



ONE WHEEL — MANY SPOKES: USA by Unicycle

By Lars Clausen

Soulscapers; \$14.95, Original Trade Paperback; April 2004;
ISBN: 0-9719415-9-9; 278 pages; 6" x 9"; 16-page color insert plus
B/W illustrated maps for all 50 states; Distributed by Independent Publishers Group

“this record is as impressive as any we’ve published.”

—Guinness World Records; Upon awarding Lars Clausen his
second long-distance unicycling record

“In the words of former senator [Bob] Kerrey, Clausen ‘has done the work of a good citizen.’ Clausen not only did that in spades, by raising dollars for a struggling tribe of Eskimos, but he also managed to experience the kind of adventure most people only dream of having....[and] (wound up breaking a couple of Guinness world records in the process)....Clausen’s unsinkable good nature and sunny outlook jumps out at readers from practically every line of his book....he frequently relates encounters with locals who offer money for his cause or a place for his entourage to park their RV overnight....His true passion lies in traveling and his deep connection with and empathy for native peoples.”

— Publishers Weekly (in a very early review)

“Clausen has looked deeply into the heart of our country and has accomplished an adventure that will inspire us for years to come.”

— Senator Bob Kerrey, from the Foreword

“This is the next best thing to unicycling cross-country yourself. Brace yourself for a wonderful adventure.”

—Keith Cash, long-distance unicyclist

Lars Clausen took to the road and explored the United States in a way that TV journalist Charles Kuralt would have loved — a 50-state unicycle trip from Washington State to the Statue of Liberty and back again. His spoke-by-spoke travels brought him to Native American lands from coast to coast, through a Mojave Desert storm, past breath-taking snow-capped Montana mountains, and close to a raging hurricane in Louisiana, and Times Square traffic.

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When people ask the author “Why such a journey?”, Clausen responds with a quotation from Helen Keller which embodies his philosophy and appears on the title page of the book:

“Security is mostly a superstition.
It does not exist in nature...
Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.”

In the specialized, polarized, time-starved world of our modern day, Clausen is a wide-ranging explorer. An admirer of Mark Twain, each chapter begins with pertinent quotations from this earlier travel/adventure writer.

The catalyst for the trip was to publicize the needs of the Inupiat Eskimos of the Seward Peninsula and to earn money for an Endowment Fund to provide a stable resource for them.

Additionally, on Clausen’s spoke-by-spoke journey, he **established** the longest distance traveled by unicycle in a 24-hour period (202.78 miles from Martin, SD to Highmore, SD on June 5-6, 2002, and (2) 18 miles east of Toledo, OH **broke** the 3,876-mile record established by Hans Peter Beck (across Australia) by traveling 48-contiguous U.S. states (9,136 miles from Tillamook, OR to Santa Monica, CA between April 22, 2002 and November 12, 2002).

Now, with all the flavor of ZEN AND THE ART OF MOTORCYCLE MAINTENANCE, Clausen shares the adventure and soulfulness of pedaling the roads of America in search of his country and himself. Throughout the ride the media, including CNN, CBS-TV’s “Early Show”, and the Associated Press (three times), featured the fulfillment of the dream and the effort to achieve it.

During the summer of 2004, he will promote the book by riding his 36" Coker unicycle the entire West Coast from Canada to Mexico. Initially, on April 22, 2004, the two-year anniversary of the beginning of his historic ride, he will launch the book at the Sultan Elementary School, Sultan, WA, where 100 of the 600 students belong to the Unicycle Club.

Author Biography follows

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lars Clausen balances on a single wheel, but he has multiple interests: his varied education includes the U.S. Air Force Academy and the University of California/Berkeley; he has master's degrees in both mechanical engineering and theology; and his resume includes designing windmills in Denmark and preaching to Inupiat Eskimos in Alaska.

"Traveling solo across the United States on a traditional bicycle in 1987 changed my life," says Clausen, "but I never dreamed it would lead to a one-wheeled, fifty-state ride." Doubtfully practical, undeniably powerful, the vision persisted despite the truth he had never ridden more than five miles on a unicycle.

Although he pedaled alone, his family accompanied him. His wife, Anne Jacobsen Clausen, a watercolor artist, agreed they would do this adventure as a family, providing support from an antique motor home. "We started our marriage with a tandem-bicycle honeymoon. We can try this too." Their children, KariAnna (now 9) and Kai (now 7), are also unicyclists who dream of someday breaking their dad's long-distance Guinness World Record.

Recording his adventure during the ride required his engineering creativity: at one time he connected his laptop at a Les Schwab tire repair in Aberdeen, WA; another time he plugged into the power strip at an RV Park in Miller, SD.

An inspiring professional speaker and ordained minister (since 1993 in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), Lars conveys a message of turning our uncertainties and challenges into new possibilities and fulfillment.

Clausen and his family are currently volunteering at Holden Village, a remote retreat center, accessible only by ferry, deep in the heart of Washington's Cascade Mountains.

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**Online press packet, current tour information, and digital images
are available at www.onewheel.org.**

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