

December
1980

DECEMBER 1980

NEW YORK CYCLE CLUB

FOUNDED 1948, INCORPORATED 1973
(FORMERLY QUEENS ROAD CLUB 1937-1947)

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B) DAVE MILLER 794-9365
C) MARTHA RAMOS 858-9142

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מֵעַרְבֵי
שָׁמַיִם

JR

OUR MONTHLY ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE SOME

SLIDES

SONGS

SKITS

COME AND SEE WHO WINS THE CAPTAIN CRASH AWARD !

DEC 9TH, TUESDAY 6:00 P.M.

COME AND BRING A FRIEND TO OUR
MONTHLY MEETING LOCATION

ARTEMIS RESTAURANT (GREEK FOOD)
76 DUANE STREET @ BROADWAY

(TWO BLOCKS NORTH OF CITY HALL)



Sunday - December 7th. 12:00 noon. Meet at Rollers on 2nd Ave between 82nd and 83rd Streets for 6 miles of roller skating to and around Central Park departing 12:30 PM. Roller skates can be rented at Rollers for \$2.50 per hour (we will take two or three hours max). Call Chris Mailing 879-6199 for details. Cancelled if there is any precipitation or temperature is below 25 degrees.

Saturday December 13th. Ten MPH riding speed west Conn. Start at Fordam Rd. And The Strand Concourse 10:00AM with NO DROPPING. Expect all day ride with return by 4:30PM. Have funds for food and emergency transportation. Mell Schleiffer leading, but cancelled if temperature is below 45 degrees or WCBS predicts rain.

Sunday December 14th. Join Ed and Sara Flowers for some keep-in-shape ice skating. Call (212)544-9168 by Saturday, December 13th for information on exact time, place, costs and transportation.

Friday, December 26th. Coney Island-30 miles-C ride. Leader Martha Ramos. Meet at 10:00AM on the Brooklyn side of the Brooklyn Bridge. Tired of turkey? Well, join me for a breezy ride to enjoy "Nathans Famous". Come suitably dressed. Bring money and a bathing suit (hearty soul). Cancelled if temperature is below 40 degrees, strong winds, or wet and or white is on the ground. For information call Martha at 858-9142.

Saturday

December 27th--Alley Pond Environmental Center Ride--
Manhattanites meet Ken Abramson at 9:00 AM at the Tramway Plaza at 2nd Ave. and 59th St. in Manhattan for a 40 mile round trip. Queens people meet John Lubaszka at 10:00 AM at Cunningham Park parking lot at Union Turnpike and 193rd St. in Queens for a 15 miler. Both groups will meet and lunch at the unique urban naturalist exhibit. We will also meander home along the north shore. Please bring front and rear lights for the ride home. For more information call Ken 672-9555 or John 523-2198.

SPORTS EVENTS FOR WOMEN CYCLISTS ONLY

KISSENA CYCLE CLUB INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR TIME TRIAL SERIES IN CENTRAL PARK, BY TAVERN ON THE GREEN. 8:00 A.M. SATURDAYS OF NOVEMBER 8, 15, 22, 29
AND DECEMBER 6, 13

THIS INFORMATION WAS SENT TO US TOO LATE FOR THE EARLY PART OF THE SERIES, BUT YOU CAN STILL CATCH THE ACTION IN DECEMBER. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT GLORIA LASOFF 6:00 - 11:00 PM AT 348-2407, OR LEAVE MESSAGE AT 886-4446, MONDAY-THURSDAY 7:00-10:00 P.M.

SOLSTICE CENTURY? IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN GIVING YOUR SADDLE SORES A BREAK, TRY TO TALK JIM REX INTO TAKING YOU FOR A 100 MILE RIDE OUT TO LONG ISLAND ON THE SHORTEST DAY LIGHT OF THE YEAR. BY THE TIME YOU FINISH, THE DAYS WILL BE GUARANTEED TO GET LONGER. JUST IN CASE BRING FRONT AND REAR LIGHT. MORE INFO 278-5562, DATE DECEMBER 21.

ICE SKATING ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Many cyclists speed skate for winter conditioning. Ken Abramson invites you to skate with him at various skating areas this winter. Whether you are a first time skater, or already into a regular conditioning program, or just want to see what a NYCC member looks like on ice skates call Ken at home 212/672-9555 or at work 212/757-7722. Since we are alternating sites call for details a few days in advance of the Wednesday you intend to skate.

THOUGHTS ON HIBERNATION

Martha Ramos

So I see you too have noticed that seasonal quirk of Mother Natures. The days for some silly reason are now somewhat shorter, the temperature has dropped a degree or two and there is this annoying tendency for the wind to - well blow. In sight of this unseemly behavior, I have noticed a tendency on the part of one or two of our members to consider biking activities to be drawing to a close.

I fear that this type of behavior could possibly develop contagious proportions that would spread to other members within the club. Now it is true that the weather does present a slight impediment or two to our continued biking activities. On the other hand you have worked since spring to develop this fine degree of conditioning, only to now lose it and can only look forward to the agonizing prospect of the next series of spring training rides. Therefore the question remains - How to maintain some degree of conditioning during the winter retreat?

With this thought in mind I am suggesting that there exists a broad spectrum of activities that can stimulate interest and maintain conditioning. These activities include: ice skating, figure skating, roller skating, cross country skiing and of course winter biking.

Now before your teeth start to chatter, I suggest you check the activities schedule in this current bulletin. Almost all of the above mentioned activities will be organized at least once during this current month. Marion Bahensky has agreed to organize a cross country ski weekend during the month of January at the Mountain Gate Lodge in Oliveres, N.Y.. If you would enjoy this type of activity let me know as soon as possible (reservations and all that not you know). For those of you who absolutely refuse to let any dust settle on the bike, I suggest you attend our January meeting. The topic will be "Winter Biking".

I look forward to your suggestions and comments on this topic. As a matter of fact why not join me on the day after Christmas as we breeze on down (if the wind is at our backs, of course) to Coney Island.

So gang there you have it. After all - why hibernate when you can participate?

NOVEMBER 6, 1980 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SUMMARY OF MINUTES (UNAPPROVED)

- 1.) Plans for awards and mock elections at the December Club Meeting were reviewed and finalized. Bill Cooper will act as master of ceremonies.
- 2.) Diana Bingham announced that she will be unable to fulfill the duties of Editor. The Board decided to wait until after the elections to act.
- 3.) Martha Ramos announced plans for winter activities to be published in the December Bulletin, including ice and roller skating and cross country skiing. She is trying to find volunteers to lead such activities.
- 4.) The old and new Rides Committees will meet in December. On the agenda for discussion are: a tentative schedule for 1981, ride coordination with other clubs, development of ride leaders, improving ride participation, and drafting of a membership questionnaire.
- 5.) The Board confirmed its existing policy that no member should earn money from a Club activity; that leaders/organizers should be reimbursed for reasonable expenses and nothing more.
- 6.) Martha Ramos will try to organize an NYCC Bike Repair Course. Needed are a place to disassemble bikes and volunteers to teach.
- 7.) Sara Flowers, as V.P. Programs, is soliciting ideas for 1981 programs. Chris Mailing suggested a forum on spring conditioning and training be held at the February Club Meeting.
- 8.) The next Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, December 2nd. Both 1980 and 1981 Club officers are expected to attend.

Complete copies of approved minutes are available from Chris Mailing; phone (212)879-6199.

ELECTION RESULTS

The following results were announced by Bill Hoffmann, Chairman of the Ballot Counting Committee, at the November Club Meeting:

For President:	Jim Rex, 34	Lorraine Gewirtz, 17
For Treasurer:	Ken Abramson, 32	Bill Cooper, 19
Proposed By-laws:	For, 41	Against, 3
Dues Increase:	For, 45	Against, 4

Voting for uncontested offices was not tabulated. The new slate of officers will be installed at the December Club Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE AS OF 11 OCT 1980: 187 PAID UP INCLUDING 72 NEW ONES AND A SUBSCRIBER

1980-068	JOHN MULGARE	1980-071	GARY SLOMAN
069	TIM LOUGHMAN	072	JENNIFER STEARNS
070	FRED DANISHEFSKY	073	TOGA BIKE SHOP (SUBSCRIBER)

RIDE PREVIEW (BY JIM REX)

LEADER C B A FROM

"A" RIDER CONDITIONING SERIES

MARCH	8, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29	MAILING		!	!	NYC
APRIL	4, 5, 11, 12, 18	"		!	!	"
"	CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL	WEISMAN	!	!	?	"
"	FIVE BORO RALLY	BAUMAN	!			"
MAY	TOSRV WEEKEND				215	OHIO
"	17 HALF FAST DOUBLE CENTURY	REX			200	NYC
"	30 10TH PERSI-COLA BIKE MARATHON (24 HRS)		!	!	300	"
"	" GEAR		!	!	!	"
JUNE	NEW HOPE DOUBLE METRIC CENTURY				125	" - PA
"	ALBANY				150	"
JULY	DANBURY CENTURY				110	"
"	2ND MONTREAL EXPRESS (36-40 HRS)				380	"
AUG	DELAWARE WATER GAP ? (2 DYS)				290	"
SEP	NATIONAL PATCH RIDES		!	50	100	"
"	HI POINT 100		25	50	125	L.I.
"	LONG ISLAND DOUBLE CENTURY				200	L.I.
OCT	CAPITOL RUN (24 HRS)				250	NYC-WDC

RIDE RESULTS (BY JIM REX)

RIDE RESULTS (BY JIM REX)			TRIP MILES	RIDERS	CLUB'S MILEAGE
OCT	11	CAPITOL RUN	250	11	2,310
"	25	TALE OF TWO MANSIONS	(22)	RAINED OUT	0
"	25	HISTORICAL HOMES	(25)	RAINED OUT	0
"	26	VANAQUA RESERVOIR	(100)	CANCELLED	0
"	"	WESTCHESTER HILL CLIMBER	75	11	825
"	"	WESTCHESTER METRIC CENTURY	65	3	195
"	"	PASSAIC FALLS HALF CENTURY	50	5	250
NOV	1	CHESNUT RIDGE NJ	55	4	220
"	1	WASHINGTON SQUARE #1	45	13	535
"	2	WORD OF MOUTH SYOSETT RIDE	70	6	420
"	3	RESERVOIR RAMBLE	52	8	480
"	15	WASHINGTON SQUARE #2	50	15	750
"	16	WORD OF MOUTH "A" RIDE	53	3	159

4TH QUARTERLY RIDE RESULTS (AUG - OCT 1980)

BY JIM REX

	SUBTOTALS	C	B	A
CANCELLED LEADERS	7 30	3 8	2 14	2 8
TRIPS	55	11	21	23
" MILEAGE	4201	318	1123	2760
RIDERS	471	129	191	151
" MILEAGE	36416	3831	9535	23050

COMPARATIVE RESULTS OF PREVIOUS YEARS

BY JIM REX

4TH QTR		SUBTOTALS	C	B	A
YEAR	LEADER	TRIPS MILES RIDER CLUB'S MILEAGE	TRIPS MILES RIDERS CLUB'S MILEAGE	TRIPS MILES RIDERS CLUB'S MILEAGE	TRIPS MILES RIDERS CLUB'S MILEAGE
1976	36	38 1774 601 36286	14 305 160 4801	19 938 268 14154	5 531 173 17331
1977	40	37 2731 556 35013	15 353 194 5233	8 406 145 6280	14 1972 217 22900
1978	33	46 3239 732 47197	11 290 194 4702	13 645 243 11130	22 2304 295 31365
1979	12	28 2046 227 47047	5 100 34 1950	10 522 47 2730	13 1424 96 42367
1980	30	55 4201 471 36416	11 318 129 3831	21 1123 191 9535	23 2760 151 23050

REFERENCES: PAGE 10 DEC 1977 AND PAGE 4 DEC 1977 BULLETINS

WEATHER WARE

BY JIM REX

	WINTER										SPRING & FALL										SUMMER									
TEMPERATURE F	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	105	110	115						
HEAD: BARE																	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!						
COTTON CAP									!	!	!														!				!	!
WOOL "	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!																						
SKI MASK	!	!	?																											
SHIRT: SHORT								!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!
ARM WARMERS									!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!														
LONG SLEEVE	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!														
LONG JOHN	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!														
WINDBREAKER									!	!	!																			
WOOL JACKET	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!																						
HOODED "	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!																						
PANTS: SHORT	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!
LEG WARMERS									!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!														
LONG PANTS	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!														
LONG JOHN	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!														
LONG JOGGING	!	!	!	!	?																									
SHOES: VENTILATED								!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!
WINTER	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!																						
BOOTIES	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	?																						
PEDAL COVERS	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!																						
FEET: BARE															?	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!
COTTON SOCKS								!			!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!
WOOL "	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!														
" HEAVY "	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!																						
PLASTIC BAGS	!	!	!	!	?																									
GLOVES: RIDING								!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!
LONG								!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!														
MITTENS	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!	!														

WIND-CHILL INDEX

Windspeed (mph)	Equivalent temperature (degrees F)								
0	50	40	30	20	10	0	-10	-20	
5	48	37	27	16	6	-5	-15	-26	
10	40	28	16	4	-9	-21	-33	-46	
15	36	22	9	-5	-18	-36	-45	-58	
20	32	18	4	-10	-25	-39	-53	-67	
25	30	16	0	-15	-29	-44	-59	-74	
30	28	13	-2	-18	-33	-48	-63	-79	
35	27	11	-4	-20	-35	-49	-67	-82	
40	26	10	-6	-21	-37	-53	-69	-85	

HIGHER WINDS MAKE RIDING LESS THAN SAFE

THIS ESTIMATE IS 85-90% ACCURATE BETWEEN SUNNY AND CLOUDY DAYS NOT COUNTING WIND-CHILL, OR HARD RIDING THAT GENERATES MORE BODY HEAT. I HAD OCCASSION TO SWEAT RIDING 20+ MPH IN 9F (-13 C) WITH THE LI "ANIMALS" AS THE CONDENSATION OF MY BREATH FORMED ICICLES ON MY MUSTACHE. TO STAVE OFF SUDDEN CHILLS, I SLOW DOWN 20 MINUTES BEFORE STOPPING TO COOL OFF GRADUALLY. THIS MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE IF ONE GETS A FLAT TIRE. MY NEXT CHART WILL BE ABOUT CAMPING GEAR.

1977 BROUGHT RECORD SNOW, 1978 RECORD COLD, 1979 WINTER DROUGHT. IF THINGS DON'T CHANGE FOR THE BETTER SOON WE MAY GO ON WATER RATIONING. MEANWHILE A COLD WINTER COMING IS IN THE FORCAST. THOSE OF YOU HARDY SOULS WHO CARE TO COMPARE NOTES ON WHAT TO WEAR FOR WINTER RIDING, LET ME ADD THAT MY CHART WAS IN REFERENCE TO AIR TEMPERATURE I REPRINT FROM TWO YEARS AGO FOR LACK OF BETTER ARTICLES. SINCE THEN I HAVE NOTICED THAT GROUND TEMPERATURE HAS SOME EFFECT MAINLY ON FOOT WEAR. AFTER A COLD NITE IN THE TEENS OR TWENTIES, THE DAY TIME TEMPERATURE IN THE THIRTIES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO WARM IT UP. IF YOU CARE TO WALK TO WARM YOUR TOES, YOU MAY BE BETTER OFF RIDING INSTEAD. SOMETHING I NOTICED IN REVERSE RIDING IN THE MOHAVE DESERT WHEN THE GROUND WAS TOO HOT (136 F).

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

Thursday, May 1, 1980

Pedaling to save 77,000 barrels a day

The law says: "Congress recognizes that bicycles are the most efficient means of transportation." Who are we to defy the law? This being National Bicycling Day, as proclaimed by the President, let us consider the case made by the Department of Transportation for saving oil by riding bicycles. The prize is an estimated saving of as much as 77,000 barrels a day by 1985 — or a modestly whopping 23.5 million barrels a year.

How to get there from here is described in DOT's congressionally mandated report, "Bicycle Transportation for Energy Conservation," just issued with the riders pictured in these columns on its cover. If only Dr. Paul Dudley White were here to see the growth in the bicycle interest he pioneered with his Committee for Safe Bicycling.

Proposals for improved safety measures quite properly have a central place in the DOT report. If bicycles proliferate at the projected rate, it will become increasingly important to provide the safety training, facilities, and enforcement that now are all too often neglected. American bicyclists frequently seem to be trying to have the best of both worlds, sometimes thinking of themselves as cars on the highway and sometimes as pedestrians riding through lights when "walk" flashes. Those whom the shoe fits ought to change. And so should the motorists who are not yet ready to grant bicyclists the right of one-vehicle-one-vote on the public thoroughfare.



But safety deficiencies are only one of the obstacles to increased bike transportation identified by DOT. There are also such deterrents as lack of street provisions for bicycle use, lack of knowledge about good routes, and a general low level of awareness and acceptance of bicycle transportation by potential cyclists and motorists.

To reduce the obstacles, DOT is taking steps to ensure everything from the Coast Guard considering provisions for bicycle access to bridges — to federally aided urban transportation projects including assessments of impact on bicycle use.

The potential results? In 1975 an average of 470,000 Americans commuted to work by bicycle on any given day. Analysis showed that, with factors such as the removal of ob-

stacles taken into account, the total could have been 3.8 million. So a goal of 1.5 million to 2.5 million bicycle commuters by 1985 does not seem unreasonable. Add increased bike use for shopping and so forth and the reduction in auto use brings the oil savings to the range of 55,000 to 77,000 barrels a day.

But is it realistic? Take a look at your city streets. There seem to be more bikes than before on ours. Not all that many years ago the bicycling employees in our own organization were few enough to be a novelty, chaining their steeds to a fence. Then bicycle racks — and more bicycle racks — became necessary. In the past couple of years the number of riders has gone up by 50 percent to perhaps a hundred.

We don't demand quite the devotion of a girl cycling in the rain the other day who said it was better that way, "without all the dust." But surely "the most efficient means of transportation" is worth a try.

THE ROMANTIC CYCLIST, or BIKE IS A FOUR-LETTER WORD

By Roger J. Herz

Tune: On Top of Old Smoky

© 1980

1. My love is a biker; I think love is neat;
Before we go cycling, my love tilts my seat.
2. My love is a biker, far 'bove those beneath;
Before we go cycling, my love cleans my teeth.
3. My love is a biker, according to Hoyle;
Preparing for riding with penetrating oil.
4. My love is a biker; we ride oft at night;
My love knows just how to recharge my light.
5. My love is a biker, and oft at the dawn,
Before we go cycling, my love blows my horn.
6. My love is a biker; into love we fell;
Now once in a while, my love rings my bell.
7. My love is a biker; aye, there's the rub;
Before we go cycling, love greases my hub.
8. My love is a biker, I think I have said,
Whose favorite set is the one known as "head."
9. My love is a biker, both rural and town,
Whose favorite tube is the one known as "down."
10. My love is a biker, through smile and cough;
After I'm mounted, love helps me get off.
11. My love is a biker, a playful near colt,
Who often adjusts my expander bolt.
12. My love is a biker, with practice love learns
To true up my wheels as the nipples love turns.
13. My love is a biker, an expert with lubes;
Before we go cycling, love pumps up my tubes.
14. My love is a biker, acts kindly in full;
I get all the breaks with my love's center-pull.
15. My love is a biker, whose gifts bring me peace;
Before we go cycling, I get quick release.
16. My love is a biker, and trains for the race,
And we put each other through the classic pace.

These lyrics were written during a historic week in American bicycle transportation which included the first national conference of bicycle program specialists in Asheville and the termination of the bikelane experiment in New York 29 days after dedication.

Courage!



Jim
(courage)
R

THE WORLD IN THE HANDS OF SUPER POWERS, RULED BY TWO DIFFERING POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES. IN THE LEADING ROLE CONTESTION ARE U.S. AND USSR WITH A CAST OF NATIONS TAKING SIDES IN PRO AND CON SUPPORTING ROLES. THE MAIN CHARACTERS POSTURIZING WITH THEIR TEAM OF STAGE HANDS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT APPROPRIATE ARMORS TO WEAR FOR THE SHOW. THIS SHOWMANSHIP IS NOW TITLED SALT II.

ONE CHARACTER IS CAST BY LEONID BREZNEV WITH AN EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND EXPERIENCE IN POWER PLAYS, FULLY CAPABLE APPLYING HIMSELF IN THE CHOSEN ROLE. HE HAD EARNED HIS REPUTATION AND LAURELS BY COMING UP THE RANKS WITH YEARS OF HARD WORK. HE HAS THE ABILITY TO MAINTAIN HIS POSITION AND RESPECT OF HIS SUPPORTERS BY BEING INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING RUSSIA UP WITH 20TH CENTURY.

SO FAR AS HIS LIVER AND KIDNEYS ALLOW FOR IT, HIS RESUME GIVES PASSING MENTION OF PERSONAL TASTE IF NOT FOR WINE BUT VODKA, WOMEN AND SONG. HE COULD ALMOST PASS FOR A REGULAR GUY IF IT WASN'T FOR HIS MILITARY PERVERSION OF INVADING AFGANISTAN.

BY CONTRAST OUR OWN JIMMY CARTER, WHOM FAR FROM THE HUMBLE POOR PEANUT FARMER SOME PEOPLE WOULD LIKE US BELIEVE, HAS REACTED VEHEMENTLY AGAINST SUCH ACTION WITH THE MORAL LAXATIVE OF BOYCOTING THE MOSCOW OLYMPICS. WHICH IN TURN MADE HIM LESS POPULAR WITH OUR OWN ATHLETES THAN ANYBODY ELSE. DEVOTEES OF SPORT DON'T LIKE TO MIX WITH POLITICS, SPECIALLY WHEN THEIR PROSPECTIVE GLORY IS AT STAKE, INCLUDING CYCLISTS, SOME OF WHOM WERE LUCKY TO FIND CONSOLATION. LIKE JR WORLD CHAMPION GREG LEMOND, AND OUR GIRLS SUE NOVAK ON TRACK, AND BETH HEIDEN ON ROAD ADDING TO BROTHER ERIC'S FIVE SKATING GOLD MEDALS.

MEANWHILE NEW YORK CITY GOT HIT BY A TRANSIT STRIKE. THIS BROUGHT OUT 40,000 CYCLIST A DAY SAVING MILLIONS OF REVENUE FOR THE CITY BY SHOWING UP FOR WORK, MAKING PAYROLL TAXES AND SUCH. THEREBY REDUCING THE UNIONS BARGAINING POWER BY THE SAME TOKEN, WHICH NOW COST 60¢ OR 20% MORE THAN BEFORE INSTEAD OF HIGHER DEMANDS.

THIS OCCURED ONLY MONTHS AFTER A CITY ORDINANCE WAS PUT INTO EFFECT, THAT ACCIDENT CLAIMS CAUSED BY POT HOLES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT A TWO WEEKS PRIOR NOTICE ALLOWING TIME FOR IT'S REPAIR. WHICH IN ITSELF IS REDICULOUS, SINCE HOW CAN POT HOLES THAT ARE FIXED TO BE MORE VALID DANGER THAN ONE THAT HASN'T BEEN. THIS WAS MAYOR KOSH'S BRILLIANT IDEA THAT EFFECTED CYCLISTS MORE THAN MOTORISTS.

AFTER THE TRANSIT STRIKE SETTLEMENTS MAYOR KOSH LEARNED TO RESPECT CYCLISTS WHO HAD GRADUATED FROM RECREATION TO REGULAR COMMUTING, WHICH CREATED NEW SETS OF PROBLEM AND EXPANDED FORMER ONES. CYCLISTS HAVE BECOME AN UNAVOIDABLE PRESENCE.

THE MIDTOWN MOTORIST TRAPPED IN RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC JAM CONSIDERS IT ONE MORE UNBEARABLE THING HAVING TO ADJUST TO. SPECIALLY WHEN THEY ARE SO CRAMMED FOR SPACE, PARKING OR OTHERWISE, THEY CAN'T EVEN GET OFF THE ROAD TO STOP DRIVING. IT LOOKS AS IF CAR OWNERS ARE SUBJECTS TO A CAR'S DEMANDING EXISTANCE ABOVE RIGHTS THE DRIVER HAS LOST YEARS AGO. THEY HAVE A SPACE SCARCE EXISTANCE, LET ALONE ASK THEM TO MAKE ROOM FOR BIKES. DRIVERS INVARIABLY CAN'T SEEM TO IMAGINE CYCLING THEMSELVES, AND FEEL NO ONE ELSE SHOULD EITHER. THEY ARE ANNOYED AND THINK OF US AS NUISANCE, AND VERY OFTEN DANGEROUSLY HOSTILE.

INSURANCE COMPANIES HAVE SIMPLIFIED THEIR OPERATING COSTS IN RELATION TO EACHOTHER BY A "NO FAULT" POLICY. THE SAVING GAINED BY IT IS MORE THAN WIPED OUT BY RISING MEDICAL COSTS. NOWHERE IS IT MORE APPARENT THEN THE "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE WORST KIND" BETWEEN CARS AND CYCLISTS. MYSELF A FORMERLY TRAINED CLAIM INVESTIGATOR, MOTORIST, AND BIKE COMMUTER HAVING BEEN STRUCK TWICE BY OTHER DRIVERS ACQUIRED UNSOLICITED FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE AND PAINFUL MEMORIES TO BE AWARE OF IT'S FULL IMPLICATION.

A NATIONWIDE STUDY HAS REVEALED THAT OF ALL MOTORCYCLISTS STRUCK BY CARS, 67% OF THE TIME THE CAR DRIVERS ARE TO BLAME. THEY ARE BLESSED WITH A DEFENSIVE DRIVING MENTALITY THAT INFERS THEY ARE DRIVING SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOU, YOU SHOULD BE SO SCARED AS TO YIELD TO THEM NO MATTER WHAT.

CYCLIST FARE EVEN WORST. INSURANCE COMPANIES TRYING TO CUT COSTS WILL MAKE THE VICTIM CYCLIST WITHOUT EQUAL REPRESENTATION THE CULPRIT. MUCH OF REASONING FALLS BETWEEN "SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THERE" AND "HAD NO RIGHT TO BE THERE". TOO MANY UNWITTING CYCLISTS VIOLATING TRAFFIC RULES MAKING SUCH CLAIMS POSSIBLE EVEN WHEN THE CASE IS CONTRARY TO SUCH GENERALIZATIONS. LITTLE DO THEY REALIZE IF THEY RODE BIKES ALSO INSTEAD OF DRIVING THERE WOULD BE MORE ROOM TO SPARE THAN THEY ARE NOW FIGHTING FOR.

THERE ARE SAFETY CONSCIENTIOUS GROUPS OF PEOPLE TRYING TO LEGISLATE TIGHTER GUN CONTROL LAWS, BUT MAKE "NO FAULT" ALLOWANCES FOR CARS THAT ALREADY KILLED MORE AMERICANS THAN ALL ARMED CONFLICTS WE EVER ENGAGED IN AS A NATION. PERSONALLY I DON'T LIKE CARS BEARING DOWN ON ME ANY MORE THAN GUNS OR KNIVES BEING POINTED AT ME, REGARDLESS OF WHATEVER MEANINGLESS INSURANCE THE DRIVER MAY HAVE STACKED AGAINST THE CYCLIST. EVEN LICENSED DRIVERS "HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE THERE" TO THINK THEY ARE THE SOLE OWNERS OF THE ROAD EVEN IF THE CYCLISTS ARE MORE VULNERABLE AND MANY OF THEM CAN VERY EASILY BE INTIMIDATED.

THE ULTIMATE IRONY OF IT ALL....

HENRY FORD WHO STARTED THE US AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY WAS A BICYCLE MECHANIC JUST LIKE THE WRIGHT BROTHERS WHO MADE AIRPLANES A REALITY. NEVERTHELESS AUTOMOBILES EVOLVED TO THE POINT EVEN HENRY FORD WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE IT TODAY. WHEN I'M LOOKING AT MY 21 (NOT 12) GEAR BIKE, I'M SURE I COULD TELL HIM A THING OR TWO ABOUT THAT TOO. NOT ONLY DID CARS EVOLVE BUT A WHOLE CULTURE AND SOCIETY AROUND IT, WITH ALL IT'S MISGIVINGS AND PREJUDICES AS WELL. LIKE THE SABER TOOTH TIGER, CAR IS FAST APPROACHING IT'S OWN CAUSED EXTINCTION BY OVER SPECIALIZATION.

OUR SOCIETY WILL HAVE TO ADJUST TO THAT CHANGE TO AVOID THE SAME FATE. WHILE CARS PACK HUNDREDS OF HORSE POWERED ENGINES, IN RUSH HOUR TRAFFIC JAM THEY CAN'T TRAVEL THE LENGTH OF BROADWAY FASTER THAN A HORSE AND BUGGY DID BEFORE IT'S INVENTION. THEY RUN ON NO LONGER CHEAP VARIETY: AMONG 2000 OIL PRODUCTS RANGING FROM MEDICINE, FOOD PRESERVATIVE, TO LUBRICATION AND FUEL. BUT CREATES DISADVANTAGES OF OVER USE CAUSING SMOG, AIR POLLUTION AND CANCER.

EVERY TIME I RODE A 300 MILE MARATHON IN THE CENTRAL PARK, IT EFFECTED MY BRONCHIAL TUBES AND CHEST FROM 3 TO 5 DAYS AFTER, DEPENDING ON THE BREEZE AND AIR POLLUTION IN THE CITY. OFTEN JUST COMMUTING TO WORK I FEEL IT. BUSES AND TRUCKS RUNNING DIESEL ENGINES ARE THE WORST, WHILE SOME BUILDING SUPER INTENDANTS ADD TO IT BY BURNING PLASTIC BAGGED GARBAGE ILLEGALLY IN THE INCINERATORS. MAKES MY EYES TEAR AND NOSE RUN....

WE REACHED THE STAGE WHEN NOT ONLY CARS RUNNING CREATE THE PROBLEM, BUT THE FUEL IT USES. WHICH GOES BEYOND WHAT IT DOES IN THE CAR BACK TO THE SOURCE. IT WRACKS HAVOC WITH WORLD ECONOMY AND WORLD SECURITY. HAD HENRY FORD FORESEEN THE PROBLEM AT THE BEGINNING, HE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE INVENTED SOMETHING ELSE.

PREVIOUSLY ORGANIC OIL HAS PRECEDED IT PRESSED FROM PLANT SEEDS OR OBTAINED FROM ANIMAL FATS. BIGGEST SOURCE OF WHICH HAD BEEN THE SPERM WHALE, CLOSE TO EXTINCTION NOW AS PRACTICED BY USSR, JAPAN, AND A FEW RENEGADE POACHERS. BY THE TIME WESTERN INDUSTRIALIZATION GOT UNDER WAY, RUNNING IT'S UNPRECEDENTED HORD OF MACHINERY THAT NEEDED MORE OIL AND FAST. THEY RESORTED TO MINERAL SOURCE LYING BENEATH THE GROUND BUT IN NEED OF REFINING. ABOUT THAT TIME WHALE SIZE FOSSILIZED REMAINS OF WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE DINOSAURS WERE DISCOVERED TOO. IT DIDN'T CONNECT WITH ANYTHING KNOWN UP UNTILL THEN SO THEY HAD IT LUMPED TOGETHER WITH OTHER LITTLE UNDERSTOOD DISCOVERY. NAMELY "FOSSIL FUEL" AS IF BY SOME ASSOCIATION IT HAD BEEN THE TRUTH. EVEN THOUGH IT'S A MISNOMER, EVERYBODY KNEW WHAT THEY MEANT BY IT, SO THAT SHOULD MAKE IT O'RIGHT. YET NO DINOSAURS EVER LIVED OR EVEN TOOK A PISS AT WHERE OIL FIELDS LIE TODAY. MAYBE A CAMEL OR TWO PERHAPS...

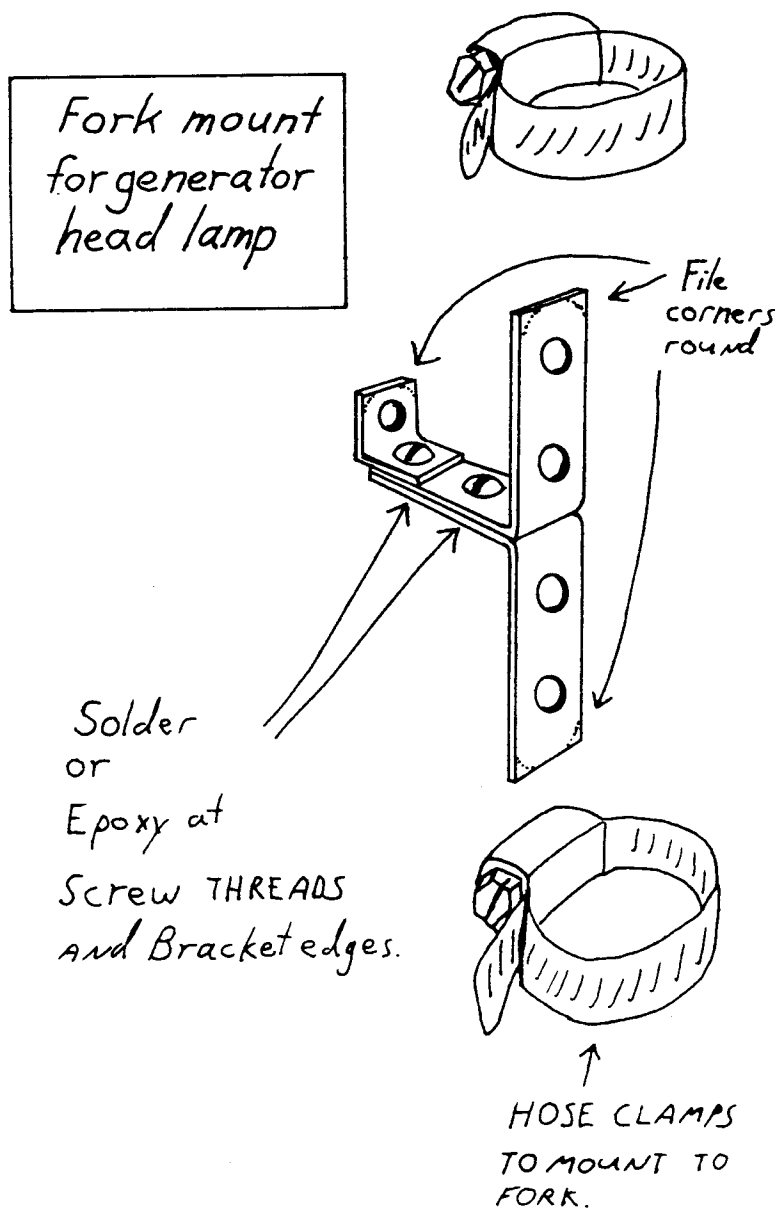
THIS BRINGS US TO THE POOR COUNTRIES OF OIL RICH NATIONS, MAINLY IRAN. APART FROM HOLDING OUR HOSTAGES SHAMELESSLY, THEY USED TO BE THE CHIEF SUPPLIERS OF OUR IMPORTED OIL FOR WHICH WE TRADED OUR GOODS GEARED FOR OUR LIFE STYLE USE. IT'S WESTERNIZING EFFECT PROVED TO BE TOO MUCH FOR A FEW POWER JEALOUS LEADERS CLOACKED IN THE ROBE OF LOCAL RELIGION, UNREADY TO JOIN THE 20TH CENTURY FOR IT COULD MAKE THEM OBSOLETE.

COMPOUNDING THE PROBLEM IS THEIR OWN INTERNAL TURMOIL WITH A FIGURE HEAD AYATOLLA KHOMENI: WHO'S JUDGEMENT IS MARRED BY YEARS OF EXILE, WHILE A SUDDEN INHERITOR OF POLITICAL POWER HE IS LESS VERSED IN USING THAN THE KORAN THAT'S UNFAMILIAR TO MOST OF US. I GET THE IMPRESSION HE IS MORE INTERESTED IN INHERITING FINANCIAL POWERS THAT HIS PREDECESSOR USED TO HAVE, WHICH TENDENCY ACTUALLY PUTS HIM INTO DOUBLE JEOPARDY. I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF HIS "ON THE JOB TRAINING" TYPE OF LEADERSHIP WILL PUT HIM INTO BANKRUPTCY. HIS PROSPECT ARE BETTER FOR A WELL PLANNED RETIREMENT IN CULTIVATING A PRUNE FARM.

BY THE TIME THIS OIL CRISIS GETS SOLVED, WE PROBABLY WILL RUN OUT OF IT. IN THE INTERIM PEOPLE WILL GO ON BELIEVING AND ACTING LIKE THEY USED TO. OLD HABITS DO NOT ALWAYS FADE AT THE RATE THEY SHOULD. SO LONG AS THERE WILL BE OIL TO BURN CARS WILL BE DOING JUST THAT. BY THE TIME THEY CAN'T YOU WISH THEY COULD.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

THIS CONTRIBUTION WAS JIM VER ECKE'S IDEA TO PASS ON.



BEING YOUR EDITOR DURING THIS PAST YEAR WAS A WORTHWHILE EXPERIENCE. I WANT TO THANK ALL MY READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS MAKING IT POSSIBLE. MY BACKUP "PERSON" DIANNA BINGHAM WHO COULD HAVE DONE IT HERSELF WAS MY BIGGEST HELP OF ALL DEALING WITH THE PRINTERS AND THE POST OFFICE. I COULDN'T THINK OF A BETTER PERSON TO SUCCEED ME, SO I HAD NOMINATED HER TO TAKE ON THAT JOB. SO FAR AS I KNOW SHE HAD BEEN HONORED TO TAKE OVER. WHETHER SHE WILL OR NOT, I WISH MY SUCCESSOR THE SAME HELP SHE WAS TO ME.

JIM REX

As a NYCC member, I accept full personal responsibility for obeying all traffic regulations and for my own safety on the road. I will hold the club, its officers, and ride leaders blameless in case of accident.

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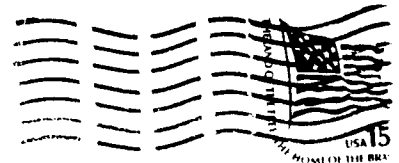
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