

# Choosing A Bike

Bicycle riding is one of summers most enjoyable recreations. But, a bicycle can offer more than just weekend fun to those who want healthful exercise, or an economical way to run neighborhood errands or make daily commuting trips. For these reasons, more and more people buy bikes each year. The Better Business Bureau advises that a good bike, properly used and cared for, can be a sound and enjoyable investment for years to come.

### What Bike To Buy?

Bikes are built to serve a variety of uses. The first considerations should be what use it will be put to, such as for recreation or transportation, and what type of terrain it will be ridden on. While the heavy-frame, balloon tire bikes are comfortable, they are not the best choice for long rides and hilly roads where ease of operation is so important.

Lightweight or "racing" type bicycles offer the advantage of lighter alloy frames and either three, five, or ten speed gears designed to minimize the amount of effort needed to pedal. The higher seat position and turned-down handlebars of most lightweight bikes may take time to adjust to, but they can make riding easier and more comfortable.

In addition, proper frame size is an important consideration. Don't buy a bike that can't be adjusted to fit. The rider should be able to

# Consumer Tips

straddle the bicycle with both feet flat on the ground and with no less than one inch clearance between the frame's top tube; or, on a lady's bike, where a top tube would be.

### What To Look For

When shopping for a bike consider its safety features. Look closely at all potentially sharp edges that could cause injury. Check all parts of the frame to be sure joints are properly welded and there are no cracks or fractures, even hairline ones, that could cause the metal to break. There should be no gear shift controls or other protrusions that extend more than 3/4 inches back from the handlebars.

Brakes should be easy to operate and give quick, easy stops. Caliper-type brakes should be carefully checked for adjustment and grip on both the front and rear wheels. Be sure there is a chain guard to prevent clothing from being caught. Check for safe cornering by putting one pedal in the down position and leaning the bike toward it at a 25 degree angle. In this position, the down pedal should ride clear of the pavement.

### Belver Reunion

The Belver Family invites you to join them on August 4, 1979 for a sight-seeing tour and family reunion at Jacksonville, Fla.

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All interested persons may call 722-0735 or 724-5884 for more information and ask for Mrs. Arron Allen Ledbetter or Mrs. Fostenia Tony West.

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