

And through Carmi! . . .

Bikers' path: from sea to shining sea!

From Washington to Washington: quite a Bicentennial trip--particularly on a bicycle!

But that's exactly what Syd Muzzy and 15 other "pioneers" from Battle Ground, Wash., are doing this summer.

The group passed through Carmi Thursday morning en route to Washington, Ind., where the bikers hoped to spend Thursday night before leaving again on their long eastward journey. They hope to reach the nation's capital Aug. 1.

Muzzy, a high school teacher in the small (population 1,414) community of Battle Ground (located 22 miles northeast of Portland, Ore.), said during a pause in the journey that he bought a bicycle about four years ago and led a group of youngsters on a 100-mile ride to the Pacific beach.

"One thing led to another," he said, and the idea of trekking the 2,500 or 3,000 miles to

Washington, D.C. was born and nurtured. Originally some 36 students wanted to go, Muzzy, recalled, but a number of grueling physical endurance tests reduced that figure considerably. Those actually making the journey are Muzzy, his wife (also a teacher), their two young sons (ages five and three), two other teachers and ten students at Battle Ground high school.

And no, the two young sons haven't ridden all the way on bikes: they travel most of the way with their mother, in a "back-up" pickup truck laden with supplies and ointments and miscellaneous other necessities.

No one has dropped out thus far, and the most serious problems have been flat tires, Muzzy said. The group set a record of sorts Tuesday--three flats in an hour. But they average about two daily.

Most nights are spent in churches along the

way (they bedded down in Harrisburg's First United Methodist Church Wednesday night), though the group has camped out three nights. For the first half of the journey accommodations were reserved in advance, but Muzzy said lately the group has simply contacted churches when they reach their destination of the day and has asked--successfully so far--for resting places.

Their trip has taken them through such towns as Jackson and Rawlins, Wyo., Denver and Pueblo, Colo., and Dodge City, Kan., and they expect to be greeted in Washington by their state's Senators and Congressmen. The group will spend several days touring the capital before returning home--by bus and truck.

It's likely this summer "bike-centennial" will be long-remembered by at least 16 Washingtonians.

Carmi Times



Long, winding road—Sixteen Washington state bicyclists passed through Carmi Thursday morning on a trip from their home town of Battle Ground to Washington, D.C., where they hope to arrive Aug. 1. Leader Syd Muzzy said the group has wound its way across the mountains and plains of the West and Midwest and that "We're not avoiding Interstates—they're avoiding us!" See related story.

—Photo by Barry Cleveland