

Hitting the trail

Pair summer cycle to Alaska

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

The smell of new places, the lure of a strange road and the thrill of fighting the elements played their sirens' song for Frank Bethard and Larry Schroeder.

The two are riding their motorcycles from their Boca Raton, Fla. homes to Anchorage, Alaska. They hope to drive 400 miles of gravel roads through Canada to their destination by July 16.

For Bethard, 62, and Schroeder, 44, the trip offers a sense of adventure and a chance to indulge in one of their favorite pastimes, riding their cycles.

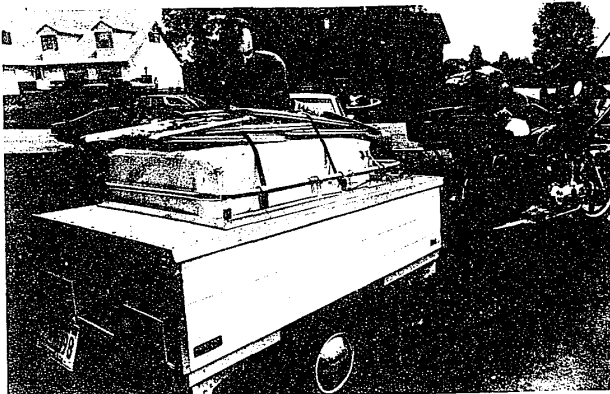
"It gives you a sense of freedom," said Bethard, whose interest in biking spans 50 years.

"You become part of the elements. You're more aware of the odors in a city and the temperature. It's not like sitting back in an air-conditioned car or a heated car," said Schroeder.

"I was going through Atlanta with the dogwood in bloom. You can smell the odors of a city."

The duo recently stopped to visit Robert Hood in his Farmington Hills home.

"They called me and asked, 'Could we stop off at your place for a hot shower,'" Hood said.



Tightening up the gear resting on the motorcycle trailer is Larry Schroeder, who prepares for another

stretch of the long journey. (Staff photo by Randy Bort)



The sign tells the story. Larry Schroeder (left) and Frank Bethard are heading from one of the warmest states to one of the coldest on their motorcycles. The pair stopped for a visit at the Robert Hood residence in Farmington Hills. (Staff photo by Randy Bort)



Departing after a brief visit to Farmington Hills friends are Frank Bethard (foreground) and Larry Schroeder. Destination — Alaska. (Staff photo by Randy Bort)

"I SAID, 'You're on your way where?'"

The three knock each other through their jobs at IBM.

The ambitious trip began several months ago when a friend of Schroeder's came up with the idea of biking to Alaska. When it turned out that the friend couldn't go, Schroeder kept on planning his trip, waiting for another traveling partner to arrive on the scene.

Bethard became that partner after another mutual friend convinced him to join Schroeder on the trip. Besides his long standing interest in motorcycles, Bethard saw another advantage in making the trek. His son, Frank Jr., daughter-in-law Kathy and grandchildren, Brian, 3½, Todd, 5½ and Heather, 8½ live in Anchorage.

Since June 30, the pair have put in long days on their bikes. Bethard's Honda 750 is followed by his partner's Yamaha 1100 plus a small trailer.

"It looks like he's riding with training wheels when I use both of the mirrors on my bike," Bethard joked.

"Sometimes, I ride like that too," Schroeder said.

Unlike Bethard, Schroeder's interest in motorcycles began one year ago when he helped a friend pick out a new bike. He's so enamored of the vehicle he takes his wife Joy out to Sunday breakfast on it.

THE ONLY HITCHES in the trip they foresee are the gravel roads and the weather.

For the rider of a motorcycle, 75 degree weather can mean piling on a warm jacket to shield him from the wind.

Gravel roads are the most difficult to traverse, according to the two.

"It's going to be quite a challenge. You have to watch out for three diseases, corner-itis, gravel rash and elbow-itis," Bethard cracked.

As translated by Bethard, that means a cyclist must watch out for becoming too afraid of turning a corner on a gravel road. Riders have to take care not to spill their bikes on gravel roads and pick up an armful of souvenir gravel.

So far on their trip, the two riders have met with encouragement from other travelers.

"We get a big grin a wave and good luck from people in cars and other cyclists," said Schroeder.

"That's unexpected if you're on a motorcycle. I expected a cool reception. That's not the case at all. People have been extremely funny," he said.

Both claim that a motorcycle is more comfortable than riding a car.

"YOU'RE MORE relaxed than when you're driving a car. There's a physical tenseness between the shoulder blades that doesn't go away. Physically, that's the only thing that bothers you," Schroeder said.

Schroeder's wife will meet them in Regina, Saskatchewan.

"I promised her that we'd go to a hotel once a week," he said. That shouldn't pose a problem.

"It's been a nice week and so far we've been 100 percent (by staying in motels each night.) We haven't unfolded the tent yet."

INSIDE ANGLES

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

OOOPS That \$50 fee quoted for Safety Town carried inflation a bit too far. It should have read \$16 for residents and \$2 extra for non-residents. The program sponsored by the Farmington Hills Police Department and the Parks and Recreation Department aims at teaching preschoolers traffic safety. During the program's two weeks, the participants get to ride their Big Wheels around the town set up in the Shiawassee Recreation Center, 35415 Shiawassee, east of Orchard Lake Road. Classes run Monday-Friday, July 7-18 or July 21 to Aug. 1. Morning session are from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Afternoon class is from 1-3 p.m. For more information, call the recreation department at 474-6115.

ANGLES GIVES a special salute to Teresa Trabulsi, courtesy of her parents, Lily and Joe Trabulsi of Farmington Hills. Ms. Trabulsi, an '80 grad of North Farmington High School, leaves July 8 to attend college in Santa Barbara, Calif. She plans to major in psychology. That news was given to Angles in a letter which read in part: "Teresa, may you never lose sight of your dreams and may all those dreams come true. Just remember there's a whole new world waiting to welcome you. Good luck in California. We are all going to miss you. Love, Mom, Dad, Paul and Donna."

Angles believes those words could be echoed by every family seeing a son or daughter off to college or a new job.

ONE MORE TIME IA lists the events which residents and visitors can expect to see at the Founders Festival, July 23-27.

• This is the 13th year in which the Plaza Merchants Association sponsors a pet show. This year's show will be at 3 p.m. July 25 in the Farmington Shopping Plaza. The following categories will be part of this year's show: twin class, two most evenly matched pets; pet with the waggiest tail; most talented section in which your pooch, cat, bird or whatever get 30 seconds to perform; most spots; smallest pets (ants or other insects don't count); most unusual pet; best dressed pet and owner and homeliest pet. A new class is added to this year's line up. A trophy will be awarded to the senior citizen who has the pet best suited to him or her. Trophies will be awarded to first, second and third place winners in each classification. Entry forms will contest rules are available at Pets 'N' Particulars Pet Shop and other Farmington Shopping Plaza merchants who provide prizes.

• Vicky Whinnery, Miss Farmington 1979, will bestow the crown on the winner of this year's Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant during the ceremonies, which begin at 7 p.m. July 23 in Vladimir's on Grand River near Eight Mile. Tickets are available at the Farmington Chamber of

Commerce office in the Masonic Temple building, Grand River and Farmington Road.

• The Elks will serve up their ox roast from noon to 9 p.m. July 24-27 in their customary spot in the Downtown Farmington Center parking lot. Their annual contest will take place at 6:30 p.m. July 26 in the Lodge on Orchard Lake Road. The Lodge will be the second site of the ox roast.

• More than 100 dealers will show their arts and crafts from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. July 24-26 on the Masonic Temple grounds.

• The annual dinners at the Masonic Temple, sponsored by Temple organizations are scheduled as follows: noon to 6 p.m. July 20, chicken BBQ; from 5-7 p.m. July 23, pasta dinner; from 5-7 p.m. July 24, smorgasbord; from 5-7 p.m. July 25, Swiss steak dinner; from 5-7 p.m. July 26, ham dinner and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 27, a pancake breakfast.

• The Farmington High School Music Patrons will host his bingo tent from noon to 10 p.m. July 24-26 in the Farmington Insurance Agency parking lot in the Downtown Center.

• The Farmington Hills Police Firearms Demonstration and Display will be at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. July 25 and at 12:30, 2 and 4 p.m. July 26 at their outdoor pistol range. Directions will be posted on Grand River in front of White Motors.

• The Farmington Area Arts Commission will feature the children's "Art-In" from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 24-26 on the Farmington Training Center lawn.

• Table tennis tournament sponsored by the U.S. Table Tennis Association will be from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. July 19 in the Farmington YMCA gym. About 130 players from novice to professionals will vie for trophies and \$250 in cash.

• The annual softball tournament sponsored by the Farmington Hills Parks and Rec department will be conducted from 6-11 p.m. July 25, from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. July 26 and from 9 a.m. July 27 at baseball diamonds in the area. The tourney is for teams playing in a sponsored Parks and Rec league or teams with 75 percent of its members living or working in the two cities. The double-elimination tournament will register as many teams that qualify with the championship games played at the on July 27 at the Knights of Columbus. For more information, call parks and rec, 474-6115.

• The annual Frisbee contest sponsored by parks and rec will flip its way into the festivities at 10 a.m. July 23 in the city park on Shiawassee Road and Power.

All our kids' swimwear is a shore bet at hot savings sale 4.99 to 11.99

Reg. 6.50 to \$18. Heading your way, a wave of savings on swimwear for babes, toddlers, girls' 7 to 14, boys' 4 to 7, young teens and young guys. Choose from our current summer collection including one and two piece styles from famous makers like Speedo, Donmoor, Izod, Little Miss Dune Deck, Pelican and more. Shown, two from the group, 250 units. Swimwear.

*Total units available at each Hudson's store while they last.

hudson's