

Bicyclists back from long trip

BATTLE GROUND — Getting a first look at the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial were the highlights of a bicycle ride across the United States, several Battle Ground High School students said after returning here to an enthusiastic welcome from friends and relatives.

"We knew then we were there," said instructor Butch Hill, one of the chaperones on the trip.

Brad Hochhalter, 15, also said that "getting home" was one of the peaks of the trip — "Battle Ground is the best town."

The bicyclists, who arrived by bus Friday, had worked on bikes and a weight room and did other exercise in preparation for the trip starting in mid-June. Included were "Butch's stair grinders" — running up and

down bleachers.

"We were grateful to that when we got to Missouri — all those hills," Mrs. Hill said.

Carl Garrison said the Appalachians were "a lot steeper" than the Rockies for the bicycles — "more up and down."

Students on the trip were Lon Allworth, Larry Barr, Tani Conner, Steve Dietel, Nancy Ellertson, Kevin Faris of Vancouver, Carl Garrison, Brad Hochhalter, Chris Kellogg and Doug Skites, the latter from Portland. Adults were Mr. and Mrs. Hill and Mr. and Mrs. Sid Muzzy. The Muzzys' two children, Mark, 3, and Chris, 5, also went along. Mrs. Muzzy drove a truck to Washington. This also was driven west, and the group picked up a bus in Iowa for the Kiona-Benton School District.