

CYCLE HISTORY 16
PROCEEDINGS OF THE 16TH INTERNATIONAL CYCLING HISTORY CONFERENCE





CYCLE HISTORY 16

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 16TH INTERNATIONAL
CYCLING HISTORY CONFERENCE**

DAVIS, CALIFORNIA, USA, 7-10 SEPTEMBER 2005

EDITED BY ANDREW RITCHIE



PUBLISHED BY VAN DER PLAS PUBLICATIONS / CYCLE PUBLISHING
SAN FRANCISCO
WITH GENEROUS FUNDING FROM THE
CYCLE TOURING & COUNTRYSIDE TRUST (UK)

Copyright © with the individual authors, 2006

Printed in the United States of America

Published by:

Van der Plas Publications / Cycle Publishing

1282 7th Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94122, USA

E-mail: rvdp@cyclepublishing.com

Web site: <http://www.cyclepublishing.com>

Distributed or represented to the book trade by:

USA: Midpoint Trade Books

UK: Orca Book Services

Australia: Woodslane Pty Ltd.

Continental Europe: <http://www.fahrradbuch.de>

Cover design: Rob van der Plas, using a photo from the Miller Collection at UC Davis

Frontispiece illustration: George B. Thayer, so crossed the North-American continent from Hartford, Connecticut, to San Francisco in 1886, provided by John Weiss, from his collection

Publisher's Cataloging in Publication Data

Cycle History 16: Proceedings of the 16th International Cycling History Conference

ISBN 978-1-892495-54-9

I. Title: Proceedings of the 16th International Cycling History Conference

Includes biographical information and index

Library of Congress Control Number: 2006904901

FOREWORD

The Cycle Touring & Countryside Trust (CT&CT) is pleased to sponsor the publication of these *Proceedings*. The International Cycle History Conference (ICHC) held in Davis, California, was the sixteenth to be held, and demonstrated the growth of interest in research into cycling and its history. The ICHC represents an important part of the cycling world and a link between the enthusiast and academia seldom found elsewhere. When problems arose concerning the production of its *Proceedings*, the trustees of the CT&CT felt strongly that they should act to secure their future publication.

The CT&CT is a charity which was formed in 1976 by the Cyclists' Touring Club (CTC) for the benefit of cyclists. Its objectives are quite broad, but the heritage-related areas and the cultural contribution made by cycling has been the central focus of the Trust's work in recent years.

The National Cycle Archive (NCA), established in 1990, is one of the major achievements of the Trust. This is housed at Warwick University and contains the historical records of the leading cycling organisations in the United Kingdom, such as the CTC and British Cycling, along with collections of papers and ephemeral material. It has its own Friends network and produces *Cycling Heritage*, which gives an overview of each year's activities. Subscribers receive an *Annual* providing more detailed information about the Trust. To find out more contact <http://nationalcyclearchive.co.uk>.

Other historical work undertaken by the Trust has been the re-printing of some of the rarer books from the early days of cycling in the 1860s and 1870s, along with Ted Williams' *Bibliography of Cycling Books*, which is a valuable work of reference for cycling historians.

It is also a little-known fact that the CT&CT underwrote the publication of the first set of *Proceedings*, for the Glasgow Conference in 1990. Rob van der Plas' offer to take on the production of future *Proceedings* in 1994, after he had published the Boston Conference *Proceedings*, was supported by the Trust. Since then, in Rob's hands, the *Proceedings* have been produced to a high standard, which the trustees of the CT&CT intend to secure into the future.

Dr. Andrew Millward
Secretary CT&CT (UK Registered Charity No 272792)



EDITOR'S PREFACE

The Davis Conference was a smoothly flowing event for which our hosts, David Takemoto-Weerts and Tim Bustos are to be thanked and congratulated. They work closely together on all aspects of cycling issues in the city of Davis, and the Conference was a splendid example of their cooperation and coordination. The final banquet was held in a downtown restaurant, and was, contrary to some past banquets, a somewhat staid and respectable affair, graced by the presence of the Mayoress of Davis.

Brief mention should be made here of Davis' status as the premier cycling city in the United States in terms of *per capita* bicycle usage and bicycle facilities—a practical symbol of what can be achieved when civic institutions devote themselves to the practical potential of the bicycle. David Takemoto-Weerts' article describing the progress made in Davis is included here in recognition of the city's contribution. Many of the delegates were taken on a guided tour of the extensive bikeway facilities in the city and on the University campus, where it was vividly demonstrated how dedicated bicycle paths can be integrated into the structure of a small city. On the campus, the dedicated bicycle roundabouts were the object of special and fascinated attention.

The papers printed here constitute the usual eclectic mixture of cycling history topics which characterize our Conferences. Once again, Iain Boal provides a provocative global historical perspective. Three papers (Takemoto, Botkin, and Sommer) deal with Californian issues appropriate to the Davis location of the Conference. Four papers (Zheutlin, Sanderson, Fox, and Weiss) tackle varied aspects of long-distance bicycle touring. Wilcher takes on a subject almost ignored in the critical literature of cycling, the American competitive cycling boom of the 1970s. Clayton returns to the more traditional 'meat' of cycling history, the early days of the velocipede. Perhaps most challenging from an academic standpoint are the four papers (Rubenson, Epperson, Burr, and Petty) which tackle wider sociological and transportation issues, Burr's especially timely for the questions he raises about the similarities and contrasts between American and French issues in the 1890–1910 period. These are serious and meaty topics, and papers, to which I am sure scholars will be returning in the future.

Conference attendees were privileged to have the opportunity while in Davis to inspect the machines which constitute the Miller Collection, which now belongs to the University, and we have included some historical background to this collection, and photographs of some of the machines, in the Appendix.

For me, the Thursday evening "Pioneers of the Mountain Bike" meeting was the most risky and memorable part of the three-day Conference. The idea was to bring the leading personalities involved in the early days of the mountain bike together in one room and let them give us their individual perspectives on these historical developments, which changed the face of bicycle evolution from the 1970s on. Could we bring away from the encounter any lessons which might help us understand the process by which individual creators and companies collaborate or compete, agree or disagree about the past? Invitations were sent out to Joe Breeze, Gary Fisher, Charlie Kelly, Tom Ritchey, Alan Bonds, Otis Guy, John Finley Scott, and on the evening of Thursday, 8th September, there they all were, joined by early woman's mountain bike racer Jacquie Phelan, on stage at the Cantina del Cabo, with Paula Mara and Iain Boal as moderators. A riotous evening ensued! My intention had been to record the event on film and to transcribe the talks for the *Proceedings*. However, although the film exists, with a sound-track, I was unable to get a copy of it from the maker. We will have to wait until some future time to see it.

Andrew Ritchie

For the Publisher's Remarks, please see page 206 at the end of this volume.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Iain Boal	“Re-Inventing the Wheel”	8
2. David Takemoto-Weerts	Evolution of a Cyclist-Friendly Community: The Davis Model	11
3. Aaron Wilcher	Prisoners of the Road: American Veloci-power in the 1970s.	15
4. Jonathan Botkin	The California Associated Cycling Clubs and the Secession from the League of American Wheelmen in 1897	30
5. Bob Sommer	Bikeway Research at the University of California, Davis in the 1960s	47
6. Peter Zheutlin	Round the World: The Cycling Adventure of Annie Londonderry 1894–1895	52
7. Nick Clayton	James Hastings and the High Peak Velocipede Club	66
8. Paul Rubenson	Missing Link: The Case for Bicycle Transportation in the United States in the Early 20th Century	73
9. Sally Helvenston Gray and Mihaela C. Peteu	Women’s Cycling Attire: The Interplay of Cycle Design and Women’s Cycling Attire in the 1890s: The Inventor’s Point of View.	85
10. Bruce Epperson	“It Cannot Be That They Have Made No Profit”: The Great Bicycle Trust, 1899–1903	98
11. Robert S. Kossuth and Kevin B. Wamsley	Cycling on the Range: Men and their Machines on the Canadian Prairie Frontier	111
12. Thomas Burr	French Expansion, American Collapse, 1890–1910	120
13. Nicholas Oddy	The Cycle on Display.	143
14. Ross D. Petty	The Bicycle as a Communications Medium: A Comparison of Bicycle Use by the U.S. Postal Service and Western Union Telegraph Company.	147
15. Gary Sanderson	Across America: A comparison of a ride across America on ordinary bicycles in 2004 with the first bicycle ride across America by Thomas Stevens in 1884.	160
16. Karen M. Fox	Women and Cycle Touring: Re-thinking the mid-1920s through the 1950s from a Canadian Women’s Perspective	175
17. John Weiss	Destination San Francisco	183
<i>Appendix</i>	<i>The Miller Collection (By Andrew Ritchie)</i>	201
	<i>Publisher’s Remarks.</i>	206