

Princeton

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Youths determined to cycle to capitol

By JEANNE HARY

Ten teenagers from Battle Ground, Washington, along with two of their teachers, their wives and two small boys, are seeing the country via a bicycle caravan that they will remember vividly enough to tell their grandchildren about.

The group that is enroute from the state of Washington to Washington, D.C., spent the night in Princeton Thursday in the educational building of the First Baptist Church. They had breakfast at the Emerson Friday morning and departed at 7:30 for Bedford where they plan to spend Friday night.

The determined group of teenagers left Washington on June 14 and hope to be in

Washington, D.C. by August 1, where they plan to spend five days touring historical sites. They plan to stay at another church while there.

The group travels approximately 82 miles per day and have spent their nights in churches across the country. They have had to camp out only two nights on the trip.

So far, the cyclists have covered 2,900 miles without encountering too many difficulties. When they have bikes to break down they head for the nearest bicycle shop. One of the chaperones said two of the cyclists sprained ankles but not while riding bikes, and two became sick in Wyoming when the drinking water didn't agree

with them.

The most recent illness of a member of the group came Friday morning when one of the boys was taken to Gibson General Hospital for treatment of strep throat. He had a prescription filled at a downtown drug store and was planning to ride in the back of a camper truck to Bedford.

The most humorous incident the group recalled on the trip through the west happened in Idaho when they were repairing a flat tire on a highway in the dark. A police squad car stopped to see what was going on and told the group that someone had reported that the Martians had landed when seeing them from a distance.

All the cyclists wear vests with stripes that shine at night for safety purposes. They also have reflectors on their bikes and carry flashlights. All this painted a picture of a Martian landing for the excited observer.

Deeply tanned, cheerful students are displaying much determination and fortitude in their undertaking, which started long before they took off on bikes on June 14. They worked countless hours raising money for the trip by staging car washes, a carnival and a talent show besides their regular part-time jobs while attending school.

In planning the trip, they estimated that it would take \$400 per person, including the trip back home which they plan to make via a school bus that they will pick up in Ohio.

The group of cheerful teenagers should make every American proud to know that our American Heritage means so much to them that they chose to see their country in such a manner enroute to visit our nation's capitol.



This group of determined teenagers and two of their high school teachers left Princeton early Friday morning enroute to Washington, D.C. from their home in Battle Ground, Wash. The group has been on the road since June 14 and expect to reach the nation's capitol by August 1. The group stayed overnight in the educational building at the First Baptist Church.