

Diboll-Lufkin bicycle race run 50 years ago

By ELLEN TEMPLE
Special Press Writer

The Great Diboll - Lufkin Bicycle Race
This month marks the 50th anniversary of the great Diboll-Lufkin bicycle race which was held back on April 13, 1929.

There's an important reason for wanting to include an account of that race in our history. We won it! Diboll, about 1,300 population, beat Lufkin, about 11,000 population and 17 miles of paved roads bigger.

According to Edwin Nelson of Diboll, who rode in the race and has kept the commemorative plaque all these years, the WMCA's (Young Men's Christian Association) of Diboll and Lufkin sponsored the contest. The sponsors wanted to generate some interest in their organization.

The plan was for the Diboll team to carry greetings from Diboll's acting mayor, Watson Walker, Southern Pine Lumber Company's plant manager, to Lufkin's mayor. And Lufkin's mayor Joe Carter Denman Sr., Joe C. Denman's father, was to compose greetings for his team to relay to Diboll's mayor. The team that delivered the messages in the fastest time would win the race. There were 12 riders on a team; each was to pedal one mile and then pass on the message.

On the day of the race, the mayors' messages were rolled up and stuffed into short bamboo shoots which would be easier to pass. Diboll's "Y" sponsor Jim Fuller spotted his 12 riders a mile apart along the Old Diboll-Lufkin Highway 35.

Go was signaled by the depot agents in each town, Gary Victory in Diboll and R. W. Woodall in Lufkin, and the first rider was off!

Since not every rider had his own bike, Fuller would grab a bike that had just completed a mile and haul it by car up to one of the other riders stationed

along the highway.

And so it went — each rider furiously pedaling his mile and passing on the message filled bamboo stick. They encountered some difficulties. Edwin Nelson recalls using Jack Devereaux's bike that had no brakes. And one rider had to cross Hurricane Creek on a narrow board since there was no bridge at the time.

Hoshall Hill outside of Burke caused some trouble for the other team. Kenneth Nelson of Diboll remembers watching a Lufkin rider on foot, pushing his bike up steep Hoshall Hill while the Diboll rider zipped on down.

Diboll won with 48 minutes and ten seconds. And Lufkin made the trip in 50 minutes and five seconds. Local railroad telegraph operators were good enough to serve as official timekeepers for the event.

The Diboll winning twelve: Linwood Moss, Maurice Agee, Robert Hamner, W. J. Barnum, Ozro Strauss, Herbert Jordan, Ed Steed Jr., Kenneth Nelson, Woodrow Kelly, Jack Devereaux, Guy Nunnelle and Edwin Nelson received \$5 each and tickets to Lufkin's Pines Theatre.

Later John Griffith honored them at a banquet in Diboll where N. H. McClamrock presented them with the plaque.

The Lufkin twelve: J. B. Treadway, William Grimes, Frank Garrison, Paul Beard, Carl Wilkinson, Morris Cook, James Fuller, Buck Herrick, Mat Menefee, Carmen Cook, Jackson and an unidentified rider all went to a movie, courtesy of Homer Garrison.

Although the race was apparently a lot of fun for the participants, it couldn't save the "Y." The group which had sponsored wrestling matches and baseball teams in the 1920's folded because of lack of interest.

But not before their moment of glory — winning the great Diboll-Lufkin bicycle race, 50 years ago!



LIONS CLUB GIFT — The Diboll Lions Club recently presented the Diboll Elementary School with funds to purchase additional books. This donation was made by club secretary-treasurer Dr. James Walker to Carolyn Jefferson, librarian, in memory of Wilbur F. Pate, former superintendent of Diboll schools and a charter member of the Diboll Lions Club. (Free Press Photo)

Agency considers grant applications

GETHSA's Project Review Committee will report on three area federal grant applications and one Certificate of Need application at an executive committee meeting to be held Thursday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Dogwood Country Club, Woodville.

Applications of interest to this area include: An Urban Health Initiative Operations Grant by and for the City of Port Arthur, with proposed use of federal funds amounting to \$340,482. A Rural Health Initiative Planning Grant Application for Greater Lake Livingston Health Services, Inc., with proposed use of federal funds amounting to \$27,400. An Urban Health Initiative Operations Grant for the City of Beaumont by the Economic Opportunity Commission of South East Texas, with proposed use of federal funds amounting to an estimated \$300,000. Park Place Hospital, Jefferson County/Port Arthur, Certificate of Need application to replace existing radiology

equipment at a cost of \$683,000.

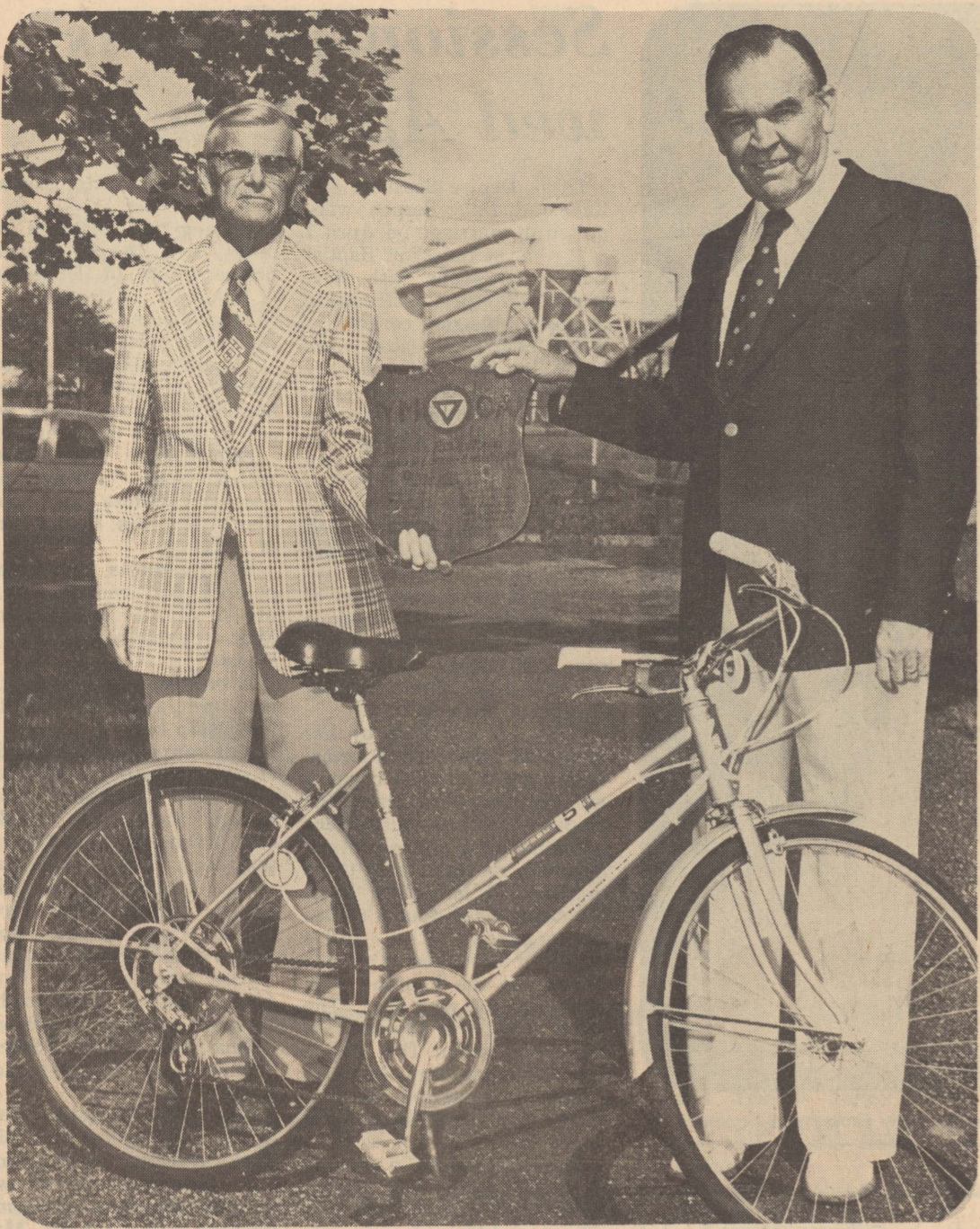
In addition to routine business, the agenda also includes a report from an committee on (Health Care) Cost Containment and a report from the Task Force on Acute Care Guidelines. Executive Director Larry Lacy will discuss nominations for the Texas Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation Advisory board and the nominating committee will report on governing board membership and executive officer nominations.

GETHSA Chairman James McNichols will preside.

All of GETHSA's meetings are open to the public and guests are cordially invited.

For further information, contact the Beaumont office, 892-6962 or the Nacogdoches sub-office, 560-1462.

The Tree Farm System launched in Texas in 1944 is sponsored by the American Forest Institute and by the Texas Forestry Association.



1929 EVENT REMEMBERED — Edwin and Kenneth Nelson of Diboll show the plaque the Diboll team won by winning the great Diboll-Lufkin bicycle race in 1929. The Nelson, Ed Steed of Diboll and Jack Devereaux of Arizona are the only surviving members of the Diboll team. (Free Press Photo)

Consumers gripe most about car repair charge

By MARK WHITE
Texas Attorney General

AUSTIN — On top of the list of consumer complaints received by attorneys in my Consumer Protection and Antitrust Division, a usual, are auto repairs.

In fact, just recently, we obtained in court judgement under which an auto repairman will pay \$10,000 in civil penalties and \$1,900 in restitution to consumers who were victimized by violations of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act.

Although there are many auto repair shops that provide honest, competent service, it's the few that are not so scrupulous who can give the business a bad reputation.

What are some typical complaints received by our lawyers about auto repair shops?

- They made unauthorized repairs and required consumers to pay for them before releasing their cars.
- They charged customers for work that was never done;
- They represented that auto parts are new, if they are used or reconditioned;
- They misrepresented the type of work that was needed on cars;
- They refused to allow customers to watch work being done on their cars;

- They charged higher prices than those agreed upon in advance;
- They advertised "sale" prices that were really standard prices.

Most consumers who have problems with auto repair shops want to know what they can do to avoid such difficulties in the future. Our attorneys recommend the following guidelines for reducing or eliminating the likelihood of trouble:

- If the need for major repairs arises, get at least three estimates in writing from reputable repair shops. Ask for an itemized list of parts and repair costs, including the labor charge per hour and the estimated number of hours it will take for the job;
- Make sure the estimates cover the maximum cost you could be charged for entire job;
- Get the completion time and date in the estimate;
- Be sure the estimate states whether rebuilt, reconditioned or secondhand parts will be used;
- Also be sure the estimate notes that you are to be called before any work not covered in the estimate is done, or if there may be an increase in cost; and
- Keep a copy of the estimate after you and the repairman have signed it.

If you receive unsatisfactory repair service from a factory-authorized dealership, be sure to write the manufacturer and register your complaint. Frequently the manufacturer's muscle can put a stop to unscrupulous repair practices by their affiliates.

For assistance with a car repair problem, you can contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection and Antitrust Division in Austin, Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, El Paso, Lubbock, and McAllen or call your district or county attorney.

Past winners set to match best recipes

LUFKIN — May 19 will bring a new breath of life to Lufkin, the sleepy, yet industrious town, nestled in the pines of East Texas, with the commencement of the 8th Annual Southern Hushpuppy Olympics.

This gathering of the finest culinary expertise in the age-old art of hushpuppy cooking will have Bob Murphey as the master of ceremonies and judges have been invited from great distances to sample and then accord the honors.

"We don't like to have expert hushpuppy eaters as judges; they have preconceived ideas about what a hushpuppy should taste like," said Roger Johnson, chairman of the event.

Johnson moonlights for spending money, but like everybody else in Lufkin during May, hushpuppies is the order of business.

Johnson said, "with a \$1,000 first prize, the cooks will be coming out of the woods again this year. We already have a promise from last year's winner, O.O. "Shotgun" Wright of Dallas to escape from wherever he might be kept to try to make it two in a row."

Other past winners already signed up include Cecil Davis of Wichita Falls and the Kadleck family from New Braunfels will be back and will be performing for the gathering.

"Just in case you think you are the best hushpuppy cook in the world, registration forms are available through the Angelina County Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 1606, Lufkin, Texas 75901," Johnson said.

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Points to Ponder

Is there such a thing as a 'born' leader? Indeed not! Qualities of leadership, good or bad, must be developed. It is not an outright gift at birth to any one.

Leadership requires certain abilities. Reasoning power is probably the most important. Man is born with a power to reason. Therefore, first of all, to be a good leader, it is obvious that one must learn to live in obedience to reason...Other abilities are also needed. Talent, skill, aptitude, (and some mysterious qualities!) — all these, and more are individualities that must be developed and acquired. In acquiring these abilities, an important factor is an attitude toward time, new ideas and innovations. Leadership requires a knack to overcome time pressures. A man who is continually fighting time fractures his potential for leadership. Good leaders budget part of their time every day for constructive ideas and innovations. Some call it self improvement.

Receptiveness to new ideas is needed but receptiveness in itself is not enough. Evaluation of ideas is far more important. Mismanaged time and mistaken evaluation of ideas limit the leadership potential of any man...**ELWYN GIPSON, GIPSON FUNERAL HOME, Lufkin, Texas 634-4411.**

IT'S SAVING TIME

<p>Tinactin Cream 15 Gram \$219</p> <p>The Water Pik Oral Hygiene Appliance Model #49 \$2398</p> <p>The Shower Massage by Water Pik Hand-Held #SM3 \$2398</p> <p>Personal Touch Razor Wall-Mount #SM2 \$1498</p>	<p>A.R.M. Allergy Relief Medicine 20's \$129</p> <p>Gly-Oxide Liquid 1/2oz. \$139</p> <p>Eveready Transistor Batteries #216 9 Volt 2 Pack #1035 Size C 2 Pack #1015 Size AA 4 Pack</p> <p>Colgate or Ultra Brite Toothpaste Large 89¢</p>
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