



Got a favorite poem?
Reflections to share?
Send to: pamelalester@shaw.ca

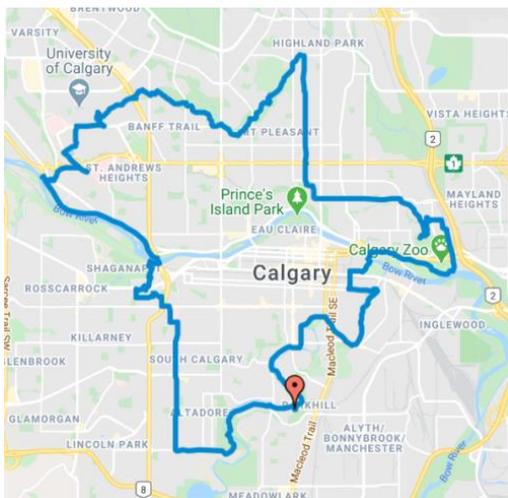
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Inside this issue:

- Level 3 Fine Start to the Season
- How Did the Netherlands Become the #1 Bicycling Nation? (#3 in the series)
- OK E-Bikers!
- Animals Pandemic Style
- **NEW** Classified Ads Section
- 60s Blast from the Past
- Reflections

LEVEL 3 FINE START TO THE SEASON

I led the first Level 3 event of the season, on Saturday, July 4. It was the first ride I had designed myself entirely; I was pleased with the outcome. The 41 km route circled the city center, taking in Confederation Park and the University in the North, and the Elbow River and an ice cream shop in the South. I could not find a place serving Samosas, and it was too early in the ride to stop at the Shawarma place on 16th Ave.



I took a picture of the hardy group at the top of Tom Campbell's Hill. From left to right, they were Peter Ripley, Brenda Ballantyne, Mike Masecar, Rene Starrat, Marisa Poon Tip, Rodney Mohr, and Lorraine Mohr. We were a full complement of eight. Notice the social distancing; I promise you we kept our distance, not just in the photo.

One can't cycle in both the North and South sides of the Bow River valley without encountering hills, so I was forgiven. However, I suffered a rebellion in Shaganappi Park. After so many hill climbs, some refused to follow my designed route up one more measly slope, insisting on a detour/short-cut. I was ticked off enough that I threatened to bypass the ice cream shop. Ha, as if I would!

A huge thundercloud developed when we were at My Favorite Ice Cream Shoppe. We gobbled our ice cream, completed the ride, and got back to our cars with only seconds to spare before the cloud burst. This was a rewarding leading experience that I would recommend to any keen member of our club.

Brent Daignault

How Did the Netherlands Become the #1 Bicycling Nation? (#3 in the series)

DECLINE OF CYCLING IN THE U.S.

While cycling in the Netherlands and various parts of Europe steadily gained popularity over the first half of the 20th century, biking in the U.S. collapsed as suddenly as it began. Manufacturing, which had peaked at one million bikes in 1900, dropped to one-quarter of that size only five years later. The market became saturated.

Some authors argue the automobile did not cause the decline of the *fiets* (Dutch for bicycle) because the auto emerged years after the bike. *Onzin!* The first people to acquire cars in the U.S. were the well-off cyclists that had caused the bike boom in the first place. Membership in the paramount, wealthy, bicycling League of American Wheelmen fell from 100,000 to a tenth of that number in a few short years. If engineers had never invented the automobile, the bicycle market probably would have recovered.

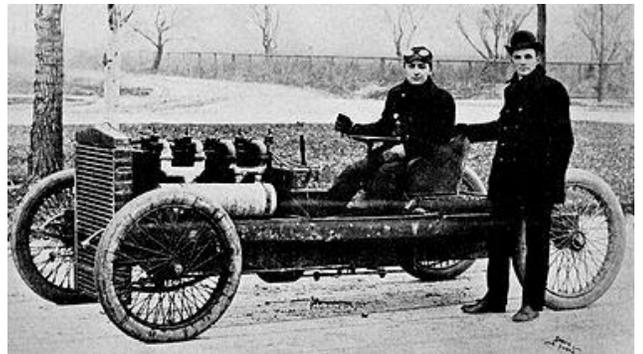
BARNEY OLDFIELD, FOR SEVERAL YEARS FAMOUS AS AUTO RACER, HAS RETIRED



Ford introduced the first conveyor belt-based assembly line in 1913 to produce the famous Model T automobile. He was determined to go beyond the auto being a status symbol; he wanted everyone to have one. A year later, Ford wowed the nation by doubling the company's workers' wages to \$5 an hour so that they could afford a car of their own. The cost of the Model T declined from \$850 in 1908 to \$290 in 1924. In that year, Ford accounted for half the nation's auto production, which, in turn, was 90% of world manufacturing.

Dutch visitors to the U.S. during those years were amazed at the prevalence of the automobile and the shortage of bicycles. They noted cars lined up, parked on streets in impoverished neighborhoods, teenagers driving large vehicles, virtually nobody walking, and the low price of vehicles. Anyone could buy a car for not much more than double the cost of a good bicycle in the Netherlands. The vast second-hand auto market in the U.S. and the availability of credit made vehicle acquisition even easier.

Bicycle racers found a new vocation, racing automobiles. The most famous of them was Barney Oldfield, a dare-devil, self-promoting, cigar-chomping, four-times married, bad-ass, who earned the moniker "Speed King." In 1902, he raced #999, a car Henry Ford made available to him in Michigan. Rumour had it that Oldfield learned how to operate the vehicle that morning. He won against the then champion by ½ mile in a 5-mile race by sliding around corners full throttle as on a motorcycle instead of braking as was customary. It was a great victory for Ford and resulted in both Oldfield and Ford becoming nationally known. Oldfield was the first to speed at a mile-a-minute. He barnstormed around the country, racing against a bi-plane.



Schwinn Bicycle Company, founded in 1895, was the dominant U.S. manufacturer of bicycles for most of the 20th century. Schwinn and 30 other companies based in Chicago produced thousands of bikes every day. When the demand for bicycles for sport and recreation faded, Schwinn and others adjusted their manufacturing lines to produce utility bicycles for transportation. The bikes were more massive, more durable, with single or minimum gears, many equipped for cargo, designed for short distance riding. People wanted bicycles for commuting, shopping, and errands.

Organizations bought them for their employees to deliver goods, courier messages, and move between locations. Post offices, police forces, warehouse operators were customers.

In 1933, Schwinn introduced the Aerocycle for youths, with balloon tires, streamlined fenders, and an imitation gas tank. People derided bicycles by that time as playthings for children.



Next: The devastation of bicycling in the Netherlands.

Sources: Bike Boom by Cedric Reid, Wikipedia, and others.

Editor: We invite your critique, comment, or question about this article or any other in this series. We may publish it with your permission.

Peter Bradbury



OK E-Bikers...!

Perhaps you have noticed the “OK Boomers” slogan in social media postings, with derogatory comments about Baby Boomers being responsible for much of what’s wrong in the world, including wealth we worked so hard to earn, environmental issues we were perhaps unaware of with the focus on business and development, and more.

Perhaps some of us may want to start a new rant called “OK Millennials” to call out the 20-somethings who don’t seem to get the ‘social’ part in social distancing in the face of a pandemic, and who are contributing to a 2nd wave of outbreak due to ‘Opening’ herd behaviour.

Maybe we can consider another focus on “OK E-bikers”?

How is the advent of e-bikes impacting Old Spokes Cycling Club? If you are riding an analogue or regular bike, how does the increasing presence of e-bikes in our rides effect you?

Or does it?

We have posted new guidelines and policy for e-bike riders in the website. But are there issues we need to chat about?

An impromptu chat at Annie’s recently opened-up this ‘can of worms’ and left me wondering whether we need a 2-way club discussion about it?

Animals Pandemic Style



For example, should e-bikers wait at the bottom of a hill to let analogue cyclists go up first then rest at the top as e-bikers come up behind them?

We have valued Ride Leaders who ride e-bikes and we need their continued contribution to keep the Club viable. Do you have suggestions about how they could lead rides differently?

*What are your thoughts?
Toss them into the ring!*

Let's stir up some provocative responses!!

Send them in to

pamalester@shaw.ca.

We will print with your permission
as 'letters to the editor'.



Pamela Lester



NEW Cycling-Related Classified Ads Section

After a request from an Old Spokes Cycling Club member, we decided to offer this opportunity for Club members. You can place an advertisement of your cycling-related item, including a description and photo of your item, your asking price, and your contact information for interested buyers.

NOTE: The Old Spokes Cycling Club assumes no responsibility for this process, similar to listings available in newspapers' Classified Ads.



For sale: SCHWINN
Seat post rack with
bungee cord.
New, still in package.

Length is 18"x 5 1/4".
The solid base is 13
1/2" x 5 1/4".

Asking \$15. Please
contact JOYCE at
587-228-2886.



For sale: NORCO bicycle. Hybrid design with aluminum frame to enable ease of riding and maintaining momentum.

Includes 21 gears, rear rack, and water bottle holder.

This bike has been very dependable on Cycling Club rides.

Asking \$175. Please contact Pam at 403-470-9225.



For sale: CANNONDALE bicycle. New in 2016 for \$1,000 from Bow Cycle. Nearly new due to unanticipated hiatus from cycling due to surgery and recovery time.

Includes 27 gears, rear rack, and water bottle holder.

Asking \$750. Please contact Tyrone at 403-608-4580.



QUIZ

60's Blast From the Past

TAKE THE...

"Older than Dirt" Quiz

Do you remember?

1. Drive in Movie Theaters
2. Candy Cigarettes
3. 45 RPM Records
4. Party Telephone Lines
5. Soda Pop Machines with Glass Bottles
6. Butch Wax
7. Studebakers
8. Blackjack Gum
9. Home Economics Class in School
10. 5 and Dime
11. Metal Lunchboxes
12. Books with records
13. Boone's Farm
14. Metal Ice Cube Trays
15. Roller Skate Keys
16. Home Milk Delivery in Glass Bottles
17. Wax Coke Bottle Candy

On this day, July 20 in 1969, you saw live on TV, Neil Armstrong step onto the moon and say,

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

.....

Are you still waiting for the world to become like that of *The Jetsons*, the futuristic cartoon family that debuted in 1962?

.....

Do you remember pop artist Andy Warhol's famous words from 1968:

"In the future everyone will be famous for fifteen minutes."

Are there uniquely Canadian items to add to this list?



Reflections

Pandemic



What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?

Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)

Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.



- Lynn Ungar 3/11/20

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