

# TWO GIANTS TAKE A FALL

BY CHARLES KELLY

After surviving for years on the edge, **Repack Downhill** record-holder **Gary Fisher** managed to injure himself. Gary took a fall while stepping over a bike-path barrier on his way to work, breaking his kneecap. . . . For months the rumors had floated around the cycling industry that **Ross Bicycles** was having problems. These rumors have reached the point where Ross has filed for a Chapter 11 reorganization. Former

Ross mountain bike coordinator and race promoter **John Kirkpatrick** has moved on to his own independent advertising agency and says he isn't handling any bike-related promotions at the moment. . . . It didn't take long for **New York City** to go through the evolutionary mountain bike process. After mountain bikers "discovered" Central Park (how hard is that?), the number of fat-tire cyclists grew ex-

plensively until, Wham! Signs and fines. Most of the dirt paths used by the mountain bikers are now off-limits. . . . I recently mentioned the **Paris-Dakar Mountain Bike Rally** as being what sounded like the toughest off-road race yet. No chance. It turns out (according to **Jacque Phelan's** translation) to have been more of a tour than a race, with total participation of about a half dozen. . . . In response to the

obvious need for local groups of mountain bikers to organize a political arm, Bay Area off-roaders have done so. The **Bicycle Trails Council** has chapters in several of the more hard-core cycling areas, such as Marin County and the East Bay, and is affiliated with the **Responsible Off-Road Mountain Bikers**. **They went thataway!** The start of **Durango's Iron Horse Classic**, the first stop in the **Colorado Off-Road Points Series**.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT S. WARREN



## SHORTS

**tain Pedalers (ROMP)** of the South San Francisco Bay area . . . . Former national champion **Joe Murray** has moved again. After riding the last part of '86 and all of '87 for **Marin Bikes**, Joe has switched to **The Bicycle Group**, sponsored by several dozen companies that collectively make everything you need to ride off-road: sunglasses, liniment, vitamins, energy food, and so on. Bikes? Oh yes, bikes. The Bicycle Group is also the new marketing arm for the **Merlin Metalworks** titanium bike, formerly marketed by Marin, and there are plans for an imported line. Although a press release claims that Joe is the winningest mountain bike racer in history, with 60 victories, perhaps we should point out that Joe is the winningest *male* rider. If he wins another 30 races he'll catch up to **Alice B. Toeclips** . . . . In other race news, **Schwinn** has joined with **Wheaties** to sponsor a team that no longer will have the services of two-time

nat champ **Ned Overend**, who has joined the powerful **Specialized** team along with women's champs **Lisa Muhich** and **Cindy Whitehead**. Team veteran **John Weissenrieder** will stay on with Schwinn/Wheaties, joined by **Julia Ingersoll** and converted roadie **Tim Rutherford** . . . . Because the **Ross** team has disbanded, the key riders have all found new sponsors. **Casey Kunselman** is the new star of **Diamond Back**, **Joe Sloup** has gone to **Raleigh**, and **Mike Jordan** has signed with **Klein** . . . . **Charlie Cunningham**'s aluminum bikes are legendary for a number of reasons, not the least of which is their scarcity. Scare City. This situation is not likely to improve in the near future either, because Charlie has announced that he's going to sit this year out and observe the scene. Next bike production is scheduled for '89, and he's not even taking orders until then. . . . After a recent three-day meeting in Northern Califor-

nia, representatives from a number of mountain bike clubs announced the formation of the **International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA)**. Plans call for an international membership drawn from riders, manufacturers and clubs, which will work together on issues that concern all-terrain cyclists, such as access, political organization, education, and liaison with other recreational groups. Competition was specifically omitted as a subject for discussion because it's the principal area of the **National Off-Road Bicycle Association (NORBA)**. Clubs represented included **ROMP**, **Bicycle Trails Council** chapters from North Bay and East Bay, **The Rough Riders** of Sacramento, and the **Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association (CORBA)** from Los Angeles. Interested parties can contact the IMBA at Box 2007, Saratoga, CA 95070-0007, (408) 741-5254 . . . . There's a lot of action in **Crested Butte, Colorado**, these days. Evi-

dently, local riders have decided to let the world in on their great biking. An impressive array of events is coming together, including a wildflower festival in August and a revitalized **Fat Tire Bike Week** in September. There's also a rumor about a race over to Aspen and back via the Taylor and Pearl passes, two of the state's roughest. And plans are in the works for a **Mountain Biking Hall of Fame**, with an opening during Fat Tire Bike Week. Nominations for enshrinement (internment?) are being solicited from a variety of sources. For more information about the events, or to submit a nomination, write Crested Butte Adventures, Box 782, Crested Butte, CO 81224 . . . . The **Colorado Off-Road Points Series** rides high in '88. In the opinion of many a racer, the **Colorado Prestige Series** was far and away the best race series of '87. Well, it's here again, bigger and better and with a new name. The Series begins