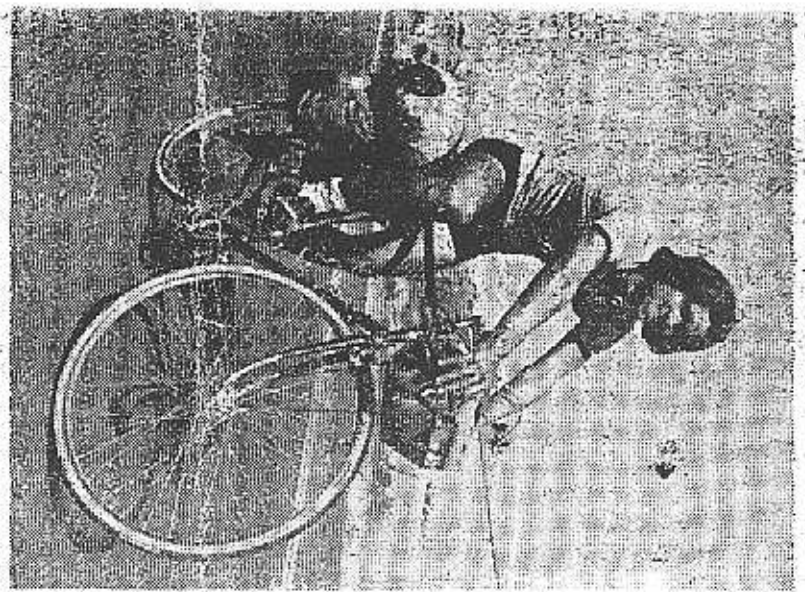


THE SOUNDING BOARD



COMPLETING 1182-mile bicycle trip into southern part of California was Rick Reeves of Encino. He averaged 70 miles per day. His longest ride for day was from Yosemite to Lone-Some Pines, 150 miles. Reeves took trip with buddy John Burnell. What impressed him most were beauty of state and kindness of its people.

Practically in Rick Reeves' own words is the description of the bike trip taken by him and his buddy, John Burnell. He says:

"I guess the reason the trip came into existence was that I wanted to see California from a different perspective. I chose a bicycle because of its unique position: Half-way between walking and driving a car. I figured all the great beauty of the state and its people would look different from the saddle of my 10-speed. As it turned out, I was right.

"My friend, John Burnell and I left the Valley (Aug. 6) our bikes creaking under the load of camping gear as we climbed over the Pacific Coastal Highway — a road we got to know well as it led us to Santa Cruz via overnight stops in Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Pacific Valley, Big Sur and Monterey.

Through Redwoods

"We turned inland at Santa Cruz and followed Highway 9 through the redwoods where we camped overnight before descending into Palo Alto. After a night with an old college friend in Palo Alto we crossed the Bay and rode the Bay Area Rapid Transit system from

Fremont to Concord. This was the only occasion we used non-bike transport during the tour.

"From Concord we rode to Sacramento along Highway 160 which parallels the Sacramento River. We stayed in Sacramento three days with my brother showing us the sights, riding down the American river, eating fresh food and sleeping in real beds.

"Then we struck out for Lake Tahoe via Interstate 80. Because of rainy weather, we arrived at the majestic Sierra three days later — cold and wet, and just in time for more rain. We spent a day drying out at Tahoe, then headed south along Highway 89, through the Sierras, to Bootleg, a campground 10 miles south of Walker on Route 895.

Explore Meadows

"The next day we followed the popular north-south road to a campsite just outside Yosemite National Park. After a night there we scouted the 9941-foot Tioga Pass and descended into the glacial wonders of Yosemite.

"Shunning the overcrowded, steaming Valley floor, we explored Tuolumne Meadows and

the lakes around it then, after a night's rest, set out for home, a three-day trip.

"When we reached Bishop the next afternoon, John decided to take the bus home. I wanted to complete the original plans so went on alone. The last three days I rode from sunup to sundown, as many as 150 miles a day, in an effort to get through the barren Owens Valley-Mojave Desert areas as quickly as possible. After overnight stops in Lone Pine and Mojave, I returned to Encino Aug. 27, tired and sore, but satisfied.

"The tour was overall had biked 1182 miles and had seen much of the Northern half of the state.

Meet Good People

"I think the most rewarding part of the whole thing were the people we met. Bicycle tourists are still something of an anomaly in the United States, and the people we met, campers and tourists alike, took a sincere interest in us. They were great.

"Almost everywhere we stopped, we were questioned about our ride, given food and water, and places to sleep. Even better, we didn't see thieves or bad city

ers.
"Did the trip live up to my expectations? Except for the weather train in the Sierras my trip exceeded the expectations. The combination of beautiful scenery and beautiful people made it the best, experience of my life.

"The most interesting thing? That would be when I met the film crew and cast of "Barnaby Jones" on location in Mint Canyon, on the last day of the trip. Buddy Ebsen asked me to lunch. He's great.

"Would I do it again? Definitely I would. It is difficult at times, particularly in the desert, but when I was done everything I made it worthwhile.

Total miles covered, 1182. Average daily mileage, 70. Highest point, Tioga Pass, 9941 feet. Longest day's ride, Yosemite to Lone-Some Pine, 150 miles.

27
26
21 days
17 hrs. and