

# The Inkslingers' Velo Tête-à-Tête

2025

Belles Lettres

1st Quarter



There was a young sportsman named Peel  
Who went for a trip on his wheel;  
He pedalled for days  
Through crepuscular haze,  
And returned feeling somewhat unreal.

## Cover Photo

By: Sinclair Lewis

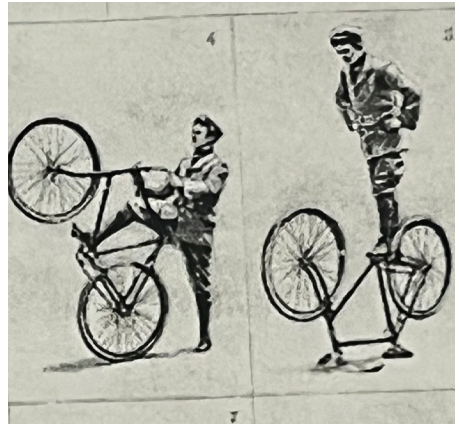
The cover photo was taken by Frank Dean. Dean, also known as an “eyewitness to history,” had taken many photos all over Grand Junction. This 1914ish photo is a preservation of Dean’s work and was discovered in his building’s attic when it was torn down in 1962. Containing a few coincidences, like the train passing by and the cyclist pedaling in front, the main focus is the fountain.

The fountain was originally located at Fifth and Rood, which was right in front of Dean’s building. Upon its first installation in 1911, it was meant to provide water for horses and small animals when they were passing by. However, it only stayed in place for 12 years. With more people traveling and coming to live in Grand Junction, the city needed to pave its roads, so the fountain was removed in 1923. What was thought to be lost for 80 years was actually turned into a memorial fountain for Elmer Schwalm, a former basketball coach at Colorado Mesa University. With a few renovations done to the fountain, it can now be viewed at Stocker Stadium between the Lincoln Park barn and athletic field.

## Hub Shiners Are Making a Comeback

Why rotate the leather strap??

Leather weevils wreak havoc on older hubs because they feed on the whale blubber-based grease that was commonly used to make the hubs run smoothly. Adding the leather straps keeps the weevils fed, happy and out of the hub.



## Is a Wheel By Any Other Name Any Less Sweet?

By: Bobbles Nsuch

I was looking at the new Breezer Doppler Team and Pro the other day. Which is best; the Team or the Pro? Trek sells a Marlin 8 and Cannondale sells a Trial 8. Trek’s 8 is the good one, Cannondale’s 8 is the lowest level of their line. I guess Cannondale thinks it’s

better to be #1 and Trek thinks more is better but we all know that less is more. So, the Trail 1 has to be better. Specialized doesn't use numbers. They sell the Rock Hopper Elite, Comp, and Sport. Is the Elite better than the Pro? Who decides this stuff? Why is the Sport always the weird kid in the lunchroom? Is it because all the Elite-jocks call him "Sport?" What about the Luxe? Is the Luxe better than the Comp? The name means everything. Cher, Madonna, and Snoop Dog would be nothing without their monikers.

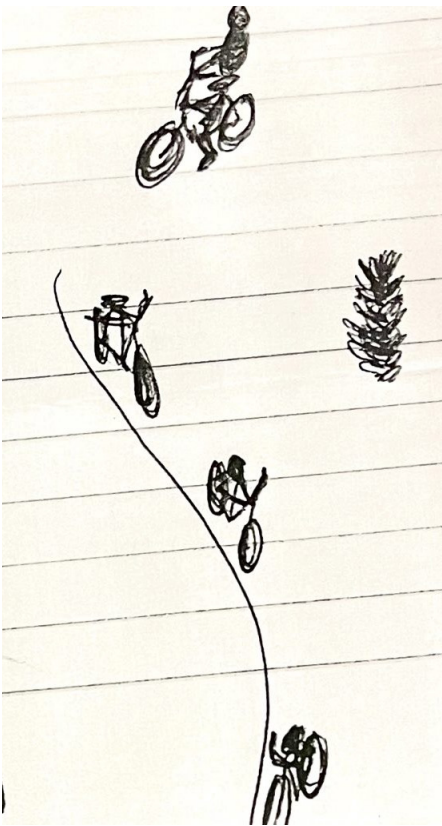
I looked it up. The order is Elite, Pro, Team, Comp, Sport, and Luxe is just outta-Luxe if you can't find it. I noticed that if you type in the search words in a different order, you'll get different results.

Bikes seemed to be either named by the Marketing Department, the Engineering Department or sometimes both. My 1980's rear derailleur was a Suntour Cyclone Mark II. A "Mark" is a military word used to describe the version of a tool or weapon; so, a Mark or MK II was the second version made. The Cyclone was just the sauce. I always thought "Mark the Second" was an Austrian King that defended itself against German rule that led up to WWI. My

1970's shifters were Suntour VGT and VGT Luxe. There is that Luxe again. GT is always "Grand Tour" or touring rear derailleur. Everybody knows that. Who knows what the V was for?

The Model T was built in 1908 and the model A was built in 1927. I guess they had to go all the way around the hump and come back again when naming the cars. The average life span was only 30 years - so, it was fortunate that the alphabet has 26 letters. The girls' next store sell "virgin olive oil" and "extra virgin olive oil" - such a Persian thing to come up with. Somebody wrote a book called, "Extra Extra Virgin Olive Oil" but I don't think it exists. Chastity can only go so far.

Trek had a Rumble Fish and Cannondale had a Bad Habit. I guess the engineers were all sick that day. The Wright Brothers built two models, the St. Clair and the Van Cleve, named after a great-grandmother and a local Governor. Who was better there?? Their elusive mythological bike is called The Wright Flyer. Ohhhh... that's a good one. It would be a great honor to have a bike named after me someday. I hope it won't end with LXI or F650GS. I kinda like "White Buffalo".



## The Filthy 40 Race

By: Itchy Scratchy

Want to get acquainted with dirt? Then come join the Filthy 40 bike event – where you'll be dirtier than you think. The Grand Junction Rides and Vibes music festival/ mountain bike race is coming up.

Don't worry about not having a spot, there is still plenty of time to register for this event; for a discounted fee register before April

2nd. Online registration doesn't end till May 7th. The race itself will take place on May 9th and May 10th, 2025, in downtown Grand Junction. You have no need to feel left out; they have a spot for juniors (18U), a men's and women's open, a men's and women's master class (45+), and even single speed races.

A highlight of this event is the Filthy 40 Mountain bike race (formerly known as The Epic Rides 40 Grand). The Filthy 40 starts and finishes on Main St. and is basically every hard and difficult trail from the Lunch Loop and 3rd Flats/Bangs Canyon area in one shot. It's horrible. The fast guys complete in 4 hours, the old men in 7, and the rest are still probably out there wandering around.

If you need more information about its location, what the event will look like, or even more about track details, please see the Rides and Vibes website:

[gjridesandvibes.com](http://gjridesandvibes.com).

This bike race isn't for those who want a gentle ride or want to enjoy the view. This event is for those who like to push their limits, challenge friends and family, or simply yet, those who are just plain crazy.

Below are some deep thoughts about the ride:

*"It was the skid that grabbed my attention. I remember you skidding into a row of hay bales at the finish line. I think you may have been ejected by the bike when the tires stuck and were launched into a crowd of people. It looked like you were given someone a hug, but I can't be sure. It was an epic skid to say the least. I saw smoke and flames. Try not to spice it up so much. Take care and good luck in this year's race."*

*"I'm cooked. This is my defense I came up with: who is the better rider(s)? The guys that ride for 4 hours or the guys that pedaled for 8 hours on the same trail?"*

Some other things that I think about on a long ride:

*"Do you ever consider conservation of energy when you are racing? Are there someplaces where it makes more sense to walk instead of pedaling due to a steep incline of 1/4 mile of beach sand on the trail? Isn't there an unjust social stigma tied to "walkers?" What about bears? What is the song that plays in your head while you are hill climbing? In a survival situation, would the orange seal in your tires provide any nutritional value? Are there other parts of your bike that are edible? While riding, do you ever daydream about platitudes and phrases like... "In the end, isn't everything biodegradable?"*

## **Dropper Post Seat Wraps - \$29.99**

**Help Us Name This Product**



Currently called a Seat Bag, Brown Cycles would like to have a more exciting name for this product. So, we are asking for your help. Below are a few options that we have thought of:

- It's a Seat Roll
- Dropper Post Wrap Bag
- Tool Roll
- Cowboy Saddle Roll
- Tail Bucket
- Tool Diaper
- Trail Gear Wrap
- Momma Bertha's Sweet Ass Rolls
- Cashel Roll
- Cantel Bag
- Caudal Catch.

Email [info@browncycles.com](mailto:info@browncycles.com) or call 970-245-7939 for your opinions.



# To Take The Path That Doubles Back On Itself Is To Always Know The Path Ahead

*There are a couple pavement rides in Grand Junction that have always befuddled me.*

One is the Tour of South Broadways in the Redlands off of Highway 340.

It seems like every cross street is South Broadway and as you get closer to Fruita. If you actually ride on South Broadway, it T-bones into itself going both left and right at the intersection. How can this be? I took the time to ride all the South Broadways one afternoon and found 7 of them. None of them connect and from the air they are not linear. Hmmmm?? So, I did some more research.

Once upon a time in the beginning of time... there used to be a road that went from Monument Road, GJ to Fruita over the Redlands. It was called Broadway. Broadway made a series of left and right hand turns as it headed west to go around people's property lines. In the 1940's, a new road was built called Hwy 340. It connected portions of the old Broadway and new segments were created to straighten out the road. The designers of the bike path on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> street's named the new Hwy 340, wait for it..., Broadway. But you can't have two Broadways so all the old Broad-

ways South or West of the new Broadway were renamed to, wait for it..., South Broadway.

The other route I'm still trying to figure out is Kannah Creek/Purdy Mesa roads. For years I thought I understood it. I had ridden it multiple times and even looked at maps but when I rode it this week I discovered that, I knew nothing. I came home and did a deep dive into my Google maps to discover that Purdy Mesa Road is broken into 3 sections that are gapped by Divide Rd and Lands End Road. Kannah Creek is Lands End according to Hwy 50 but not according to the maps. Purdy Mesa Road becomes Kannah Creek Road on a straight section by the side of Grand Mesa. This family tree of roads has more ingrown branches than an Alabama family reunion.

Good luck!





*Doug chews up Reeder Mesa and spits it out like it was bad tabacky.*

## Now Riding E-Free

Celebrate Doug's three rides E-Free. He discovered he spent more energy pedaling the battery around than the battery propelled him. It's the Big Lie coming from the East Coast. Tonight, Doug will be pinned for his E-Briety and the 12 Step Gear Process.

Two pedals forward, one pedal back, Doug.

There is a higher power and it's not Lithium Ion or Lead Acid.

Weekly meetings on Tuesday nights.



### SCHRADER UNIVERSAL VALVE CAPS



**Now in Handy Metal Boxes**

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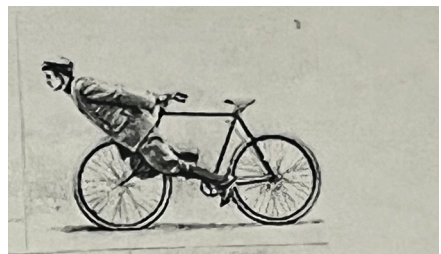
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Five Valve Caps to a Box  
Price in U. S. A., 40 cents per Box

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## New: The Gravel Kidz Tandem

This bike allows for children and parents to bond. The adult or Captain, is in the rear position which has all of the controls; gears, braking and steering; and the kid, the Stoker, sits in the front. This is a great way to get your kids outside, have some fun, and enjoy the sun.

The Gravel Kidz Tandem Bike is designed to take on the paved and gravel roads. The tires and handlebars of the bike are designed to take on the bumpy roads and uneven dirt. This bike is a great opportunity for your child to learn balance, learn traffic safety, develop cognitive skills, and give your child a reason to be outdoors more.

The Kidz Tandem Gravel Bike is a 4130 Cro-moly steel frame and fork, 27 speeds and, Sram x7 parts package. It comes in the colors blue, red, and sunshine yellow. It fits 1–4 year-olds with a quick-change toddler seat and 4–12 year-olds with a traditional bike seat. There is a front weight limit of 100 lbs.



To learn more about the Gravel Kidz Tandem Bike visit [www/Kidztandem.com](http://www.Kidztandem.com)

Or come down to Brown Cycles for a test ride. For more info visit Chris at Brown Cycles, located at 549 Main St. Grand Junction, Co 81501. You can call 970-245-7939 or email [info@browncycles.com](mailto:info@browncycles.com).





# Bicycle Safety Tips

## (The Ones They Never Tell You)

By: Clifton Skidmore

Safety in general is boring. Nobody has time to listen to the obvious.

This list was compiled by writing down the last ten ways I wrecked and using those as tips for not wrecking.

- You don't have to jump over the barrier. You just don't.
- When you jump a curb, hit it square on. If you hit it at an angle, you'll be pulling grass out of your teeth.
- Lighten up on the hbars and no front brake on the ice.
- When riding at night, ride like a ninja so cars never see you. If they can't find you, they can't hit you.
- Never throw a punch wearing cycling shoes.
- When you come to a red light, own the lane (jump in front of the waiting cars). Then there is no ambiguity. Car-People hate ambiguity.
- Don't carry a car battery on one leg while riding your bike.
- If a girl you know says she's not into you, at least you put it out there. You should also stop riding your bike by her house at night.
- The last time I crashed my bike was when my chain came off and I lost my balance. I'm glad I had my helmet on and that there was a FedEx guy that was there to check on me; that's a good safety tip. No loose chains, FedEx guy to save you, have some kind of balance.
- When you fall off your bike, tuck and roll. Pull your arms in and shoulder roll, sing Swing Low Sweet Chariot until you come to a stop.



# Freedom & Liberty

By: Skooks Hayduk

Years ago, cyclist Doug Hayduk described “Freedom” as a verb on the drive to Moab. After passing the Cisco Cut-off he pulled over 1/2 way and laid down on the street’s double yellow line without a care in the world. Today he informed me he is currently in the habit of pulling over on the same road and peeing while standing on the yellow line. He has no concern that a car will interrupt him. While standing in place, he rotates around and pees a perfect circle. -This he defines as “Freedom”.

Rotating twice around, he defines as “Liberty,” which he can almost do. Almost.

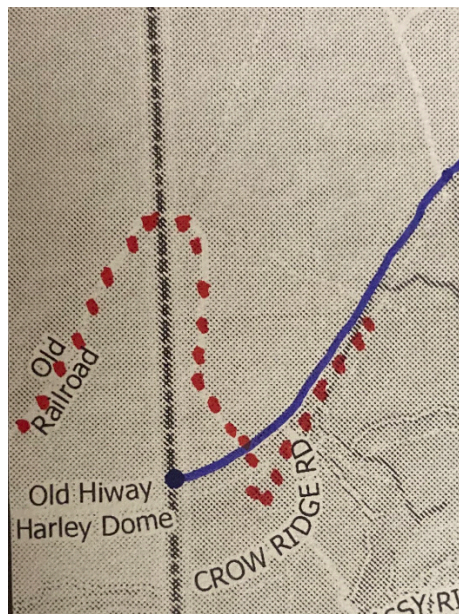


# Past Gas

By: Farrin Fahrradwell

Out on the border of Utah and Colorado lies an old rail bed where the old Denver Rio Grande train would run its routes. The Railroad went out of use in the late 1880's when the railroad company went into bankruptcy.

With the train tracks ripped up and the route being abandoned, it has now become a place of wonder with twists and turns that any experienced bike rider would love to pedal. Near the 1.0 mile marker post on the old US Highway 6 and 50 from the Utah/Colorado border is where you'll be able to get access to this secret ride.



The old rail bed still exists and heads north towards the Book Cliffs and then west towards Cisco, Utah. The moto guys have kept the weeds down and now it's perfect for side by side mtn. biking. The trail is rail-road grade (2-3%) so it's very flat. For every mile a train had to go, it had to go 5 extra miles to get there. They don't climb hills very well.



As you ride the trail, it will take you back in time. Keep your eyes on the landscape to discover how much earth was moved or added to keep the route flat. Any time there is an arroyo or creek crossing, look for the culverts that still exist made out of huge stones that form caves under the rail bed. How they got that big stone cut, moved, and placed is beyond me. We are talking about mysteries of The Pyramids stuff. Grand Junction wasn't even a town until 1881

and the tracks were underway a year before that.

The Denver Rio Grande Railroad was founded by General William Jackson Palmer. He was also founder of Colorado Springs and the namesake of The Palmer Divide, south of Denver on I25, (Monument Hill).



*General Palmer learns how to ride a bicycle with his daughter at Glen Erie, Colorado Springs.*



# Help Wanted. Dream Job. Inquire Within.

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Your workspace is clean, neat, organized, and spins like a top.

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-enough to entertain us for years. (Maya Angelou)

## Perks:

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## Prerequisite Films for Employment:

World's Fastest Indian

All the John Cusack movies

Rider and the Wolf

One Bike

(Pay particular attention to the Workshops in these movies)

## Required Reading for Employment:

Bicycle Junction

No Hands. The Rise and Fall of the Schwinn Bicycle Company

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