

WHEN THE "BULLETIN" WAS BORN.

BY CAPT. C. P. STAUBACH,

This page is written in response to an invitation addressed to me in the following style:

"Ex-Bicycle Rider.

Was Once but Ain't Now.

Why not? We don't know."

This invitation does not specifically state on what topic I am to write, but I assume that as the article is wanted for the anniversary number, it will not be amiss for me, as, the founder and original editor, to say a word or two regarding the birthday of this publication.

The first number, in 1902, consisted of four fairly large pages, 8x11 in., and was filled with the dryest kind of official news. At that time the officers of the C.R.C.A. were the following: Pres., C. P. Staubach; Vice-Pres., D. E. Lodge; Cor. Sec'y, E. Lee Ferguson; Rec. Sec'y, L. A. Goettler; Treas., Paul Thomas; Captain, J. W. Gull; additional Directors, J. T. Wall, Guy S. Rowell, John Cornish, R. J. Lyle and R. A. Van Dyke.

The first editorial shows just why the paper was started, as will be seen by the following extracts:

"The object of the C.R.C.A. BULLETIN is primarily to keep the widespread membership informed of all that is transpiring, all that has taken place, and all that is planned from month to month. Its mission is to place the members in touch with each other. . . . The publication of the BULLETIN is rendered possible only through

the generosity of the members who have volunteered to become subscribers. . . . Should the time arrive when the paper becomes more than self-supporting, its size and scope will be enlarged beyond the present limits. . . . We, the editors, labor out of Club spirit only, and hope the same Club spirit in all the other members will cause them to lend a helping hand."

The character of this first number may be judged by the following headings of the articles which comprised the issue:

- "Board of Directors."
- "Regular Meetings."
- "1902 Competitions."
- "Ladies' Century Competition."
- "Membership."
- "Record Breaking Competitions."
- "The BULLETIN."
- (Editorial.)
- "The C.R.C.A. Competitions and Prizes."
- "Century Bars."
- "Mileage Bars."
- "Our Contemporaries"
- "Century Mileage Contest."
- "Official Badges, Uniforms, etc."
- "Long Island Checking Stations."
- "Century Checking System."
- "Club House Privileges"
- "Rules Governing Century Rides."
- "List of Subscribers."
- "The Coming Entertainment."
- "C.R.C.A. Committees for 1902."
- "The Press."

The balance of the issue included two-thirds of a column of advertising and a subscription blank. The paper started with a total of 35 subscribers.

The following month there were 29 more subscribers, and the paper was filled with regular official material, but also had some interesting news and items, including



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"Poetical Portraits," a column entitled "Wise and Otherwise," consisting of epigrams by C. N. Andrews; a column entitled "Mainly Personal," also helped to add general interest to the contents of this number, which showed material improvement over the first issue.

The third issue of the paper marked the change from the large sheet to a smaller one, about the size of the present paper, but still containing 4 pages only. The subscribers had now reached 69, and the "ads" one and one-half columns. An interesting item in this number is the fact that it recorded that 28 members had joined within a single month, which was travelling at a pretty good pace.

During the first year of its existence the editorship of the paper remained unchanged, but in the following year R. A. Van Dyke became its editor; at the end of the second year he was succeeded in turn by the original editor, and at the close of the third year it swung back to Mr. Van Dyke again, and has remained in his hands ever since. It will accordingly be noted that the paper in the years of its existence has had only two separate editors-in-chief.

I have been asked to decorate his article by a cut, but cannot find anything to answer the purpose except to contribute one that appeared in the BULLETIN of December, 1902. This cut may serve to bring to mind a number of recollections to those who, like the rider who wrote an article in a recent issue describing an old time Long Island Century, forgot, as he states, the name of the pacemaker who met the run on the way and paced the riders home. This was, no doubt, your humble servant, who had finished a 100-mile race the day before and missed connections with the run, but managed to meet it by riding 25 or 30 miles more than he would have otherwise had to do.

As the cut is an extract from a past BULLETIN, it may not be amiss to republish another extract from a 1902 BULLETIN which shows the brand of poetry which was contributed by that talented genius,

Guy S. Rowell, who is now located on the Pacific Coast:

EVANGELINE REVISED.

This is the forest primeval,
The murmuring pines and the hemlocks,
Earded with moss and in garments green,
Stand like druids of old, stand like harp-
ers hoar,
With voices sad and pathetic.
—Longfellow.

Far on the heights of the Pocantico Hills,
Contiguous to the shelter of umbrageous
forest,
With the voices of the June bug and bull
frog to soothe him,
And with the spirit of the country upon
him,
Dwells the elongated Captain,
Dwells the pride of the Association.
Here in the peace and quiet of the clearing,
Breathing the rare and healthful ozone,
With the fan of the north wind upon him,
Makes he his habitation,
Far from the maddening crowd,
Far from the strife and turmoil of the
city.

He arrives in the gloam of the evening;
With his pants in his boot-tops and pail
in his hand,

He retires to the barnyard,
And waters the mild-eyed bovine,
And extracts the lacteal fluid,
And proves thereby that "fair exchange
is no robbery."

And then, after setting a trap for the skunk,
The malicious skunk that captures his
chickens,

He seeks his repose.
In the morning, after his chores is finished,
He mounts his toboggan and shoot the chutes
to the depot,

And again joins the throng in the city,
And this is the life of our President.

—Shortfellow.

The "poetry" was really nearer the truth
than "Shortfellow" himself supposed,
but I am not as far away as this now

and expect to be with the Old Guard again this year for the Veterans' Run notwithstanding the counter fascinations of Yonkers with its golf, tennis, bowling and other sports, which vie with the wheel in popularity.

I note, however, that this season many a wheel is being dug out of the cellar and being brushed up, and it is not entirely unlikely that we will have a local branch of the C. R. C. A. and be able to invite the inhabitants of the City, who know no cycling course other than the flat Long Island roads and deserve, out of pity, to be shown the beauties of Westchester County.

I am very glad to note the prosperity of the paper which I started, and which has been so ably developed by Friend Van Dyke. It is better to be a "has been" than a "never was," but I am not proud on this account, and am delighted to be kept in touch with cycling generally, and with Ass'n affairs in particular, and hope to be kept posted on the movements of all of my old friends in wheeling through the medium of so prosperous and valuable a publication.

Here's to the continued prosperity of the CYCLING REVIEW AND C. R. C. A. BULLETIN!

With the organizing of the Crescent Bicycle Club a little over one year ago, a great boom was started in Baltimore cycling.

Although the charter members only numbered two, Charles A. Reville and Thomas W. Baker, two former members of the once famous Patterson Wheelmen, the Club ran along successfully with these for some time and promoted runs every Sunday.

The Crescents do not have a Club House, but hold weekly business meetings at members' homes. It has been discovered that when a bicycle organization has a Club House, the riders congregate there on Sunday mornings, instead of getting out on their wheels.

This Club is strictly for the promotion of cycling, and no man can become a member unless he rides a wheel, or intends to do so.

The energy shown by the Crescents since their organization put an impetus to Baltimore cyclists, and in the past eight months several new Clubs sprang into existence, and it is a very noticeable fact that the Crescent's war cry, "We lead, watch others follow," was well selected, as there has been quite a bit of following going on.

During the season of 1906, a Club run was held every Sunday the weather permitted, and two very successful half century or 50 mile runs were promoted, also a trip to Washington and the first century or 100 mile run to be held in Maryland for years. The century was ridden in the rain and very fine solid gold medals awarded the finishers. For the season of 1907, a number of events have been planned, including half centuries, centuries, double centuries, moonlight half centuries, road, track and novelty races, some of which have already been promoted.

There is also a mileage contest going on between the members, the winner of which will be awarded a handsome solid gold medal. This contest is creating a great deal of interest, and it is known that at least two of the contestants have formed a habit of riding a century every Saturday night in an endeavor to get at the top. A racing team is being formed, and the Club will soon be in a position to accept and offer challenges to any Club in the State.

The Brooklyn Bridge Wheelmen, of Santa Clara, Cal., defeated the Santa Clara Wheelmen the annual 25 mile relay race in that city on June 2. The race was over a 5 mile course and each team had 5 riders. Tony Pacheco and Steve Graham were the first to start, the first named, on the Brooklyn Bridge team, completing the lap first by 1 minute. Tony Souza and M. Donu made the 2d relay, and Souza increased the lead of his team mate. Tony Rabeiro made a good showing against M. Somerville, and Frank Cambra increased the lead of the Brooklyn Bridge team to 2 minutes. The time was 1.17.