



**LARRY DOBBERFUHL**, C & S 3 Maintenance Engineer, rode his bicycle from coast to coast before reporting to work at the Brevard Plant.

## Touring the U.S.A. by Bike

Larry Dobberfuhl had dreamed of riding a bicycle from coast to coast since he was a small boy. When the chance came to make the dream come true, he did it.

"My whole family—sister, brothers, all—rode across Wisconsin on bicycles when I was pretty young," says Larry. "So I knew you can do serious traveling on a bike. But I don't know exactly when I got the idea of riding across the United States. It was just something I sort of always wanted to do."

He talked about the cross country trip to college friends while attending the University of Wisconsin. As graduation drew near, he realized that the long ride was becoming a now-or-never decision—Larry had accepted a job offer from DuPont, and he was engaged to be married. One of his friends wanted the trip as much as Larry. They decided: "We're going!"

Down the Oregon coast, through the Cascade Mountains and into the desert, they rode across Idaho and Montana into Yellowstone Park.

"When we backpacked in the Tetons, it was the first day it didn't rain," Larry remembers.

They took a bus to Seattle, Washington, and started riding. It was May, 1980. Mount St. Helens blew her top, and the two riders spent their first night on the road covered with volcanic ash.

Wyoming was flat; they made good time to Colorado and the Rockies. It's slow pedalling up to

12,000 feet, but coasting down the other side was different: "We started down cautiously," says Larry, "But in a little while we were passing cars!" In two hours, they were down to 5,000 feet, ready for a visit with friends on the Colorado plains. After a two day rest there, they made their best day's distance: 150 miles.

The riders were following the "Bikecentennial Trail", a trans-continental route laid out in 1976 for bicycle touring—not necessarily the shortest distance, but rather the best for bikers to see the country.

Heat was no problem until Kansas, where it hit 113° one day. As they travelled Eastward, the temperature went down but the humidity climbed. The most difficult mountains were the Ozarks, where the riders spent July 4th at the "Seventh Annual Ozark Mountain Bluegrass Festival". Then they pedalled through Missouri into Illinois, where they converted their bikes from 10 to 18 speed machines to go across Ohio and Kentucky, into Virginia.

The riders took the "long way" through Virginia, travelling a part of the Blue Ridge Parkway and making a stop at Monticello. Then, on the 60th day, they reached Jamestown and the Atlantic Ocean.

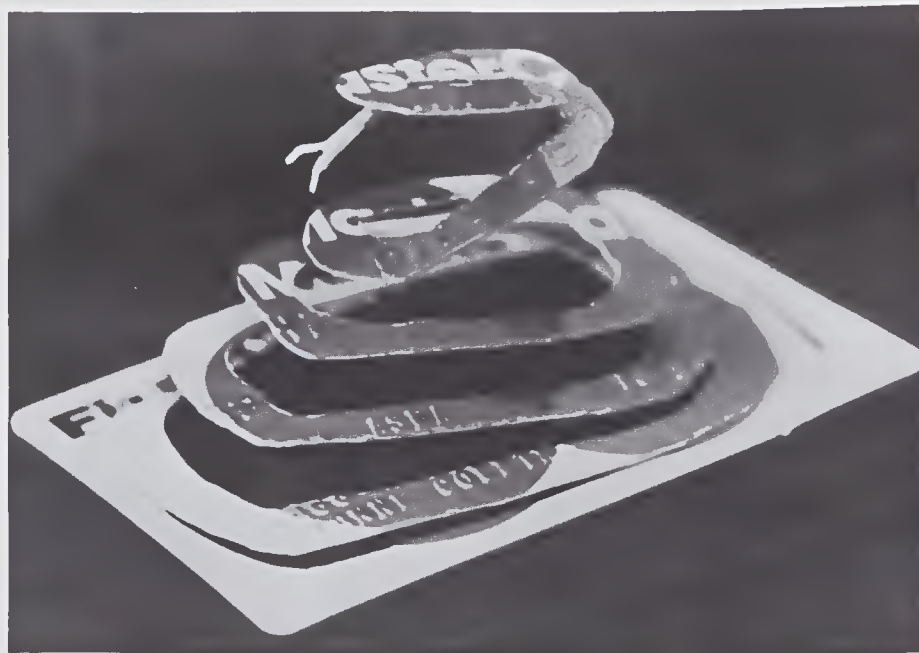
It was time to take the train back to Wisconsin, to marry Audrey.

Every day, his post card to her had reported his menu: bread, peanut butter, jelly; a box of cereal. Most of the \$800 cost of the

## Seen And Heard

**Bob Toole** got a surprise gift from **Nev Fuleihan** at his 25 year anniversary dinner—a large picture of Bob's tractor, manifold deep in mud and water, photo courtesy of **Don Cheek**. ★ More people seem to be taking a serious interest in photography: **Don Messer** sold a picture of one of **Jim Barton's** colts to a magazine, **Ronnie Lovelace** bought **Stan Scarborough's** studio lighting equipment, and **Dick Phillips** is looking forward to better weather to use the new camera he and **Joyce** picked out for Christmas. Sounds like the future could bring a DERA Dark-room Club! ★ Friends of **Jim Hoots** brought him ham hocks and pinto beans for his birthday—**Steve Thomas** bought some onions and joined the party. ★ MAJOR EVENTS: On Christmas Day, a baby boy for **Gudger** and **Kathy Merrill**—**Travis Dean**; baby boy **Gary** was born 12/27 to **Zora Young** of Finishing. In January, there was **Adam Joel Ballard**, for **Joe Earl** and **Elaine**; **Betty** and **Jerry Fletcher** had **Abbie**

**LaRue**; and it was a little girl, **Brooke**, for **Larry Owen** and **Betty**. **Ronnie** and **Joyce Beddingfield** have a new boy, **Zack**, born in February. Sometimes the news gets to us late! **Ida Sharpe** became **Mrs. Nathaniel Ellens** last November! More recently, congratulations and best wishes to **Robert** and **Judy Conner**, married in January; **David** and **Jennifer Donofrio** in February, and **John Brown** and **Sheila**, late March. ★ If you've noticed that large wading bird in DERA Lake this winter, retiree **Tom Hallowell**, the bird expert, confirms that it's a **Great Blue Heron**. ★ Speaking of flying, **Darwin Jones** is using his hard won instructor rating—**Ken Dick** and **Delos** ("Looper") **Hooper** recently soloed. **Jim Henderson** says there are a lot of plant pilots; he may do a story someday. ★ FOTOFONE was dead for a couple of weeks while the editor was out with the flu—the folks in Medical have been working extra hard this Spring, and we appreciate it!



"I won't let it bite me again!" said **Yvonne Collins** as she destroyed her charge card in this symbolic fashion.

trip was for food, with only one restaurant meal included.

They paid only about \$10 in camping fees, sleeping in parks and on lawns. They carried a tent, sleeping bags and a camp stove with them.

"We met a lot of nice people who not only gave us a place to sleep, but also gave us a meal and did some laundry for us," Larry says. "But most of the time it was peanut butter and jelly."

Things are different now: Larry is a homeowner, husband and father. Usually he rushes home in the family car. But sometimes when the weather's nice you may see him pedalling the 15 mountain miles to work or home, as though it's just a ride around the block.

After you've biked 4,500 miles "from sea to shining sea", 30 miles a day must not seem like very far to ride.