

EQUITABLE REAL ESTATE
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT INC.



Jonathan D. Miller
Senior Vice President

Dear Gary -

Dick Jenrette, Chairman of
The Equitable, has formally
inquired about the President's
availability, but anything you
can do to follow-up would
be appreciated. We understand
he may be in the FAR EAST on
Nov. 18. In any case, a high
level surrogate "welcome" would
make a boost.

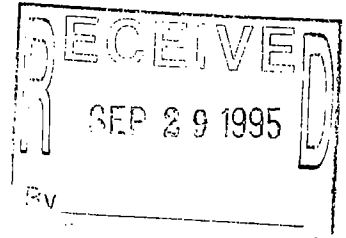
Thanks for anything you can
do.

787 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019 (212) 554-1967



EQUITABLE

Jonathan,



Attached is the correspondence
sent to the White House
and as you can see, a video
was also included.

I'm also enclosing a "cheat sheet"
for corporate sponsors that includes
a reference to day riders —
I'm helping Laura Brown develop
a flyer on the day ride for
individuals: \$25 registration
fee, t-shirt + snacks on the mall.
I'll keep you posted.

TK.

[Signature]



THE
EQUITABLE

Richard H. Jenrette, CLU

Chairman of the Board
and Chief Executive Officer
EQUITY LIFE

MEMORANDUM

Handwritten notes:
JMB
See also to
the...
with...
SJR

DATE: September 18, 1995

TO: Erskine Bowles
Deputy Chief of Staff to the President

SUBJECT: November 19 Gala for World Bicyclists

Enclosed is my formal letter to the President requesting that he and the First Lady serve as honorary chairs for the grand finale in D. C. for the AXA World Bicycle ride.

It would be most helpful for me, as dinner chairman, to have their imprimatur on the evening events. Beyond this, if we could do a brief congratulatory video from the President (or First Lady) we would show this at the dinner which may have up to 1,000 cyclists from around the U. S. Charles Kuralt is narrating a CBS television feature on the entire world ride -- perhaps we could then enclose the President's message (which we would help prepare) to a national television audience.

Under separate cover, I'm sending what is -- to me -- a really touching video of the disabled cyclists plowing through Russia recently. They are just coming out of China now. I met them in Paris and my heart went out to them for their courage in showing what a "disabled" person can achieve.

RHJ:mf
Enclosure

Handwritten signature: Dick

P. S. The President actually launched this event in Atlanta, Georgia with a letter of support which kicked off the ride -- so he is already involved!

bcc: Jim Benson
Jane Mahoney



EQUITABLE

Richard H. Jenrette, CLU
*Chairman of the Board
and Chief Executive Officer*
(212) 554-3120

September 18, 1995

Hon. William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On Saturday, November 18, the AXA World Ride '95, an around the world, 13,200-mile bicycle tour for athletes with disabilities and able-bodied athletes, will conclude in Washington, D. C. That evening we will honor the core group of seven cyclists, six of whom have disabilities and the hundreds of other cyclists who took part in this inspiring feat, at a gala reception and dinner in the National Building Museum. Although I understand you will be attending an APEC meeting in Japan, we would be greatly honored to have you and Mrs. Clinton named as Honorary Chairs for the evening. I will be serving as Chairman of the gala and it would mean a great deal to me -- and the athletes -- to have your imprimatur on the evening.

AXA World Ride '95 was created by World T.E.A.M. Sports, as an organization dedicated to promoting sports participation for individuals with disabilities. Your letter of support to the participants in the ride was featured in the dinner program of the opening dinner in Atlanta, Georgia last March. Since that auspicious beginning, the riders have traveled through 16 countries, spreading the message of determination, goodwill and sportsmanship throughout the international community. The drama of the ride will be captured in a television special hosted by veteran newscaster Charles Kuralt to be aired on CBS on Thanksgiving Day. I have enclosed a tape of highlights of the cyclists' ride through Russia which communicates the dedication and passion of the riders.

The riders have been honored at receptions hosted by U. S. Ambassadors Admiral William Crowe, Jean Kennedy-Smith and Pamela Harriman in England, Ireland and France, respectively, as well as by heads of state and government officials in each of the other countries they visited. The Russian Federation has also officially sanctioned this event. Since Washington, D. C. is the culmination of their nine-month odyssey, we feel it would be especially appropriate for you and Mrs. Clinton to lend your names and help us pay tribute to their accomplishment.

Three-time Tour de France champion Greg LeMond, Olympic gold medalist Dan Jansen and former New York Jets star Dennis Byrd are among the celebrity guests who will be with us on November 18. They will be joined by Members of Congress and the

Administration, representatives of the diplomatic corps and leaders from the business, media and sports communities in the evening's celebration. We would be honored to have you and Mrs. Clinton join us for the evening's festivities, should changes in your schedule permit you to attend.

If you are unable to attend, we would be most appreciative if you or the First Lady would send us a brief videotaped message to open the evening's program. Our staff would be pleased to furnish you with additional information about the ride and World T.E.A.M. Sports at your request. We would show this at the gala, and I would hope that Charles Kuralt could incorporate it in his video.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request. Our Washington consultant, Diana Holman, will be calling your office to determine the possibility of your participation as Honorary Chairs of the event. In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like more information about the ride, please call her at 202 822-6804 or me at 212 554-3120.

Many thanks!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Bill Clinton", written in a cursive style.

RHJ:mf
Enclosures

As a Corporation, how can you become involved in the Grand Finale for AXA World Ride '95 in Washington, DC?

Day Sponsor

Become a Day Sponsor for AXA World Ride '95. Your \$5,000 contribution will help to underwrite the opportunity for persons with disabilities to participate in a once-in-a-lifetime, around-the-world cycling journey.

Day Sponsors can designate a day of AXA World Ride in their company's honor. Day Sponsors will also be invited to the concluding events in Washington, D.C., receive two tickets for the gala celebratory dinner on November 18th and will be recognized in the final commemorative publication.

In addition to underwriting the significant costs associated with the Ride, the funds raised through Day Sponsorships will begin the development of a permanent facility dedicated to helping individuals with disabilities achieve their full potential. Day Sponsorship funds are qualifying charitable contributions to World T.E.A.M. (The Exceptional Athlete Matters) Sports, the nonprofit which is organizing the Ride.

Day Rider Team

Recruit a team of cycling enthusiasts from your company to escort the Riders as they complete the final 15 miles of their record-setting journey. Meet at South Lakes High School in Reston, VA and cycle onto Monument Mall in Washington, DC. Wear your company logo on t-shirts -- showcase your corporate team to the local and national media that will be assembled to cover this event. A tax-deductible registration fee will reserve your company's place.

Finale Dinner

The grand finale dinner on November 18th promises to be a spectacular event, with celebrities from the sports and political arenas coming together with corporate leaders to pay tribute to the incredible athletes who will have conquered the world on cycles. Less than ten athletes have completed a similar journey, none of whom were disabled. Join Dick Jenrette, Chairman of The Equitable Companies, in saluting the Riders for this accomplishment. With the historic National Museum Building as the setting, this promises to be an exciting event. Tables of ten are available, as well as individuals tickets. Contact Laura Brown of Equitable at (703) 205-0356 for details.

AXA World Ride '95 is more than a cycling event -- it's about shattering the barriers that exist for almost 20% of the U.S. population who have a disability.

February 21, 1996

A MEMORANDUM FOR CAROL H. RASCO

FROM: GAYNOR McCOWN

SUBJECT: EZ / EC CONFERENCE
DIALOGUE SESSION: REINVENTION

The purpose of this session is to focus on successful local reinvention initiatives. More specifically, it will be an opportunity to hear from representatives of the Atlanta Empowerment Zone on their efforts to coordinate, streamline, and make interagency government functions more responsive to the needs of the community. An important issue is "service integration." Most, if not all, EZ / EC communities are implementing comprehensive human service delivery strategies. Therefore, your remarks will center around the Administration's interest and commitment in this area.

The session will begin at 1:45 p.m. and end at 3:15 p.m. It will take place in the Georgia Room. The format is as follows:

- Introduction of themes --- Barbara Dyer, Facilitator (2)
- Remarks by White House Representative --- Carol H. Rasco (5)
- Community Presentation --- Atlanta EZ Representatives (5)
- Discussion --- (1 hour)
- Wrap-up / Next Steps (15 minutes)

Attached are some talking points for your remarks, along with some background information about the Atlanta Empowerment Zone. I'm also attaching an example of "reinvention" from Portland, Oregon and Buffalo, New York. While I don't have the details for what the representatives from Atlanta will focus on, following are a few accomplishments they are sure to mention:

One Stop Capital Shop

The City of Atlanta received a One Stop Capital Shop designation. The One Stop Capital Shop is designed to provide assistance to any business person or potential business person -- for start up businesses or those which have already formed but need assistance obtaining capital. In September 1995, a 14 member Board of Directors was appointed. To date, they have: secured funding of \$1,026,000 for 2 years; agreed upon a location in City Hall East; formulated Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, and selected an Executive Director.

Renewal Atlanta

Renewal Atlanta is a new business that has located in the Zone and is scheduled to open in March 1996. The Company will create up to 65 permanent jobs for Zone residents and 200 temporary jobs for youth. Each youth will receive \$4,000 in scholarship and career counseling during the 2-year period.

Olympic Jobs Program

This program involves a collaboration with the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG). Their goal is to provide up to 2,000 temporary jobs for Zone and city residents during the 1996 Summer Olympic Games. Discussions were initiated in early February with the hope of expanding this effort so that some permanent employment opportunities may be established for Zone residents.

WHITE HOUSE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE 1996

Public

Private

EZ

Community

INTRODUCTION

- **Atlanta recognizes that programs , systems and strategies of the past to solve inner city problems don't work**
- **Atlanta shares the goal which President Clinton articulated for the nation in March 1993: "To make the entire federal government less expensive and more efficient and to change the culture of our national bureaucracy away from complacency and entitlement toward initiative and empowerment"**

PRINCIPLES FOR REINVENTION

- Place emphasis throughout its programs and services on superior service, quality and innovation as the only ways to sustain long-term, strategic competitive advantage
- Work to build communities and foster community-owned government, focusing more on empowering and solving problems than delivering services

PRINCIPLES OF REINVENTION

- Strive for catalytic government that concentrates on building local capacity (including development of human capital), mobilizing local residents, and supporting and providing resources to community efforts
- Establish a results-oriented government with the ability to measure and reward results. Atlanta recognizes that what gets measured is usually successfully completed

PRINCIPLES OF REINVENTION

- Work toward client-driven government, focusing on meeting the needs of the citizens, not the delivery agencies. Client-driven government tends to make service providers more accountable.
- The city believes client-driven systems are less wasteful, stimulate more innovation and create greater opportunities for equity.

CITY OF ATLANTA REINVENTION S

Mayoral Involvement

- Create an effective, broadly representative Empowerment Zone Corporation
 - Provide leadership to the corporation
 - Provide leadership for quick implementation based on the strategic plan
 - Insure success of overall operations, program monitoring and evaluation
 - Insure that residents will maintain an active roll in overall implementation

CITY OF ATLANTA REINVENTION

Service Integration

- Establish a system of school based family service centers
 - This method of service delivery will meet self-sufficiency/empowerment needs of individuals and families
 - Make sure that service integration is comprehensive and true partnerships are formed with leaders serving on implementing corporation
 - Reduce paperwork by creating standardized approaches for delivery of services from all partners to empowerment zone neighborhoods

CITY OF ATLANTA REINVENTION

Involvement of City Agencies

- Consolidate several existing city agencies into a unified Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Coordinate citizen participation in the code-enforcement functions of various city departments
 - Form a Mayor's Empowerment Zone sub-cabinet to include all city departments with responsibilities for implementing the Strategic Plan
 - Work to insure Empowerment Zone Strategic Plan fits into overall city plans, consolidated plan and master plans for city neighborhood vitality efforts

WHITE HOUSE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE 1996

Momentum

Public

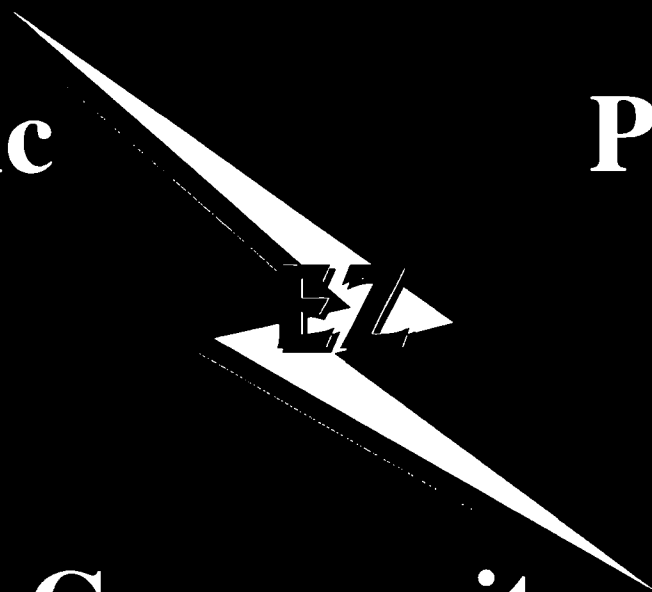
Private

Results

Community

Leadership

EZ



CITY OF ATLANTA REINVENTION

Technology to Support Reinvention

- Use of internet & Complete re-networking of city computer systems tied into the Empowerment Zone Corporation, Neighborhood Centers and Empowerment Zone Schools.
 - Computer Assisted Facilitation
 - Creation of Empowerment Zone Web page with networking capacity to connect with other Zones for sharing of information and best practices
 - Empower the zone by using the latest in technology for distance learning and interactive applications

CITY OF ATLANTA REINVENTION

Performance-based Outcomes

- Bench-marking of all priorities and strategies of the Strategic Plan
 - Focus on outputs over two years leading to outcomes over the duration of the grant
 - Waiving and streamlining regulations and actions taken at City Council, State and Federal levels leading to quicker outcomes
 - Monitoring and evaluating performance as outputs are produced over time

AXA WORLD RIDE '95

AXA World Ride '95 promises to be one of the year's most spectacular and best publicized sporting events in the world. Disabled and able-bodied athletes will unite and set out together on the most challenging cycling odyssey ever attempted. Two hundred athletes will rotate through the grueling 14 stage bicycle marathon covering almost 13,000 miles through 16 countries. A core team of 6-8 athletes with disabilities, assembled from around the world, will cycle the entire AXA World Ride route. Beginning in Atlanta on March 17, 1995 and ending in Washington, DC, this 8 month quest will play to a true world stage. "Persons around the world will be touched by this great humanitarian event," states Honorary Chair, Greg LeMond. Now you have the opportunity to become directly involved. Pledge to sponsor the participants of AXA World Ride '95 and make a lifetime of difference.

WORLD T.E.A.M. SPORTS

World T.E.A.M. Sports is the non-profit organization that is staging AXA World Ride '95. Who is World T.E.A.M. Sports? A dynamic national sports charity, founded by Jim Benson, President of The Equitable, chartered to provide greater access and opportunities for active sports-minded persons with disabilities. Through its innovative programs and planned events, World T.E.A.M. Sports sends a powerful social and educational message about self-worth and the value of athletic participation to disabled and able-bodied persons. The momentum of AXA World Ride '95 will help fuel the projects and programs of World T.E.A.M. Sports to further integrate all peoples of the world through sport. Now you can help by contributing to World T.E.A.M. Sports.

AXA WORLD RIDE '95 ROUTE LISTING

Stage 1
The New South
Atlanta, GA to Washington, D.C. (651 miles) 3/17-3/27

Stage 2
The Eastern Corridor to New England
Washington, D.C. to Boston, MA (534 miles) 3/28-4/8

Stage 3
The Royal Route to France
Shannon, Ireland to Paris, France (667 miles) 4/9-4/26

Stage 4
The Northern Route to Vienna
Paris, France to Vienna, Austria (1,176 miles) 4/27-5/21

Stage 5
Eastern Europe to Russia
Vienna, Austria to Moscow, RF (1,158 miles) 5/22-6/15

Stage 6
Across the Ural Mountains
Moscow, RF to Celjabinisk, RF (1,179 miles) 6/16-7/4

Stage 7
Heart of Siberia
Celjabinisk, RF to Novosibirsk, RF (992 miles) 7/5-7/23

Stage 8
The Mysterious Altai Mountains
Novosibirsk, RF to Irkutsk, RF (1,121 miles) 7/24-8/15

Stage 9
The Steppes of Mongolia
Irkutsk, RF to Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia (600 miles) 8/16-8/27

Stage 10
Mongolia South Into China
Ulaan Baatar to Beijing, PRC (931 miles) 8/28-9/15

Stage 11
Historical Japan
Hiroshima to Tokyo, Japan (484 miles) 9/16-9/28

Stage 12
The Old West
Los Angeles, CA to Santa Fe, NM (920 miles) 9/29-10/12

Stage 13
The Great Plains
Santa Fe, NM to St. Louis, MO (1,176 miles) 10/13-10/30

Stage 14
The Heartland to Washington DC
St. Louis, MO to Washington, D.C. (960 miles) 10/31-11/18



AXA WORLD RIDE '95

16 Countries
8 months
13,000 miles

March 17–November 18, 1995

*"Your pledge sponsorship
can change a life forever."*



AXA WORLD RIDE '95 SPONSOR FORM

Rider Information: Pledges are based on participation, not mileage.

Please print clearly. Sponsor names, addresses, and phone numbers are required for receipting purposes.

Rider Name:

Stage/s:

Telephone:[illegible]

Thank you for your donation. In addition, you will receive the following special gifts from World T.E.A.M. Sports:

\$25 - \$49	Friend	AXA World Ride '95 lapel pin and newsletter
\$50 - \$99	T.E.A.M.MATE	AXA World Ride '95 4-color poster, lapel pin and newsletter
\$100 - \$499	Coach	AXA World Ride '95 t-shirt, poster, pin and newsletter
\$500 +	Ambassador	Guest invitation to Finale Dinner for AXA World Ride '95 in Washington, DC November 18, 1995, t-shirt, poster, and pin

Helpful Pledge Information

- Neatly print all information.
- Make checks payable to "AXA World Ride '95".
- Sponsor yourself for \$50 or \$100 and your other sponsors will follow your example.
- Collect pledges from family, friends and co-workers when you ask them to sponsor you.
- Have your company match your personal contribution or total pledge amount.
- World T.E.A.M. Sports is an established 501(c)(3) and any contributions are charitable gifts to the extent the law allows. Contributions over \$75 will receive formal acknowledgment.
- Photocopy your pledge form(s) before submission. This will be helpful if you need to make any follow-ups.
- Submit your total pledges prior to leaving for your stage to: World T.E.A.M. Sports, 1919 South Boulevard, Suite 100, Charlotte, NC 28203.

DO NOT SEND CASH.

Sponsorship Levels

\$25 - \$49	Friend
\$50 - \$99	T.E.A.M.MATE
\$100 - \$499	Coach
\$500 +	Ambassador



MEDIA UPDATE FOR AXA WORLD 1995

World T.E.A.M. Sports

1919 South Boulevard

Suite 100

Charlotte, NC 28203

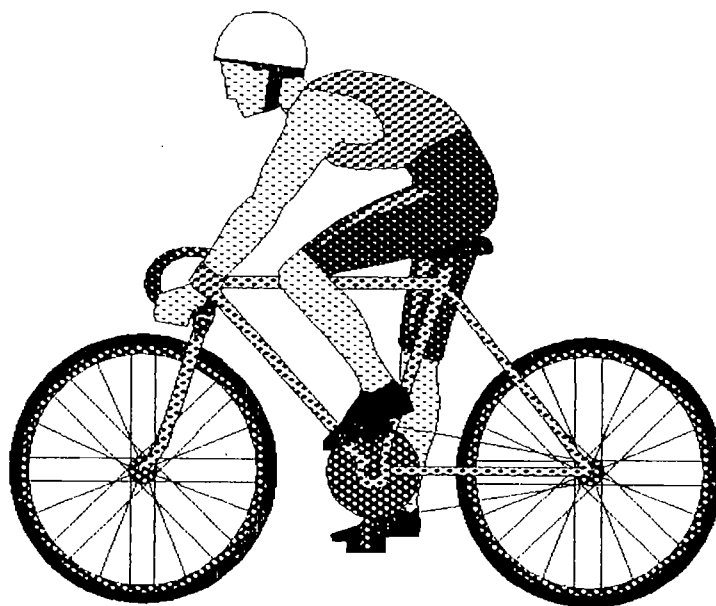
704-344-9030 / 404-874-4823

704-344-1552 FAX

MATERIALS RECEIVED BETWEEN

THE DATES OF

JULY 1 TO JULY 31, 1995



SUBMITTED BY:
ALAN TAYLOR COMMUNICATIONS
July 31, 1995

AXA World Ride - 1

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Market</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Circulation</u>
Fitness Magazine	National	July\Aug.	840,000
New York Daily News	NY\U.S	7/16	1,000,000
Kingstonian	NH\U.S	7/8	3,900
Philadelphia Daily News	PA\U.S	7/7	205,000
Ocean County Observer	NJ\U.S	7/5	22,000
Munster Express	Ireland	6/30	18,500
Vision Monday	NY\U.S	6/26	19,818
New Hampshire News (Front Page)	NH\U.S	6/25	95,598
Clonmel Nationalist	Ireland	6/24	22,000
Saratoga Springs	NY\U.S	6/19	12,500
Boomerang	WY\U.S	6/18	22,000
Casper Star Tribune	WY\U.S	6/16	33,951
Item	SC\U.S	6/16	22,000
Segodnja	R.F	6/15	Unavailable
Komsomolskaja Pravda	R.F	6/15	3,400,000
Izvestija	R.F	6/15	800,000
RuBland	R.F	6/15	400,000
Courier	NY\U.S	6/8	8,000

TOTAL PRINT IMPRESSIONS (CIRCULATION * 2.5 READERS) 17,313,167

AXA World Ride - 2

<u>Television</u>	<u>Market</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Audience</u>
ESPN 2 "Finish Line"	National	7/6	650,000
<u>TOTAL BROADCAST AUDIENCE</u>		650,000	



MEDIA IMPRESSIONS GENERATED FROM MATERIAL RECEIVED

FROM JULY 1 TO JULY 31, 1995

17,963,167

Fitness

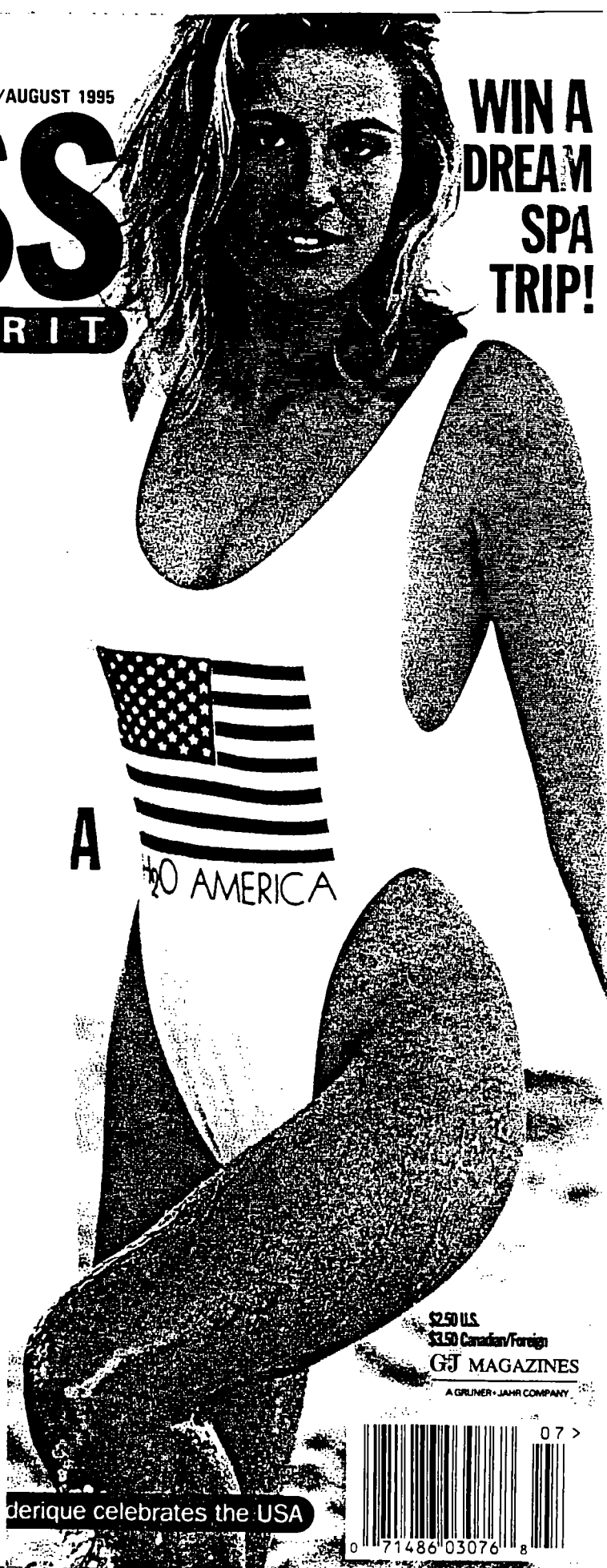
JULY/AUGUST 1995

MIND • BODY • SPIRIT

WIN A
DREAM
SPA
TRIP!

Bikers with heart

This summer and fall, cyclists are taking to the road for worthy causes. Chart their courses so you can offer support when they pedal your way. • Seven cyclists, six of them disabled (including one-handed Agnes Kearon), who have been bicycling the globe to highlight the achievements of disabled athletes, arrive in Los Angeles on September 29. They will then ride across 13 states before their November finish in Washington, D.C. Everyone is invited to join the core team for a day of serious cycling (up to 90 miles). For route information on the "AXA World Ride," call 704-344-9030. • The American Cancer Society is sponsoring "Wheels for America": Four cyclists are crossing the country over the course of eight weeks, pausing for rallies in 32 cities. For info, call 617-437-1900. • Four Evian "Ride for the Wild" mountain-bike festivals are scheduled between now and September: Pros will be on hand to offer instruction to beginners on up. Profits go to the World Wildlife Fund. Call 800-49-CYCLE for more info.



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\$2.50 U.S.
\$3.50 Canadian/Foreign
GJ MAGAZINES

A GRUNER + JAHR COMPANY



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13,000-MILE WORLD TOUR No HANDICAP

705CA

By RORY MCCARTHY

FOR 16 YEARS of my life I could do everything: play basketball, football, baseball. At age 17, I couldn't. I had to stop playing sports, my love. Suddenly it was a chore just to walk from one room to the next.

I was diagnosed with severe muscular atrophy. I lost use of my legs and much of my arms. I needed crutches to get around. But the disability didn't stop me. This disability, coupled with love and encouragement, has shaped me into the strong person I am today. In fact, I, now 41, never would have imagined myself touring the world on a three-wheel hand cycle, at 12-15 miles an hour.

I am overcoming my handicap by showing the entire world that nothing can stop me. I am one of six core cyclists (five of whom have physical disabilities) chosen to participate in a world tour. The event, AXA World Ride '95, consists of a 13,000-mile odyssey. It began in Atlanta in March. It will conclude in November around the reflecting pool of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington.

Currently, we have crossed the European Asian border, cycling more than 3,000 miles toward our final destination. It is remarkably evident as we travel that our physical durability is making a lasting impression. We are educating and proving to others that anyone can conquer a handicap.

The feeling of inner strength I now possess took time and nurturing to cultivate. Becoming physically disabled at such a young age was extremely traumatic for a boy at the height of my life. My world was shattered instantly, almost engulfing me as it collapsed. Dreaming of my athletic endeavors of the past forced me to take charge of my life, determined to overcome my disability and achieve happiness. It was athletics that gave me self-esteem as a youth, and becoming handicapped did not ease this inner hunger for competition. I still desired the challenge. I wanted to feel like a winner. Given my muscular atrophy in both arms and legs



enabled me to enter athletic events.

Cycling with AXA World Wide as well as other tour races has given me a great feeling of accomplishment, helping to put that high value of self-esteem back into my life. I know now I can overcome any obstacle that life delivers. It is this strong feeling of self-worth I wish to share with others having similar turmoil as I once experienced.

It is our goal to increase an awareness among all nations regarding the disabled. One can easily take for granted the benefits provided within the United States for handicapped individuals. It is time other countries acknowledge the serious plight of the disabled and what they can accomplish.

The core group and the participants among the 14 stages of the ride have varying degrees of physical and mental disabilities, ranging from spinal-cord injuries to visually and hearing-impaired athletes. The courage and determination displayed by these individuals is inspiring to all. They have made a commitment to cycle an average of 70 miles per day through varied terrain and weather climate. It's nothing short of amazing.

We have been greeted in 13 nations thus far with smiles and traditions. We have shown through this athletic event that the disabled population can demonstrate to the world that any feat can be accomplished.

Rory McCarthy resides in Plainfield, N.J. AXA World Ride '95 is organized by Charlotte, N.C.-based World T.E.A.M. which develops sports activities for persons

DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK, NY
SUNDAY 1,000,000

JUL 16 1995

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A 3,200-mile trek ... by hand

By Linda Brantley
RCN Correspondent

NEWTON — Independence Day held special meaning for Doug Ewing this year. He has just returned from handcycling over 3,200 miles from Ireland to Russia during three stages of the AXA World Ride '95.

His experiences, while powerfully rewarding, have shown him first-hand how fortunate Americans are and how easily many things here are taken for

granted, he said.

"I feel very lucky to have what I have. I think living in this country is easier in a lot of ways. We don't have to struggle every day to meet the basic needs of life. We have education and other luxuries at our fingertips," Ewing noted.

"It was an incredible experience. I most liked meeting people from all different countries. We had 35 riders at each stage, with support people and team leaders.

Almost every town we stayed in gave us a reception and we met many dignitaries and officials and other disabled people from all walks of life," he said.

Ewing's part of the trip traversed Ireland, England, France, Germany, Austria, Poland and Russia. The tour is designed to raise awareness and inclusion of people with disabilities and to bring together the people of the

See EWING, Page 6

► Handcyclist travels 3,200 miles

EWING

From Page One

world.

"Overall accessibility was terrible. It seems to not be much of a priority in Europe. I hope the ride will help to provoke change. There are still places over there where their attitude is to hide disabled people away out of sight. Often we would see them begging on the streets," Ewing said.

"It was interesting to be in Europe on the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. In some places we were likened to the liberators who came in after the war, except we were there on behalf of the disabled.

"It was overwhelming to see the impact we had on people and the magnitude of what we were doing, and, the impact the ride had on us as participants. I know I am a changed person because of it," he added.

The ride drew media coverage across Europe, and Ewing was

featured in articles as well as news broadcasts. He can be seen in two documentaries made of the ride.

The team even received encouragement from the White House. President Clinton wrote the athletes, "This athletic tour celebrates the indomitable human spirit. With commitment and hard work, all of you are demonstrating your ability to overcome great challenges and meet your goals.

"As we seek to create a society of independence and inclusion, we can gain inspiration from your discipline and determination. You can be proud of your efforts to bring the people of the world closer together through this exciting journey across international borders," Clinton wrote.

The ride turned out to be much more physically and emotionally draining than Ewing expected, yet the riders always pulled through, afraid to miss out on anything. ✓

"I had a very difficult time leaving. I wanted to stay and finish the trip. I am thrilled that I have been asked to return. I guess they felt I was making a contribution," Ewing said. Ewing will be returning to the ride in Los Angeles, Calif., and will continue cross country with the team to the conclusion of the ride in Washington, D.C.

His return means he has to raise another \$6,000 to continue the trip, so during the summer, besides trying to keep in shape, he will be doing some major fund raising. Anyone interested in helping him meet his financial goal can contact Ewing at 382-8788.

"What we all learned, I guess, is that everyone has disabilities and barriers of some sort. Over there we were disabled by communication. Some of us so badly wanted to talk, yet because of language barriers we couldn't. I guess the bottom line is while we all have barriers in life, those can be overcome through trial and effort."

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

PHILADELPHIA, PA
DAILY 205,000

FRIDAY

JUL 7 1995

BURRELLE'S

477
Coca

BY
D. N.

Special Olympics World Games

How rare, competing for the love of it

705CA

by Ray Didinger

Daily News Sports Writer

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — There actually were tennis matches played this week in which no players stormed off the court and no umpires were assaulted. Honest, there were.

There were ballgames in which the players ran out every ground ball. There were basketball games in which all the players sat in the timeout huddle and listened to the coach.

There were track events in which the winners didn't have to take a drug test and the losers didn't file a protest. There was athletic competition between teams from different nations, but there was no political subtext.

The Special Olympics World Games, a nine-day festival for athletes with mental retardation which closes Sunday, is a joyous event because it is sports in its purest form. It is about doing your best and having fun, regardless of the score.

While baseball owners and players choke on their own greed, while NBA millionaires and their agents rail against the players' union, while more fans turn away from sports in disgust, the Special Olympics offers reason to cheer. It sounds trite, but it is absolutely true.

It is impossible to attend the World Games, which drew 7,200 athletes from 140 nations, and not be moved.

You cannot forget the sight of Panama's Thomas Murray playing basketball on one leg. Murray, 21, lost his left leg at the hip when he was struck by a train at age 7. He uses crutches off the court, but he leaves them on the bench when he plays ball. Still, Murray gets up and down the floor with everyone else.

Walk past the bocce courts and you see a South African athlete, who is black, hugging the coach, who is white. "Before this, the player wouldn't let the coach touch her," said team director Gerti Rich, noting the lingering effect of apartheid. "Now when the athlete does well, she'll hug the coach. A lot of barriers are coming down."

The same applies to public igno-

rance about retardation. At the 11 unified sports, where athletes with mental retardation played on teams with "partners" who are not retarded, many spectators could not distinguish one from the other. Especially in softball, the players looked like a bunch of guys just having fun.

There were no different rules, no fourth or fifth strikes for the "special needs" athletes, no charity errors allowing runners to score. It was straight-up, everybody-bats-and-fields, fast-pitch softball. The idea was to show the two groups, and those watching, they weren't so different, after all.

One tour of the venues makes you realize how little you knew about mental retardation. It is not a disease, nor is it a mental illness and its severity ranges from mild to profound. Ninety percent of the 7.5 million people in the United States with mental retardation fall into the "mild" category and in many respects are indistinguishable from the rest of society.

It is stunning the first time you see a Special Olympics athlete run the 100 meters in 11 seconds flat, as Lee Morrison, of North Carolina, did this week. Or when you see powerlifter Thomas Edmond, a 165-pounder from Louisiana, hoist 450 pounds on his shoulders and dead-lift 605 pounds.

Lowell Weicker, the former governor of Connecticut, talked about going to a soccer game and seeing players heading the ball into the net and scissor-kicking the ball over their heads, skills you normally associate with a World Cup match.

Said Weicker: "It strikes home when you realize that only 30 years ago, most of these people would have been in the corner of an institution somewhere."

Daniel Gallagher, 26, of Lansdale, Pa., was born with Down syndrome, but he took part in the 10-kilometer bicycle race. He has competed in other races up to 40 kilometers and in October, he will take part in International World Ride '95.

In World Ride, Gallagher will race from Los Angeles to Santa Fe, N.M., averaging 80 miles a day for two weeks. If you are wondering about his stamina, don't. He ran



ASSOCIATED PRESS

N.Y.'s Jolanda Figueroa (15), Honduras' Doris O. Ponce battle

the Philadelphia Distance Run this year and covered the 13.1 miles in two hours.

"If there is one thing I've heard over and over this week, it is: 'Gee, I never knew they could do this,'" said Tim Shriver, director of the 1995 World Games and son of Eunice Shriver, who founded the Special Olympics in 1963.

"We built a stage, but it's the athletes who got up on that stage and knocked people's socks off with their performance. I feel a huge percentage of people [attending] have been changed in a profound way. If we have a legacy, I hope that's it: a new level of understanding that will grow in people [toward retarded citizens]."

The Olympic ideal of honest competition and pride in partici-

one handstand gets as much applause as one who does a backflip from the uneven bars. The New Mexico basketball team, made up of Navajo Indians, still was hustling in the final minute of a 47-point loss to the Dominican Republic. These games are about striving.

Example: Loretta Claiborne, of York, Pa. Now 41, she was born blind in one eye and did not walk until she was 4. Doctors urged her mother to put her in an institution, but she refused, even though Loretta had to repeat both first and second grades.

Surgery restored the sight in Loretta's eye and in high school she discovered she had a gift for running. Today, she is an accomplished marathon runner with 25 races to her credit, including a 3:03 finish in the 1982 Boston Marathon.

It was Claiborne's idea to add the marathon to the Special Olympics World Games this year, although she will not compete due to a nonmalignant stomach tumor. She signed up for bowling instead and averaged 165 for her first three games.

Claiborne has a fourth degree black belt in karate and is fluent in Russian and Spanish. At the opening ceremony Saturday, she was selected to introduce President Clinton to a crowd of 70,000 at Yale Bowl, an honor that she said sent chills down her spine.

However, Team Pennsylvania director Jane Lewis said Claiborne does not seek personal attention. "She doesn't want to be put on a pedestal," Lewis said. "She just wants people to know our athletes are the same as everyone else."

A gymnast who struggles to do

OCEAN COUNTY OBSERVER

TOMS RIVER, NJ
DAILY & SUNDAY 22,000

WEDNESDAY
JUL 5 1995

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McCarthy continues to roll along on Russian soil

705 CA
Rory McCarthy continues to roll.

The 1972 Point Pleasant Boro High School graduate is an entrant in World Ride '95, a 12,370-mile around-the-planet cycling event involving an international field of disabled and able-bodied athletes.

Now a Bath, Maine resident, McCarthy is a victim of progressive muscular atrophy of the legs. Operations to try to correct his illness confined him to a wheelchair at the age of 17. McCarthy has been using crutches for the past 20 years.

McCarthy hand-cycled his way across America during the summer of '93. The 4,150-mile ride began on the West Coast and ended on the East Coast 58 days later.

McCarthy and friends will travel 12,370 miles during their latest trip.

So far, the group has covered 5,200 miles, according to McCarthy's brother, Glen, a Point Pleasant Boro resident.

As the group entered Moscow, a brass band struck up the welcoming chords of "I Could Have Danced All Night." A



Chris Christopher

group of dusty cyclers who pedaled their way to the Ukraina Hotel found the mood more than cordial in a city not known for being cyclist friendly.

"This is a great way to see the world and meet people," McCarthy told the Moscow Times.

McCarthy is one of seven cyclists to ride the entire course — through the Altai mountains, across the steppes of Mongolia, along the Great Wall of China and back through America's heartland.

He cycles with the help of a specially-fitted bicycle powered by his arms.

McCarthy and his fellow riders arrived in Moscow after a three-week trip from Vienna, their arms and faces speckled with the black soot of Moscow's streets. Many other cyclists — disabled and able-bodied — who had joined them for that leg of the trip were already gearing up for an emotional farewell when they waved goodbye to the group.

In Moscow, other cyclists will join the group to travel to Chelyabinsk and from there into the heart of Siberia.

"We'll spend the next 74 days traveling through Russia," McCarthy said.

An electrical engineer, McCarthy celebrated his 41st birthday June 19 after cycling through Nizny Novgorod, Russian Federation, about 250 miles east of Moscow.

With the help of a Russian cyclist who accompanied the group from Vienna, McCarthy has already prepared a few choice Russian expressions to hobnob

with the natives.

Aside from the very useful *Ya tebya lyublyu*, which means "I love you," McCarthy also knows how to say, "You've got lovely legs," and "Kiss me," with barely a trace of an accent.

World Ride '95 is backed by a large security force.

"In Russia, they hired four ex-KGB agents — armed guards — to help the group get through Russia," said Glen McCarthy. "It's pretty serious stuff." In Mongolia, they received an escort from its national army. They cycled 600 miles on dirt roads through Mongolia with mountain bike tires on their bikes.

World Ride '95 began in Atlanta on March 17. It will finish in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 18. McCarthy will be joined during the event's final stages by his brother, a 1973 Point Boro graduate.

Rory McCarthy was honored at a preride reception at the United Nations. He and his fellow cyclists will be honored by President Clinton at a White House

reception after they reach Washington.

McCarthy is in need of encouragement. Write him at P.O. Box C, Rory McCarthy, Point Pleasant, 08742.

"Mail will be forwarded to him in Russia," said McCarthy. "He won't have a chance to respond as communication is very tough. This is a bid to try to surprise him with some mail."

The group has received inspiration from Dennis Byrd, the former New York Jets player who's making steady recovery from a paralyzing injury suffered in a game two seasons ago.

The ex-offensive lineman, an Oklahoma native, presented the group a good luck charm — a leather pouch filled with Oklahoma soil.

Byrd said he carried the pouch throughout his career and rehabilitation and that he'd never parted with it before. The cyclists promised to return the pouch to Byrd after the ride.

On the ride's medical staff is Dr. Brian Halpern, who maintains a practice in Brick.



News Extracts

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MUNSTER EXPRESS

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30 JUN 1995

AROUND-THE-WORLD 1995

AXA World Ride 1995, an around-the-world, eight-month cycling challenge involving disabled athletes commenced in March in Atlanta, Georgia. This global journey, covering 13,000 miles, serves to showcase the abilities of exceptional athletes. A core group of thirty five participants make up each of the fourteen stages of the Ride including seven - six disabled and one able-bodied - athletes attempting to complete the entire trip. Countries included in AXA World Ride 1995 are America, Ireland, United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Czech Republic, Austria, Poland, Belarus, Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, China and Japan. World T.E.A.M. (The exceptional athlete matters) Sports was to encourage, promote and develop opportunities for persons disabilities to participate in lifetime sports activities. Established in 1993, World T.E.A.M. Sports is dedicated to making sports training, participation and fellowship available to disabled or "exceptional" athletes.

World T.E.A.M. Sports is

conducting AXA World Ride 1995 in order to raise awareness for the capabilities of people with disabilities on a global scale. Additionally, the organisation has three current initiatives: planning and development of a recreational camp for young people with disabilities in conjunction with Board Members and former American star sportsman, Dennis Byrd; developing advertising and marketing programmes for the 1996 Paralympic Games to be held in Atlanta, Georgia; and initiating a grassroots programme that highlights the abilities of disabled individuals through cycling which will serve as the prototype for additional programmes developed in running, swimming, climbing and tennis.

The World ride team of seven arrived in Ireland at Shannon Airport on the third of the fourteen stages and cycled to Dublin where they were given an official welcome by President Robinson at Aras an Uachtarain.

Carrick's Billy Kennedy, President of the Irish Cycling Federation attended the reception at Shannon and accompanied the participants on the journey from Shannon to Dublin. Billy paid tribute to Michael Burke, Clonmel Precision Engineering, who repaired a specialised bike for one of the riders.

The riders are currently in the heart of Siberia, and the ride will conclude in Washington on the 18th November. Greg LeMond, threetime winner of the Tour de France, is serving as Honorary Chair for AXA World Ride 1995.

VISION MONDAY

NEW YORK, NY
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JUN 26 1995

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Reebok Assists AXA World Ride '95

Sponsor of the 246-day cycling journey around the world

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CRANFORD, N.J.—Reebok Eyewear is sponsoring the AXA World Ride '95, a 246-day cycling journey around the world that involves both able-bodied and disabled athletes.

The event kicked off in Atlanta on March 17, and is due to end on November 18 in Washington, D.C.

The worldwide event is a collaboration aimed to allow these special athletes to build confidence, and enjoy the thrill of sport and competition in this global adventure.

Reebok Eyewear is supplying the seven "core riders" with eyewear. These individuals are accomplished athletes with various backgrounds from all parts of the country, who are attempting to complete the entire 12,635-mile route. Other participants and volunteers are being furnished



Reebok Eyewear is sponsoring the AXA World Ride '95 and is providing "core riders" with "Turbo," its best-selling shield, and "Game Day 1."

with eyewear as well, as they complete their portion of the 14-stage trek that spans 15 countries.

Two sport-specific styles from the Game Day collection will be worn by the cyclists. "Turbo," Reebok Eyewear's bestselling shield, addresses cyclists' aerodynamic riding posi-

tions. It provides visibility above the nose grip. "Game Day 1" features an interchangeable shield and is sold with a high-visibility yellow replacement lens. The large shield design ensures excellent protection from all sides. Both styles are extremely lightweight and have silicone adjustable nose grips to improve fit and stability at high speeds.

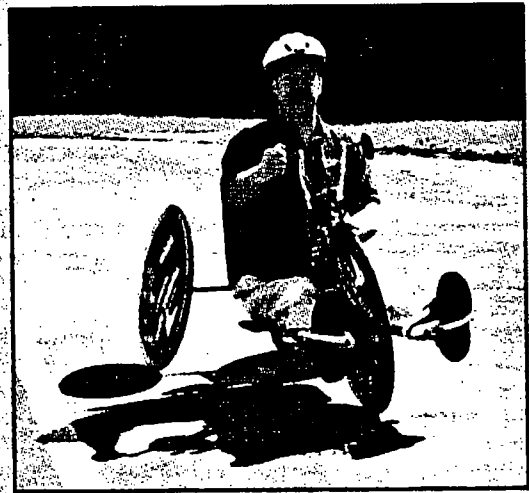
Television coverage of this event will include a 90-minute documentary special on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23, 1995, from 2:30 to 4 p.m., EST; four segments, approximately 15 minutes each, airing on *Eye on Sports*, CBS's weekend sports anthology show. Two episodes have run already; others are tentatively scheduled for August 20 and October 7.

JUN 25 1995

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▲ Makes an 'Amazing' Journey

Doug Ewing of Kingston has been confined to a wheelchair since a 1986 accident, but he has no boundaries. He has been a part of something that "celebrates the indomitable human spirit," the AXA World Ride '95. He merely handcycled 3,200 miles across the British Isles to Russia.

JUN 25 1995

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Disabled Kingston Man Takes 'Amazing' Journey on Handcycle

By JOHN HART *70428*
Sunday News Correspondent

KINGSTON — Riding a handcycle more than 3,200 miles across the British Isles and on to Russia was an "amazing experience" for Doug Ewing.

"There are memories that will be with me forever," said Ewing, who has been restricted to a wheelchair since a 1986 accident.

Ewing was a participant in stages 3, 4 and 5 of the 13,000-mile AXA World Ride '95.

His memories include "a couple of cycling crashes" because of rough roads, "but nothing serious other than soreness of the neck for a while.

"Moscow isn't exactly a biker friendly town, but we were greeted with a better than cordial reception," Ewing said, recalling how the 35 cyclists — able-bodied and disabled — were greeted as they rolled down the city's streets June 13. A brass band played "I Could Have Danced All Night," and the cyclists were later feted at a reception in the Ukranian Hotel.

Ewing said he is not likely to forget celebrating his 40th birthday — on Flag Day — with his twin brother, Mark, who flew to Moscow for a dinner cruise.

Other memories include meeting with officials of various countries and visiting other disabled individuals.

AXA World Ride '95 — sponsored by World Team Sports in Charlotte, N.C. — began March 17 in Atlanta for a group of 200 handicapped athletes and other volunteer participants.

Ewing joined the group in Providence, R.I., for a cycling trip to Boston and a subsequent April 8 flight to Shannon, Ireland.

In February, Ewing was accepted by AXA to participate in three of the 14 stages of the worldwide



John Hart Photo

DOUG EWING of Kingston, who has used a wheelchair since suffering an accident in 1986, illustrates a special handcycle, like the one he used on his recent journey of about 3,200 miles from Shannon, Ireland to Moscow where he celebrated his 40th birthday on June 14 with his twin brother Mark.

cycling event. A core group of seven riders, six disabled, are attempting to circumnavigate the globe, journeying through 16 European and Asian countries along the way. At different stages, that core group is joined by other cyclists like Ewing.

AXA notified Ewing Friday af-

ternoon that he been accepted to cycle with the group in September from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C., for the final leg. The journey will end Nov. 18 in Washington with an expected meeting with President Clinton.

But to participate, Ewing says he needs to raise \$6,000.

Ewing proudly displays a copy of a letter that President Clinton sent to the cyclists during their stop in Bangor, Wales. In his April 13 message, Clinton wrote: "The bike tour celebrates the indomitable human spirit. With commitment and hard work, all of you are demonstrating your ability to overcome great challenges to meet your goals. As we seek to create a society of independence and inclusion, we gain inspiration from your discipline and determination. You can be proud of your efforts to bring people of the world closer together through this exciting journey across international boundaries."

Riding a handcycle over long distances is not a new experience for Ewing. In the summer of 1993, he traveled about 4,000 miles in 58 days — from Seattle to Rye — to raise funds for Northeast Passage, an organization that deals in sports and recreation programs for the disabled.

"Taking part in the AXA World Ride '95 has been a challenge and a great opportunity to show the world that people with disabilities can participate in sports and recreation," Ewing said.



News Extracts

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CLONMEL NATIONALIST

705CC 24 JUN 1995

Around-the-world 1995

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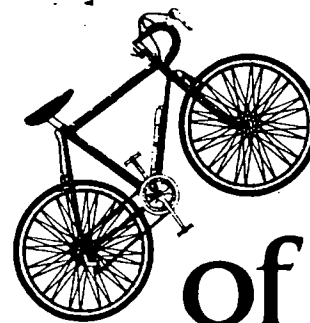
journey from Shannon to Dublin. Billy paid tribute to Michael Burke, Clonmel Precision Engineering, who repaired a specialised bike for one of the riders.

The riders are currently in the heart of Siberia, and the ride will conclude in Washington on the 18th November. Greg Lemond, three-time winner of the Tour of France, is serving as honorary chair for AXA World Ride 1995.



Photo provided

CRUISING — Ballston Spa resident Agnes Kearon is one of seven hand-icapped cyclists taking a worldwide bicycle ride, which started in March and will finish in November.



On the ride of a lifetime

70564
Ballston Spa's Agnes Kearon is making a worldwide bike tour

By **WARREN ALBER**
Staff Writer

BALLSTON SPA — When Agnes Kearon talks about her teen-age years, she admits she was never much of an athlete, definitely not one you would expect to make an eight-month bicycle ride around the world.

Three months and 4,787 miles into World Ride '95, the Ballston Spa resident is more than one third of the way through one of the toughest challenges of her 36-year-old life.

"I'm so happy to be a part of this," Kearon said via telephone from the Czech Republic. "This is so different than anything I've ever done."

It is different from anything anyone has done before.

World Ride '95 is a 14-stage, 13,112-mile bicycle ride around the world with a catch: all of the riders — including the seven core riders — are disabled. World Ride is a cycling tour designed to bring the abilities of the disabled to the forefront.

Life threw a huge challenge at Kearon 14 years ago, when a car accident paralyzed her left arm. For many, a disability like Kearon's would be the crutch used to refrain from athletic activities, like cycling.

But Kearon has turned her "physical obstacle" into a soapbox for the

disabled, refusing to let it stop her from enjoying life. She started riding after her accident, and she now excels at cycling.

Kearon has participated in numerous bicycle races in the last two years and attended the U.S. Disabled Sports Team development camp at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado.

In March, she was selected as one of World Ride's core riders.

"What makes this a challenging event is that it is not all biking," Kearon said. "I thought the cycling would be the challenging part of this, but it's not. The challenge is living with a group of 20 people for 8 months and be an ambassador to send this message to the world that we can do this."

The tour just entered its sixth of 14 stages, arriving in the Russian town of Nijni Novgorod — 180 miles from Moscow in the heart of the former Soviet Union — this morning, the 94th day of the ride that started March 17 in Atlanta.

Only the seven core riders have completed the first five stages, covering 4,878 miles. At the beginning of each stage, approximately 20 more riders are added only for that stage. The group occasionally adds one-day riders.

World Ride started in Atlanta and traveled north through Washington, D.C., into New York and New England before flying from Boston to Europe, where they rode through Ireland and England before crossing the English Channel into France.

The cyclists rode through France, Brussels, Belgium, Rotterdam,

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BIKE: Kearon one of seven core riders

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Amsterdam, Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic and Poland before entering the former Soviet Union.

Still in front of the riders is Siberia, Mongolia, China and Japan before they fly back to Los Angeles for a cross-country trek back to Washington, D.C.

"The tour has had its ups and downs, and it not just in the hills," Kearon jokes. "There have been some tough times, but the last stage (Stage 5) has been really good.

"The biggest issue I've had to deal with is the wide abilities of the riders. I was expecting to be riding faster. There are not enough days where we ride fast. A lot of days during (Stage 4) we were just a parade. There was a parapalegic riding with us, and

'We eat weird foods, the days last from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. But it's worth it. I'm seeing all kinds of stuff. I just wish we had more time to spend in each city.'

— Agnes Kearon,
World Tour rider

he was a really nice guy, but his ability was far below that of the rest of us."

That has been alleviated in the more-recent stages as the tour

has broken into groups that ride to their abilities.

"Every day there are new things to see and it is inspiring," said Kearon, for whom the tour has become somewhat routine. "Each stage there is energy from the new group."

The day starts for the cyclists around 7 a.m. They ride, arrive at their hotel or campsite, wash their riding clothes, bathe and keep their unpacking to as little as possible, because they are only going to pack it up and start over the next day.

"It's hard on us," Kearon said. "We eat weird foods, the days last from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. We ride during the day, eat dinner, usually have a reception, and do wash. Day after day. Even on our rest days we are busy.

"But it's worth it. I'm seeing all kinds of stuff. I just wish we had more time to spend in each city."

Laramie cyclist prepares for AXA World Ride '95

by Boomerang staff

While Siberia conjures up pictures of a cold, bleak, and wind-swept countryside, Laramie's Amber Travsky will see for herself just what the place has to offer.

She plans to do it from the seat of a bicycle.

On July 5, Travsky begins her 1,000 mile trek through the the heart of Siberia in the city of Celjabinsk, on the edge of the Ural Mountains. Her three-week ride parallels the Trans-Siberia Railroad, going through the city of Omsk and culminating in Novosibirsk, the largest city in Siberia, with over one million citizens.

Travsky, along with six riders from the U.S. and two from Moscow, will be participating in one stage of the AXA World Ride '95, an around-the-world, eight month cycling challenge. These nine cyclists will be joining seven cyclists who are attempting to complete the entire world tour.

The ride kicked off on Saint Patrick's Day in Atlanta, Ga. and will end five days before Thanksgiving in Washington, D.C. The unique aspect of this event aside from the astoundingly faced-paced time frame, is the fact that six of the core riders and nearly half of the stage riders have physical disabilities.

Paraplegics, amputees, and victims of cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis are among the athletes. A total of 150 cyclists from 15 nations will participate in the 14-stage AXA World Ride '95 that will travel through 15 countries.

"This is a very special event," said Travsky. "It includes the participation of both disabled and able-body athletes. This is a team effort. Those of us participating in stage rides will do our best to offer motivation and encouragement to the core riders. Their effort is astonishing, especially given that three of the core riders are circling the globe on handcycles. My personal goal is to manage to keep up with them."

Two core riders are from the Rocky Mountain West — Steve Ackerman from Fort Collins and Rex Patrick of Englewood, Colo. Ackerman was in a car accident in 1987 which left him a paraplegic. He will cover the nearly 12,000 miles using a handcycle.

This isn't Travsky's first bicycling event either, having completed three "Ride Around Wyoming" tours. One year she finished the 500 mile ride in spite of a broken collar bone and a bad case of "road rash," caused by a spectacular crash half way through the tour.

Greg Lemond, three-time winner of the Tour De France, is honorary chair for the AXA World Ride '95. AXA World Ride '95 has been underwritten by the AXA Group, the second largest insurance company in France, and organized by World T.E.A.M. (The Exceptional Athlete Matters) Sports, Inc., a non-profit amateur sports organization dedicated to making sports training, participation and fellowship available to disabled or "exceptional" athletes.

ITEM

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FRIDAY

JUN 16 1995

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World Ride participant

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Eleanor Hogg of Charlotte, N.C., and formerly of Sumter will bicycle 2,652 miles from Novosibirsk, Russian Federation, to Beijing, China, from July 24 to Sept. 15 as a participant in AXA World Ride '95.

AXA World Ride '95 is an around-the-world bicycle tour involving both disabled and able-bodied athletes. The ride began in Atlanta March 17 and will conclude in Washington, D.C., Nov. 18. More than 200 people will participate in this 14-stage effort to bicycle some 12,000 miles through 15 countries.

The event is being made possible by a group of international sponsors committed to increasing opportunities for disabled athletes. These sponsors include title sponsor The AXA Group, a global financial services company headquartered in Paris, as well as The Equitable, Reebok, Shimano, Fuji, Ramada Inn, and Scott Paper of Europe.

By participating in the event, Hogg will help WTS further its goal of encouraging and supporting disabled athletes in their efforts to participate in lifetime sports.

Hogg is the daughter of Walter and Julie Hogg of Sumter.

CASPER STAR-TRIBUNE

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DAILY 33.95¢

FRIDAY

JUN 15 1995

BURRELLE'S

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STATEWIDE

Laramie cyclist trains for Siberia

CASPER — Cyclist Amber

Travsky of Laramie will be one of nine riders who will begin a 1,000-mile trek through the heart of Siberia on July 5. Travsky, six other Americans and two cyclists from Moscow will join one leg of AXA World Race, a 14-stage event that runs around the world.

Вокруг света в инвалидной коляске

«Вокруг мира-95» — так назвали свою кругосветку спортсмены-инвалиды из США, которые на колясках и велосипедах собираются обогнуть земной шар. Стартовав 17 марта в столице будущей летней Олимпиады Атланте, участники велопробега успешно преодолели уже не одну тысячу километров и благополучно прибыли в Москву.

— Российский этап является самым протяженным и трудным, учитывая ваши дороги, — говорит руководитель пробега Стив Уизланд, — но мы стараемся выдержать его с честью. У вас сердечные люди, и мы знаем, что в случае необходимости они нам помогут выбраться из любого даже самого трудного положения.

Дальнейший маршрут по России — до Байкала.

Затем Монголия, Китай, Япония и оттуда — к родным берегам Америки. «Финишируем мы через 246 дней 18 ноября в Вашингтоне возле Белого дома», — говорит г-н Уизланд.

Отправляясь в столь дальний маршрут, путешественники не ставили перед собой каких-то сверхъестественных, рекордных задач. «Для нас важно было скорее объединить подобных нам людей, — заявляют организаторы пробега. — В составе команды — 7 человек. Остальные присоединяются к нам по пути. Многие из нас потеряли здоровье, но при этом не утратили веры, которая сегодня так всем необходима, чтобы с оптимизмом шагать по жизни».

Сергей МАСЛЮК

RUSSLAND 70502

AXA WORLD RIDE 1995

KOMSOMOLSKAJA PRAVDA N 107 15.08.1995.s1



Это Болеслав Зайчек из Польши, один из участников кругосветного велопробега спортсменов-инвалидов «Вокруг мира - 95». Торжественная их встреча состоялась вчера у гостиницы «Украина» в Москве. Пробег стартовал 17 марта в Атланте, всего в нем участвует около 30 человек. Однако весь путь протяженностью 12370 миль проедут всего семеро отважных, в том числе две женщины.



Вокруг света — на инвалидных велосипедах

Георгий СТЕПАНОВ,
«Известия»

Их шестеро — американских инвалидов, поставивших целью объехать вокруг света на велосипедах специальной конструкции, управляемых руками. На обычных, двухколесных, за ними следуют врач Кэтрин Росика и группа сопровождения. «Кругосветный велопробег AXA-95» — так называется это беспрецедентное по мужеству действо, уча-

стники которого прибыли в Москву.

Старт был дан 17 марта в Атланте, финиш — 18 ноября в Вашингтоне. Веломарафонцам предстоит проехать около 20000 км по 16 странам. Позади — Восточное побережье США, Европа, впереди — дорога от Москвы до Иркутска, далее — Монголия, Китай, Япония и вновь Америка от Лос-Анджелеса до Вашингтона. В Москву они прибыли напрямую из Вены.

На родине шестеро американцев давно участвуют в соревнованиях инвалидов. Ронни Ирвин, например, двукратный чемпион США среди утративших подвижность. (20 лет назад в автокатастрофе он лишился левой ноги и двух пальцев руки). Дэвид Корнельсон, который перенес травму позвоночника, установил несколько мировых рекордов среди велосипедистов-инвалидов.

Почетный председатель пробега — знаменитый американский

гонщик Грег Лемонд, трижды выигрывавший «Тур де Франс». Главный организатор — американская фирма «Уорлд Т.Е.А.М.», готовящая соревнования с участием спортсменов-непрофессионалов. Другие спонсоры — компании AXA, «Рибок», «Эрнст энд Янг».

На снимке: в Москве к гостям из США присоединилась группа российских велосипедистов-инвалидов.

Фото Алексея БЕЛЯНЧЕВА.

Rusland, "Izvestija"

"Известия" - 15.6.95.

AHA World Ride '95 АХА 95 велогонка для инвалидов - Россия.



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Фото Алексея БЕЛЯНЧЕВА.

JUN 8 1995
BURRELL'S

1261

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Disabled cyclists to tour world

The idea was simple: Find a worthy challenge, then conquer it.

The challenge found by seven cyclists, six of them disabled, wasn't so simple. They decided to ride around the world.

Right now they are in Europe, headed for Russia, Siberia, China and then back to the United States, where the AXA World Ride '95 began in March.

"Why do it?" says Ronne Irvine, one of the core riders in the event that started in Atlanta and will conclude in Washington, D.C. in November after 14 stages. "To test my limits mentally and physically. This is a challenge event. When the human spirit takes hold, that's when it can meet these challenges."

Irvine and five other riders face particularly difficult challenges because they are disabled. Irvine lost his left foot in an auto accident in 1975.

Agnes Kearon of East Greenbush, lost the use of her left arm in a car crash 14 years ago. Rory McCarthy of West Bath, Maine, has muscular atrophy in his legs and uses crutches to walk. Rex Patrick of Englewood, Colo., had his left leg amputated after a drunk driving accident in 1978.

Steve Ackerman of Fort Collins, Colo., is paralyzed from the hips down after a 1987 auto accident. David Cornelsen of Huntington Beach, Calif., sustained a spinal cord injury in 1987 that also left him paralyzed from the hips down.

Several of the riders use hand cycles, which, if possible, makes the prospect of completing an eight-month, 13,000-mile odyssey even more daunting.

"I would envision myself as a rolling example of what abilities can come from a disability," says Ackerman. "I think that some communities of the world hide their disabled population. I hope to reach the disabled population around the world and show people what they can do."

The ride has drawn dozens interest from television — CBS will be doing a

Charles Kurault serving as host and possibly joining the journey — and sponsors, including AXA, the fourth largest insurance company in the world; Reebok; Scott Paper; and PowerAde. Greg LeMond is its honorary chairman, and he set the pace for the first few hours of the ride, which went up the U.S. East Coast before heading to Europe.

"The idea sort of came about 4½ years ago," says Steve Whisnant, executive director of World T.E.A.M. Sports, a national non-profit amateur sports organization created to encourage, promote and develop opportunities for the disabled to participate in sports and recreational activities. "Jim Benson, the president of Equitable Life, had just completed a successful climb of Mount Kilimanjaro with 12 disabled athletes."

"We were sitting at a dinner table, and I was working on trying to get amateur and pro athletes involved in community service. We mapped out the idea of bicycling around the world with disabled athletes."

Those cyclists, along with Kathryn Rosica of Falls Church, Va., a toxologist and the only able-bodied rider in the core group, periodically have been joined by hundreds of local riders as they pass through towns and cities on their route.

"In Ireland," Irvine recalls, "we crested a steep, steep hill and were regrouping after being strung out. We stopped in front of a grade school, where about 30 third graders were peering at us out the window. But they weren't going to act out until they saw it was OK with their teacher. I waved, they looked at their teacher, who waved, and then they waved when she did. I went into the classroom to speak to the 'lads' about what we were doing. They were fascinated."

"When we are going into cities, people start to spontaneously applaud us. They light up when learn we are cycling the world."

The most difficult part of the trip is upcoming. The group will head into the former Soviet Union and through the many republics that have taken its place.

the road conditions in Russia," Whisnant says. "Parts of the route where there are supposed to be paved roads might be just hard-surface roads. There are issues of food and lodging; the first two nights in Russia we're supposed to be in 'substandard hotels.'"

"These are areas that do not have any sensitivity to the disabled. Hotels with elevators that might not work or bathrooms that are not accessible are all too common."

"We've had to retain a private security firm throughout Russia, so we hired four ex-KGB agents who will be armed and in uniform with us every minute of the day."

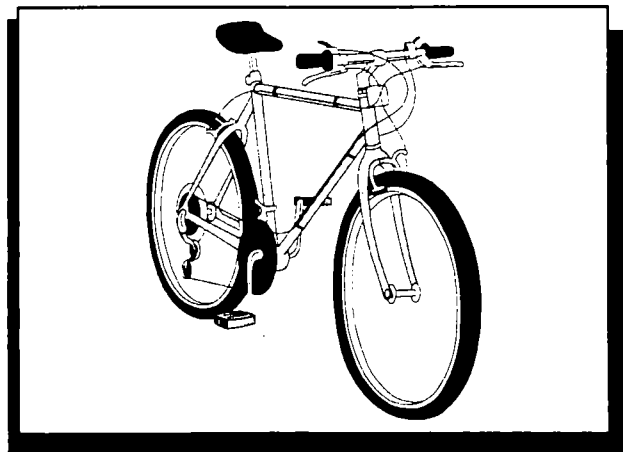
"Absolutely, logistics are the most difficult things to overcome."

Then again, when you have overcome so much already, is there really any challenge too tough to handle?



MEDIA UPDATE

***MATERIALS RECEIVED
BETWEEN 8/1 - 8/31/95***



***RESULTS REPORTED BY
ALAN TAYLOR COMMUNICATIONS
SEPTEMBER 5, 1995***

505 EIGHTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, NY 10018 • 212-714-1280 FAX 212-695-5685
PUBLIC RELATIONS • SPECIAL EVENTS • PRODUCT PUBLICITY

AXA World Ride - 1

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Market</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Circulation</u>
USA Today	National	8/29	1,800,000
Western Springs Doings	Illinois	8/25	1,300
Oakbrook Terrace Doings	Illinois	8/25	200
Darien Doings	Illinois	8/25	400
Indian Head Park Doings	Illinois	8/25	5,400
Hinsdale Doings	Illinois	8/25	5,400
Willowbrook Doings	Illinois	8/25	625
Burr Ridge Doings	Illinois	8/25	1,200
Oak Brook Doings	Illinois	8/25	1,500
Clarendon Doings	Illinois	8/25	1,200
Raytown Post	Missouri	8/25	30,000
Excelsior Sun Sailor	Minnesota	8/16	8,435
Plymouth Sun Sailor	Minnesota	8/9	3,628
Union Leader	New Hampshire	8/8	71,761
White Rocker	Texas	8/3	4,600
Vashon Maury Island	Washington	8/2	4,300
Cleveland Plain Dealer	Ohio	7/31	409,536
USA Today International	International	7/31	200,000
Examiner - Launceston	Australia	7/21	38,721
News Sentinel	Indiana	7/18	55,436
Moskovskaja Pravda	Russian Federation	6/14	700,000
Gazeta Krawowska	Poland	5/28	160,000
Dziennik Polski	Poland	5/27	108,000

**TOTAL PRINT IMPRESSIONS
(CIRCULATION * 2.5 READERS) = 9,029,355**

AXA World Ride - 3

BROADCAST MEDIA

<u>Television</u>	<u>Market</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Viewership</u>
WNYT, NBC	Albany, NY	8/10	85,000
WEWS, ABC	Cleveland, OH	8/20	140,000
Sportschannel	National	8/25	220,000

TOTAL TELEVISION VIEWERSHIP
445,000



TOTAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS RECEIVED
BETWEEN THE DATES OF 8/1/95 TO 8/31/95
9,474,355

USA TODAY
WASHINGTON, DC
DAILY 1.800.000

TUESDAY
AUG 29 1995

BURRELLE'S

36
XCEAA

XM
A...N



Disabled in sports

American Athletic Association of the Deaf (801-393-8710): AAAD/USA Deaf Softball Men's 20th and Women's 9th Annual National Tournament is Sept. 14-16 in Richmond, Va. 909-785-4507 (relay: 1-800-855-2881).

AXA World Ride 1995 (704-344-9030):

AXA World Ride Cycling begins Sept. 30 in Los Angeles, heading east.

Special Olympics International (202-628-3630): Special Olympics Ohio State Golf Tournament is Sept. 11-12 in Cincinnati. 614-239-7050. . . . Special Olympics West

Virginia Equestrian Invitational is Sept. 17 in Webster Springs. 304-422-1868.

U.S. Association of Blind Athletes (719-630-0422): ITT Hartford Million Dollar Hole-in-One is Sept. 11-20 in Chicago. . . .

AT&T Hitting for the Blind Softball Tournament is Sept. 23-24 in Colorado Springs.

WESTERN SPRINGS DOINGS

HINSDALE, IL
WEEKLY 1,300

AUG 25 1995

BURRELLE'S

1982

11.00

People in sports

Golf

70SCA

■ Mike Davidian, 59, of Oak Brook shot a hole-in-one Aug. 2 at Prairie Landing Golf Club in West Chicago. Davidian used a 5-iron for his feat on the 166-yard No. 6 hole.

■ Chip Travis of Clarendon Hills shot a four-day total of 290 to tie for fifth place at the 65th Illinois State Amateur Championship Aug. 15-17 at the par-70 Illini Country Club course in Springfield. Travis finished eight strokes behind champion D.A. Points of Pekin.

Bicycling

Timothy Paul, a blind medical transcriptionist from Hinsdale, left this week to join the AXA World Ride '95 for stage 10 of its worldwide trek.

Paul, who was born with glaucoma and has been blind since birth, will meet the six core riders in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, and pedal nearly 2,000 miles with them to Beijing, China, which they'll reach on Sept. 15.

AXA World Ride '95 is run by World T.E.A.M.

(The Exceptional Athletic Matters) Sports Inc., a national nonprofit amateur sports organization created to encourage, promote and develop opportunities for people with physical and/or mental disabilities to participate in lifetime sports and recreational activities. The 14-stage ride began in Atlanta last March and will conclude 13,000 miles later in Washington, D.C., in November.

Paul has overcome his disability to excel as an athlete, who bikes, runs, skis and plays basketball.

Swimming

Chris Kinsella, 12, of Hinsdale won the annual 1.122-mile swimming competition at Camp Highlands of Plain Lake in Bryner. Kinsella captured the event in a record time of 36 minutes, 10 seconds in his victory by 10 seconds.

Auto racing

The championship titles in four NASCAR divisions will be determined by the final round of

action beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26, at Santa Fe Speedway, 9100 S. Wolf Road, Hinsdale.

Dave Lilla of Hinsdale, the early contender for the Sportman Division title, is now in fourth place. Scott Jany of Clarendon Hills is fifth in the Lightning Rod (4-Cylinder) Division. Hinsdale's William Bowley is seventh in the Short Track American Racer Division and Brad Schwartz of Western Springs is 17th in the Late Model Division. David Gardner of Willowbrook is fourth in the Sportman Rookie of the Year prize standings.

Tennis

Steve Roy of Clarendon Hills defeated Jennie Levin 6-4, 6-1 to win the Girls' 16 singles title at the Woodfield Athletic Club Open July 24 in Woodfield. Roy defeated Beth Wurzberg 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the semifinals of the 19-player draw. Roy and Challen Henry finished second in the Girls' 16 doubles, losing to Shannon Lowett and Lindsey Ball 5-7, 6-2 in the final.

OAKBROOK TERRACE BOTING

HINSDALE, IL
2 TIMES/WEEK 200

FRIDAY
AUG 25 1995
BURRELLE'S

406
00

11 11A

People in sports

Golf

705CA

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Swimming

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Tennis

Sharbani Roy of Clarendon Hills defeated Jennie Levin 6-4, 6-1 to win the Girls' 16 singles title at the Woodfield Athletic Club Open July 28 in Woodfield. Roy defeated Beth Wurzburg 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the semifinals of the 19-player draw. Roy and Colleen Henry finished second in the Girls' 16 doubles, losing to Shannon Lovett and Lindsey Ball 6-2, 6-2 in the final.

DARTER DOINGS

HINSDALE, IL
2-THURSDAY 400

FRIDAY

AUG 25 1995

BURRELLE'S

728
08

11 UA

People in sports

Golf

705-CA

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Tennis

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INDIAN HEAD PARK DOINGS

HINSDALE, ILL.
WEEKLY 5,400

AUG 25 1995

BURRELLE'S

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UA
11

People in sports

Golf

705 CA

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HINSDALE BOIRHS

HINSDALE, IL
2-PAGES/WEK 5,400

FRIDAY

AUG 25 1995

BURBELLE'S

378
62

11 UA

People in sports

Golf

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WILLOWBROOK DOINGS

HINSDALE, IL
2 TIMES/WEK 625

FRIDAY

AUG 25 1995

BURRELLE'S

809
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UA

11

People in sports

Golf

705CA
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(The Exceptional Athletic Matters) Sports Inc., a national nonprofit amateur sports organization created to encourage, promote and develop opportunities for people with physical and/or mental disabilities to participate in lifetime sports and recreational activities. The 14-stage ride began in Atlanta last March and will conclude 13,000 miles later in Washington, D.C., in November.

Paul has overcome his disability to excel as an athlete who bikes, runs, skis and plays baseball.

Swimming

Chris Kinsella, 12, of Hinsdale won the annual 1 1/2-mile swimming competition at Camp Highlands on Plum Lake in Sayner, Wis. Kinsella captured the event in a record time of 36 minutes, 10 seconds in his victory by 10 seconds.

Auto racing

The championship titles in four NASCAR divisions will be determined by the final round of

action beginning at 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26, at Santa Fe Speedway, 9100 S. Wolf Road, Hinsdale.

Dave Lilja of Hinsdale, the early contender for the Sportman Division title, is now in fourth place. Scott Jany of Clarendon Hills is fifth in the Lightning Rod (4-Cylinder) Division. Hinsdale's William Bowley is seventh in the Short Track American Racer Division and Brad Schwartz of Western Springs is 17th in the Late Model Division. David Gardner of Willowbrook is fourth in the Sportman Rookie of the Year point standings.

Tennis

Sharbant Roy of Clarendon Hills defeated Jennie Levin 6-4, 6-1 to win the Girls' 16 singles title at the Woodfield Amateur Club Open July 28 in Woodfield. Roy defeated Beth Wurzberg 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the semifinals of the 19-player draw. Roy and Colleen Henry finished second in the Girls' 16 doubles, losing to Shannon Lovett and Lindsey Ball 6-2, 6-2 in the final.

BURR RIDGE DOWNS

HINSDALE, IL
2-DAYS/WEK 1,200

FRIDAY
AUG 25 1995

BURRELLE'S

800
36

11A

People in sports

Golf

705 CA

■ Mike Davidian, 59, of Oak Brook shot a hole-in-one Aug. 2 at Prairie Landing Golf Club in West Chicago. Davidian used a 5-iron for his feat on the 166-yard No. 6 hole.

■ Chip Travis of Clarendon Hills shot a four-day total of 290 to tie for fifth place at the 65th Illinois State Amateur Championship Aug. 15-17 at the par-70 Illini Country Club course in Springfield. Travis finished eight strokes behind champion D. A. Fonda of Pekin.

Bicycling

Timothy Paul, a blind medical transcriptionist from Hinsdale, left this week to join the AXA World Ride '95 for stage 10 of its worldwide trek.

Paul, who was born with glaucoma and has been blind since birth, will meet the six core riders in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, and pedal nearly 2,000 miles with them to Beijing, China, which they'll reach on Sept. 15.

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Paul has overcome his disability to excel as an athlete who hikes, runs, skis and plays baseball.

Swimming

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Tennis

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OAK BROOK DOINGS

HINSDALE, ILL.
2-THIRDS/WEEK 1,500

FRIDAY
AUG 25 1995
BURRELLE'S

779
ue

UA
11

People in sports

Golf 705CA

■ Mike Davidian, 59, of Oak Brook shot a hole-in-one Aug. 2 at Prairie Landing Golf Club in West Chicago. Davidian used a 5-iron for his feat on the 166-yard No. 6 hole.

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AXA World Ride '95 is run by World T.E.A.M.

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Paul has overcome his disability to excel as an athlete who bikes, runs, skis and plays baseball.

Swimming

Chris Kinsella, 12, of Hinsdale won the annual 1-1/2-mile swimming competition at Camp Highlands on Plum Lake in Sawyer, Wis. Kinsella captured the event in a record time of 36 minutes, 10 seconds in his victory by 10 seconds.

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Tennis

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CLARENDON HILLS DOINGS

HINSDALE, ILL.
2-TIMES/WEEK 1,200

FRIDAY
AUG 25 1995
BURRELLE'S

807
ne

UA

People in sports

Golf

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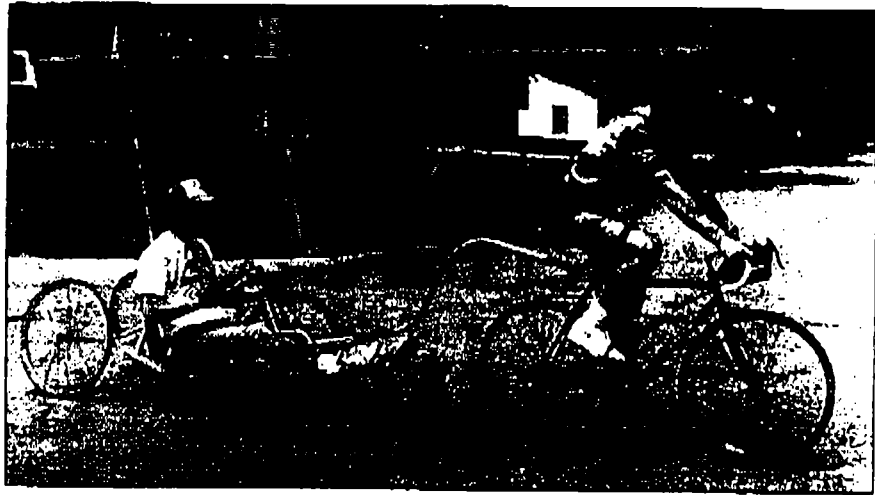
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Tennis

Shawn Ray of Clarendon Hills won the Jennie Levin 6-4, 6-1 in the Girls' 16 Singles title at the Woodstock Athletic Club on Aug. 20 in Woodstock. Ray defeated Beth Warren 6-3, 6-1 in the consolation match. Ray and Collin Ray, 16, defeated Michael and Lindsey Hall 6-2/6-2 in the final.

Brothers join final leg of global ride



From St. Louis to Washington, D.C. - Oct. 31 to Nov. 18 - two Postal brothers will be participating in the 14th and final leg of the AXA World Ride '95.

Raytownner Chuck Annen, supervisor of customer service for the U.S. Postal Service, will be bicycling with his brother, Craig Annen, postmaster in Kewanee, Ill. as participants in the worldwide event.

AXA World Ride '95 is an around-the-world bicycle tour involving both disabled and able-bodied athletes. Chuck was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1992.

The ride began in Atlanta, Ga. on March 17 and concludes its world trek in Washington, D.C. During the 14 stages of the ride, over 200 persons will participate

in this effort to bicycle some 12,000 miles through 15 countries. AXA World Ride will be more than just a sports event; it will be an activity that will connect the communities of the world and raise awareness of the exceptional athlete.

Although this event is sponsored by a group of international sponsors who are committed to increasing opportunities for disabled athletes, the Annens are seeking contributions to help cover the costs of their specially constructed, adaptive bike. Tax deductible donations on the Annens' behalf can be made to:

World T.E.A.M. Sports, 1919 South Boulevard, Suite 100, Charlotte, North Carolina 28203.

Brothers Chuck and Craig Annen test ride their specially built bicycle in preparation for their trip between St. Louis and Washington, D.C.

(Photo by John Rieger)

AUG 16 1995

He is traveling the world to help the disabled

By Sally Thompson
Staff Writer

705CA
The world map on Janice and Michael Blake's kitchen wall in Plymouth charts the progress of seven athletes, six of them disabled, who are circling the globe on bicycles.

Each day the Blakes and their three daughters — Jamie, 8, Julia, 4, and Jaclyn, 2 — track those taking part in the 1995 AXA World Ride, and, as the riders cross Russia and get closer to Mongolia, the family's excitement grows.

In only a few more days, instead of following the trail of strangers, the Blakes will be cheering on one of their own.

Between Aug. 24 and Sept. 15, Michael will pedal 931 miles from Ulaan Baatar, the capital of Mongolia, to Beijing in the People's Republic of China as one of the able-bodied athletes aiding the cause of disabled athletes.

In addition to extremes in terrain, crossing both mountains and the Gobi Desert, Blake will face extremes in climate, as well. The 22 riders taking part in that stage of the trip will be is-

sued both spring and winter jackets.

Blake, district manager for The Equitable, an insurance company, got interested in helping disabled after watching the Emmy award-winning documentary, "Let Me Be Brave: A Special Climb of Kilimanjaro," in 1991.

In 1994 Blake was invited to take part in, and began training for, the 14-stage around-the-world AXA World Ride.

He is among 200 cyclists and one of only two Minnesotans taking part. The other Minnesotan,

three-time Tour de France champion Greg LeMond of Medina, helped kick off the trip on March 17.

Riders have crossed Ireland and the United Kingdom, bicycled from Paris to Vienna, traveled across Eastern Europe to Moscow, and are now finishing the last leg of their Russian journey.

According to the schedule, after crossing Mongolia, China and Japan, the trip will resume in Los Angeles on Sept. 29, eventually concluding on Nov. 18 in Washington, D.C.

The eight-month, 12,549-mile cycling challenge is being covered by CBS Sports and will conclude with a 90-minute special on Thanksgiving day.

Two of the "magnificent seven" who are making the entire trip are paraplegics. Three others have lost the use of a foot, leg or arm through injuries or amputations. One man has muscular atrophy in his legs and uses crutches to walk. The final member of the seven is the only one who is not disabled.

In order to take part, Blake had to pay \$4,100 in expenses. In addition, he raised more than

\$5,000 from other Equitable agents and \$2,000 from clients and friends to help pay the expenses of disabled athletes who wanted to take part but lacked the resources to do so.

Blake's eyes light up with excitement as he looks forward to the adventure. "It's a fascinating opportunity to see a part of the world rarely visited," he said.

Stage 10, on which Blake will be traveling, is considered somewhat risky, so five vans carrying everything from medical personnel to armed guards will accompany them.

Blake's ties to the ride will continue long after his segment is done, he said. For one thing, he plans to take his wife and daughters to see the athletes as they cross the U.S. at St. Louis. He also plans to be in Washington when the tour reaches the east coast. "I want to be there for the end," he said.

Still, the end of the ride need not signal the end of Blake's involvement with disabled athletes or with helping others.

"This is special," he said. "If you ever get the opportunity to meet these athletes, you know you have to help them."



Michael Blake of Plymouth trains daily for his part in the AXA World Ride. He will bicycle from Ulaan Bataar, Mongolia, to Beijing, China. (Craig Lassig/Staff Photographer)

AUG 16 1995

BURRELLE'S

74
05



Michael Blake of Plymouth trains daily for his part in the AXA World Ride. He will bicycle from Ulaan Bataar, Mongolia, to Beijing, China. (Craig Lassig/Staff Photographer)

Bicycling to help the disabled

Blake plans tour of world on bike

705CA
By Sally Thompson
Staff Writer

The world map on Janice and Michael Blake's kitchen wall in Plymouth charts the progress of seven athletes, six of them disabled, who are circling the globe on bicycles.

Each day the Blakes and their three daughters — Jamie, 8, Julia, 4, and Jaclyn, 2 — track those taking part in the 1995 AXA World Ride, and, as the riders cross Russia and get closer to Mongolia, the family's excitement grows.

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Blake, district manager for The Equitable, an insurance

company, got interested in helping disabled after watching the Emmy award-winning documentary, "Let Me Be Brave: A Special Climb of Kilimanjaro," in 1991.

Later he met several of the disabled athletes who had climbed the 19,000-foot-elevation mountain and was inspired to do what he could to promote the cause of disabled athletes.

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Riders have crossed Ireland and the United Kingdom, bicycled from Paris to Vienna, traveled across Eastern Europe to Moscow, and are now finishing the last leg of their Russian journey.

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Two of the "magnificent seven" who are making the entire trip are paraplegics. Three others have lost the use of a foot, leg or arm through injuries or amputations. One man has muscular atrophy in his legs and uses crutches to walk. The final member of the seven is the only one who is not disabled.

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Blake's eyes light up with excitement as he looks forward to the adventure.

Stage 10, on which Blake will be traveling, is considered somewhat risky, so five vans carrying everything from medical personnel to armed guards will accompany them.

While he is concerned about being away from home for 24 days and being unable to communicate with the outside world for at least 15 of those days, Blake and his family believe the sacrifice he and his family are making is worth it.

Particularly important, said Blake, is the visibility the ride gives to disabled athletes, proving that people with disabilities can overcome their physical limitations and succeed.

PLYMOUTH SUN SAILOR

EDINA, MN
WEEKLY 3.628

AUG 9 1995

BURRELLE'S

358
AW.F

TX
05

Traveling the world to help the disabled

Disabled athletes' abilities validated

705CA

By Sally Thompson
Staff Writer

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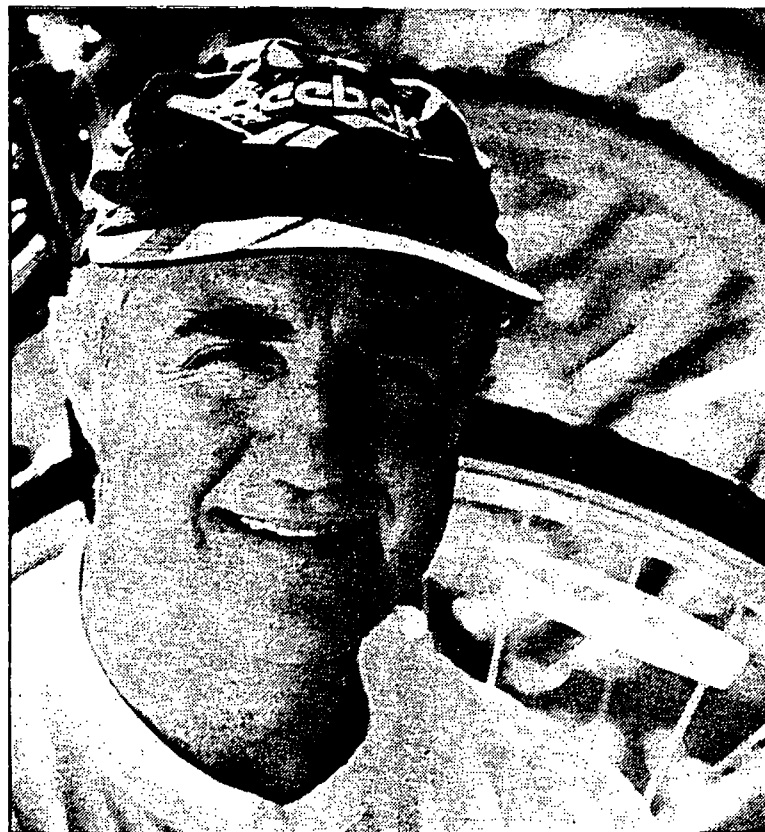
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BLAKE: To Page 13A



Michael Blake of Plymouth trains daily for his part in the AXA World Ride. He will be bicycling from Ulaan Bataar, Mongolia, to Beijing, China. (Craig Lassig/Staff Photographer)



Before you go for a 931-mile bicycle ride, you'd better be in shape. Michael Blake of Plymouth has been running and bicycling to get ready for his participation in the AXA World Ride, an eight-month, around-the-world ride to benefit disabled athletes. In each stage of the trip, able-bodied athletes like Blake join the core group of disabled athletes who are making the entire trip. (Craig Lassig/Staff Photographer)

Blake: Had to help

1A
From Page 1A

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"This is special! If you ever get the opportunity to meet these athletes, you know you have to help them."

— Michael Blake

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Particularly important, said Blake, is the visibility the ride gives to disabled athletes, proving that people with disabilities can overcome their physical limitations and succeed.

"The disabled people in many of these countries are not treated as fairly as they are here . . . This could change their lives," he said.

Blake's ties to the ride will continue long after his segment is done, he said. For one thing, he plans to take his wife and daughters to see the athletes as they cross the U.S. at St. Louis. He also plans to be in Washington when the tour reaches the east coast. "I want to be there for the end," he said.

Still, the end of the ride need not signal the end of Blake's involvement with disabled athletes or with helping others.

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UNION LEADER
MANCHESTER, NH
DAILY 71,761

TUESDAY
AUG 8 1995

BURRELLE'S

25
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Fundraiser Planned for Local Athlete

NEWBURYPORT, Mass. ^{7054A} In hopes of supporting Doug Ewing's participation in "AXA World Ride '95," a jazz cruise with the local athlete will set sail from Hilton's Dock on Saturday, Aug. 19.

Ewing, who is a hand-cyclist, is planning to rejoin the World Ride '95 group of riders currently in Siberia. The globe-spanning cycling group is part of World Team Sports, created to encourage, promote and develop opportunities for persons with disabilities on a global scale. Established in 1993, World Team Sports is dedicated to making sports training, participation and fellowship available to disabled athletes.

For more information or tickets for the cruise, call (603) 642-8643.

WHITE ROCKER

DALLAS, TX
WEEKLY 4,600

AUG 3 1995

BURRELLE'S

10

Chris Noonan will pedal his way across Mongolia . . .

FRONT PAGE

Casa Linda resident Chris Noonan will pedal his way across Mongolia to help prove a point.

Noonan, a district manager in the Equitable-Lefferts Agency, will head out Aug. 13 to join the AXA World Ride '95 bicycle team as it begins the Mongolian leg of its incredible journey around the world from Aug. 16 to 27.

"I have my shots, my body's in shape and my commitment is firm," Noonan said. "I can't wait to join the team."

The AXA World Ride began March 17 in Atlanta, led by three-time Tour de France champion Greg LeMond. The difference between this tour and most bicycling events is that, of the seven core riders who will pedal the entire 12,-549.4-mile trip, six are disabled.

"In fact, three of them are paraplegics who pedal by hand," Noonan said. Noonan, who is not disabled, has been training for the event for several months.

The ride team is being joined by many able-bodied athletes on its 245-day ride around the world.

To date, the team has traveled through Ireland, France and Austria. They are currently crossing Russia.

AXA World Ride '95 is open to everyone in any country, and able-bodied athletes have been encouraged to join, even though the focus is on the thousands of entrants who have overcome disabilities to participate. That includes, among others, visually-impaired persons who will cycle on the backs of tandem bikes, those miss-

ing limbs or afflicted with spinal cord injuries who will operate hand cycles, and individuals with mental disabilities. Riders can travel whatever distances they feel are appropriate.

ACA World Ride '95 has been underwritten by prominent international corporations that support the sentiments behind the project and desire an international forum to showcase their support. AXA is the French partner of Equitable.

Noonan got involved in the event through his company. Equitable president Jim Benson is the founder of World TEAM Sports. TEAM stands for The Exceptional Athlete Matters.

In 1993, a disabled team of athletes from the organization climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa, and Noonan said, "Their next

challenge was to bicycle around the world."

The AXA World Ride will conclude Nov. 18 in Washington, DC. The team returns to U.S. shores via Los Angeles Sept. 29 and will follow a route that travels through Santa Fe, New Mexico, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and St. Louis, Missouri, on to Washington. Noonan is only on for the Mongolian tour and returns to Dallas Aug. 30.

The ride team crosses the Texas Panhandle traveling through Amarillo Oct. 15. To coincide with that date, a 'World Ride Around Dallas' event is planned and proceeds will benefit the Disabled Sports Association of North Texas (DSANT). Sponsors and volunteers are being sought, and those interested may call the Hotline at (214)934-7841.

The DSANT was started

in 1985 and has 20 American record-holders and nine World record-holders, Noonan said.

Noonan's Dallas branch had raised \$12,000 last year to benefit the organization, and this year's goal is \$25,000.

For his trip to Mongolia, Noonan had to raise his own money.

"I know a lot of people and I have a lot of friends," Noonan said. "My clients have also been very generous."

He has raised \$4000 so far.

If you'd like to contribute to the goals of World TEAM Sports or Noonan's trip, make a check payable to World TEAM Sports c/o Chris Noonan, and send it to: Equitable, 12377 Merit Drive No. 1500, Dallas, TX 75251.



CHRIS NOONAN

VASHON MAURY ISLAND
BEACHCOMBER

VASHON, WA
WEEKLY 4,300

AUG 2 1995

BURRELLE'S

FF

Vashon-Maury Island

SPORTS

BEST OF THE WEEK

^{W.S.C.A.}
500 miles in 10 days by bike

Laura Caparoso Margolis leaves for Japan in September to participate in a 500-mile bicycle ride across the country. Her ride is part of the World Ride '95, an around-the-world bicycle tour involving disabled and able-bodied athletes. The ride began in Atlanta in March and ends in Washington D.C. on Nov. 18.

See Page B10 for details.

August 2, 1995

AUG 2 1995

slander to bicycle 500 miles in 10 days

By Mike Williams
Staff reporter

Laura Caparoso Margolis, a partner in an Island business, leaves for Japan in September to participate in a 500-mile bicycle ride across the country.

Her ride is part of the World Ride '95, an around-the-world bicycle tour involving disabled and able-bodied athletes. The ride began in Atlanta in March and ends in Washington D.C. on Nov. 18.

She and a partner will ride a tandem bike from Hiroshima through Osaka, Kyoto, Nagoya and Tokyo. She hopes to raise awareness of the abilities of people with disabilities and to integrate disabled people in to society.

Margolis is totally blind. She wants to encourage people with disabilities to participate in athletics. Blindness hasn't prevented her from skiing, hang-gliding and other activities.

She is one of the 200 people to participate in the 14 stages of the ride through 16 countries. Seven core cyclists, six disabled, will ride the entire 13,000 miles.

She must raise \$2,600 for the trip. Pacific Research donated some of the money, which helps pay the costs of the trip, but also goes toward offering future activities for people with disabilities.

Long-distance bicycle rides are nothing new for Margolis and her husband, Glen. He gained fame when he bicycled from his home in Oregon to college in New York.

He takes bicycling seriously. He didn't even get his driver's license until he was 23.

The couple met while she attended Wellesley College in Massachusetts. He served as a reader for her. "The first thing we got after we started dating was a tandem bike," Laura said.

They bicycled across Europe between July and December 1989. They started in Brussels, Belgium, and ended in Madrid, Spain. They packed sleeping bags, a small camp stove and a tent onto their bike and rode away from the Brussels airport.

Meeting people along the way was part of the charm of the trip, she said. People were curious about the pair and frequently stopped them to ask questions. Many invited them into their homes for a home-cooked meal.

The Margolises crossed into East Berlin shortly after the Berlin Wall fell. They stopped to pose for photographs with Soviet border guards who would have shot them just a few weeks earlier for getting so close to the wall.

"They didn't know what to do," Glen said. "They weren't guarding the border any more, but nobody had told them to go home."

Their trip included a train ride to the Soviet Union. They bicycled around Moscow and the Crimea and took the train for a tour of what was then Leningrad.

Perhaps more than in anywhere else, Laura noticed that the Soviets had difficulty understanding her activity despite her disability. Disabled people in the Soviet Union were frequently institutionalized, she said.

"They didn't know how to deal with me," she added. "Not only was I blind, but I was also a female; it boggled their minds — I broke all stereotypes."

She and Glen averaged about 65 miles a day on their European tour, so riding 50 miles a day in Japan probably will not be that tough. Besides, she adds, she will stay in hotels along the way, so the bike will not be loaded down with supplies.

CBS will air a 90-minute spe-



Mike Williams Photo

Laura Caparoso Margolis will ride across Japan in September as part of World Ride '95. She is blind and hopes to raise awareness of people with disabilities and encourage disabled people to participate in athletics. Margolis rides about 45-minutes a day on the stationary bike and rides a tandem bike with her husband Glen in preparation for the race.

cial on World Ride '95, on Thanksgiving Day.

They moved from Boston to the Island last July. They own Progressive Designs International, Inc., a company that manufactures and sells indoor garden products.

Wrought iron frames with small blown-glass vases for starting cuttings is one of their

main products. They sell all over the country. On Vashon, the country store carries some of their products.

They also make antique reproductions of Baroque decorative accessories, including formal, European-style ornate mirror frames, lamps, picture frames and end tables finished with gold or silver metal leaf.

She was born in Mexico. Their manufacturing facility is there, but most of the specialty packaging and all of the administration is here.

Laura is looking forward to the Japan ride. Business is good, and it is difficult to get away for a long trip, so the 10-day ride should be just about right.

PLAIN DEALER

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Trio is ready for cycling challenges

Bell and Sherman ride eight-day cross-country race, Gries will join them in Mongolia for 1,000-miler

7056A World Ride '95 (photo)
BY AMY ROSEWATER
PLAIN DEALER REPORTER

Ron Bell has done a lot of things that the average person probably would call crazy.

He has run across the Sahara Desert. He has climbed Kilimanjaro. And he has raced across the Panama Canal.

So now he is trying to accomplish something he has never done before. He started a bike race across the country yesterday, and after he completes that 2,911-mile, eight-day race, he will leave for a bike race on unpaved roads in Mongolia.

"I put one year into training for this," Bell said "I'm not going to blow it."

Bell will race across the country along with good friend and crew chief, Bruce Sherman. Both of them are from Shaker Heights. Bell and Sherman will be joined by Cleveland Browns minority owner Bob Gries for the Mongolia adventure.

The bike race across the nation, which began in Irvine, Calif., and will end in Savannah, Ga., is known as the Race Across America and it is the longest non-stop bicycle race in the world. Outside magazine dubbed it "the world's toughest race."

There is one starting line and one finish line and no time out," Bell said. "It's sort of America's equivalent of the Tour De France."

Bell attempted to complete the race two years ago, and completed a little more than 2,000 miles before dropping out of the race. He wound up second among the non-finishers, meaning he traveled the furthest of those cyclists who did not complete the trek. Of the 29 starters that year, only five finished.

This year, he is competing on a relay team with a college professor, an Italian engineer and a British doctor — all of whom Bell has raced against.

His goal this year is not just to finish, but to complete the race in less than eight days, six hours.

The Mongolia trip is part of an event called World Drive '95, a bike race around the world designed to promote awareness for disabled athletes. The trip consists of a core group of about eight disabled athletes and covers 13,000 miles in 16 countries.

CBS plans to air a 90-minute special about the tour on Thanksgiving Day.

Rich Pahner of Lakewood, who is legally blind, completed

one stage of that event in Europe earlier this summer, and will participate in a second stage in the United States soon.

The Bell-Sherman-Gries contingent will meet the World Drive group in Ulaan Baatar, the capital of Mongolia, on Aug. 28. That stage of the trip covers about 1,000 miles in 16 days through the Gobi Desert. The stage ends in Beijing, China.

While in Mongolia, the threesome will camp in tents, and they have been told their diet will consist mainly of sheep meat.

To prepare for the trip, Bell rides between 300 and 400 miles a week. Some days, the group trains together; sometimes it is done separately. Bell has a speed coach, Walt Chapman, who has helped with the training.

Gries has joined Bell on several mountain-climbing and running expeditions around the world, and Sherman won the half-marathon in the Maccabean Games. Sherman has run at least three miles, or a half-hour a day for about 6,200 days.

Now, they have to put their training to the test.

Joked Bell: "All I have to do is race across the country first."



EZRA O. SHAW / PLAIN DEALER PHOTOGRAPHER

Bob Gries, left, Bruce Sherman, center and Ron Bell will meet in Ulaan Baatar, the capital of Mongolia, next month to begin World Drive '95.

AXA Cycle

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Disabled cyclists on course in World Ride

AXA World Ride '95, which began in Atlanta in March and will conclude after eight months and 13,000 miles in Washington, D.C., in November, is a unique event in cycling. A core group of six riders, five disabled, are attempting to circumnavigate the globe, journeying through 16 countries in Europe and Asia during the 14 stages.

Celebrities, including Olympic gold medalist Dan Jansen, are participating and offering support to the core riders: Steve Ackerman of Fort Collins, Colo.; David Cornelsen of Huntington Beach, Calif.; Ronnie Irvine of Reston, Va.; Agnes Kearon of Ballston Spa, N.Y.; Rory McCarthy of West Bath, Maine; and Kathryn Rosica of Falls Church, Va.

Greg LeMond, three-time Tour de France winner, is the honorary chairman of AXA World Ride '95. LeMond set the pace for the first hours of the odyssey.

The event is being organized by World T.E.A.M. (The Exceptional Athlete Matters) Sports Inc. AXA, the event's title sponsor, is the second largest insurance company in France.

AXA World Ride '95 is in stage eight of 14, from Novosibirsk to Irkutsk, Russia. Remaining stages:

► Stage 9: The Steppes of Mongolia (Irkutsk to Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia) Aug. 16-27.

► Stage 10: Mongolia south into China (Ulaan Baatar to Beijing, China) Aug. 28-Sept. 15.

► Stage 11: Japan (Wajima to Tokyo) Sept. 16-28.

► Stage 12: The Old West (Los Angeles to Santa Fe, N.M.) Sept. 29-Oct. 12.

► Stage 13: The Great Plains (Santa Fe to St. Louis) Oct. 13-30.

► Stage 14: The Heartland to Washington, D.C. (St. Louis to Washington, D.C.) Oct. 31-Nov. 18.



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Milburn in world ride

By TERRY MORRIS

After originally being hampered by a lack of sponsorship Devonport cyclist Graeme Milburn will now be able complete the AXA World Ride '95 through Europe, Asia and the United States.

The AXA World Ride '95 was organised to raise awareness of disabled athletes throughout the globe and Milburn originally joined the ride in March for six of its 14 stages.

He was restricted by minimal sponsorship but now one of World Ride '95's American sponsors World Team Sport has backed Milburn for the rest of the event.

"They have come forward and offered to provide all the support I need to rejoin the ride," he said.

Milburn, 55, returns to Europe on Monday where he will represent Australia in veterans events in Russia and Austria.

He then rejoins the World Ride '95 in Mongolia and crosses into China and Japan before flying to Los Angeles.

The ride then takes them from one end of the United States to the other culminating with a presidential dinner in Washington on November 18.

Milburn said World Team Sport had then offered him financial support for a two-week holiday at the end of the ride.

The budget for the AXA World Ride '95 is \$4.5 million.

TUESDAY
JUL 18 1995

By LEISA THOMPSON of The News-Sentinel

Fort Wayne's Rick Ritter totes his son Ricky through Foster Park behind his 21-speed, arm-powered handcycle.

705CA Cyclist gives self ride of a lifetime

▶ With his master's in hand, Rick Ritter will see the world.

By BLAKE SEBRING
of The News-Sentinel

Rick Ritter has an odd sense of what a graduation present should be. After finishing his master's in social work at the University of Michigan last month, Ritter is giving himself a gift.

Ritter is training for that gift, taking part in the AXA World Ride, a 14-stage event that began March 17 and will cover more than 13,000 miles before it finishes in Washington, D.C., in November. Ritter, 47, leaves Aug. 23 for Mongolia, where he will ride Stage 10 from Ulaan Bataar to Beijing, China, to the Sea of Japan and back to Beijing. He comes home Sept. 15, and will rejoin the ride Oct. 31 in St. Louis for Stage 14 to Washington, D.C.

"I get the satisfaction of doing something for me that is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Ritter said. "It's also in a sense my graduation gift to myself. I'm very much inter-



By LEISA THOMPSON of The News-Sentinel

Ritter, astride his handcycle, rides about 2,000 miles a year. On the bike, he has reached a speed of 27 mph.

ested in promoting sports for disabled athletes, and my own style happens to be one if I recommend something to someone, then I damn well better be able to do it myself."

Ritter works part time in the emergency room at Parkview Memorial Hospital as a social worker

dealing with disability trauma, death and loss, and interpersonal violence. He's also the owner and primary therapist for Stress Operations Group, and one of the founders of the Center for Nonviolence.

Because of 10 knee operations since 1969, Ritter lost his left knee

and the leg is fused. He rides a 21-speed, arm-powered handcycle about 2,000 miles a year, mostly in competitions, along streets and the Rivergreenway. He traveled to Hawaii a few weeks ago for a vacation and training.

"I was looking for some hills and I found some," he said. "If you ride it for 20 to 30 to 40 miles, you get that same natural high that you do from running."

Ritter said he can reach an average speed of 15 mph, and has been timed at 27 mph in a sprint.

"I can't maintain that, unless maybe a dog is chasing me," he said.

He's joining the world ride as a member of World T-E-A-M Sports, which stands for The Exceptional Athlete Matters. The Charlotte, N.C.-based group focuses on activities that mix disabled athletes and able-bodied athletes, with the prime emphasis on raising awareness about disabilities. That's something Ritter already does.

"I'll see a kid in a wheelchair in Foster Park or sitting in their front yard and I'll stop to share information and energy," he said. "I think part of the reason it took me several

years to find out about handcycles is that some folks chose not to promote what is available to people. For me it's a passion. I do it for conditioning and health, but I've also really taken a keen interest in promoting the accessibility..."

Ritter's other passion is getting handcycling approved as a sport for the 1996 Paralympics, which take place a week after the 1996 Olympics. Both will be held in Atlanta.

Though he has never ridden in an event with another handcyclist, Ritter keeps working to make handcycling accessible. After calling and asking for permission, he participated in the Three Rivers Festival Parade Race, and rode 96 miles the next day as part of the 24th annual Three Rivers Velo Sport Bicycle Tour. During the parade race, a police officer tried to block Ritter off the course, thinking he was out for a joy ride.

"I suggested that the people running the race educate these people," Ritter said. "Next year if they modify their course a little bit (to provide more turning room) I could probably bring 10-15 handcyclists to Fort Wayne."

RUSSLAND

AXA WORLD RIDE 1995

MOSKOVSKAJA PRAVDA 14.06.1995.s1

Гости из Атланты

Вчера в Москву прибыли участники международного кругосветного велопробега на инвалидных колясках. Взяв старт в Атланте (США) в марте нынешнего года и преодолев не одну тысячу километров, участники велопробега по Минскому шоссе въехали в столицу России. В Москве они остановились в гостинице «Украина». В Европе этих сильных духом людей принимали первые лица разных государств: в Ирландии - президент М.Робинсон, во Франции - Ж. Ширак, в Германии - Г. Коль. Из России велопробег направится в Монголию.

Hart ducha

Do Krakowa zawitali wczoraj uczestnicy międzynarodowego rajdu rowerowego osób niepełnosprawnych „AXA World Ride '95”. Kraków to jeden z etapów podróży, której trasa wieść ma dookoła świata.

Rajd rozpoczął się w marcu tego roku w Atlancie (USA). Po kilku etapach na wschodnim wybrzeżu Stanów Zjednoczonych, jego uczestnicy przepłynęli do Europy, a wczoraj przekroczyli granicę Polski i zatrzymali się w Krakowie. Stąd wyruszą w kierunku Białorusi i dalej – przez całą Azję – z powrotem do USA, gdzie 18 listopada rajd zakończy się przed Białym Domem. Większość uczestników nie bierze udziału w całym rajdzie, lecz jedynie w wybranych etapach. Jest to i tak ogromny wyczyn, gdyż są wśród nich ludzie ze sparaliżowanymi

nogami (ci „pedalują” przy pomocy rąk) a nawet niewidomi. Skład ekipy jest międzynarodowy, przeważają w niej Amerykanie, są też Kanadyjczycy, Irlandczycy, Anglicy oraz jeden Polak. Bolesław Zajiczek, instruktor ZHP, mimo swych 60 lat przemierza trasę od Wiednia do Moskwy na specjalnie skonstruowanym rowerze. Nie ma bowiem rąk. Weźmie też udział w końcowej części rajdu w Stanach Zjednoczonych. Cel imprezy jest bardzo łatwy do opisanego, a bardzo trudny do wykonania – mówi jeden z organizatorów – chodzi o wykazanie sobie i światu, iż „niepełnosprawny” nie oznacza „wyłączony z życia”. Wszyscy wierzymy, że rajd ukończymy silniejsi i bogatsi duchem.

Dziś start do dalszych zmagania, z trasą, z kalectwem, ze sobą. Szczęśliwej drogi!

(ana)

DOKOŁA ŚWIATA PRZESIEDLCE

Zatrzymajcie całą grupę!

Zgodnie z planem na stacji paliw w Gręzowie mieli się zameldować około godziny 14. Andrzej Pankiewicz z Rady Wojewódzkiej "Start" na bieżąco kontrolował sytuację. O czasie wyjechali z Warszawy. To dobrze. Jednak około godziny jedenstej otrzymuje niespodziewany telefon od znajomego z Kaluszy.

- Andrzej oni już przejechali Kaluszy. Stary, to zawodowcy. Oni nie przejechali, tylko przemknęli. Mignęli i tyle było ich widać.

W siedleckim sztabie organizacyjnym Rady Wojewódzkiej "Start", która podjęła się przyje-

cia grupy uczestników rajdu rowerowego dookoła świata "AXA World Ride", zapanaowała lekka konsternacja. Z Kaluszy do Gręzowa, gdzie miano przejąć tych niepełnosprawnych sportowców, jest jakieś 25 kilometrów. W tym tempie to będą tam za niecałą godzinę. Cały harmonogram zaczęło brać w łeb. Andrzej Pankiewicz bez zastanowienia prosi telefonistkę w Komendzie Wojewódzkiej Policji, aby udostępniła mu ich kanały łączności. Udaje mu się połączyć z jednym z radiowozów.

- Stefan. Rób, co chcesz, ale tę grupę sportowców masz zatrzy-

mać. Dalej jak do Gręzowa nie mogą pojechać. Tam mają czekać na wszystkich. Zatrzymaj dla nich przejazd, bo inaczej będzie międzynarodowa kompromitacja.

Nawet w siedleckim sztabie z niedowierzaniem kiwają głowami. Przecież w tym rajdzie dookoła świata jadą ludzie niepełnosprawni. Los sprawił, że dla przeciętnych ludzi stali się kalekami. Jedni są chromi. Ci jadą na specjalnych trzykołowych rowerach, napędzanych siłą rąk. Inni po amputacji dłoni, ręki lub nogi. Też mają specjalnie skonstruowane rowery umożliwiające im jazdę. I ci ludzie, w większości

Amerkanie, choć w tej grupie jedzie też Australijczyk, Norweg, Polak, Rosjanin i Szwajcarka. potrafil jednak pokonać swą słabość. Potrafili sobie i innym udowodnić, że tak naprawdę są normalnymi ludźmi. A ze skrzywdzonymi przez los...

(dokończenie na stronie 5)



Jol. A. Szuchocki

Zatrzymajcie całą grupę!!!

(dokończenie ze strony 1)

I faktycznie, ptarząc na to, czego się podjęli, by rowerami przejechać dosłownie całą kulę ziemską, już stawia ich w gronie hero-sów. I nie jest to jakaś turystyczna eskapada. Ci ludzie jadą na swych rowerach jak... wyczynowcy. Z przeciętną prędkością 30-40 km/godz!!! Tysiące przejechanych kilometrów już zrobiły swoje. Czasami młodzi ludzie chcą im dotrzymać towarzystwa na rowerach, ale dają radę tym tempem przejechać jedynie krótki odcinek. A oni dalej mkną w swoją podróż dookoła świata.

Wyruszyli 17 marca tego roku z Atlanty - miejsca nadchodzących Letnich Igrzysk Olimpijskich. W USA zaliczyli dwa etapy. Potem przenieśli się na kontynent europejski. W Irlandii do-

łączył do nich nasz rodak - pan **Bolesław Zajczek**, 65-letni mieszkanięc podwrocławskiego **Milicza**. Mimo swej ułomności (ma amputowane obie dłonie) doskonale sobie daje radę na trasie. Bydgoski "**Romet**" skonstruował dla niego specjalny rower, aby mógł wziąć udział w tym rajdzie. Finansowo pomogła mu również dyrekcja LOT oraz miejscowe społeczeństwo. Z całą grupą przejechał do **Paryża**. Następnie znów do nich dołączył w **Wiedniu**, aby być niejako "przewodnikiem" po polskiej części tego rajdu.

Bielsko Biala, Kraków, Kielce, Białobrzegi, Warszawa i... I czerwca wjechali na teren województwa siedleckiego. Do **Grzęzowa** przyjechali w samo południe. Dwie godziny przed



Jot A. Ścichocki

ustalonym harmonogramem. Tam miano wszystkich uczestników tego rowerowego rajdu dookoła świata uroczystie powitać. Na szczęście zaczęły się już pojawiać grupki młodzieży z siedleckich szkół podstawowych. Oczywiście, na rowerach. A właściciel stacji, przedstawiciel fińskiej "**Neste**" stanął na wysokości zadania. Wszystkim przybyłym za-fundował napoje i kanapki. Zrobił się prawdziwy piknik w iście amerykańskim stylu. Nasza młodzież z zainteresowaniem oglądała trzykolorowe rowery. Ci, co choć trochę znali angielski, od razu nawiązywali rozmowy. Szybko przełamano wszelkie bariery. Przez ponad trzy godziny trwał ten swoisty festyn na stacji "**Neste**".

Czas jednak było wyruszyć w drogę. Uczestnicy rajdu na swych wehikułach i towarzyszący im na rowerach ponad 240 chłopców i dziewcząt z siedleckich szkół wyjechało z **Grzęzowa** do **Siedlec**. Cała ta wielobarwna kolumna była pilotowana przez radiowozy Policji. Spokojnym tempem dojechano do **Zajazdu "Hetman"**. Tu znów miłe zaskoczenie. Orkiestra wojskowa **Garnizonu Siedleckiego** przywitała wszystkich skocznymi melodiami. A komandor rajdu "**AXA World Ride**", były zawodowy kolarz amerykański - **Paul Curley** wcale nie ukrywał swoich pochwał - "*Wasze*

miasto pobilo nasz rekord. Do tej pory najliczniej witano nas pod Amsterdamem. Towarzyszyło nam wówczas 180 Holendrów na rowerach. Wy to przebiliście. I to w jakim stylu!!! Polska to naprawdę przepiękny kraj. Nigdzie na swej trasie nie spotkałismy się z taką życzliwością i gościną. Siedlce is very, very good."

Nocleg w **Siedlcach**, a następnego dnia kilka minut po godzinie ósmej rano pod **Zajazdem "Hetman"** honorowy start. Znów asysta siedleckiej **Policji Dro-gowej** w pełnym rynsztunku, ponad setka dzieciaków na rowerach. Przejazd przez centrum **Siedlec**. Na ulicy **Brzeskiej** krótki postój. Właściciele firmy dystrybucyjnej "**PIASTA**" - panowie **Stefan Kołodziejczyk** i **Ireneusz Maciejczyk** wręczyli pięciu paniom, które jadą w tym rajdzie, symboliczne bukietki kwiatów. Na pamiątkę i na pożegnanie **Siedlec**. Tego samego dnia "**AXA WORD RIDE**" w **Terespolu** przekroczył granice Polski. Wjechali na tereny **Białorusi**. Potem **Rosja, Mongolia, Chiny, Japonia** i znów **Stany Zjednoczone**. Jeszcze tysiące kilometrów do pokonania, ale coraz bliżej mety. Coraz bliżej zrealizowania swej pokojowej misji...

Janusz Grudzien



Jot A. Ścichocki