



# THEY RIDE AGAIN

As we dig into the past of bicycle travel, we find more fascinating stories than we can cover, so we'll have plenty of fodder for future issues



→ HUMANS today tend to think more about the present and near future than the past, especially those who've been enthralled by the internet. Can't say I blame us. The past is riddled with so many terrible episodes it's often painful to reflect back on them, and, to many, the distant future isn't looking so good either. And yet, over that same span of time, many terrifically good things have

also transpired, and among them, the rise of the bicycle as a method of travel, transportation, and recreation.

Each year, we reserve an issue of *Adventure Cyclist* to explore a slice of this history, and when we do so, we find that our forebears had been a busy lot who used bicycles to do all of the things we still love to do with them today. Want to ride around the world? Yawn. It was done by numerous people before the 19th century gave way to the 20th, including Thomas Stevens, George Nellis, and Annie Kopchovsky, better known as Annie Londonderry, and on bicycles the vast majority of us today would deign unridable.

As for Ms. Kopchovsky, some would argue that she didn't really *ride* a bicycle around the world, claiming that she used other forms of transportation along the way (as did the many others). And there's no doubt that she did, but her contribution to the women's movement far overshadowed her ability to ride a bicycle, as David Lamb discusses in his

article on pages 28-29.

And if you'd like to dig deeper into Kopchovsky's exploits, you should find a way to see *The New Woman: Annie "Londonderry" Kopchovsky* a film by Gillian Klempner Willman. It's currently playing at various film festivals and a DVD should be available by the end of June, so visit [spokeswomanproductions.com](http://spokeswomanproductions.com) for further details.

In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this most recent glimpse into the world of bicycle-travels past.

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Funny looking hats and funny looking bicycles seemed to be the order of the day when these fine gentlemen gathered for this photo.

COURTESY OF JOHN WEISS

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