

Nancy Ellertson

My diary of the bicycle trip that began in the parking lot of Battle Ground High School and ended in Washington D.C.

VERNON



ACCOUNT BOOKS

144 PAGES • 7 7/8 IN. x 5 1/4 IN.

AVAILABLE AS:

NO. 4044-SEL (64-5302)

NO. 4044-C (64-5306)

NO. 4044-R (64-5308)

RULING:

S. E. LEDGER

CASH

RECORD

VERNON ROYAL, INC. Elizabeth, N. J. 07208

MADE IN U.S.A.

Saturday, June 5, 1976

There is only 9 days left until we leave for Washington D.C. I can hardly believe it. It all seems like a dream, only it is about to come true. Sometimes, I wonder why I am attempting a trip such as this. It will be the first time I've ever really broken the ties from my home, family, and friends. At times I feel so afraid, but I will not let my fears stop me. It will be an adventure and an experience which will have a large effect on my life.

I can not even sleep at night any more. I can only lay there, wondering about all the questions I can not answer. Will I be able to make it? Is this trip worth being gone an entire summer for? What will it be like when I get back? Will all my friends have changed? I try not to worry about these things, but I just can't help it.



Monday June 14 - 100 miles - The Dalles

Well, today was the big day. We left Battle Ground at ~~five~~ ^{six} o'clock this morning amid many parents and a sign saying "Washington D.C. or bust my kids." Now, as I sit here in the basement of the Baptist Church in the Dalles, I must say the sign is true. My rear end hurts so bad I can hardly sit down. I don't know how I'll be tomorrow, but I suppose I'll live. My face and back are very sunburned, as it got to be rather hot.

We ate lunch at Multnomah Falls where we arrived at 10:15 A.M. After lunch we continued on and the closer we got to the Dalles, the harder it got. Then, Ann Hill's bike went into the gravel and she fell down. She scraped her leg and had to get five stitches in her chin. Besides that she was OK. To top it all off

we had three flat tires and a screwed up sprocket. I wasn't too hungry at dinner so Jani and I bought a box of fruit loops and some milk. It cost us each about a total of 69¢. On the way back from the store Jani, Kevin, and I ~~to~~ were so tired that we could hardly walk back up the hills to the church. We'd laugh and then collapse in the middle of someone's yard.

Right now I'm laying in my sleeping bag in the church basement. Everyone is sleeping in the same room. I gotta go to sleep now, before I pass out from exhaustion.

Tuesday June 15 - 77 miles - Boardman

I think this trip is going to be all right. Today we had a great time, even though my butt hurt

P.S. We say four deer today.

and I'm so sunburned. We had the wind behind us and we hauled along at about 22 m.p.h.

We ate lunch at a rest area in Arlington. We had great fun feeding the seagulls, until one of them pooped on Chris Kellogg.

Everyone got a kick out of that, except Chris, of course.

Tonight, we are staying in the high school gym at Boardman. Some of the boys played tennis, but I collapsed on my sleeping bag. Good-night.

June 16 - 50 miles - Pendleton

The third day of a trip is supposed to be the toughest, but today really wasn't so bad. We only went fifty miles from Boardman to Pendleton. We arrived in Pendleton about noon and by 1:30 I was asleep at the church. All the people we have met on this trip are so nice that I can't believe

it. The pastor of this church said that we could use the cooking facilities and any of the supplies on hand. I even get to sleep on a couch tonight. I have to share it with Jani, but anything is better than sleeping on the floor.

All the people on the trip with us are great. The boys help us keep our bikes in good repair and they are all so fun to be around. Syd told Jani and I that if he could do anything that we needed he would. He really cares about whether we have a good summer or not. I thought that was nice.

We have to get up at three o'clock tomorrow morning, so we can get up Dead Man's Pass before it gets hot. I better catch some sleep. Later.

June 17 - 45 miles - Baker

This morning we got up at

three o'clock. None of the restaurants in Pendleton were open, but this one lady opened her cafe three hours early, just for us. I thought that was really nice.

We started going up hills today. For example, the pass we went over was called Dead Man's Pass. We all were positive that we were going to die, but it wasn't so hard as we thought. We arrived in Baker about four thirty. I was kind of tired and grumpy today, because I didn't feel very well.

After we got to Baker we all jumped in the truck and went swimming at Radium Hot Springs. After riding all day, it seemed like heaven. We just sat in there and soaked. The water was about bath temperature.

Jani and I bought a watermelon for dinner. It was great, but we could only eat about one eighth of it. So it looks like we'll be

eating watermelon for breakfast lunch, and dinner for the next few days.

June 18 - 78 miles - Payette

I must say that I am getting stronger every day. Today's ride would've been great, except there was a strong headwind. We even had to pedal down the hills.

We met this old man named P. O. Wood at one of our rest stops. He was really cool for an old guy. He was interested in our trip, and he told us all kinds of interesting information. We saw a herd of some kind of animals running on the top of a hilltop. Syd swore they were coyotes, and Butch was positive that they were deer. All the guys were taking bets on ~~it~~ who was right.

As it turned out, they were both wrong, because the animals were

P.D. called my parents today, since tomorrow is my dad's birthday. It was nice to talk to them again, but it made me kind of homesick.

antelopes. They were really neat to see. Usually, you have to see animals like that in the zoo. It was about 95° today, and I'm totally scorched. My face is peeling and it looks so gross.

We came into a new state, Idaho. It was kind of a big event. We took pictures of the "Welcome to Idaho" sign.

We're staying all night at a Baptist Church in Payette. We're sleeping right up on the altar. It has nice, thick carpet. Thank God! We have to get up at three in the morning, because we want to get into Boise early. We get to stay over there for two days. It will be outrageous to get to sleep in. We might even go to see a show tomorrow night. We'll get to go out on the town.

June 19 - 62 miles - Boise

Well, since we only had a little

ways to go today, we got up at three o'clock, so we could get into Boise early. Unfortunately, everything seemed to go wrong. About one mile out of Payette, Jan got a flat tire. It was dark out still, so we all were shining our flash lights so Larry could see to fix it. We all had on our Highway Department vests so cars could see us easily. From a distance, all you can see are the two fluorescent yellow stripes. A car was coming towards us, so Carl and Steve were jumping and twirling in the middle of the road. Of course, all the car could see was those yellow stripes bobbing in the road. The car drove slowly towards us, stopped, and then drove up a little more. It stopped again, and hung a quick u-ie. It took off and down a side road and went streaking for town. At the time, we didn't think anything of it. But a little while later we noticed another car was coming. Carl and

Steve jumped out in the road and began bobbing and twisting again. The car pulled up behind us and stopped. Only then did we realize that it was a police car. Soon another police car pulled up right behind it. Each car had two officers inside. We walked up to the car to see what he wanted. The policeman were both chuckling, because the car that had come earlier had reported seeing some martians or boogeymen up on the hill. We all kind of stared at each other until we realized what had happened, and then we laughed and laughed til tears rolled down our cheeks. That guy in the car had seen all our lights and safety vests, and he reported it to the police that he had seen some martians. We laughed about that all the way to Boise.

We finally got Jan's tires fixed and were a half a mile down the road when Syd got a flat

tire. So we had to stop and wait again. I guess it was a good thing we got up so early, or we really would've been late to Boise.

A little later Kevin got a little too close to Doug's back tire. His bike swerved and skidded all over the road, and he just about fell. However, he managed to stay up, but the rim on his bike was badly bent. Syd and Kevin waited behind for Judy while we went on. We waited for them in Emmet and they finally came in the truck with Judy.

We were sitting at a gas station eating when we noticed that Doug had fallen asleep. We wanted to play a trick on him, so we moved the bikes behind the building and hid. Then Syd rode up, woke up Doug, and said, "Hey where did everybody go." Doug was so startled, that

he jumped up too fast and his legs wouldn't hold him up. He was staggering around all over the place and it was really funny. I think we gave him quite a scare there for a minute.

We had about thirty more miles to Boise. We covered this quite easily and finally made it to the church where we were to stay. Our nice easy day had turned into quite a day.

We went swimming afterwards in a public pool. It felt wonderful after being in 95° weather all day. After this, we made a much needed trip to the laundry mat. It was nice to have clean clothes again. Since Boise is one of our rest stops, we decided to go out on the town. Butch, Ann, and a bunch of us went to the tri-cinema and saw the "Bad News Bears". The theatre reminded me so much of Jantzen Beach that I kept thinking I was in Portland. It's so easy to get

mixed up about which town you are in.

Last night Judy, Jani, and I sat on the back porch and talked and wrote letters. Judy is so nice, that I think Syd was really lucky to marry someone like her.

Our club is getting to be one big happy family. Everyone seems to be getting really close. It is so neat.

June 20 - Day of Rest - 0 miles

Today, we got to sleep in until seven o'clock. It was great. After breakfast we worked on the bikes and then went to church. It was a neat church, except a long-winded old man gave the ~~the~~ sermon. We played softball in the afternoon with the church people and then we ate at the spaghetti warehouse. Then we went

home and made our own banana splits. They were fantastic. It was a nice relaxing day.

June 21 105 miles - Fairfield

We got up at three in the morning today and left Boise. We made good time ~~as~~ to Mountain Home as we were on the freeway. But from there we traveled on the backroads. It took a long time, because there were many hills to climb and the roads were bumpy. On the way, Doug saw a snake. He didn't know what kind though. We flew down the other side as the wind was behind us for the first time in many days. On the flats Carl and Butch were hitting about forty m.p.h. We arrived in Fairfield at six o'clock. It had a population of 336. It sort of reminded me of Battle Ground. We stayed in an old house that had been converted into a grange.

Today was the longest we'd ever been on our bicycles. I feel zonked.

June 22 - 88 miles - Arco

Well, we were up at three again this morning. It doesn't even seem early any more, except that I always ride the first ten miles with my eyes almost shut. It was pitch black and very cold this morning. I wanted my good old long underwear so bad. But after a while by wiggling my fingers and toes, I finally got warm. We made really good time as we had no flat tires or breakdowns. Everybody was in a great mood and were singing and whooping it up. We stopped for lunch at the Craters of the Moon National Park. That is such a neat place. There is 75 square miles of lava and craters. Many of the kids went down and looked at

the caves and bigger craters, but I was asleep so I didn't get to go. It started raining after we got there, so we ended up staying for about three hours. We met these other two bicyclists, Brent and Steve. They were really nice and we talked to them for a long time. They began in Eugene and are traveling to Quebec. Brent and Steve didn't have a place to stay in Arco, so they came and stayed with us in the church. We took hot showers at the local high school and it felt so good to be clean. You can get feeling so stungy in one day.

As we were riding along, a truck went by us and they threw some fire crackers at us. They exploded loudly and it scared me so bad I almost fell off my bike.

We are getting to bed early for the first night in a long time. It is eight o'clock. Tomorrow, we get to sleep in until five o'clock. Later.

66 miles Idaho Falls
June 23 Norman Mischel
1242 Race St
Denver Colorado.

Sean Preckel
Benny Howard

We did get to sleep in until five o'clock. It didn't even seem any later than usual. We ate breakfast in a little cafe. I had a huge pile of pancakes and it was great. Pancakes are my favorite breakfast. I have them most every day. We made good time for about an hour, but then Butch broke a spoke. It took about forty minutes to fix it, and it was so cold. The wind was blowing and it cut right through our clothes. Doug, Kelvin, Carl, Jani, Chris, and I all laid down on the ground and snuggled together to keep warm. Then we got in a huddle and put our hands in the middle, so they

wouldn't be so cold.

We met alot of bicyclists on the road today. They were so neat, I couldn't believe it. First, there was Norman Hirschel. He was from Denver, Colorado. He was riding all by himself. You could say he was the free-spirit type. He was so open and he kind of looked like he was stoned. You could tell he enjoyed the simple things in life. Later on we met Jean and Benny. They were traveling together, but they weren't married. They began in South Carolina and have been on the road since March. They had sold all their possessions and are going to Oregon to find a job. They carried all their stuff on their bikes. They were really roughing it. It made us feel like we were living in luxury compared to them.

We arrived in Idaho Falls about two o'clock. We are at the home of Shirley Morrow. We are sleeping

on the basement floor on the carpet. This lady is great. She cooked us a home-cooked dinner. There was chicken, baked potato, jello, cookies, brownies, salad, and pop. You can't believe how good it tasted after ~~all~~ always eating out in restaurants. We even went swimming, because the lady had a pool in her back yard. It felt so good. I've got to start writing post cards. So far I've only done two.

June 24 - 84 miles - Alpine

Bushy Davis

331 1/2 N.W. 25th St.

Cornwallis, Or. 97330

Rick Davis

Barrie Benz

We got to sleep in until five o'clock. But I didn't get much sleep, because I went to bed so late. Last night, Carl and some

of the boys were out talking to these girls. Carl had dunked me in the pool earlier and I wanted to pay him back. So Butch, Kevin, Lon, Larry, Jani, and I went out, grabbed Carl, and tossed him in the pool with his clothes on. He came up sputtering and kind of mad. I didn't stick around to see what he'd say, I ran to the basement and jumped in my sleeping bag. Now Carl says that he is going to get me back, but I'm not worried about it.

Today we started into the Rockies. It was just beautiful scenery, after being in the more desert-like areas. We came down into these beautifully green valleys, with tall fir trees and the mountains in the background. It kind of took my breath away. I took lots of pictures, and film is costing me a fortune.

We got to camp out tonight in

Alpine. Jani and I managed to get our tent up very nicely. The boys didn't even have to help us. That was quite an accomplishment. I was going to go to bed really early, but I ended up giving all the boys back rules. That is in exchange for them working on my bike. Then Jani, Larry, Kevin, Doug, Lon, and I all piled into our two man tent. We stayed in there and talked for an hour and a half. Well now I'm going to bed, and it's only eight thirty. I don't believe it.

P.S. For dinner, we had stew and hot dogs. I had two bowls of stew and two hot dogs. It really hit the spot.

June 25 - Lava Creek - 73 miles

We got to sleep in until six o'clock. I got nine hours of sleep. That is the most I have got in

a long time. We had to ride one mile down the road to eat breakfast. I was really hungry by the time I got there.

In the morning, the riding was great. We have entered the Teton Mountains, and the scenery is just beautiful. No one hardly said a word all morning. We rode and looked around, because there was so much to see. All morning, I was composing letters in my head to all the people at home. I never have enough time to really write someone a good letter. I think a lot about the people at home, but I'm not really homesick. I just wish they could be here with me to see the things I am getting to see.

We ate lunch in Jackson Hole. It is the type of town that you would call a tourist trap. It had all kinds of shops where you could buy souvenirs and other things. I bought my parents a plaque,

Jeff some bottle rockets and firecrackers, and Jennifer a necklace. I spent a lot of money, so now I'll have to cut down on the food for a while. I don't suppose it will hurt me.

After we left there, it was supposed to be only a short ride to Jenny Lake. But Jenny Lake was closed, so we had to go twenty five more miles to Lava Creek. On the way, we just about got hit by a big motorhome. We were off the road, but when it went by it must of missed me by six inches. It scared the - out of me. It was really windy and a couple times I almost got blown over. But we made it safe and sound to Lava Creek Campground where we camped out. We had spaghetti and garlic bread for dinner. It tasted great, its kind of cold out now, I bet it will be freezing in

P.J. Mr. Dodge from the Reflector came and took pictures of us tonight. It was so nice to see someone from home.

the morning.

June 26 - Dubois - 53 miles

When we got up, it was about 20° outside. I was warm inside my sleeping bag, but once I got out I froze to death. After putting on about all the clothes I had, Jani and I managed to get the tent down.

Lon Allworth washed out a towel in the creek and hung it up to dry. Instead of drying, it froze stiff. It was that cold.

We had to ride about five miles to breakfast. That must've been the longest five miles I've pedaled in my life. I swear my feet, toes, fingers and nose had frostbite by the time we got there. But I survived.

We climbed up Jogwaity Pass. At the summit, it was 9,685 ft. high. It took us about three hours to climb the Pass. It was hard, but we took frequent

rests, so it wasn't so bad. I had Jani take some pictures of my bike and I out in the woods. I hope they turn out.

The view was beautiful. I took so many pictures. There were many mountain streams running here and there. We stopped at one and ran down to fill up our water bottles. It was so cold and sweet tasting. We even started to get into snow. When Larry got a flat tire, Jani, Kevin, and I jumped across a creek and went up into the snow. We climbed up as high as we could. Then we used our safety vests as sleds and slid down. It was really a blast.

We finally made it to the summit at about twelve o'clock. We whooped and hollered, and we must've took a hundred pictures. The other side was all downhill. We streaked down it at about forty m.p.h. I wasn't scared at all, and just simply loved it.

We got into Dubois at about four o'clock. It had a laundry mat, so we got to do our clothes. I hardly had any clean clothes left. There were showers at the KOA camp, so we got to take one I hadn't had a shower in three days and it felt so good. We spent the night in the American Legion Hall. The floor was hard, but it was nice to have a roof over my head again,

June 27- 86 miles - Taft Ranch



We got up early and were out of Dubois by six o'clock. We had a little tailwind and we hauled for the first fifty miles. We were hitting between twenty five and forty the whole way. I've found that when we streak in the morning, I get burnt out in the afternoon. We arrived at the Taft Ranch at about three o'clock. It was very hot out, so we decided to go

swimming in the creek. It was absolutely freezing cold, but it was fun.

For dinner, we had banana splits. We bought ice cream, bananas, toppings, and nuts. Then, we could make our own. I was determined to have only a small one, but as usual I made a huge one. I even had seconds. Jani, Kevin, Lon, Syd, Judy, and I all sat in the shade and ate ours. It was nice to relax and just talk. It's been a while since I've had time to take it easy.

I had to write to my parents. It was the first letter I've written them, so it was about five pages long. I stayed up til eleven writing. I have to get up at four tomorrow so I better go to bed.

June 28- 55 miles - Jeffrey City

Today was a great day. We had

only fifty five miles to go. We left early, because the day was promising to be a scorcher. We made good time in the morning, but we didn't go so fast that we got burnt out later on. We saw lots of antelope and prairie dogs running around.

We stopped to eat lunch at this rest stop and got attacked by mosquitos. It was the shortest lunch we've ever had.

After lunch, we had only twenty miles to cover. We buzzed through that and ended up in Jeffrey City by eleven thirty. We stopped at this gas station, because we couldn't find Syd. Chris ran over the bell, and then Brad did too. Some old guy came out and said, "Quit ringing the bell. What do you think this is a ----- circus. I can't wait to get off this Bicentennial Route. Other bicyclists before us have given us a bad reputation. There has been a big

difference in the way people have treated us on the route and off. We are staying in the Bike Inn. It is just a high school gym with showers and a swimming pool. We took a nap and later on went swimming. I took a shower later too.

After dinner, we all sat around in a hallway doing card tricks, telling riddles, and just talking. It was relaxing and we all had a good time.

I called Steve and we talked for about twenty minutes. I miss him alot more than I thought I would. I think about him all the time. Every time I look at his picture it makes me homesick all over again. Its kind of an icky feeling because it won't go away, no matter what I do.

June 29 - 68 miles - Rawlins

We got up early this morning,

so that we could be far down the road before it got too hot. We were the first people in this restaurant called the "Drillers Delight" in Jeffrey City. But gradually, all the miners began drifting in for breakfast. The waitress served all the miners before she served us. We were in that restaurant for two hours before we finally got our food and finished eating. Everybody in Jeffrey City was kind of snotty to us and it left me feeling kind of bad. It seemed to take all the fun out of the trip. We left that place as fast as we could.

We ate lunch by the side of the road. A truck pulled up beside us. All the sudden Kevin goes, "Hey its Grandma and Grandpa. They were from Montana. They were really nice and gave us all cinnamon rolls for lunch. It was neat seeing

someone we knew, out in the middle of Wyoming. We got into Rawlins at about ~~four~~^{two} o'clock. I was really burnt out and was about ready to drop. I went to the store and bought some cereal for dinner. I ate that and was in bed by four o'clock. I woke up again at seven thirty, but I was back in bed by eight. It felt so good to sleep.

June 30 - 98 miles - Laramie

We got up at three o'clock so that we could get an early start. We had a group meeting at five o'clock where every one voiced their complaints. The chaperones pointed out many things that we hadn't been doing, and it made me feel kinda bad. It seems we hadn't been taking care

of all of our responsibilities. Right before we left, Kevin told us he felt sick to his stomach. So Syd talked to him and decided that Kevin should ride in the truck. All day I really missed Kevin being there. It was wierd seeing him sick, because he is usually so bright and cheery.

We had to climb up to almost nine thousand feet, today. It wouldn't have been so bad, since the grade was gradual, but we had a headwind blowing in our face too. I think this climb was tougher than Jogwarty Pass in the Teton Mts.

After a while, we noticed that it was getting rather dark out. Then all of a sudden, lightning began to flash across the sky. It seemed to be getting closer and closer, and it looked as if it was about to rain. I was kind of getting scared. When we

stopped, Butch said, "If you start to feel electricity in your hair, then jump off your bike and hit the deck. That really made me feel good."

As we got closer to Laramie the wind started acting up and it began to rain a little bit. Those last fifteen miles just burnt me out. I got so tired.

When we got to the church in Laramie, our mail was there. I got letters from my family and all my friends. It was so neat to hear what was happening at home, but it always makes me feel kind of homesick.

That night, we went to dairy queen for dinner. Chris Kellogg fell asleep at the table so we all snuck out of the restaurant. Then, we had a lady come up and

say, "Sir, we're closing."
Chris jumped up and looked
wildly about. We were all
outside the window laughing
our heads off. I thought Chris
would kill us.
We stayed up until eleven
o'clock. It was great.

July 1 - Day of Rest - Taramie

I got to sleep in until eight
o'clock. It felt so good. Kevin
came home from the hospital
this morning. He is feeling so
much better, and is even
walking around. It must've
been those pretty nurses he
kept talking about. Larry is
feeling pretty bad today. I
worked on my bike for a
long time and it is all
clean and shiny again. We
went to the Earl Quenson
Museum this afternoon. It
was a really neat place,

but I got tired after walking
through the whole thing.
After that we did our
laundry. It was nice to
get that out of the way.
At six o'clock, we had a
group meeting. We decided
that we had better stay
here another day, because
there were still three people
sick. I was happy about
that, because I need another
day of rest. We also talked
about disciplining Chris
and Mark. They have been
getting away with murder
lately, because everyone
felt kind of stupid
spanking them. Syd talked
to us about it and I think
it will be o.k. We stayed
up till eleven thirty tonight.
I love this.

July 2 - Another rest - Taramie

We got to sleep in until about

eight thirty. We went out to breakfast and then later we went shopping. We bought English Muffins and melted cheese and ham over them. It was so good. Jani and I decided that we are going to start cooking our meals at night more often. All day long we just relaxed and took it easy. It seems that a one day rest is just not enough. It takes one day just to clean up my bike and do laundry, and all those things. We all stayed up and talked till about eleven o'clock. We had been in bed for a while, when we heard the water running. Jani and I jumped out of bed. We went in the kitchen and soap bubbles were pouring out of the dishwasher onto the floor. We didn't know what to do, so we just laughed and laughed. While we were cleaning it up, Carl came in and took a picture of us. By the time we finally got to

bed it was midnight.

July 3rd - 68 miles - Ft. Collins

We were up at five this morning and it felt so good to be on the road again. My mind was rested and my legs are strong. We just buzzed along, and before we knew it, we were forty-five miles out of Laramie. We ate a short lunch at some little store. We usually take a nice long break, but today everyone was ⁱⁿ a hurry to go. We entered Colorado today. I don't know why but desert in Wyoming seems alot worse than desert in Colorado. I think it would be so neat to live in Colorado. We got into Ft. Collins at about two o'clock. There seemed to be many nice-looking girls in the town. ^{The boys} were pointing and whistling at them, when they went by. This was the first day that I haven't

felt really burnt out by the time we got into a town.

Jani and I went down town and we met a foxy guy at the camera shop. But we don't have enough time in one place to get to know anyone.

While we were making dinner, Kevin and I filled a plastic bag with water like a water balloon. Kevin went out and he was going to pretend to throw it at Butch and Ann, but the bag broke and Butch and Ann got soaked. I think Kevin was more surprised than Butch and Ann were.

We had another meeting tonight. It seems everyone will just begin to take on their responsibilities and then will slip back into our old irresponsible habits. Butch gave us a lecture and then Syd started using his psychology on us. He told what super people we were and all that. Even though I knew it was psychology it still worked on

me. It made me feel better and want to try harder. By the end of the trip, we should be all pretty responsible people.

July 4th - 65 miles - Denver

The minute we got up this morning I could tell it was going to be a scorcher. It was so warm that I didn't even start out riding in my sweats.

We traveled through many small towns, for instance Loveland, and it made the day much more interesting.

At twelve o'clock, we stopped at a gas station to put forth a toast for the Bicentennial. We all clinked our water bottles together and some guy took a picture of us.

We got into the outskirts of Denver about two o'clock. We were supposed to stay at some one's house. But when we got

there, no one was home. So we parked our bikes and went to the backyard to wait. Judy went to look for a church just in case.

Nobody from that house ever came home, so we ended up staying in a Presbyterian Church. The Pastor was such a nice guy that every thing turned out for the best after all.

We wanted to see some fireworks so we piled into the truck and drove clear across Denver to Washington Park. ~~where~~ On the way over we stopped at Kentucky Fried and bought chicken to bring along with us. The Park was so nice and green and had many trees. We laid in the grass and talked and ate our picnic dinner. It was so nice. But then we were talking to some people and we discovered that the fireworks display had been last night and there weren't any tonight. I was so disappointed.

I think I've seen fireworks every year since I was little.

We stayed at the park for a while, but then we just went home. Everyone was so tired we just went to bed. I was almost asleep when Judy came running down the hall shouting, "I see some fireworks, I see some fireworks!"

We jumped out of bed and ran outside in our pajamas. And sure enough we could see a fireworks display. So we all spent our fourth of July sitting on our front lawn of the church in our p.j.'s watching the fireworks.

July 5 - 87 miles - Colorado Springs

We got to sleep in until six o'clock this morning. We wanted to get through Denver before the heavy traffic came, so we didn't stop for breakfast. We had to stop

at about a million red lights. It was really a pain in the neck. Brad almost got hit by a car. It really scared me. We just rode across the street without even looking. That was about the closest call we've had yet. It took us about three hours to get through Denver. By that time, I felt weak from hunger. Then finally, we got to stop and eat.

After breakfast was over, it was close to eleven thirty and it was hot. We had to stop about every hour for a rest break, because of the heat. I was feeling really good.

In Franktown, I met these two guys who were on motorcycles. I talked to them for about a half an hour. They were really nice.

From Franktown, it was still about forty three miles to Colorado Springs. The wind began

to act up then and soon we had a strong headwind blowing in our face. The wind just gets me so burnt out. Everyone was beginning to tire and seemed to be getting on each others nerves. I was in the worst mood possible, maybe because I was so tired I thought I was going to die. So I started praying and singing all the songs that I learned from church camp. At first I could hardly sing because I was breathing so hard. It gave me such a mental uplift that my legs actually felt stronger. It seems that I will never turn to God unless I'm in trouble or tired. I always try to do everything myself and it never works.

We finally got to Colorado Springs at eight fifteen. It had been our longest day on the road.

July 6 - 48 miles - Pueblo

Today was just a neat day. We slept in as long as we wanted to. Then Jani and I went and did our laundry. We came back and we all went down to the post office. I got letters from mom, dad, and Jennifer. It sure is nice to get mail.

Jani, Kevin, and I ate lunch at a little cafe. We had the best hamburger I've had in a long time.

I took a little nap after lunch and soon it was time to get ready to go. We only had about 45 miles to Pueblo so we left at three o'clock.

We buzzed along pretty good, even though there was a headwind. We've had a wind in our face for so long that I can't remember what it was like not to have one. We stopped about every ten miles for a rest. The weather was just

about perfect. It was warm, but not too hot. Everyone was in good spirits and we sang songs and we had so much fun.

We arrived in Pueblo at about seven fifteen. We couldn't find the note Judy was going to leave so we parked our bikes on some grass right between two of the main roads. We must've waited there for at least two hours, while Syd tried to find Judy. You'd think we would've got bored, but no way. The guys wrestled and we had headstand contests and did handsprings. We finally got to the church at about a quarter til ten. Then, we went out to Dunkin Donuts and A&W. It had been a long day and we just munched out.

July 7th - 133 miles - Tamar

We were up at four o'clock this morning. It gave me a grand total

of four hours sleep. There was no wind this morning and we were really streaking. We went sixty four miles, had three rest stops, and one flat tire in three hours. We stopped at a fruit stand and bought two big, cold watermelon. We all ate about three big pieces. It was great.

Then, the wind started to blow. The wind is a bicyclist's worst enemy. It will burn you out so fast. We rode another 30 miles, but we had to stop at Las Animas for because of the heat. It was about 102°. We left there again at four thirty. The next forty miles were what you would call tough. A couple of times I thought for sure I would die. But I didn't. We got into Lamar at about nine o'clock. We went over to the swimming pool to shower. When Jani was taking a shower, she stepped on some glass, and cut her foot. It bled all over the place. I hope she can ride tomorrow, but I bet Syd won't let

her.

We were starving of course, so we took a trip down to Duncan Doughnuts. We sat around eating doughnuts and laughing. It was like one big party.

I was watching the cook make the doughnuts, and he invited me to come back and help. His name was Jess and he was really nice. Well it's midnight now, and we have to be up at four. I don't know how I'll make it tomorrow.

July 8th - Syracuse - 55 miles

Well, I got four hours of sleep last night. Sometimes, I think I must be insane to be doing this. We entered Kansas today. It is hot and very flat. At every town, we would stop at a gas station and hose each other down with cold water.

We hadn't come to a town for a long

time and we were just so hot. Syd got a flat tire so we had to stop.

Off to our left, we saw water gushing out of a pipe about a foot in diameter. It was pouring into a cement irrigation ditch. When we went over there, we discovered that the water was clear and cold. It wasn't long before we had ripped off our shoes and socks and were all laying in the canal. We would sit down under the pipe and let the water pour over our heads. We took a lot of pictures that should turn out really good.

We got into Syracuse at about three o'clock. We took showers and went swimming. I had a flat tire so I had to fix that.

It was so warm out that we are all sleeping out on the back yard. It is just a beautiful night.

July 9th - 51 miles - Garden City

We had a short ride today, so

we didn't have to ~~give~~ get up until about four thirty. We ate breakfast at the church and I had pastry rolls and applesauce. It was really good. The ride wasn't too hard, as we stopped and rested every twenty miles or so. We had arrived in Garden City by nine thirty. But we crossed into a new time zone, so we lost an hour there. We stayed in a huge Methodist Church. I must've got lost in it about five times. It had over two thousand members, I was really tired, so I went to sleep as soon as I got there. Later on in the afternoon, we went swimming in the world's largest ^{free} swimming pool. It was like a huge cement lake. Jani and I didn't swim much though, we just laid out in the sun. We are trying to get rid of our bicyclists.

tan, but I think it is hopeless.
For dinner I ate a third of
a watermelon and a can of
cold corn. How original.
I got all ready for bed, and for
once it was early. I had my
eyes closed and was half asleep,
when I felt something cold and
slimy land in my hand. I
thought maybe I was dreaming
until another one landed on my
eye. I opened my eyes, and there
was Syd, standing there all ready
to bomb me with some more
cold macaroni salad. I couldn't
go to sleep after that, so Syd
Lon, and I stayed up and
talked. We talked about what
reality is and what we thought
heaven would be like. It's kind
of neat to hear other people's
point of view. It really made me
think. I finally got to sleep about
eleven o'clock,

July 10th - Dodge City - 54 miles

This morning we got up really
early, because we knew that
we were going over a bad
stretch of road. I guess a
couple of the Wandering
Wheels, (a group of bicyclists
we met) had been hurt on this
road. It was dark out still,
but we have lights and our
vests, so cars can see us.
One minute, I heard the two
warning honks of a car coming,
and then I heard the ~~squeal~~
squeal of brakes. As I turned to
look over my shoulder, a car
came sliding sideways past
me. I thought for sure that the
car would swerve to the
right and take out the first
five bikes. But the car went
to the left and shot right
into the ditch. I could just see
it exploding and going up in
flames. Fortunately, the car

plowed through the ditch and then somehow got back on the road. It took off without even stopping. We pulled over to the side to try to regain our control. I don't think that I stopped shaking for at least a half an hour. I wanted to cry, but I just couldn't. To put it lightly, it scared me to death. We sat there by the side of the road and didn't move until it was light. We have decided not to tell our parents until the trip is over, and we wouldn't want them to worry. We finally got started again and we just buzzed along. Soon, it seemed like, the car going in the ditch had just been a dream. It didn't seem like it really happened.

For about the last twenty miles into Dodge City, we rode on the worst roads I've ever seen. There was a little shoulder you could pull on to, but it had huge chuckholes

in it. Big semi trucks would fly by us really close and it was scary. But we made it into Dodge City at about eleven thirty, safe and sound. We got to stay in a motel today. It is air-conditioned and had real beds.

Jani and I rode across town five miles to a bike shop. When we came out I had a flat tire. So we had to push our bikes all the way back to the motel. I was so mad, but when you think about it, it was kinda funny.

We went swimming in the pool and got cooled off. We went out for a free dinner at A&W. It was good, since we could order as much as we wanted.

Later, that night a bunch of the others went to Boot Hill to see a real gunfight. I was kinda tired so I stayed in the motel, laid in bed and wrote letters. I was

asleep by eight thirty.

July 11 - Dodge City - 0 miles.

I slept in until eight thirty this morning. I got twelve hours of sleep. That is the most sleep I've got since I left home. But then it isn't too tough to sleep, when you are in a nice, soft bed in an air conditioned room. We got a free smorgasboard breakfast at a restaurant next door. We piled our plates high with every kind of breakfast food imaginable. It was great, except I couldn't eat it all.

Jani and I went down to do our laundry. While we were there, I drank three cherry sherbos. I don't know why, but I just had a craving for a sherbo. When we got back, I called Steve. We must've talked for about thirty five minutes. Every time I talk to him, it makes me homesick all over

again. I'm glad that we keep busy and I don't have much time to think of home.

We had to check out of the motel at twelve, so we moved all of our stuff over to the Lutheran church. We worked on our bikes for the rest of the afternoon, cleaning them and tightening all the nuts and bolts.

Tonight, my parents were having all the other parents over for a party. So Syd gave them a call. He told them about all our day to day activities. It was kinda neat.

We didn't get to bed until about eleven thirty.

July 12 - Pratt - 72 miles

I only got five hours of sleep last night. This is getting bad.

We were only one mile from the church when Chris got two flat tires. It took about an hour

to fix it, so we got a late start. The day just really went fast today. We ate lunch in Greensburg. It had a huge well. It was called the World's Largest Well. We got into Pratt at about three o'clock. There was a newspaper reporter waiting for us and she took a bunch of pictures of us as we rode in.

After dinner, Jani and I got about ten dollars in change and rode down to call our friends. We called Colleen's house and Erin, Lynn, Lynn, and Jan were over there. Talking to them made it seem like I was at home again. It was so nice to hear their voices and to hear what was happening at home again. We talked for about forty minutes. We kept stuffing more and more quarters in until we couldn't fit any more in. We didn't know what to do and neither did the operator, so we ended up

getting about three dollars back.

It is about ten o'clock now and we are going to sleep out.

July 13 - Wichita - 82

I got eaten up by the mosquitos last night. I finally got up in the middle of the night and went in. So of course Syd was giving me a bad time this morning about being soft and going in.

Everyone felt really strong this morning, and for once there was no wind. We set a really fast pace, and by noon we were beginning to feel burnt out. I think part of it was because we were so hungry.

We stopped for lunch at a drive in and I bought a strawberry milkshake. I was

really thirsty, so I drank it kinda fast. I shouldn't have done that, because it sure made me sick. I knew I had to get better, so I went over to the bathroom and stuck my finger down my throat. My milkshake came up and I felt so much better.

After that, we buzzed right into Wichita and arrived about three o'clock.

We went swimming at a big pool. It felt so good after a long day's ride.

Before we went to bed Syd was teaching us some yoga and all about relaxation. I really like that kind of stuff and when I get home I'm going to read up on it. I'd like to have some sort of set program that I could do every day.

July 14 - Yates Center - 100 miles

We got up at about four o'clock

this morning. There wasn't too much wind, so we buzzed right along. We stopped for lunch at a small town. Jani and I were late getting back and everyone was waiting for us. I felt kinda bad.

Today, was the easiest hundred mile day I've ever had. I wasn't even tired when we got in. We played twenty questions for almost the whole day. It helps to take your mind off riding and to keep your spirits up. By now though, I'm getting pretty good at keeping myself entertained. We went swimming and took showers at a pool for free. It was nice.

Before we went to bed Syd told us some scary stories. We all laid down on the floor, turned off the lights, and listened. It was exciting. Of course

Sorry about
the mess, but the
dip melted
in my
handbag

we didn't get to sleep until ten
o'clock or so.

July 15 - Nevada - 82 miles

We got up at four o'clock this
morning again. I get so little
sleep now that I don't think I
even need it any more. Butch
couldn't find Kevin and Doug
this morning when he went to
wake them up. He looked every
where, but there was no sign of
them. Finally, about a half hour
later he found them asleep in a
tiny little room upstairs. That
was our big excitement for the
morning.

The ride was fairly easy again
today and we kept entertained
by playing Password. When we
talk and play games it helps
to pass the time so much more
quickly.

We have finally got out of the
flat lands of Kansas and into some

Missouri
more interesting country. There
are a lot of oak trees and green
grass. It almost seems like
home.

We got into Nevada at about
three o'clock. We took showers
at a school and got all cleaned
up. Then, Jani and I went to do
our laundry. While we were
there it started raining. On
the way back we just got
soaked.

The music director was really
a nice guy. He helped us to find
our way about the town and
all sorts of stuff.

I called my mom and dad
tonight. It was so nice to talk
to them. They sound so close
over the phone, but they are so
far away.

July 16 - Camdenton - 97 miles

We got up at five this morning.
We ate out at a restaurant

and were on the road by seven o'clock. We were playing Password and the pace dropped way down to eight m.p.h. So when Syd told Ann ^(who was leading) to speed it up a bit, Ann took it wrong and there was a little bit of tension in the air. All day I could feel it and it bothered me.

We stopped for lunch at a little drive in. It was air conditioned and we played the jukebox. I never realized how much I missed hearing music until now. It was so good to hear real boogie music again. I had to hold onto myself to keep from getting up and dancing around the room.

We got into Camden on at about six o'clock. Then we had a meeting that took quite a long time. Syd knew that some people had hard feelings so he told them to speak up. It was mainly between Butch & Ann and Syd. Everybody

got upset and hollered a little bit, but at least it got those angry feelings out. People were just starting to get on each others nerves a little bit, after being together for so long. We went swimming and then went to bed. Everybody was tired.

July 17- Vienna - 61 miles

We got to sleep in until six o'clock this morning. We ate out at a restaurant that had really slow service, so we didn't get on the road until nine o'clock. But it didn't matter, because we only had sixty miles to go.

We are in the Ozark Mts. now. They are so much different than the Rockies. Instead of going up, up, up and down, down, down, they go up, down, up, down. I've found that if you build

up enough speed going down a hill, then you can coast up the other side. So really the hills didn't bother us too much. I was just in a great mood this morning, maybe because it is so beautiful out.

We ate lunch in a small town called Oleria. We are really getting into hillbilly country. The people have that hillbilly drawl and they wear hillbilly clothes. We even saw a car with no doors, no hood, no windows or windshield, and sounded like it didn't even have a muffler. Wish I could've got a picture of it.

After lunch it started to get hot. But we stopped often and just thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Critter and Kevin rode up, one on each side of me, and one pulled out my shorts and the other poured water down them. Then one of them rode by and untied my bathing suit. They've been giving me a

bad time all day, but I'll get 'em back.

We got in to Vienna at about six o'clock. We couldn't find a place to swim, so we went down to the river to swim. It was great. The water was really warm. The boys found a rope a little ways upstream, and were going off it. Jani and I went up to watch and wouldn't you know it, they talked me into going on the rope. So I grabbed hold of the rope, let out a big scream, and swung out over the water and let go. It was so fun. We just had a great time.

The river was swift and there were some rapids. The water was shallow, so Syd, Tom, and I went down them on our backs. But the water got swifter and I noticed I couldn't touch bottom. So I

started to swim for shore. Syd was in front of us, so he grabbed Jon and I as we started to go by. It was sort of scary but it was fun.

After that we just ate dinner and went to bed.

It had been one of the most fun days of the whole trip.

July 18 - Potosi - 84 miles

We got up at five o'clock this morning and we were out of the church by six fifteen. That is quick for us. The terrain was the same ups and downs as yesterday and we covered the first few miles quickly.

As we came flying down this one hill, we could see a narrow bridge ahead. Syd put out a slow down signal and so did I. As we entered the bridge ~~if~~ we could see the most beautiful river. Syd wanted to take a

picture, so we were slowing down to stop. All of a sudden, something slammed into me from behind. The next thing I knew I was skidding on my stomach on the pavement. I remember thinking, "Wow, I'm falling. It's really happening." When I finally stopped, I just laid there on the pavement. I was waiting to see if I could feel any pain. Kevin jumped up right away, and someone pulled his bike off of me. Syd was there asking me if I was alright, and I kept saying, "I'm o.k. I'm o.k. I can't come so I got up and walked around a bit. I was afraid to ~~not~~ look at my legs, because I ~~was~~ was afraid they would be all bloody. Then I began to feel sick. So I leaned over the bridge, ready to lose my breakfast in the river. However, the sickness passed, so I walked down to the ~~end~~ end of the bridge. While we waited for Judy

to come, Jani helped me clean up my scrapes. I just couldn't stop crying. It wasn't that I was in that much pain, but I was scared to death. My legs were all shaky and the whole bit.

Judy showed up in about ten minutes and it was decided that I should ride in the truck. I kind of wanted to ride my bike, but I was relieved when Syd told me I couldn't.

So they loaded my bike and me into the truck, and we went to catch up with Butch's group. Everyone came back to talk to me and it wasn't long til they had me laughing and feeling much better.

When Syd's group pulled up, it seems they had already given Kevin a new nickname, "Killer". Jani told me later that Kevin kept riding up behind her all day and saying, "You're next, Jani." Judy and I drove off, and I managed to keep up a smile

as we passed everybody. But as soon as we were out of sight, I started crying again. My leg hurt and I felt so all alone. But when I stopped I sure felt alot better. I laid back and slept the rest of the way to Potosi.

When we got there Judy and I went to church. The preacher was really good, except he kept saying, "You never know, today may be your last day. Don't wait to get things right with God." That made me think a little bit.

We went to A*W to eat and who did we see but Syd and Larry. Larry had fallen going down a hill. He wasn't hurt, but the rim on his wheel was bent. So we all ate together and had a good time.

I slept for the rest of the afternoon, ate dinner, and then went to bed.

July 19 - Chester - 85 miles

We got up at five o'clock this morning. As soon as I woke up I was filled with dread about riding again. I was really afraid. My whole body felt stiff and sore. I found myself close to tears many times.

For the first few miles, I was really scared. But little by little I began to get my confidence back. We went up and down for a while, but soon we were going down towards the Mississippi River. We arrived in St. Genevieve at about twelve thirty for lunch. It was a really neat town and had some nice, old houses. Then we came out from behind the trees and there was the mighty Mississippi. It was neat, but somehow it looked just like the Columbia. We took a little ferry boat across, since there was no bridge. It was fun

but it only lasted about ten minutes. The rest of the way to Chester passed quickly. We were on a bike route for part of the way, and saw some more neat, old houses. We got to take showers tonight. I couldn't believe how good it felt. It didn't even hurt the sores on my legs. I had a big dinner of clam chowder and biscuits. It was good, but I was so full. I always feel better, when I eat a light dinner. We got to bed kinda late. It must've been ten o'clock.

~~Pa~~
July 20 - Harrisburg - 80 miles

We were up at five again this morning. My body still felt stiff, but I knew that would pass. It seemed like it took forever to cover the first few miles. The roads were really narrow and

there was no shoulder to ride on. These big semis came whizzing by very close, and I almost got knocked off my bike a few times. Finally, we turned onto a better road with a shoulder. The shoulder had alot of glass and stuff on it and Chris Kellogg got three flat tires.

We stopped to eat a bunch of times, but I never did have anything decent. I drank pop and ate twinkies and a hot apple turnover.

It really started getting hot about then. It is really hard to breathe, when you ride in that much heat. Butch got a flat tire, and gave us all a much needed rest. We went down to a small creek nearby, to see if we could go swimming. We were looking in the water and we saw a snake three feet long. We didn't know if it was poisonous or not, but that ended our swimming plans for the

day.

The last fifteen miles into Harrisburg seemed endless. But we finally did make it at about three thirty.

The church we are staying in is great. It has a color T.V. jukebox, pool table, ping-pong table, and a basketball hoop. We'll even get to watch the Olympics tonight.

We went swimming at the public pool and the man only charged us half price. I just took a shower because of the scrapes on my legs.

When we came home, we had a meeting about whether to take a layover here. It means taking one day off our layover in Cincinnati, but everyone was all for it. So we are staying up late tonight and get to sleep in Tomorrow.

July 21 - Harrisburg - 0 miles

We got to sleep in until nine o'clock this morning. Sleep seems like such a luxury. I got up, repacked my pack, and did all those things I needed to do.

Kevin and I went to a cafe for breakfast. It had quick service and good food. What else can you expect.

Jani and Syd showed up a little later with the mail. They had driven to Carmi ~~with the mail~~ to get it. I got a care package from home. It was filled with cookies, hot cocoa, peanuts, raisins, and granola bars. It was great. I must've ate at least ten cookies while I read my mail.

I wrote letters and took it easy all afternoon. It was one of the most relaxing days we've had.

We had a birthday party for Brad finally. Jani and I bought him a present and the cake and

ice cream. We served it to all the guys and then got stuck with the dishes. We have all the luck.

Jani, Rudy, Carl, Brad, and I went to the theater to see "Gone with the Wind." It was a really good movie. During intermissions, I called Steve. It was so nice to talk to him again. It seems like it has been years since I've seen him.

He kind of gave me some bad news though. My brother got in a car wreck and broke his nose. I wish I could go home and see him. It kind of scared me when I heard that.

The movie wasn't over until eleven thirty and we have to get up at four tomorrow. I don't know how they're going to get me out of bed.

July 22 - Princeton - 93

We got up at four o'clock

this morning. We made really good time and had covered thirty three miles by eight thirty. We stopped for a break at this town and we ended up staying until ten o'clock. The newspaper took pictures of us and Syd had to rush to a camera shop to save his film. The land here is really flat and we really started to streak. We went seventeen miles in forty minutes. I couldn't believe how long we kept up that fast of a pace.

When we stopped at a Dairy Queen for lunch, everyone was in a great mood. It seems like the closer we get to D.C. the faster we go. We're getting psyched.

After lunch, we crossed the Wabash River into Indiana. It was so hot and humid that I thought I would die. The sweat just rolls off of me. It kind of feels like sitting in a sauna.

We got into Princeton at about

three thirty. We went to the pool and took cold showers. It was refreshing, after riding in that heat. We rented a T.V. tonight and we get to watch the Olympics. This church is brand new, has thick carpeting and is air conditioned. I should sleep good tonight.

July 23 - Bedford - 75

We got up at five this morning. Kevin doesn't get to ride today as he has strep throat. Poor guy. He won't be able to ride for a couple of days. The terrain was mostly up and down. Lately, it seems like the days are going slower and slower. I think I'm getting ready to go home.

We watched the Olympics on a really small T.V. That was neat.

July 24- Versailles - 68

We got up at five o'clock and ate out at a restaurant. It was really hot out today and it made riding uncomfortable. But, about the end of the ride it clouded up and started to rain. It cooled off and I felt like I could've gone on to Cincinnati.

Versailles was a small town, but it was neat. When Jani and I walked to the store, some boys stopped in a car and asked us if we wanted to go smoke out with them. We go, "Ah no, we have to go to the store." What a dumb excuse. We didn't get to bed til late.

July 25 Cincinnati - 60 miles

We had an easy fifty mile day today. The miles just seemed to fly by. But when we got into Cincinnati there

was a lot of traffic. It got a little scary at times, because we were on the freeway like roads. We rode right through the center of Cincinnati. We saw all kinds of different people. We got lost and couldn't find the park where we were supposed to meet Syd and Judy. But finally we found it at about two o'clock. We went to the Hyde Baptist Church where we were staying. The youth pastor's name was Joe and he was such a neat guy. He drove us places and just helped us out so much. I called my mom and dad at my uncle's house. I got to talk to all my aunts and uncles, my grandma, and my sister, and brother. It was really neat.

We all ~~had~~ laid around on our sleeping bags and talked. It is so neat when



we do that. Everyone is getting to know each other so well.

July 26 - Cincinnati - 0 miles

Jani and I got up early and went with Syd and Butch to Riverfront Stadium to buy our tickets for the game between the Reds and the Giants. When we got back Jani and I went and did laundry. For the rest of the afternoon we wrote letters and worked on our bikes.

We left for the game at about five o'clock. Riverfront Stadium is huge. We sat on the first base side, fairly high up. It seemed hard to believe that we were really there. We all had brought crackers and cheese and we munched through out the whole game.

Pete Rose hit a home run on the first pitch. It was really a good game.

We didn't get home and in bed

til eleven thirty

July 27 - Chillicothe - 94 miles

When I first went outside this morning, it was warm out. But right when we got ready to go it started raining. It poured so hard that we could hardly see. But nothing stops us from riding so we went anyway. We were all in high spirits as it was actually kind of fun to ride in the rain. We stopped after about twenty miles at a Donut Shop. We all had about two donuts apiece and that really put us in a good mood. It kept on raining until about ten o'clock. It cleared up and by the time we got to Hillsboro it was even beginning to get hot. We had thought we might stop there because of the rain, but we decided to go on 38 miles to Chillicothe.



For getting only four hours of sleep I felt good. The next miles went by quickly and we arrived at about three thirty. We took showers at the swimming pool and bought our dinner. The church we are staying in has air conditioning and carpeted floors. It was so nice.

The newspaper came and took pictures of us and a college girl interviewed us. She was really nice and of course the boys were all talking to her. She stayed til about nine thirty, til we all went to bed.

July 28 - Athens - 64 miles

We got up at about five o'clock this morning. We ate out at a restaurant and we didn't get out of there til late. Then Brad got a flat and we were really late.

The day passed quickly, but

we are starting to get into the Appalachian Mts. Athens was a college town and it was really a neat place. I went to bed early as I was pretty tired.

July 29th West Union - 94 miles

We got up at about five o'clock and we ate at the church. We have really got into the Appalachians now, but it isn't too bad since we are on the Appalachian Highway. The grades were fairly gradual as I didn't shift out of fifth gear all day.

We got to West Union at about three o'clock. We came in on the old highway and it was practically straight up. The newspaper came and interviewed us and took pictures of us.

The town seemed kind of hidden away in a little valley. It was

kinda neat, but I sure wouldn't want to live there. Only three more days and we'll be in D.C. I can hardly believe we are almost there. We were in bed by seven o'clock because tomorrow is supposed to be tough.

July 30th - Aurora - 80 miles

We were up at five this morning and we ate at the church. I couldn't believe how hungry I was. I had a bowl of cream of wheat, a can of applesauce, two doughnuts, and milk.

We were on the Appalachian Highway for the first twenty five miles so the riding was fairly easy. There were a lot of hills, but the grades were gradual. After that, it got a little bit tougher. The hills began to go straight up and they seemed to never end. You can't believe how much I wanted to

stop and just say forget it. But no way. The hills have to end some time. We got into Aurora at about five o'clock. We had no place to shower, no running water, and no cooking facilities. So we had to go to bed feeling all hot and sticky. I went to bed at six. I got up later 'cause I couldn't sleep. There were some guys rebuilding the down stairs, so the hammers and the powersaws went until nine thirty. It's a terrible feeling to be so tired and not be able to sleep. Two more days til D.C.

July 31 - Winchester - 103 miles

We got up at five o'clock and we were all ready by five thirty. That is the fastest we have ever gotten ready. The fog was so thick that I could hardly see. We started going up hills right

away and we didn't stop all day. We got to go down a lot of steep hills to. That was fun. One of the down hills was five miles long with sharp corners. We just flew down it.

We ate lunch at a Tastee Freeze and all these people were telling us that the worst was yet to come.

The hills seemed bad after lunch but that was only because we were tired. It was starting to flatten out, so it wasn't too bad. Thinking about D.C. was what kept me going.

We got into Winchester at about five o'clock. Then we went down to the pool and took showers. It was the first shower we've had in three days. It was nice.

August 1 - Washington D.C. - 12 miles

Well today is the big day. We got up at five and we went out to

breakfast at the Holiday Inn.

Everyone was really excited. I couldn't keep a smile off my face the whole day. It seemed unbelievable that this is the last day we have to pedal. It seemed like I was dreaming and any minute I would wake up.

We covered the first twenty miles in a little over an hour. Everybody was psyched up.

Then our nice four lane divided highway turned into a narrow two lane road. Cars would go by really close and it was a little scary. I just kept thinking about how terrible it would be for someone to get in a wreck on our last day.

I looked in my mirror and all I could see was this big silver thing. It was a Greyhound bus. It couldn't pass me, since there were cars coming in the opposite direction. I was pedaling as fast as I could so it wouldn't

be so close to me, but it stayed right on my tail. Finally it swung out and started to go around me. It went by so close that I could've reached out and knocked on it with my fist. That kinda scared me.

0 The miles seemed to pass slowly, but soon we were within ten miles of D.C. The traffic was pretty heavy, so I didn't have much time to think about it. Then I heard a bunch of whoops and whistles from the kids behind me. I looked up and I saw the Washington Monument rising up into the sky. You can't imagine the thrill I felt. We had reached our goal. It made all the hardships worth while. We traveled on until we reached the entering Washington D.C. sign. There we stopped as we had when entering each new state, and took pictures of us all standing by the sign. It was a happy moment for us all. But I must

admit that I didn't ^{experience} the total happiness that I had always imagined. But come to realize that I receive more joy in striving to reach my goals, than I do in the moment when I have achieved them.

We pedaled onward to the Lincoln Memorial. To our left we could see the Washington Monument and Reflection Pool and to our right was the Lincoln Memorial. It was really a beautiful sight.

Our vests attracted alot of attention and many people came and talked to us. Most of them were totally impressed by our trip. It doesn't seem like that big of deal to me, but most other people are amazed.

We then went the last few miles to the church. We went downstairs and stretched out on the cool basement floor. I was relieved that we had made it safely.

but I felt sad and close to tears when I realized that our pedaling days were over.

We didn't have much time to relax then, because Mike McCormick, our representative, came to visit us. He welcomed us to Washington D.C. and talked with us for quite a while. He impressed me as being really sincere about his job. After that we showered, went to the store, and then relaxed enjoying the feeling of having made it to D.C.

August 2nd - Washington D.C.

We got up fairly early this morning and went over to the Capitol building. We all invaded Mike McCormick's office as he was going to take us on a personal tour. He took us over to the capitol and showed us all the places shown on the regular tour plus many more which most

tourists don't get to see. He let us go down into the chamber of the House and sit in the actual seats that the Representatives sit in. We even got our picture taken with him on the capitol steps. By then my legs ached and I felt totally exhausted. I guess I just wasn't used to all this exercise.

We then walked over to the Space and Aeronautics building of the Smithsonian Institute. It was just a huge place. It contained such famous things as the Wright Brothers plane, the Spirit of St. Louis, and many of the space capsules. There seemed to be no end to that place, and it took us quite a long time to see everything.

We then went back to the church and took naps. Later on the boys went downtown, but Jani and I

stayed home and played Monopoly and watched T.V. What a way to spend an evening in Washington D.C. but we needed some time to take it easy.

August 3rd - Washington D.C.

We slept in till about eight thirty this morning. We went downtown as we had a tour set up at the State Department. We went through many rooms where they entertain foreign diplomats and saw a bunch of displays showing foreign relations between the U.S. and other countries. It was really neat.

After that Jani and I went with Syd, Judy, and the boys down to the Mall. We ate lunch on the grass and had a good time feeding the pigeons. We walked up into the Lincoln Memorial. That was such a neat place. It had the Gettysburg Address

and other things Lincoln had said inscribed on the walls. I just sat there and stared at that for the longest time. It really made me think. Lincoln looked so life like that you could just see him in real life.

After that we walked by Reflection Pool and went way down to the Washington Monument. We wandered around on the grass and then went over to the Smithsonian Museum of Natural Science. We saw a lot of animals that were stuffed and looked really neat. We saw the Hope Diamond and a 50 inch perfect crystal ball. Then of course we had to go home on the bus. It took us a while to figure out which one to get on, but we finally managed to get on the right one. The church we are staying in is only two blocks over from

the all black slum section.
It is alot different from home
where we have only two blacks
in our whole school.

August 4th

Jani and I took off by ourselves
today. It was a neat feeling
to be free and not have to
have one of the guys come with
us. We rode the bus downtown,
sory

Money

Total Amount	\$350.00	Check (20)
June 23 - Food	\$ 5.00	
	\$345.00	
June 24 - Food	<u>2.00</u>	
	343.00	
Film	<u>2.00</u>	
	341.00	
Cord	<u>1.00</u>	
	340.00	
June 25 - Present - Mom & Dad	<u>3.00</u>	
	337.00	
Fine Crackers	<u>2.00</u>	
	335.00	
Necklace	<u>1.75</u>	
	333.25	
Breakfast -	<u>1.50</u>	
	331.75	
Lunch	<u>1.00</u>	
	330.75	Check (20)
Dinner -	<u>1.00</u>	
	329.75	
Film -	<u>2.00</u>	
	327.75	
Shower	<u>1.75</u>	
	326.00	

2/25/12

4
29
143

June 26 - Breakfast	326.00
	<u>1.40</u>
	324.60
Lunch	2.60
Postcards	<u>.40</u>
	3.00
	<u>321.60</u>
Shower	<u>.60</u>
	321.00
June 27 - Breakfast	<u>1.50</u>
Lunch	319.50
Dinner	<u>3.65</u>
	315.85
June 28 Lunch	<u>2.85</u>
	313.00
Breakfast	<u>3.00</u>
	310.00 Check
June 29 Food	
30 Food	
July 1 Food	
July 2	290.00 Check
July 3 Food, Film	<u>10.00</u>
Toothpaste, Shampoo	280.00
July 4 Breakfast	270.00 Check
July 5	260.00
6 & 7	
July 8, 9, 10	250.00

July 10	250.00 Check
11	Phone Call - 5.00
12	<u>240.00</u>
July 13	230.00 Check
July 14	
15	
16	
17	210.00 Check
July 18	
19	
20	
21	1,941.00
Breakfast - \$1.10	1.90 Check
July 22	
23	
24	
25	1.70 Check
26 - Baseball	6.50
27	Check
28	
29	
30	
31	
August 1	Check

August 2 nd	Post Cards	¹ .75
	Pop Sicle	.25
	Pillow Case	2.50
		<u>3.50</u>