

# Cycling Wheels Away Into Number One Spot As Country's Leading Participation Sport

New York (NAPS)—America is the bike capital of the world, with more bikes produced and ridden here than in any other country on the globe. There are nearly 60 million Americans of all ages who ride bikes every year. This, according to the Athletic Institute, makes cycling America's Number One participation sport.

Though traditionally thought of as a child's toy, recent industry figures indicate that as much as 30% of the nearly 6,000,000 two wheelers bought in the United States last year were bought for and by adults. This number includes nearly one and a half million college students, and a growing number of young marrieds, middle-aged citizens, and seniors, riding for fun, economical transportation and pleasant outdoor recreation.

The nation's riding fraternity has good reason to rejoice this year, for all signs point to a vast improvement in the number of pleasant places for them to ride. The increase in cycling's popularity has caused a non-violent revolution in recreation circles.

Bike paths, trails, tracks and new facilities of all kinds are beginning to spring up all over the country. New trails have been built recently in Boston, Mass., Baltimore, Md., Coral Gables, Fla., Cape Cod National Seashore. Additionally, Edward C. Crafts, director of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation of the U. S. Department of the Interior, recently announced government plans to build nearly 200,000 miles of bike paths, trails and other facilities during the next decade. While many of these bike paths will be built in our many national parks and forest preserves, many more of them are proposed for major metropolitan areas, at a rate of 25 miles of trail for each 50,000 people in the urban area.

So popular is this plan with the Administration that President Johnson, who once referred to cyclists as "the forgotten outdoorsmen of today," said recently, "I see an America where our air is sweet to breathe and our rivers clean to swim in. I see an America where bicycle paths, running through the hearts of our great cities,



provide wholesome recreation for entire families. Instead of our having to appropriate hundreds of millions to take care of juvenile delinquents, how much better it would be if we would just spend a part of it where they could enjoy themselves and have useful recreation."

Part of the funds for new bike paths construction are scheduled to come from the



THE PANTS CYCLE

"Golden Eagle" National Parks permit, which entitles the holder and his immediate family to admission and use of any national park facility in the country for one year.

Meanwhile local communities and state governments are doing something on their own initiative to supply more pleasant riding facilities for their citizens. Bike-ways—specially marked bike routes utilizing existing but little travelled roads—have appeared this year in all parts of the country. Bikeways have recently been opened in Kettering and Oakwood, Ohio, Coral Gables, Fla., Pasadena, Cal., Denver, Col., and Uni-

versity City, Missouri.

The world's biggest Bike-way—320 miles of it—opened in mid-May. It runs across the entire state of Wisconsin, from La Crosse, south and east to Kenosha. In the days and months ahead, more Bikeways are planned for California, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan and other states.

Between new bike path and Bikeway construction, government programs for even more, the arrival of summer's ideal riding conditions, and the growing popularity of cycling with "youngsters" from 6 to 65, things are really looking up for America's growing army of bike riders.

## PARENTS—GIVE YOUR YOUNG CYCLIST THIS QUIZ; HELP HIM TO SAFER BIKE RIDING IN TRAFFIC

The need for a young bicyclist to practice sound safety principles grows with each added car—and bicycle—on the road, warns Aetna Life & Casualty, producer of a new public service movie on bike safety.

Aetna points out that two of every three bicycle accidents occur because riders fail to follow basic bicycle "rules of the road."

In reminding youngsters how to maintain and ride their bikes safely, Aetna's color film, "If Bicycles Could Talk," tells the bicycle safety story from the viewpoint of the bicycles themselves. The film may be obtained on a free-loan basis by your school or community organization through an Aetna representative or from Aetna Life & Casualty's public relations and advertising department, Hartford, Conn., 06115.

The insurance company further suggests that you ask your youngsters the following questions dealing with the special safety requirements of bicycling in traffic. Be sure he can answer all 18 questions before his next bike ride.

### QUESTIONS

1. What should you do before entering a street from a driveway or sidewalk?
2. It's important that you obey the same traffic signals and signs as motorists. Name

at least three.

3. When waiting in traffic, where should you position your bike?
4. When approaching an intersection that has no traffic signals what should you do?
5. What is the safest way to make a left turn at a crowded intersection?
6. Who has the right of way, a pedestrian or a bicyclist?
7. Give 2 reasons why weaving in and out of traffic is dangerous.
8. When approaching a parked car, what dangers do you face? How do you prepare for them?
9. What is a safe distance when riding behind a moving vehicle?
10. Why should you give hand signals before you stop or turn?
11. What are the hand signals for a left turn, right turn, and slow or stop?
12. What side of the road should you ride on?
13. Why is it dangerous to ride in the "wrong" direction on a one-way street?
14. When is it safe to carry a "passenger"?
15. How should you carry parcels?
16. How far should the sound of your bike's horn or bell carry?
17. From what distance should a rear light or reflector be visible to a motorist in the dark?
18. What is the best formation for 2 or more cyclists riding together?

### ANSWERS

1. Wait for vehicles to pass. If you're headed for the opposite side, be sure the way is clear in both directions.
2. Traffic lights. Stop signs. Yield Right of Way Signs.
3. Extreme right side of the road.
4. Slow down and look in all directions. Wait for any approaching vehicles to pass.
5. Dismount and walk bike in pedestrian crosswalks.
6. Pedestrian.
7. You may lose control near a moving vehicle. Motorists may not see your darting bicycle.
8. An occupant might open a door in front of you, or the car might pull out. Sound your bell and pass three feet left of the vehicle, traffic permitting. Be prepared to stop suddenly.
9. 25 to 30 feet, or about 5 bicycle lengths.
10. Hand signals are a language that tells others what you plan to do.
11. Left turn—Extend left arm horizontal to ground. Right turn—Bend left arm up at elbow, forming right angle to body.

Slow or Stop—Extend left arm almost directly toward ground. (Note: If signals in your state vary from these, know them and use them.)

with your vision or control. It's best to use a carrier. 16. At least 500 feet. 17. At least 300 feet. 18. Single file.

The Battleship U. S. S. North Carolina at Wilmington is two city blocks long and 15 stories high. When in service she carried a crew of about 2,000 men.



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