



THE STUFF OF LEGENDS

Taking stock of extraordinary lives



→ It was long after 5:00 PM, and I was navigating a visiting cyclist's Windows computer — a struggle for this longtime Mac user — *and everything was in French*. Finally, we managed to sync up a hard drive, start the transfer, and Claude Marthaler, the “Yak Man,” and I watched one of the most extraordinary bicycling lives in history migrate before our eyes.

Claude (Open Road Gallery, Oct./Nov. 2018) was in Missoula during his trip along the Great Divide Mountain Bike Route in 2018. The wild-haired Swiss had visited before, during his seven-year *tour du monde* in 1997. Gracious, fascinating, and widely traveled, Claude is the consummate bicycle traveler. His *liste de tous les voyages* reads like 10 lifetimes' worth of riding.

And yet he spoke with reverence of a rider whose adventures far surpassed his own, a cyclist — *the cyclist?* — whose dedication to travel on two wheels was so all-consuming that it was all he was. The man was Heinz Stücker, 80 years old by the time you read this, and along with the likes of Ian Hibell, Thomas Stevens, and perhaps our own Greg and June Siple, one of the greatest bicycle travelers who will ever live.

In perpetual motion since before the Beatles came to America, the German has only just been slowed by age. Claude's profile of his friend on page 28 has a few turns of phrase that will tip the reader to its original French but that capture this one-of-a-kind adventurer in a way I'm not sure a native speaker ever could.

And that summer afternoon IT kerfuffle? Those were a library of Stücker's images from a lifetime of travel entrusted to another generation of adventurer who in turn entrusted them to us — terabytes of scanned slides documenting a pre-internet era of exploration that's gone forever. We printed as many as we could, but as the *Adventure Cyclist* team slowly flipped through the folders, gasping more deeply with each reveal, our colleagues wandered over one by one until 10 of us were gathered around a monitor in awe. I hope you'll feel the same.

Claude. Heinz. You may not ever ride around the world. You may not want to. But brushing up against these legends changes what seems possible, shrinking the world even as your breath catches at its expanse. From celluloid to pixels and now to ink on cellulose, these photos — this life — will stop you in your tracks and then get you moving in ways you might not have known you could.

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Café con queso?

SAARA SNOW

took to coffee breaks as an afternoon



treat while riding around Puerto Rico and discovered “coffee with cheese” at Café Bizcochos in Cabo Rojo. She is secretly a decaf coffee drinker but willingly suffered the caffeine headaches for good Puerto Rican coffee.



PATRICK O'GRADY

has tested more than 40 bikes for *Adventure Cyclist* magazine in the last decade,

beginning with a Voodoo Nakisi that gets a mention on page 51. If he could have any one of them back in his garage? “The One That Got Away? That would probably be the Moots Mooto X YBB (August/September 2012). I always wanted a Moots, and still do. I wonder if they'd build me a rim-brake Routt YBB with a steel fork ...”