

Bike Banter

Old Spokes - FLC Seniors Cycling Club Newsletter

Issue 7– June 30, 2020



Got something funny? Encouraging? Interesting?

Send to the editorial team at:

pamelalester@shaw.ca

Our Editorial Team:

Pamela Lester, Publisher

Peter Bradbury, Chief Correspondent

Richard Stothard, Distribution

Peter Whitehead, Facebook Coordinator

Inside this issue:

- A Calgary Stampede Tale
- How Did the Netherlands Become the #1 Bicycling Nation? (#2)
- Clint Eastwood Turns 90
- Judi Dench Covergirl at 85
- Musical Humour?
- How many faces can you see?
- Reflections

A Calgary Stampede Tale - 1985

by Hazel Banush



*Granddaughter Kristina is in the second window of the Trolley.
Hazel is beside her*

This true story was originally written for and presented to a Toastmaster Stampede contest which it won. The audience couldn't stop laughing although they gave me bad marks for my grammar.

In 2003 I resurrected it and entered it into a CBC radio Stampede story contest. They phoned me immediately after reading it and I went in to record it for them. I won "Best Seat in the Parade" for 2.

My Granddaughter Kristina accompanied me. We were "white-hatted" the day before the parade. It was one of the highlights of my life. So much fun! Enjoy!

https://youtu.be/2T_9IPmuddl (3.5 min.) *You can see this video in your newsletter email.*



Footnote

2020 - I found this story, recorded it and put it into YouTube.

The Calgary Stampede has been cancelled this year because of Covid19 but we can still celebrate Stampede with some of our past memories.

Yahoo! Get yer western shirt on!

HOW DID THE NETHERLANDS BECOME THE #1 BICYCLING NATION? (#2)

How did bicycling develop in the U.S. a century or so ago? It was a Golden Age. In 1896, 250 major cycle factories and 600 accessory makers produced one million bikes to sell into a market of 4 million eager riders.

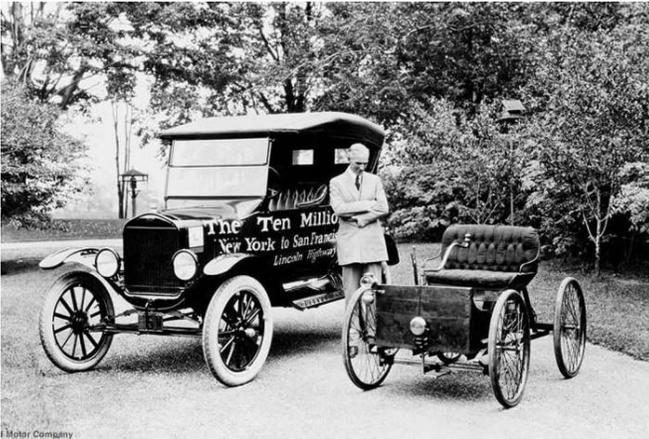
Bicycle riders in the initial years of the boom tended to be well-off; a bicycle cost six months of wages. The primary purpose of bikes was recreation. Riders formed cycling clubs, the most prominent and influential being the League of American Wheelmen (L.A.W.), open to white men. Women took to the sport in thousands, aiding their emancipation according to rights activists.

Professional bike racing in velodromes virtually became a national sport, rivaling baseball and football, with crowds of as many as 10,000 spectators in cities across the country. Fans of men's races tended to be working class; spectators of women's contests were society people and families. A typical velodrome was a temporary wood structure banked at 35 degrees, which precipitated electrifying crashes among the contestants. Bands played music to the cadence of the speeding riders. Some events went for six days; contestants slept or rested in the center of the oval, and spectators arrived and departed as suited them.



The U.S. produced world champions. One of them, Marshall "Major" Taylor, a black man, held several world records. Unfortunately, he died pennilessly. Another, a Swedish immigrant, Tillie Anderson, fared better. Working as a seamstress, she saved for two years to buy a bicycle. In her first race, a 100-mile test of endurance in Illinois, she won in driving rain to beat the course record by 18 minutes. In her seven-year career, Anderson traveled around the world, winning all of her 120 races except for 11. She trained hard with the aid of weights. She earned US\$160,000 a year in today's currency between prize money and sponsorships.

In the 19th century, many roads were dust bowls in summer, rutted in winter, and churned with deep mud at most other times. Cyclists also disliked bumpy cobbled roadways. They much preferred asphalt, wooden block, and macadam roads. Politically connected cyclists, many from L.A.W., founded the Good Roads movement, which actively and successfully advocated the construction of smooth roads. Initially, railroads opposed the cyclists for interfering with their expansion plans, and farmers because they thought of them as rich playboys wanting to spend government money on their toys. Both groups soon appreciated the economic benefits to them of proper thoroughfares. Cyclists were the prime, early initiators of well-constructed roadways, not motorists, as commonly thought, though the argument is moot because cyclists were the first to buy automobiles.



Some argue that either the horse-drawn carriage or the internal combustion engine was the precursor of the automobile. Not so, it was the bicycle. In 1886, Carl Benz built the first automobile, the Patent Motorwagen, a motorized two-seater tricycle, from parts sourced from the House of Bicycles, Germany's biggest bike shop. Henry Ford's first rendition of an automobile was the Quadricycle, which included wire-spoke wheels, bush roller chains, and pneumatic tires from bicycles. The best-known automobile manufacturers in the early days: Rambler, Willys, Ford, Dodge, Pope, Peerless, Winton, Cadillac, Chevrolet, in the

U.S.; Peugeot, Clement, Darracq, in France; Morris, Rover, Humber, Rolls, Aston Martin, in Great Britain, had all been bicycle manufacturers.

Cyclists, motorists, pedestrians, and others have had acrimonious arguments over rights to the use of roadways for more than a century. Cyclists defend their rights by saying they preceded the motorists.

Sources: The Art of Cycling by Robert Hurst, and other sources.

Next: Cycling's decline in the U.S. and its devastation in the Netherlands.

Peter Bradbury

Clint Eastwood Turned 90



Go
Ahead,
Make My
Birthday



9 Fascinating Facts About Clint Eastwood As He Turns 90

Clint Eastwood turned 90 on May 31, 2020, but don't expect him to break a sweat over it. The silver screen legend plays it cool when considering aging.

Judi Dench is the oldest Vogue Covergirl at 85



“You know what the big trick is? I have a friend that is in his 90s, and I said to him, ‘You look real good. What’s the deal?’ He says, **‘Never let the old man in.’** And he never did.”

Eastwood went on to declare, “Aging can be fun if you lay back and enjoy it,” which the actor has done for years.

He began acting in the 1950s and went on to star in classics like Sergio Leone’s *Dollars* trilogy, the *Dirty Harry* films, *Pale Rider* and *Escape From Alcatraz*.

But he actually won his first two Oscars at age 62 for the film *Unforgiven* — Best Director and Best Picture — and was nominated for a third, Best Actor. Since then he has won another two Oscars (again for Best Director and Best Picture for 2004’s *Million Dollar Baby*) and enjoyed further late-career success in front of and behind the camera with films like *Gran Torino*, *Letters From Iwo Jima* and *American Sniper*.

But while most of Eastwood’s life has played out in the public spotlight, some of the most fascinating moments happened off-camera.

For more: <https://www.everythingzoomer.com/arts-entertainment/2020/05/29/clint-eastwood-90-fascinating-facts/>

Note: In Ukulele jams, we sing the song ‘Don’t Let the Old Man In’ by Toby Keith – Tyrone Lester

Musical Humour?

Some artists of the 50's are revising their hits with new lyrics to accomodate baby boomers. Here's a few:

1. Herman's Hermits- Mrs. Brown you've got a lovely walker.
2. The Bee Gees- How can you mend a broken hip.
3. Bobby Darin- Splish Splash I was Having a flash.
4. Ringo Starr- I'll get by with the help from depends.
5. The Commodores- Once, twice, three times to the bathroom.
6. Marvin Gaye- Heard it from the Grape Nuts
7. Leo Sayer- You make me feel like napping.
8. Willie Nelson- On the commode again.
- 9- Procol Harem- A whiter shade of hair.
10. Johnny Nash- I can't see clearly now.
11. Helen Reddy- I am woman hear me snore.
12. Abba- Denture Queen.

Multi award winning British actress, Dame Judi Dench, has added another Guinness World Records title to her name after officially becoming the oldest Vogue cover model in history, following the publication of British Vogue’s June 2020 issue.

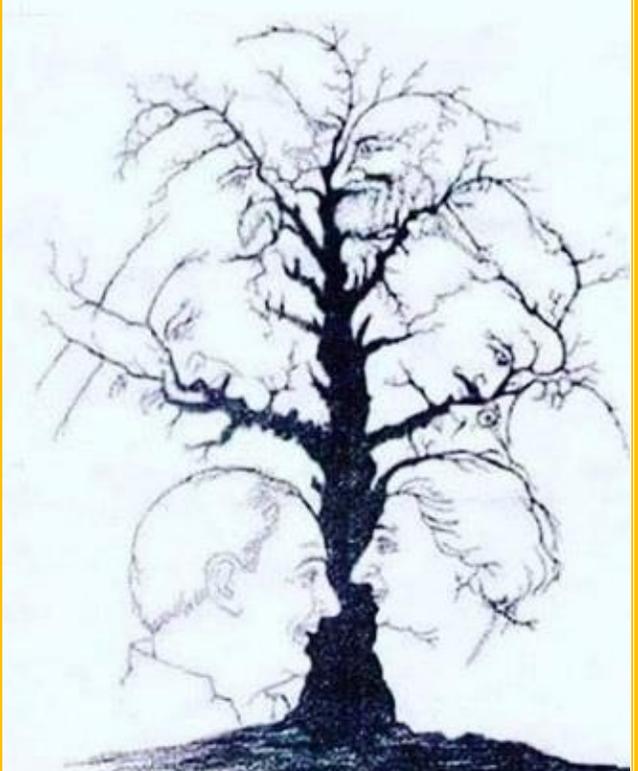
At the age of 85 years, 150 days (as of May 7 2020), Dame Judi has surpassed the record formerly held by Jane Fonda, who appeared on the cover of British Vogue’s September 2019 edition, at the age of 81.

She holds Guinness World Records titles for the most Laurence Olivier Award nominations by an individual with nine, across the categories for Best Actress (6), Best Supporting Role (1), Best Supporting Actress (1) and Best Actress in a Musical (1).

See Judi’s video interview and more:

<https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/news/2020/6/dame-judi-dench-adds-oldest-vogue-cover-model-to-list-of-record-achievements-620061/>

How many faces can you see?



Reflections

I Hope You Dance

I hope you never lose your sense of wonder,
You get your fill to eat but always keep that hunger,
May you never take one single breath for granted,
God forbid love ever leave you empty handed,

I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean,
Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens,
Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance,
And when you get the choice to sit out or dance,
I hope you dance.

I hope you never fear those mountains in the distance,
Never settle for the path of least resistance,
Living might mean taking chances, but they're worth taking,
Loving might be a mistake but it's worth making

Don't let some hell bent heart leave you bitter,
When you come close to setting out, reconsider,
Give the heavens above more than just a passing glance,
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance,
I hope you dance.

Time is a wheel in constant motion always rolling us along,
Tell me who wants to look back on their years and
wonder where all those years have gone?

I hope you dance.

Let Ann Wenner

Old Spokes - FLC Seniors Cycling Club
Promotes health and fitness for cyclists 55+
www.flcseniors.ca/activities/cycling
Email: cycling@flcseniors.ca
Facebook: Old Spokes