

BUT RAILROAD AND STATE OFFICIALS DON'T LIKE THE IDEA

Bicyclist Finds New Way To Ride The Rails

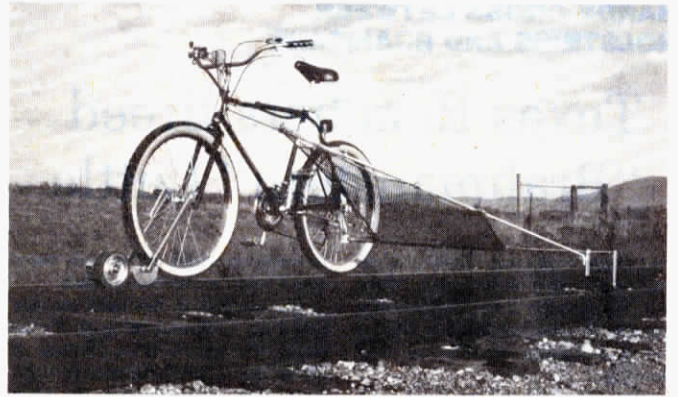
"Riding on seldom-used rural branch lines and abandoned tracks is safer than riding on most roads. I've ridden 20 to 30 thousand miles without a close call. I can't say that about riding my ordinary bicycle," states Richard Smart, inventor of the Railcycle add-on frame that lets any bicycle ride the rails.

Railcycle bolts to the front and rear forks of the bike. It consists of an extender bar that reaches between the tracks. A set of wheels just ahead of the bike hugs the rail the bike is on and a set of wheels at the end of the extender bar ride the opposite rail. A

nylon net stretched between the triangular frame can be used to carry a sleeping bag and pack.

Smart says the Railcycle can be removed from the track in a few seconds if a train comes. He feels you're much more likely to get hit by a train at a railway crossing when riding on roads. However, he's encountered resistance from railway officials.

Because of problems selling the Railcycle, Smart has had to hold the device off the market. He's looking to sell the idea to owners of abandoned rail lines as a commercial entertainment device which they could then



Railcycle can be removed from track in seconds if a train's coming.

rent to individuals.

Smart says the idea isn't new. In fact, Sears and Roebuck at one time listed a similar device in their catalog. "I've shown the Railcycle to many farmers and ranchers during my travels. I helped one hog farmer in

Kansas rig up his own."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard C. Smart, Railcycle, 3502 Buckskin Road, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814 (ph 208 765-2831).



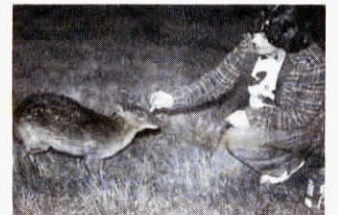
Claudia Buchanan proudly displays her trophy, along with her prize-winning pork-bone sculpture.

BRINGS OUT RURAL TOWN'S "PIG-CASSOS"

Sculpture Contest Good Way To Clean Up Bones

A pork-bone sculpturing contest in Kewanee, Ill., which calls itself the Hog Capital of the World, yields some unusual creations. The annual contest is held following the town's World's Largest Pork Barbecue Festi-

val where festival-goers eat thousands of barbecued butterfly pork chop sandwiches. The sculpture contest was developed as a way to use up leftover pork bones.



Wallaroos (left) from Australia are similar to kangaroos and wallabies. Muntjac deer (right) hail from Asia.

"EASY TO RAISE"

Australian Wallaroos Make Excellent Pets

"I bought my first two wallaroos as pets years ago and just kept expanding," says Ruby Maulding, Silverton, Ore., who says the little known relatives of the kangaroo are easy to raise and make good pets.

Wallaroos are smaller than kangaroos but larger than wallabies. That's the major difference, although the color is also different. Like kangaroos, they carry their babies in their pouch, stand on their back legs, and hold their food with their front paws. They're shy and take time to tame. Maulding keeps the herd — about 15 in all — in a pen near the house and says they all get along fine until you put a new male in the pen, at which time the other males will challenge it.

Female wallaroos are grey with a white stomach and are about 2½ ft. tall when full grown. The males continue to grow in size right up to death, reaching a maximum of about 3 ft. tall. Their coloring is a darker, reddish tint.

Maulding says wallaroos live on the coastline in Australia and are excellent swimmers. They can withstand heat easily but when the temperature drops below freezing she keeps them in a small heated shed. She feeds them a diet of horse grains, corn, apples, peas, carrots, potatoes,

and they also eat hay. Maulding sells pairs of male and female wallaroos, which can no longer be imported to this country, for \$3,500.

In addition to wallaroos, Maulding's tree farm also hosts a menagerie of other wild animals, including llamas, highland cattle, peacocks, Sicilian donkeys, and buffalo. The latest addition is a pair of small muntjac deer which are native to Asia. The tiny animals stand just 15 in. tall and weigh less than 10 lbs. Extremely quick on their feet, the muntjac become very tame if frequently handled. They eat hay, grass, and grain, and frequently give birth to twins. Babies are about the size of a rat and can slip through 2 by 2-in. openings.

"I first saw them at Cypress Gardens in Florida and finally found some for sale from a breeder in Arizona. They're very friendly and easy to handle and some varieties develop horns. They sell for \$750 for a female and \$500 for a male," says Maulding.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ruby Maulding, 18663 Power Creek Loop, Silverton, Ore. 97381 (ph 503 873-5207).