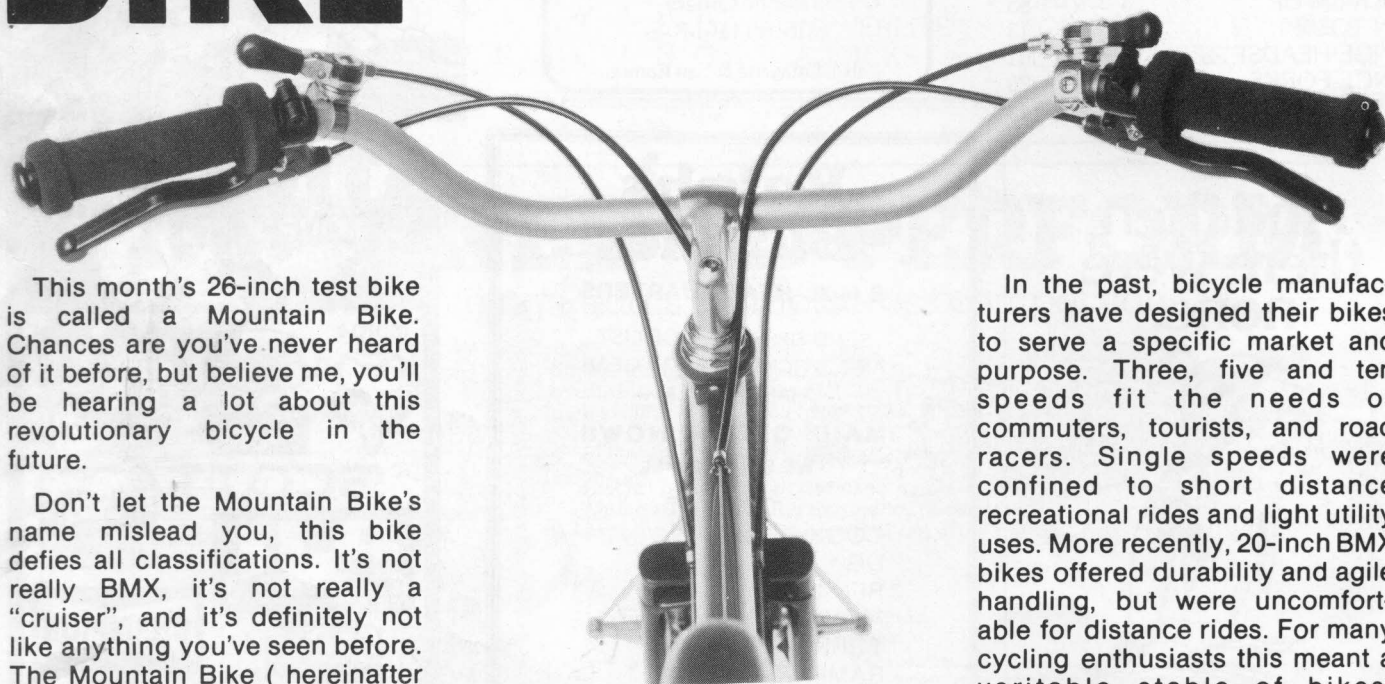


THE RICHEY MOUNTAIN BIKE

**BMX
PLUS!**
TEST



This month's 26-inch test bike is called a Mountain Bike. Chances are you've never heard of it before, but believe me, you'll be hearing a lot about this revolutionary bicycle in the future.

Don't let the Mountain Bike's name mislead you, this bike defies all classifications. It's not really BMX, it's not really a "cruiser", and it's definitely not like anything you've seen before. The Mountain Bike (hereinafter referred to as the MB) even goes so far as to challenge the definition of "bicycle".

The MB is a hybrid machine that combines BMX, light weight 10-speed road racers, European cyclo-cross, and the versatility of motorized trail bikes. The end result is, very possibly, the world's most versatile bicycle.

From the drivers seat. Aluminum motorcycle bars, Yamaha lever clamps, DeHandlers plastic "dog leg" levers, with Sun Tour thumb shifters, and Grab-On grips.

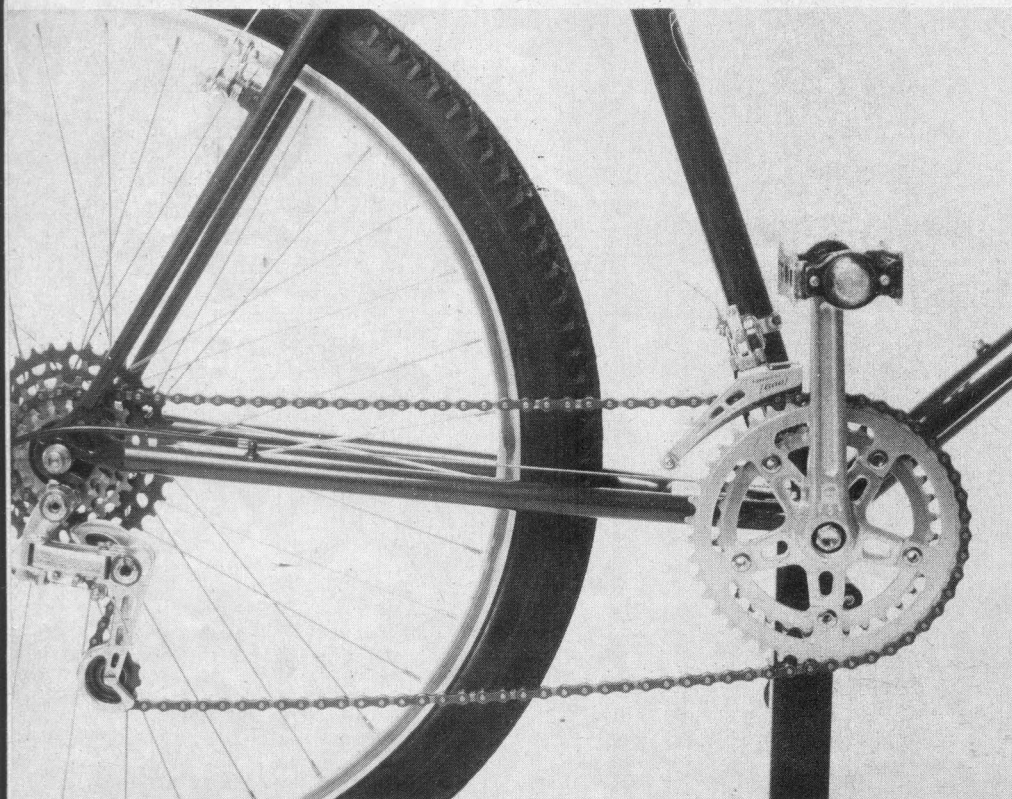
In the past, bicycle manufacturers have designed their bikes to serve a specific market and purpose. Three, five and ten speeds fit the needs of commuters, tourists, and road racers. Single speeds were confined to short distance recreational rides and light utility uses. More recently, 20-inch BMX bikes offered durability and agile handling, but were uncomfortable for distance rides. For many cycling enthusiasts this meant a veritable stable of bikes. Impressive to some, but financially impossible for most.

The MB offers it's proud owner a bicycle for all cycling situations. Riders may confidently go anywhere. If you can't get there, the blame lies in you, not the machinery. At 28 pounds, the MB may be easily carried through sections that are completely

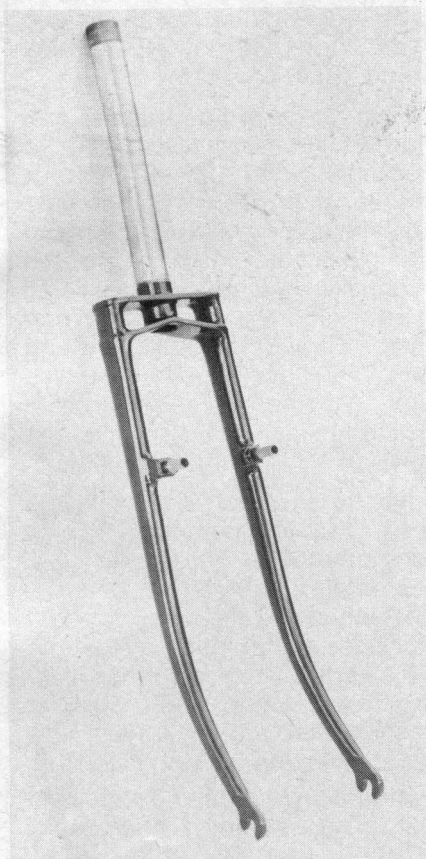




ABOVE: The Tom Richey 28 pound Mountain Bike really proves out the old adage, "The only difference between men and boys is the price of their toys". **BELOW:** The final drive ratios are accomplished through a Sun Tour 6-Speed cluster, Sugino Mighty Tour crankset, and a Shimano 600 front derailleur and Shimano rear derailleur.



**The heart of
the MB is a
beautifully
handcrafted
Tom Richey
Frame**



The Tom Richey custom forks feature Reynolds steering tubes, chromoly tapered blades, and a brazed-on cantilever brake bosses.

impassible by anything but a hiker. Our test riders, being motorcycle trail riders and off-road car enthusiasts, were completely amazed. These bikes went where 4-wheel drives, motorcycles, and even tanks could not have gone. In our test rider's quest for exploration of true wilderness, only hikers and helicopters followed.

If you enjoy getting away from it all, enjoy bicycle riding, and have a flair for style, you should definitely check into the MB. Being the extremely versatile on/off road, street/trail commuters they are, the MBs are the obvious bicycle of the future.

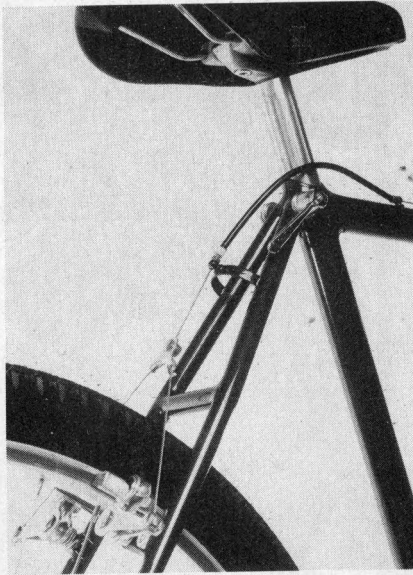
The heart of the MB is the beautifully handcrafted Tom Richey frameset. The hand brazed, lugless construction combines chrome-moly and Reynolds 531 manganese-moly

tubing. The forks incorporate a Reynolds steering tube with a custom, extra wide crown, heavy duty Tange chrome-moly tapered blades, brazed on cantilever brake mounts, and Campagnolo drop outs.

The Ritchie frame features brazed on fittings (water bottle mounts, brake and derailleurs guides and stops), plus Campagnolo dropouts.

Many years ago, Mountain Biking was a new sport with untested equipment. Since then, however, years and countless dollars of research and development have gone into establishing a recommended/proven parts list. Each component serves an integral part in the MB's extraordinary performance and overall versatility.

Due to the unpredictable terrain, including hills and varying dirt surfaces, a super wide gearing range is mandatory.



Check out the Mafac cantilever tandem brakes. Also nice touches are the brazed-on cable guides and the quick-release seat post binder bolt.

The TA Cyclotourist (or equivalent 175-185mm) with triple chainwheels 26/38/48 combined with 6 speed rear cluster offer 18

wide-range gears which proved to be more than ample for any riding situation.

Recommended derailleurs are, Huret Duo-par rear, and a Suntour Spirit front. Suntour ratcheting thumb shifters provide positive shifting with a minimum of protrusion from the handlebars. Chris King sealed bearing headset, Phil Wood bottom bracket and hubs along with Bullseye sealed pulleys allow for years of maintenance free riding in dirt, water, sand, and mud.

It's no surprise that a bicycle with the above mentioned conglomeration of parts will perform like no other two wheeler. Without going into great detail, it's sufficient to say that the MB handled and performed very impressively. *Very*. If you couldn't ride the section, the MB's low weight allowed for easy carrying.

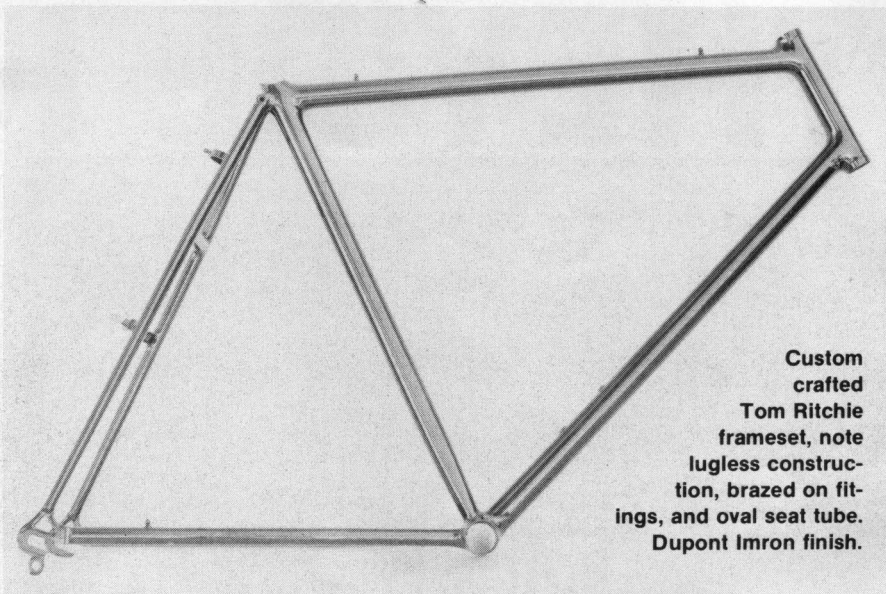
It went anywhere and rode over just about anything. After miles of

**“The Richey
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punishment through cycling situations that, up til now, just weren't ridden over, on, or through, the MB emerged unscathed.

With a little preventive maintaintence, the BM will

provide it's owner with years of troublefree cross country cycling. Ultimately, the Mountain Bike challenges you to challenge Mother Nature and traditional cycling concepts. If you like challenges, you'll love the new



**Custom
crafted
Tom Ritchie
frameset, note
lugless construc-
tion, brazed on fit-
tings, and oval seat tube.
Dupont Imron finish.**

Richey Mountain Bike.

On that note, our test comes to an end...

Unless of course you plan to buy a new Richey Mountain Bike, then it'll only be the beginning. ?
