

# CRESTED BUTTE PILOT

September 29, 1978

Official Award-Winning Newspaper of Mt. Crested Butte, Colorado

## A Race is Nice But A Tour Has Spice

## Issues Probed in Expansion

### C.B. 3rd Annual Klunker Tour

For the first time in history out-of-town riders competed in the annual Crested Butte to Aspen via Pearl Pass Klunker Tour.

In addition to eight Crested Butte Klunker enthusiasts, five riders from Marin County, California, one from Hotchkiss, Colorado and one from Denver assembled at the starting line at 10 A. M. on Friday.

As usual, the tour began in front of the Grubstake Bar and Grill on historic Elk Avenue in Crested Butte. After some early delay and a flurry of photographs, the tour departed over an hour late.

Shortly after the tour departure, the first mishap occurred: a flat rear tire on Dick "Archie" Archuletta's klunker. The California boys immediately jackknifed into action: Tools selected after years of experience glimmered in the sunlight as the intrepid Californians removed the wheel, replaced the tube, tuned the spokes, remounted the wheel, slacked the cones a tad, adjusted the chain and had Archie's bike back on the road in 35 seconds flat!

If there was any doubt before, the local riders hereafter realized that they were not dealing with amateurs.

#### THE ULTIMATE KLUNKER OF THESE TIMES

In fact, the California riders sported some of the finest Klunkers to be found anywhere in the world.

Their bikes are—in a word—sophisticated: hand-brazed, thin-wall, chrome-moly tubing (yes, that's MOLY), which is plated, not painted.

"Paint chips, you know," commented one California rider.

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After being pedalled, pushed and practically carried to heights of over 12,000 feet the grand klunker perches as high as high can be as Albert Maunz stretches his legs. The third annual Klunker tour over Pearl Pass from Crested Butte to Aspen had more successful finishers than ever before. (See Story & Pictures Page 12) Photo by Dewayne Roberts.

## Journey's With Remarkable Men

Crested Butte Mayor W. Mitchell, accompanied by John Benjamin—whose occupation, for those of you who have been wondering, is revealed on a front-page article in the San Francisco Examiner (Benjamin is a stone mason, having just

completed a whirlwind tour of the West and far western United States).

First stop for the pair was Denver.

Mitchell testified at the Colorado Review Process hearing in that city. He questioned

comment made by Art Biddle that a mine on Mt. Emmons would offer the county a stable employment base.

He cited Leadville, Colorado, which is thought by some to be the last remaining "company town" in Colorado. The "company" is AMAX, and the enterprise is the Climax Molybdenum mine, which has been in operation since the early 1900's.

## Candidates for Mt. C.B. Council

# On the Road Again...

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The Californian machines are equipped with a 12-speed, thumb-change gearing and fore and aft centerpole brakes.

This superior equipment allowed the California contingent to ride almost all the way

up the pass. The Crested Butte riders, on the other hand, spent most of the climb pushing their first-generation, one-speed Schwinn Klunkers the ten miles up the pass to camp, which was at the base of the switchbacks

at Pearl Pass.

Duane Reeding, who piloted the supply truck to camp, provided the exhausted, famished riders with dinner. Liquid refreshment, one keg of cold Coors beer, was provided by Ms. Judy Naumburg, proprietess of The Grubstake.



### THE DESCENT

Refreshed by a good night's sleep and a delicious breakfast, the riders made their way swiftly to the top of the pass—12,680 feet above sea level.

Under a gray, cloudy sky and with a brisk, cold autumn wind at their backs, the riders exchanged toasts of water (that's the wonderful beverage that makes the brewing of beer possible) and gathered for the traditional top-of-the-pass photographs.

The ride down the pass is, of course, the essence of the tour.

### LIKE A ROCK GARDEN ON MARS

The descent through paths of rocks, varying in size from softballs to washtubs, is punishing on both bodies and equipment.

Once again, the superior California machines led the way down the steep pass.

One Crested Butte rider, Richard Allery, riding a typical Crested Butte Klunker (your basic Schwinn with Bendix caster brakes designed to stop a 60-pound newsboy on a level city street), experienced a brake failure one-fourth of the way down the pass.

Undaunted, Allery continued the descent, jamming his foot between the frame and front wheel to slow his bike. When this became unfeasible, Richard began driving his Klunker against cliffs to control his descent.

Finally forced to walk his bike, Allery said, "I felt gypped by the tour." However, Allery did admit to "taking the bumps" in fine style before his Klunker failed him. He says that he will be back next year with "different brakes and maybe some gears..."

Near the historic town of Ashcroft, pavement welcomes the weary rider on the last phase of the tour.

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# I wish They All Were California Klunkers... (Continued from Page 12)



*The grande portrait of all the Crested Butte and Marin County die hards atop the dreaded Pearl Pass. Rumors had it that a few Aspenites riding motorcycles ran across the crazed bikers and could not believe it was possible. Photo by Dewayne Roberts.*

The road ahead into Aspen is one of easy-going and high speeds. Top speed on a Klunker is about 35 miles an hour.

The tour made one last stop several miles out of Aspen to affix balloons to their Klunkers before the last sprint to the Pub in Aspen, where they celebrated the tour's end.

The riders were transported back to Crested Butte courtesy of Bruce "The Face" Newman, who loaned his truck and Kirk Jones, who piloted the vehicle.

This year's tour organizer, Bob Starr, was generally pleased with the tour, although he admits that some early confusion in the tour would probably be frowned upon by R. A.

Verplank—from whose crazed mind sprung the idea of the tour three years ago.

Starr said that the California riders will be back in force next year.

#### COAST-TO-COAST PARTICIPATION

Among those participating in this tour from Crested Butte were—

Bob Starr, Albert Maunz, James Cloud, Dick "Archie" Archuletta, Richard Uillery, Neil Murdock, Chris Carroll and Susan Hussemann.

We understand from a reliable source that Gary Fisher, associate editor of *Bicycling* magazine, flew in from New York for the tour. Fisher's

# "All It Was Once Was a Nutty Idea" ... Bob Starr

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appearance, coupled with the Marin County, California, participants, made this year's tour a coast-to-coast event.

Also notable in this year's running of the tour was the presence of a young lady from

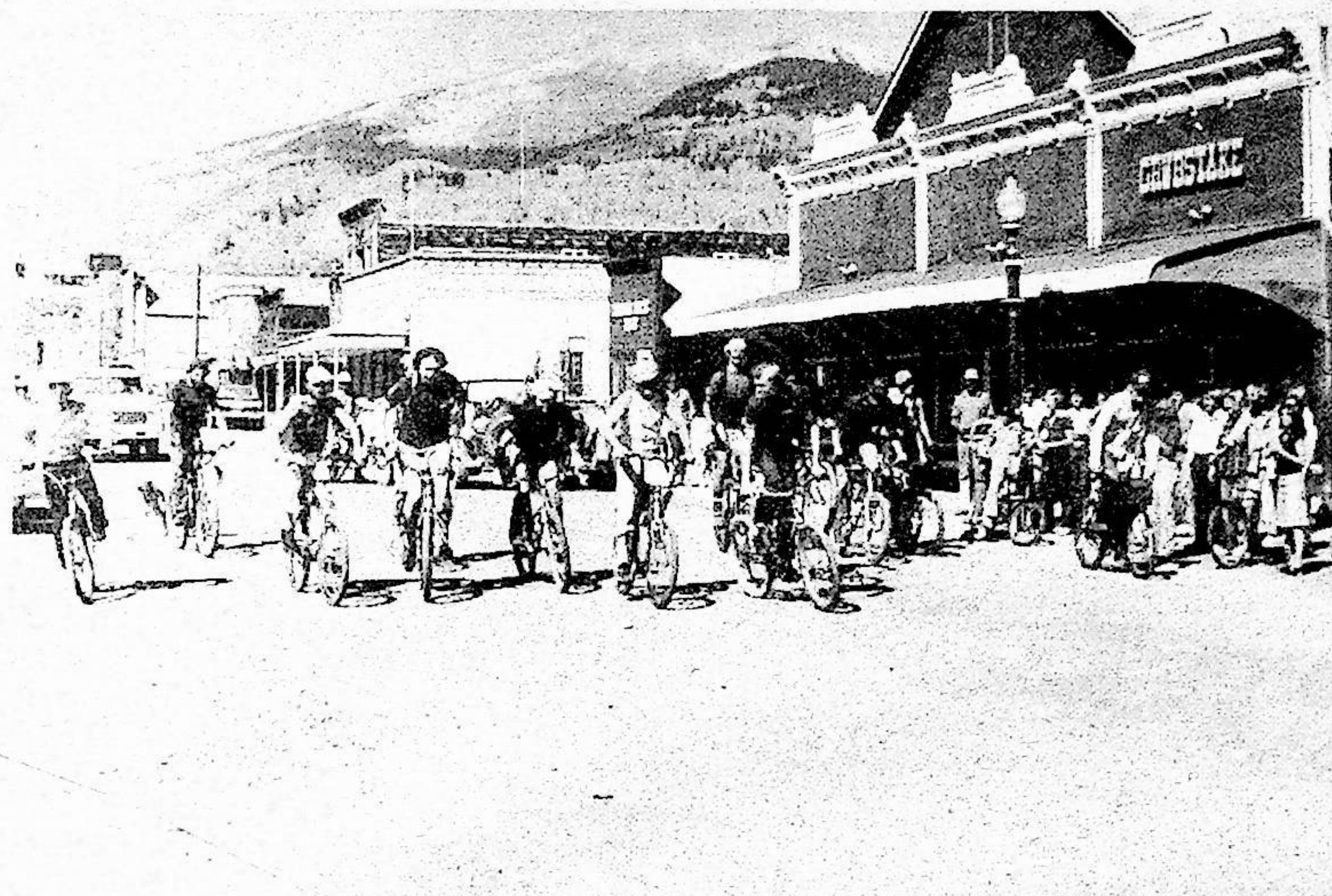
California named Wendy at the finish line.

Although there have been six women entrants in Klunker tours before, this marks the first time in history that a lady finished the grueling tour.

by L. Ervin & B. Starr



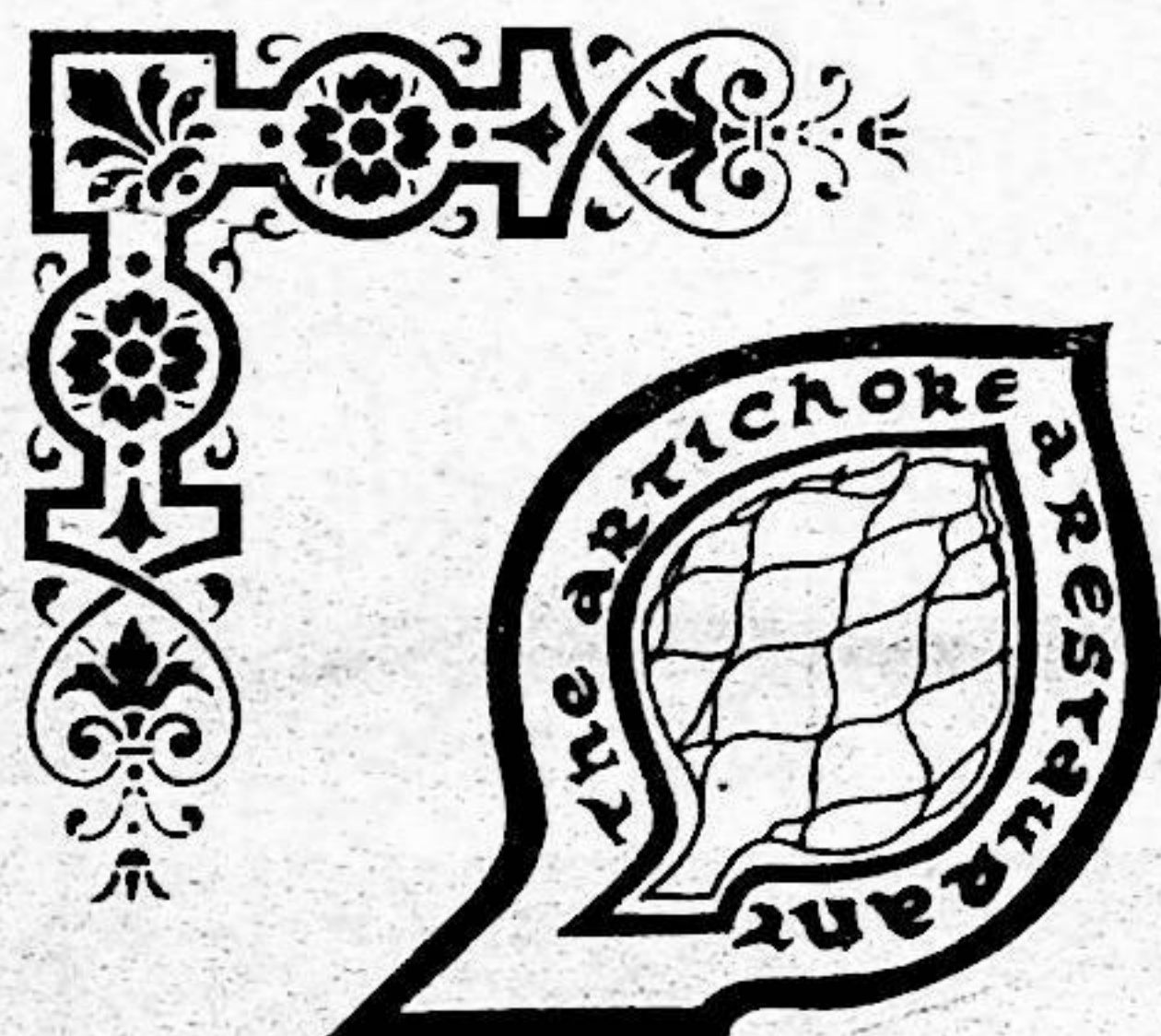
The California contingent, who had written the Grubstake for months in advance concerning the famed Pearl Pass truck, brought a bit of sophistication to the race, including a mounted camera on the handlebars.



Sunny Saturday the photo start in front of the Grubstake shows the avid klunkers on their way up the rough, long haul toward Pearl Pass. Photo by Jim Simmons.



Klunker bedded down for the night, riders prep their tents for a good night's rest. Photo by Bob Starr.



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base  
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