



B.I.K.E.

B.I.K.E. -- is it just an acronym in search of a meaning or does it have meaning outside its acronymic existence?

A group bicycle ride started in Venice and proceeded south along the beach bike path to and around the Palos Verdes Peninsula and back. At an overlook of the Long Beach harbor, B.I.K.E. free-associated its way into being. Definitions of the B.I.K.E. acronym vary but B.I.K.E. is not well served in the expenditure of time on definition.

Here are personal remembrances about B.I.K.E.:

"...Maybe B.I.K.E. was formed in each of our respective minds at different times... For me it was sitting at a rest stop by the side of the road on P.V. hill, with a view to the east, just past half way of a ride with Peter, Doug, you, Evan and me. I remember Mo joined us at the bench. Without further research, I can only place it between about 1982 and 1984. I think we collectively, but maybe Peter or Doug in particular, came up with the acronym "B.I.K.E." and then we all tried to figure out what it should stand for. Bicycling Institute of Kinetic Energy was the only (but still lame) title I can remember anybody coming up with. All of those present were deemed charter members and we then loosely discussed bylaws, but the only one that really counted was the "egalitarian" principle that anyone could unilaterally establish or void any rule at any time..." Karl - 30 June 1998

".... I have a clear recollection that on the original Palos Verdes ride, it was Pete, Chris, Evan, me and (maybe) Karl. After some discussion, Bicyclers' Institute of Kinetic Energy (BIKE) was formed at the resting place on the south side of the peninsula, overlooking beautiful San Pedro.... " Doug - 1 July 1998

The B.I.K.E. Penny



The B.I.K.E. Penny has always stood proudly for everything that is decent and good in B.I.K.E. Indeed one cannot think of B.I.K.E. without paying homage to The B.I.K.E. Penny. Born on the wrong side of the tracks in Long Beach, The B.I.K.E. Penny overcame its humble origins and became B.I.K.E.'s shining symbol of good will and fellowship.

Testimonials to The B.I.K.E. Penny confirm its importance to B.I.K.E.:

" I often wonder about The B.I.K.E. Penny - it was such an influential part of our lives. " Evan

Transferred among B.I.K.E. chapters over the years, The B.I.K.E. Penny originated with B.I.K.E. NORTH, moved to B.I.K.E. SOUTH , back to B.I.K.E. NORTH (as pictured here), and now resides with B.I.K.E. NORTHWEST.

On March 21st, 1985 as pictured here, B.I.K.E. SOUTH formally presented The B.I.K.E. Penny to a representative of B.I.K.E. NORTH who had solo bicycled with tremendous effort to the B.I.K.E. SOUTH region. This presentation formally transferred ownership of The B.I.K.E. Penny back to B.I.K.E. NORTH. Click on the picture to see if you can actually pick out The B.I.K.E. Penny in all of its radiant glory.

As a freeform fellowship without an institutional base, B.I.K.E. has never kept sound records of its business and history and particularly items of archival interest. The B.I.K.E. Penny has circulated freely among B.I.K.E. and has been missing in action at times over the years.

"Gentlemen: It is with heavy heart that I must inform each of you that as of the present time, I am unable to locate the B.I.K.E. penny. It was known to be in my possession, and was last seen in the Den of Iniquity. I ask you as representatives of the various B.I.K.E. chapters (North, South, Bay Area, and Lake Erie) to bear with me during this dark time of confusion, and say a prayer to whatever god you worship for the safe return of the symbol of all that is true and good. P.S. If I passed the aforementioned B.I.K.E. penny on to any of you knuckleheads, please inform me so that I may cease my endless search ! " Chris - 13 July 1998

Though this announcement causes concern on a materialistic level, The B.I.K.E. Penny has always been a spiritual presence within B.I.K.E. particularly since the B.I.K.E. Diaspora. The fact that The B.I.K.E. Penny may now be a disembodied concept for B.I.K.E. doesn't change its iconic role. This is not to say that its periodic disappearances have not been a cause for concern within B.I.K.E. With life being a temporal phenomenon, one clings to whatever brings inspiration and uplifts the human spirit and The B.I.K.E. Penny certainly fulfills that role in the hearts of B.I.K.E.

"I have sunk to a profound state of despair upon receiving your lastest email. I have just finished searching my penny collection of (greater than) 10 to the third members in order to find that one precious remembrance of our past. Sadly, all the pennies in my collection look just about the same. Perhaps, the remaining emeritus members of B.I.K.E. should have the first ever INTERNET MEMORIAL for the previously treasured BIKE penny. One more thing: we up here in the Erie area like to refer to this part of the US as the "NORTH COAST". Evan - 14 July 1998

The Quarter Step Crank

"...it was a balmy night in the hills above west Los Angeles, yet there was something charged about this atmosphere. Little could I imagine that before the evening ended, I would begin a lifelong friendship with the Erlenmeyer flask, and witness a fundamental paradigm shift in bicycling ergonomics - the quarter step crank....." Peter (as channeled through Chris)

The development of the quarter step crankset surely represents the pinnacle of B.I.K.E. in the earlier years. Many minutes of fevered technical discussion combined with the considerable man-years of technical expertise within B.I.K.E. led one evening to a serendipitous discovery: *the quarter step crank* ! This discovery was so momentous that it should be capitalized to add greater emphasis to this remarkable achievement: The Quarter Step Crank.

B.I.K.E. proved conclusively that it was able to think outside the box and push the envelope of human progress considerably farther than it had dared gone before. Indeed, many great leaps forward in science and technology have been due to serendipity and B.I.K.E. has been no stranger to that remarkable process of invention.

Fortunately a camera was present on that balmy early summer evening of June 1st, 1984 in Kenter Canyon in the hills of Brentwood when The Quarter Step Crank came down the birth canal of B.I.K.E. thereby revolutionizing bicycle ergonomics forever !! Click on the pictures below to see the final steps of B.I.K.E.'s development of The Quarter Step Crank in larger image sizes. These larger images are necessary to fully document the development of this fundamental and radical paradigm shift in bicycling ergonomics -- **The Quarter Step Crank !!!**



During B.I.K.E. Clinic, the B.I.K.E. Technical Consultant does quality control check on "B.B.B" (B.I.K.E. Bottom Bracket) while the B.I.K.E. Technical Assistant looks on.
[6/1/84]



B.I.K.E. Surgeon makes final adjustments in crucial operation with interaction of the B.I.K.E. Technical Assistant.

The B.I.K.E. Technical Assistant assists with a wrench while mopping sweat from the brow of the B.I.K.E. Surgeon.
[6/1/84]



The B.I.K.E. Quarter Step Crank

B.I.K.E.'s crowning achievement !!!

The B.I.K.E. Technical Assistant verifies the precise installation with a measuring instrument.

[6/1/84]

The Human Toll in the B.I.K.E. Quest for Greatness



B.I.K.E. has suffered more than its share of fallen warriors as B.I.K.E. has pressed farther into the outer reaches of human experience.

Who shall forget the trauma B.I.K.E. suffered with the accidents of Fernando and Chris?
[July 1984]

B.I.K.E. Joint Symposium on Kinetic Effects



B.I.K.E. SOUTH formed in August 1984 as a splinter group of B.I.K.E. NORTH. On September 7, 1984 in San Diego, B.I.K.E. SOUTH hosted the B.I.K.E. Joint Symposium on Kinetic Effects. Here is the B.I.K.E. NORTH representative in attendance at the B.I.K.E. Joint Symposium on Kinetic Effects.

The tinted swim goggles were necessary to avoid retinal damage from the intense flash of the camera. [9/7/84]

B.I.K.E. Joint Technical Assembly

B.I.K.E. NORTH hosted a B.I.K.E. Joint Technical Assembly in Venice on December 16, 1984 with various members of B.I.K.E. NORTH and B.I.K.E. SOUTH in attendance.



At the B.I.K.E. Joint Technical Assembly, the B.I.K.E. Technical Assistant checks the bottom bracket bearing adjustment while the B.I.K.E. Head Mechanic listens for bearing rumble.

[12/16/84]



....and then despair set in.

B.I.K.E. Head Mechanic has just inadvertently installed the old bottom bracket spindle (rather than the new one) at the B.I.K.E. Joint Technical Assembly. [12/16/84]



The B.I.K.E. Technical Assistant has proven indispensable on numerous occasions including his active duty at this B.I.K.E. Joint Technical Assembly. The tinted swim goggles were necessary to avoid retinal damage from the intense flash of the camera.

[12/16/84]

B.I.K.E.'s Formative Influences

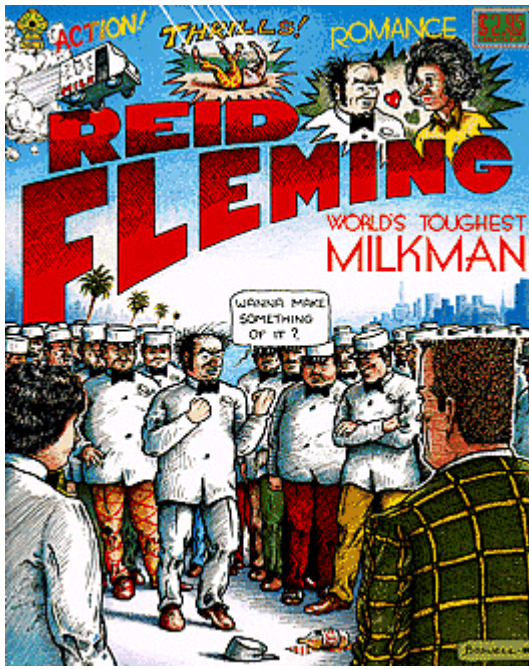
In pondering the rich stew that is B.I.K.E., several seminal influences stand out over the fundament of group bike riding. Certainly, Luna springs to mind and then, undeniably, there is Reid Fleming, World's Toughest Milkman.



Luna the wonder dog

(The tinted swim goggles were necessary to avoid retinal damage from the intense flash of the camera.)

[12/16/84]



The weltanschauung (world view) of Reid Fleming, World's Toughest Milkman, provides particular inspiration to B.I.K.E. Who can forget Reid's immortal line:



" I thought I told you to shut up ! "

Click on the comic book graphic at left to gain a deeper appreciation of the essence of Reid.

" Just how many Mondays can there be in a man's life? I still ask myself. " Chris



If you dare,
explore the timeless philosophy of Reid further
at [Deep Sea Comics](#)