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Bike Regulations for Youths Urged to Make Future Drivers Safety Conscious

By John V. Grimaldi
Director, Industrial Division,
National Conservation Bureau

(This is the eighth of a series of 10 articles on street and highway safety, written by nationally recognized law preservation specialists and published by The Eccentric in the interests of greater traffic safety.)

Thousands of youngsters take to their bicycles every year, swelling the ranks of America's cyclists to well over 9,000,000. On the basis of past records, it seems tragically certain that unless measures are taken for their protection, more than 25,000 cycling youngsters will be killed or injured—some of them crippled for life—in the coming year.

The responsibility for the chaotic state of bicycle traffic does not rest on any single agent, nor can it be shifted about from one set of shoulders to another. The responsibility is ours—parents, teachers, motorists, city officials, cyclists—and the power, too, is ours to eliminate these accidents. Legislation and education are the weapons by which this war against tragedy must be waged.

Too many drivers automatically label the boy or girl behind the handlebars a nuisance, with no rights on the streets. Thoughtless motorists tend to consider the highways their own private domain, and would deprive bicycle operators of the rights and courtesies to which they are fairly entitled.

Lagging Far Behind

Although there has been a growing interest in bicycle legislation in many communities, the number of programs adopted has lagged far behind the ever-increasing needs.

Legislators are understandably reluctant to summon juveniles to court with adult criminals. As an alternative method, a new approach toward ultimate solution of the enforcement problem has been advanced and successfully carried out in cities of varying populations all over the country.

Taking the form of city ordinances, the regulations are designed to compel cyclists to maintain their vehicles in good mechanical condition and to observe the traffic laws.

Many cyclists, too, consider themselves privileged characters, entitled to ride on the wrong side of the street, to zigzag in and out

of traffic, to violate traffic lights and to ride on the highways at night without adequate lights.

Need is Obvious

To combat these dangerous attitudes, alert city officials have adopted programs that call for the registration and licensing of bicycles, for police power to im-



DANGEROUS
RIDING BICYCLES AT NIGHT WITHOUT ADEQUATE LIGHTS



SAFE
RIDING CLOSE AND PARALLEL TO CURB—KEEP OUT OF TRAFFIC

ound bicycles and suspend and revoke licenses, and also for special bicycle courts, conducted under the direction of the police department's public safety section.

The need for such a program is obvious; the results achieved in areas where they have been undertaken, substantiate its value.

In addition to the primary purpose of reducing the loss of life and limb attributed to bicycle accidents, parents, teachers and civic authorities are in a position to develop in the "fledgling" cyclist habits and attitudes that will stand him or her in good stead when the bicycle is wheeled into the garage for the last time, and the automobile backed out for the first.

Today's careful cyclist is tomorrow's safe driver, and, conversely, today's ill-formed, irresponsible bicycle operator is today's or tomorrow's casualty.

Arnold Picture Wins Award at State Meet

A. E. Arnold, local photographer was awarded first place in the picture classification at the state meeting of the Photographers Association of Michigan last week.

His picture, "Getting Ready" had as models, Pat and Tim Baldwin, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Baldwin of Ridgedale avenue.

Mrs. Arnold was elected to the board of directors and treasurer of the state association.

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Roxanne Lambie Leaves for Paris

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—Roxanne Lambie, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John S. Lambie, 280 Aspen Birmingham, sailed Monday for Paris, France, where she will work with the American Friends Service Committee.

Miss Lambie, who was with the Red Cross in the Far East for two years, will work in the Commissioner's office of the American Friends Service Committee during the next 18 months.

The Commissioner's office in Paris coordinates the relief and rehabilitation work of the Service Committee in eight countries of Europe, including Spain, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Hungary, Poland and Finland. The Quakers also have a program of relief and rehabilitation work in India, China and Japan.

Miss Lambie was formerly associated with the Fisher Corporation at Pontiac and with the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills. She has attended the universities of Chicago and Indiana.

Cpl. Arthur Hoover Taking AAF Course at Honshu, Japan

The Public Information Office of the 18th Fighter Group, a unit of the Thirteenth U. S. Air Force presently serving with the Far Eastern Air Forces, has announced that Arthur L. Hoover, son of Mrs. Adelaide Hoover, 24 Townsend, has recently departed from his organization located at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippine Islands, for the purpose of attending the Air Plane Power Plant Mechanics Course at Tachikawa Air Force Base located at Hinshu, Japan.

A welcomed surprise greeted Hoover the day of his departure when he received Air Force orders promoting him to the permanent rank of Corporal.

Corporal Hoover, a graduate of Baldwin high school, will remain in Japan for approximately 12 weeks. Upon completion of his schooling he will return to his unit at Clark Air Force Base and resume his duties as a fighter plane crew-chief.

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CITY-WIDE SERVICE

M. J. Cross Heads County ARC; Localities on Board

Milo J. Cross of Pontiac was elected chairman of the Oakland County Chapter of the American Red Cross June 11. The meeting was held in the Birmingham Community House.

Birmingham residents who were named to serve on the board of directors are Robert Eastig, 1348 Buckingham; Mrs. T. W. Eastig, 371 Linden; Mrs. Maud Gilman, 1188 Dorchester; Mrs. L. L. Northrup, 1040 Gordon Court; Mrs. Charles Welch, Jr., 920 Yarmouth and Rev. J. A. Wright, 6901 N. Adams.

From the Southfield area are Mrs. Sheldon Noble, 22560 13 Mile; Mrs. E. P. Turner, 22965 Weston and Mrs. Jess McNeal, 27000 California. Miss Jessie McQuinn of Clawson and Mrs. Gerald Oaks of Big Beaver road are serving with the Troop group.

Other county officers include H. Russel Holland, Pontiac, first vice-chairman; N. J. Quakestad, Royal Oak, second vice-chairman; Harold Euler, Pontiac, treasurer and Mrs. F. S. Johnson, Pleasant Ridge, secretary.

The address of the evening was given by Rev. Wright, assistant pastor of the First Methodist church of this city. Mrs. Mildred Bennett of Pontiac, who will assume her duties as executive secretary, on September 1, was a special guest at the meeting.

Cross was presented a citation from the American National Red Cross for his services rendered during the 1948 Red Cross Fund Drive, by Marshall Smith, retiring chairman of Pontiac. The Oakland County Chapter was also presented a certificate of honor for its distinguished service during the campaign.

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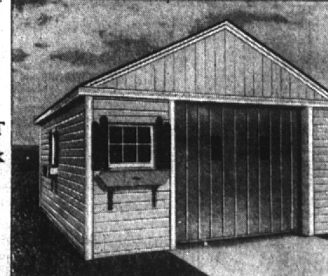
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