

The Inkslingers'

Velo Tête-à-Tête

2025

Belles Lettres

3rd Quarter



330 E. Rd. (Silt Cutoff). Collbran, Colorado is a hidden gem for cycling. This issue will highlight the baby steps of bike purchases to full-throttle adventuring and the mindset of the space in between. Life is short. Buy the damn bicycle.

Letters and Quotes

Thoughts on E-bikes:

My biggest fear is that once all the other e-bikers hear that Brian Kit (Fruita) is riding all the Koko-pelli trails with the engine off on a 60 lb. mtn. e-bike, everybody will start doing that. And how bad-ass will that be? - Tony Comfort

Crashin':

Next time you see me, ask me about the crash I had last week on the bike path - "safety bike" my arse. - James Ferriday.

Put down the tools and step away from the "gruppo" (Italian). - Skooks Hayduk

Truth:

If you love your bike, never loan it out. If someone wants to ride it, make them buy their own. If they do ride it, it will never feel the same. Ever.

Bicycle Origins:

"It would thus be up to this elite clientele to ensure that the invention got a fair shake. The most useful innovations must begin as frivolities," the journalist Henry de Pene affirmed in the summer of 1867. "If the velocipede is to acquire its rightful place among

means of locomotion, it must first be patronized by those who have no need for it." - Adventure Cyclist

"Color is the most important thing for a customer who has no need for a product." - Author unknown

Thoughts on Biking:

All cyclists are weirdos. It's too much sun and all those round things spinning underneath them. - Edge Walker 2020

"Riding The Monument G2G2G," means riding gate to gate to gate or an over and back over. It's how the cool guys say it.

Bicycle Mechanic:

The noblest of professions. You are the antithesis and enigma to humanity's flat tire.

1922 BICYCLES ARE HERE

Choose your Bicycle from the largest and best stock in Terre Haute. We handle absolutely the BEST BICYCLES MADE. The following list represents the best known standard makes and greatest values obtainable.

SINGLE BAR		MOTORBIKE	
Rollfast	\$32.00	Century	\$35.00
Ideal	\$39.00	Ideal	\$42.00
Duplex	\$42.00	Duplex	\$45.00
Crown	\$42.00	Reading	\$45.00
Reading	\$43.00	Crown	\$47.00
Indian	\$48.00	National	\$53.00
National	\$50.00	Indian	\$52.00
Pierce	\$53.00	Columbia	\$60.00
Columbia	\$55.00		

JUNIORS'		LADIES'	
5-6 year old	\$25.00 up	Ideal	\$40.00
7-9 year old	\$28.00 up	Reading	\$45.00
9-11 year old	\$29.00 up	Crown	\$47.00
		Indian	\$50.00
		National	\$52.00

J.E. SAYRE & CO.
"BICYCLE HEADQUARTERS"

Piece of Junk (POS) - Bicycle Contest

Bring us your best POS bike that is still rideable, and our staff will enter it into a contest to determine who is pedaling the biggest POS around town.

The grand prize will be an even bigger POS as voted on by our technical staff!

Categories:

- Rides like a POS.
- Looks like a POS.
- Is a POS.



Biker Babe?

By: Nona Kelley Carver
(Collbran, CO)

She saw it in the window of the
bicycle shop

And her heart began to pounding
like it might never stop.

She had always wanted a bike
that was her own,

But never had received one.
Now she was fully grown.

She had a job and could afford a
bike that's built for speed,

And thought it would be dandy
and supply her growing need

For excitement and mobility.
She'd do her very best

To learn to ride and make quite
sure she would pass every test.

The color of this set of wheels
was candy apple red.

Dreams of great adventures
began filling up her head.

The seat was small but sturdy for
she weighed 300 pounds.

She visualized admiring friends
as she would make her rounds.

Her wardrobe must be Lycra and
Spandex stretched to fit.

She would choose lovely colors.
She could just imagine it!

Perhaps she'd join a riding club
and even make new friends...

(Just follow me and we shall see
just how this story ends).

She thought of all the gas she'd
save. Her purse would soon grow
fatter.

She'd need a helmet and some
gloves, as safety was a matter.

Her shoes should be the proper
type to fit upon the pedals.

She might soon take to racing
fast and bring home many med-
als!

The scene I've set there in your
mind quite surely could come
true...

But how to make the final plan,
I'll leave that up to you!

Bike Bells In Other Languages

onomatopoeia (Ono-mata-pee-ia)

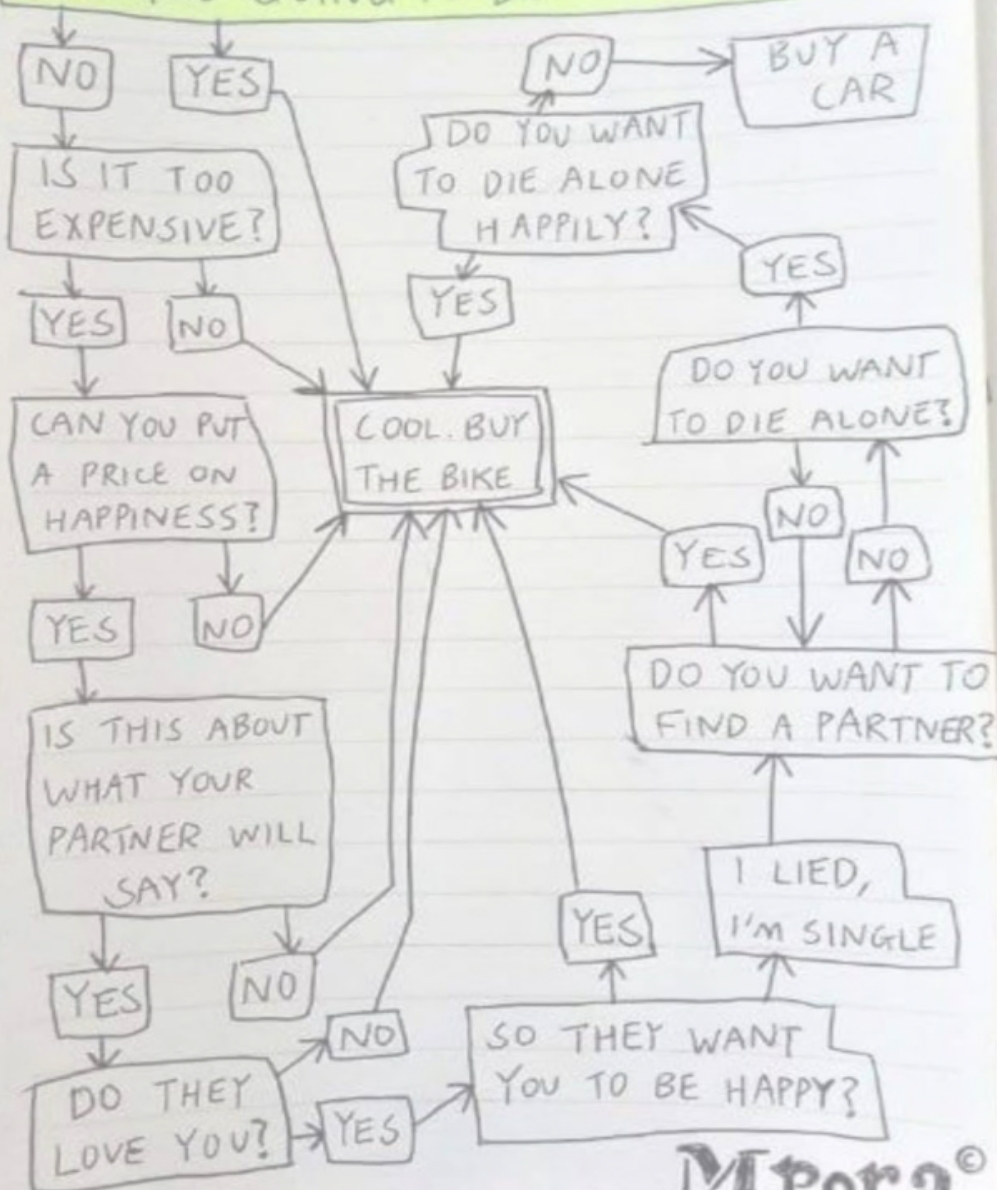
- Dutch – Tring Tring
- German – Klingel Klingel
- French – Dring Dring
- English – Ring Ring
- Italian - Din-Don
- Greek - Ντριιν! (Driin! Driin!
The “i” is long drawn out)
- Czech - Cililink (Tsililink)
- Russian - Дзинь-дзинь
(Dzin'Dzin') or динь-динь
(Din'Din')
- Hungarian- Csingilingi
- Japanese - Charin Charin
- Portuguese – Bring Bring
- Chinese - Dīng Dāng
- Spanish – Rin Rin
- Local Bike Path – Scream
“Get Out of The Way.”



There is No Problem That a Bicycle Won't Fix:

- Foreign Energy Dependency – Runs on peanut butter and honey.
- Health – People that ride look 20 years younger and are never fat.
- Nasty Divorces – Tandems are the miracle cure for getting you there faster.
- Cancer – You'll probably die on a bike first.
- Carbon Emissions – The only carbon footprint is a tire track on a great trail.
- Economic – No gas, no parking, no insurance, no speeding tickets (ever).
- Crime – It's hard to make a good straight shot when you are pedaling a bike.
- Child Care – Sterility on hard bike seats can be a great form of birth control.
- Bad Poetry – A bad stanza or thought is usually lost by the time you get home.
- Child Abductions – Rear racks only hold up to 20 lbs.
- Texting While Driving – OMG AYKM LOL
- Love Life – Smoking hot girls don't ride e-bikes.

ARE YOU GOING TO BUY THE BIKE?



Mpora®

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, 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. Call: 970-245-7939 or email: info@browncycles.com.



My Bike Is My Weed

By: Rocky Hillside

My wife has noticed that if I don't get an hour a day to tinker and dottle I'm harder to deal with,... she claims (seems more like, she is harder to deal with). I've noticed that going for a bike ride does the same thing. It clears the cobwebs out of the mind, stimulates the senses, and provides challenges from which I can withdraw a few wins. I often come home from a ride inspired and invigorated. It's just the right amount of relaxation and rigor.

Life philosophies grow out of these moments, clarity develops. Going back to basics builds good foundation. I try to stay away from addictive behaviors: drinking, smoking, coffee, and e-bikes. One mantra I developed is to live free so that others may live free. It's my attempt at being "a giver."

"Only dopes use dope." - Ref: Cheech and Chong. The ills of society are pretty obvious. Pretty much any behavior that requires a support group or has the word "anonymous" or "watchers" after it is a good clue. Of course, extreme anything can lead to imbalance and destruction, even extreme use of the good stuff.

I love listening to high school graduation speeches. The best nugget I ever picked up was at a G.J. High School speech when the lady said, "Take calculated risks." She wasn't saying don't take risks. She was saying take risks while being aware of the outcome and the risks of the risk. Brilliant. Cycling has cliffs, rocks, and 12 year old girls texting while driving giant cars. It also has sunsets, mind blowing climbs, and feel-like-you-are-flying descents. What it does for my perspective and mood to date has been worth the price.

I took a long bike trip across Europe three summers ago. It is impossible to get hit by a car in Europe. It's flat, the people are all too nice, and all the infrastructure is built around cycle commuting. By the end of the 10 day trip, I came home feeling like I never rode a mile. Cycling in Grand Junction, by contrast, I'm always so happy after a ride. I'm just so amazed I'm not dead. Today was the day I did not perish on the Lunch Loop or get lost in the desert near the state line. Every homecoming is a party if you make it home. To date, I'm still in the Win column.

So pick up another dime bag

of tire sealant on the way home
and pack-a-bowl of Western Rim.
Light up the new carbo frame and
don't forget to inhale. We be trip-
pin' on wheels of thunder.

Cowboy Take Me Away

By: Sinclair Lewis

As I get older, I am sensing a
desire to become closer to the
natural world, ... but not too close.
When I ride over the Monument
or on the Lunch Loops I'm acutely
aware that I'm in a bubble. I have
a helmet on my head, glasses
over my eyes, gloves, padded
shorts, and leather shoes. I'm
virtually invincible. All the while,
I am staring at the giant cliffs
of red rock and rolling plains of
high desert from a tight capsule.
Something in me wants to shed
my wears and go outside.

***I guess what I'm really saying
is,***

I wanna touch the earth

I wanna break it in my hands

***I wanna feel something wild
and unruly***

***I wanna sleep on the hard
ground***

In the comfort of your arms

On a pillow of blue bonnets

In a blanket made of stars

That kinda sounds good to me.

Sometimes I stop and take off
my head-gear to take it in. Yes,
I'm aware that the bubble might
possibly extend my ability to fight
with a Monument Park Ranger
in the toll booth and ride another
day. And for that, it is good.

I wanna walk and not run

I wanna skip and not fall

***I wanna look at the horizon and
not see a building standing tall***

***I wanna be the only one for
miles and miles***

***Except for maybe you and your
simple smile***

***Oh, it sounds good to me. Oh
yes, it sounds so good to me.***

But for a few moments to coast
down a hill with the wind in my
hair and the sun on my face, ya
it's really a thing.

Cowboy take me away

***Fly this girl as high as you can
into the wild blue***

Set me free, oh, I pray

***Closer to heaven above and
closer to you***

Closer to you.

We had a race down The Ribbon
once wearing sombreros. Doing
that was pretty close to what I'm
describing. We weren't allowed
to wear chin straps and anything

faster than 8 mph and the large hat would fly off. Then you had to pedal all the way back up the hill and retrieve it. It was technically a “slow race” and the fastest slowest person won. I have never enjoyed The Ribbon as much as we did that night. - Took it all in.

Set me free, oh, I pray

Closer to heaven above and closer to you

Closer to you

Closer to you.

I guess for a moment the best helmet was the worst helmet. So, the next time you see me screaming down the Grand Mesa at breakneck speed, Don't yell, “Hey girlfriend, where is your helmet?” Just shout -

“Cowboy, take me away.”

Yes, it sounds so good to me.



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 suggestions from our readers from Volume 1:

- Kathy Dirks: “Seat bag - Pedal pack. My two cents worth.”
- _Stephen - Field Guide Guy: “I like the simplicity of the Tool Roll...” or “An E.R.C. (Every Ride Carry). Don't get stuck in the way out land...”
- Scooter: “How about Tooshie Roll, cuz that's what it is.”

Call 970-245-7939, or email info@browncycles.com for your opinions. We look forward to reading them.

Edge Walkers:

By: Clifton Skidmore

And I woke up with words pouring out of me, speaking a voice that was foreign to which some stood and applauded while others grabbed the remote.

Today, I shall play the observer for one doesn't necessarily have to hunt for water if one shuts up. Rain will fill your bucket.

If one possesses a natural inclination to walk up to "the edge," to be certain it's a type. To admire a view, gain a new perspective, or challenge, one might refer to them as "edge walkers." Some are drawn to such characters perhaps because they lack the moxie and are in admiration or the mundane life of life needs stirring up regardless of the moral outcome.

Some edge walkers are quite predictable and only require a moment of reflection always returning to tranquility base while others gamble with uncertainty and the possibility of an early demise.

Whether this natural inclination is truly natural who can say? A traumatic event in one's childhood may have twisted the metal frame causing an eternal outcome or a chemical or biological explanation. Like a slightly wounded bird that has not been rendered to non-

flight but alternative destinations from where one ought to opine.

But instead of casting the fowl out, it is left and honored to keep the nest interesting. And to those who choose the moral high ground and were bombastic in their approach, were edge walkers too. And time eventually reveals them.

Low unto thee, the games are played amongst a level field, and the only perceived advantage was not slope or terrain but wind, and where it is now?



This is my bike. There are many like it but this one is mine. My bike is my life. It is my best friend. I must master it as I must master my life. Without me, my bike is useless. Without my bike, I am useless...

- Doug Hayduk

Celebratory Rides and Events

American Flyers 2025:

Join us in celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the classic, American Flyers on Friday, September 13th, 2025 in Grand Junction, CO (in conjunction with Tour of the Moon).

American Flyers was filmed on the Monument in 1984 and released in 1985. There will be a pre-film presentation of "Behind the Race Scenes" in AMERICAN FLYERS, hosted by Scott Christopher, Development Director of XX and cycling extra in the movie. Meet Ron Kiefel (seventh-time Tour De France rider), other cycling celebrities and extras from the movie.



Picture of the film crew on the Monument.

Annie Londonderry 1895:

2025 Will be the 130th Anniversary of the first woman to pedal around the world. Her route included a ride through Colorado from Santa Fe to Colorado Springs and Denver before she headed west to Chicago to finish. A musical has been created about her trip: "Ride"

Seems like we should have a movie showing and ride or something. Got any ideas?

Link to trailer:

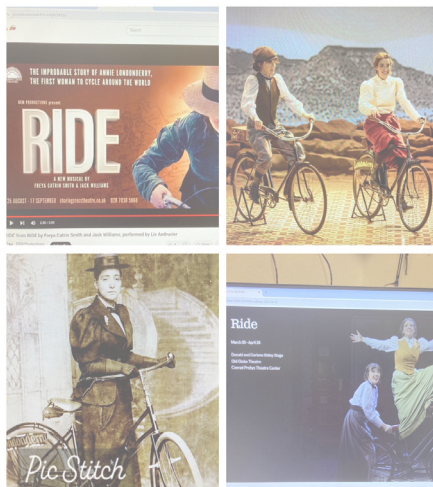
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmpoDX0_CaE

Link to film:

<https://www.broadwayondemand.com/rentals/8ee2bc25-6282-4a20-b382-730ecca3b3f8>

Link to book:

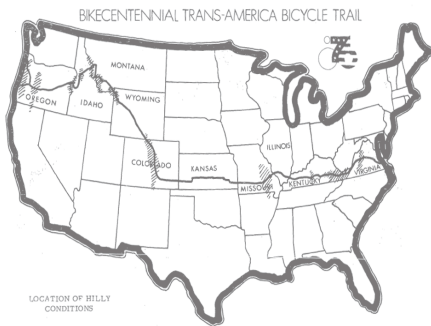
<https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Spin/Peter-Zheutlin/9781643137520>



Bikecentennial 1976:

2026 will be the country's 250th birthday and the 50 year anniversary of Bikecentennial.

Bikecentennial '76 was a series of maps and tours that took people across America on their bikes in the summer of 1976. If you have a dad who was in college in 1976, he probably pedaled the States or probably knows someone who did. Now in his early 70s, you may notice that he disappears next summer for a couple of months searching the highways and byways for his youth. For the rest of us, we probably should do something about this. Got a 1970s touring bike?? I'm in.



L'eroica Italy October 2026:

There is a Grand Junction contingent talking about checking the L'eroica off the list in Oct of 2026. One must ride a bike built earlier than 1986 to participate. The ride is 130 miles in one day on "Strade Bianche" of Tuscany

(White gravel). If we have extra time, we may go attempt to pedal up the Stelvio in northern Italy. It would be akin to pedaling up the Grand Mesa but with more heroic fanfare.

