

Nation wide bike trail slated for '76

By ROBERT A. SKLAR
Bicycling for recreation will shift into high gear during our country's bicentennial celebration in 1976.

That's when the 3,700-mile Trans-America Bike Trail (TABT), the premier trans-continental bicycle trail, will take shape.

Backers envision TABT paralleling or crossing a host of historic national trails, including the Oregon Trail, the Continental Divide Trail and the Santa Fe Trail.

Meticulously plotted along existing back roads, TABT will pass through or near expanses of wilderness area, primitive land, national prairies, grasslands and desert. It further will touch settled rural regions of the Ozarks, colonial Virginia and Kentucky's blue-

grass territory.

To make TABT a permanent fixture replete with low-cost way-stops such as youth hostels and campgrounds, cooperation and funding at the federal, state and local levels are being solicited.

Directing TABT's development is Bicentennial, Inc., a nonprofit organization sanctioned by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration. Bicentennial is working in tandem with the American Youth Hostels and the League of American Wheelmen. Among Bicentennial's primary aims are:

- To research and implement public bicycle facilities for recreational purposes.
- To inform the public about bicycle use and safety.
- To promote American history

and character through bicycle travel.

HELPING BLUEPRINT Bicentennial's industrious, pioneering effort are the U.S. Department of Transportation, Department of Commerce and Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Projections peg the effort as the prototype to a national bicycle-trail system encompassing all 50 states.

Touring TABT will mix adventure with education in similar proportions, says a brochure put out by Bicentennial.

"There will be opportunities to appreciate local historical events, geography, different people and to better understand man's ties with land and the environment," the brochure says.

"Some communities (along TABT)," continues the brochure,

"will sponsor fairs, rodeos, festivals, concerts or craft displays."

"In many areas, special bus shuttles from over-nights may be arranged for scheduled summer or special bicentennial events up to 50 miles away."

"In addition, some evenings will be highlighted with guest musicians, story tellers or naturalists. Once each week, a community dinner will allow bicyclists and local residents to get together for an evening."

In several parts of the country, circuit loops speaking out of TABT are slated. At least one such loop will open next year. It will circumscribe the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, largest wilderness area in the continental United States.

Some smaller loops also will open before 1976. One will link

Lolo Pass, the Lewis and Clark Trail and primitive forest roads in the Clearwater and Nezperce national forests.

Well-trained pacesetters and assistants will head up TABT tours, handling everything from first-aid and minor repairs to social problems and logistics. However, tour riders will retain most of their daily independence, starting and ending their travel at their own discretion.

Independent bicycling clubs and councils may sponsor their own tours along TABT with Bicentennial approval, provided they supply competent leadership.

BICENTENNIAL AND Bicentennial-approved tours will feature a variety of personal services—good, overnight lodging, re-

pairs, equipment shuttle, and guide books. Lodging accommodations will be spaced every 40 to 60 miles; tour riders will have numerous options for these accommodations.

Bicyclists may register for either full services or limited services (which do not cover food and lodging expenses). Tours will be run at cost; actual costs, schedule and registration details will be available next autumn.

Bicentennial's research and operating revenue is derived from private contributions and government grants plus foundation and corporate support.

Membership fees engender income for Bicentennial too. For membership information, write Bicentennial 76, P.O. Box 1035, Missoula, Mont. 59801.

Relay win for Barons

Bloomfield Hills Andover got its swimming season off to a flying start this week when it captured the Mt. Clemens Invitational Relays and set four meet records in the process.

Cris Leman, Steve Brady, Bruce McIntosh and Ian Dittus combined for a record time of 7:47 in the 800 yard freestyle relay.

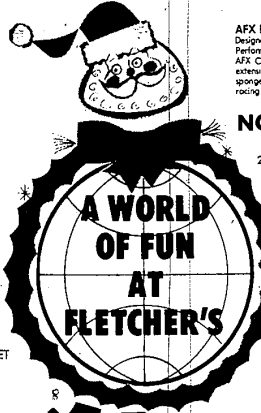
Steve Anderson, Lehman, Brady and Barry Swormstedt put together the second meet record with a 1:34.4 in the 200 freestyle relay.

The 400 yard medley relay team of Dave Tucker, Terry Meter, Dittus and McIntosh swam to a record 4:03.5 in that event and the final record came in the 400 yard freestyle relay when Swormstedt, Bob Sworge, Brady and Dittus combined for a 3:34.5.

The other Baron first in the meet came in the 200 yard backstroke relay when Tucker, Carl Thomas, Lee Gunn and Swormstedt swam to a 1:54.3.

Final team standings showed Andover on top with 166 points followed by Grand Blanc (90), East Detroit (82), Allen Park (60), St. Clair Shores Lakeview (42), and host Mt. Clemens (30).

Baron coach Mike Lane said that he expects great things from his team this season.



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