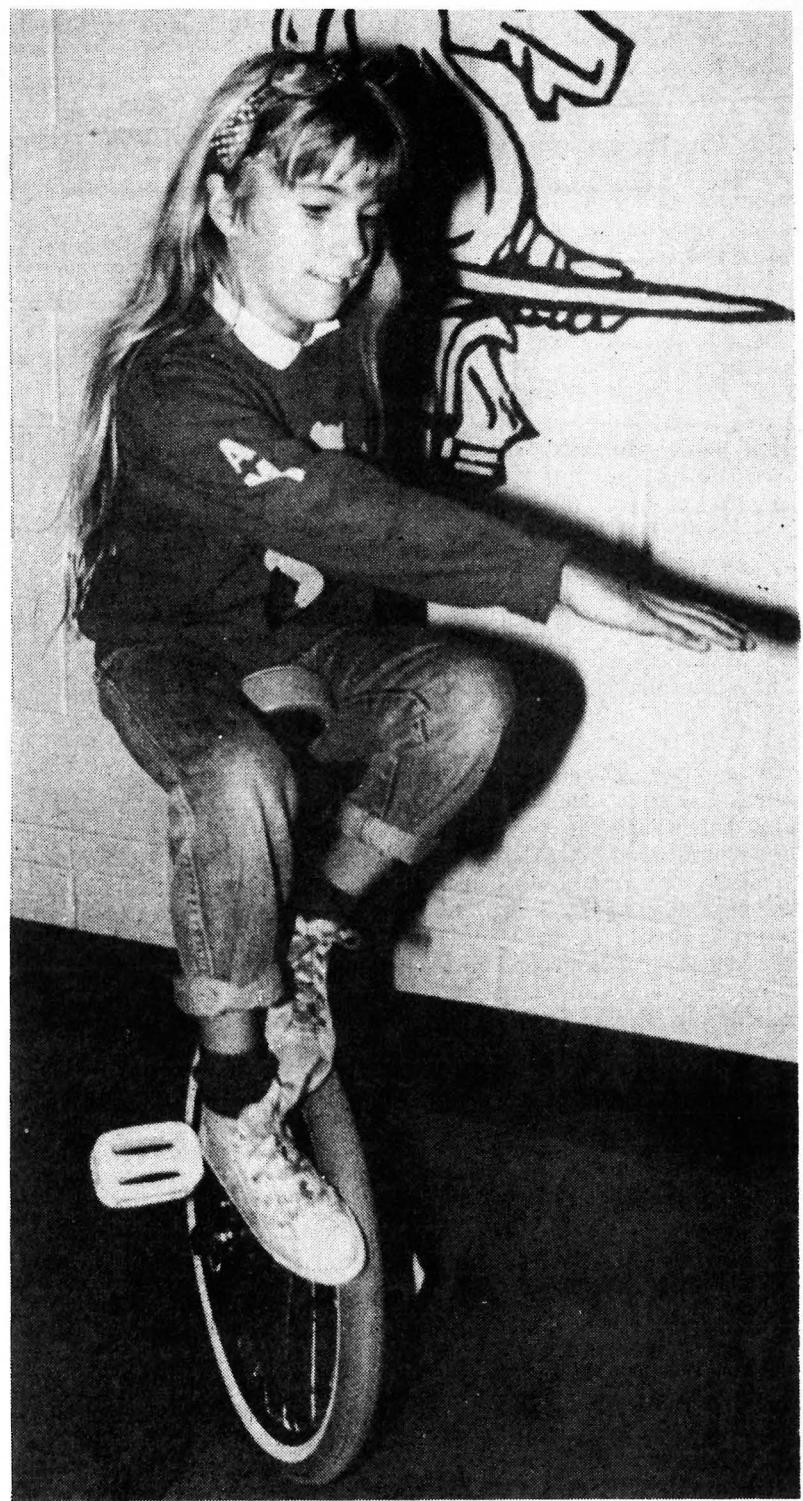
Karen introduced unicycling in the school system in 1975 when four standard unicycles were purchased by the physical education department. As the interest in riding increased, so did the school's unicycle inventory. It now consists of nineteen standard uni's and two six-foot giraffes.

Karen has challenged her students not only to learn to ride, but also to develop trick riding skills. The result of this challenge was quite evident when AMY EDWARDS won "top point winner"-----in her age bracket at the 1987 NUM. Amy was the youngest of the 200+ unicyclists to learn to ride; she did so when she was six. Amy is now eight.

Amy is one of many "unicycling families," all of whom received training through Karen's program. There are three other unicyclists in Amy's family, all of whom attended the 1987 NUM - the first National Meet in which Chariton participated.

This is one school program that is very evident to the community. Not only does it have an unusual and expert unit for local parades, neighbors of budding riders have the opportunity to witness the determination - and success - as youngsters practice by the hour on the sidewalks near their homes. Karen has also publicized the program through the newspaper, by having an enormous unicycle built for the 1986 Homecoming Parade (see cover of Vol. 13, No. 4), by using "Cycle Gram" stationery for her personal notes, even through the birth announcement for her daughter and her Christmas greetings.

Karen's tireless labor of love is bearing much fruit - and the U.S.A., Inc. is now very fortunate to have her as the 1987-88 Treasurer.



### Walking the wheel —

Amy Edwards, who won the 1987 Unicycling Society of America's National Meet in her division, demonstrates her skill by "walking the wheel" on her unicycle. Instead of using the pedals, she moves the unicycle along by using her feet on the wheel, an achievement that requires considerable balance and concentration.

# CALENDAR:



## ***Wedding on Wheels***

***Mr. and Mrs. Al Hemminger  
request the honour of your  
presence  
at the marriage of their  
daughter  
Teresa Hemminger  
to  
Sem Abrams  
on Saturday, February 6, 1988  
at 4:30 in the afternoon  
D.A.V. Hall  
25544 Five Mile Road  
Redford, Michigan***

***Reception immediately following  
ceremony***

AND YOU'RE ALL INVITED . . . via pictures in the next issue of ON ONE WHEEL!!

MIDWINTER JUGGLE IN festival \* March 11 & 12 \* Chippewa Racquet Club in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Contact Paul Kyprie (313)994-0368.

HUMOR & CREATIVITY CONFERENCE \* April 22 - 24 \* Saratoga Institute, 110 Spring Street, Saratoga Springs, New York 12866.

REGIONAL UNICYCLE MEET \* June 4 \* Middle Island (in the middle of Long Island) New York. Sponsored by the Carl Hart Bike Shop.

ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL JUGGLERS ASSOCIATION, INC. \* July 12-17 University of Denver, Denver Colorado. IJA membership information: Rich Chamberlin, Box 29, Kenmore, New York 14217.

NATIONAL UNICYCLE MEET \* July 29 - 31 \* Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti Michigan. Contact Tom Brichford, 24460 Lyndon, Redford, MI 48239; phone no. (313)533-4677.

UNICON IV \* August 12 - 17 \* Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. Contact Alberto Ruiz, P.O. Box 6068, Santurce, Puerto Rico 00914; phone no. (809)790-1929. International Unicycling Federation membership information: Al Hemminger, 16152 Kinloch, Redford, MI 48240.

<<<< IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS NOT PAID THROUGH OCTOBER, 1988,  
THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST ISSUE OF ON ONE WHEEL

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