



Not The Spoken Word

Bi-monthly newsletter of The Western Australian Historical Cycle Club Inc.

1925 Northam to Perth Won by A.E. Golder

A piece of West Australian cycling history resurfaced recently when I invited Mal Barker - a multiple State-Champion in his time – for a coffee and a chat about another unrelated project he is currently working on.

Mal - well into his 80's now - had mentioned in earlier phone conversations that he owned a bike that had been lying in bits under his son's house in Gidgegannup for the past 20 years.

"It's not in very good condition, but all the bits are there including the Brooks saddle and the wooden wheels. A young bloke called Golder, he was about 18 or 19 years old, he won the Northam-to-Perth race on it in 1925. It came with copies of some news articles reporting the race and it's got some pictures of him crossing the finishing line. If you're interested, I could bring them down when we meet. I'm never going to get around to fixing it up and my son's not interested".

A little bit of research on Trove, an initiative by the National Library of Australia to digitise old newspapers, revealed a number of articles including pictures of the race that confirmed that an 18 year old A.E.

Golder had indeed won the Northam to Perth race in September 1925.

The Northam to Perth was a very prestigious blue-ribbon event second only to the Beverley to Perth.

Collectively, the newspaper articles and photos provide a wonderful window back to simpler times between the two world wars.

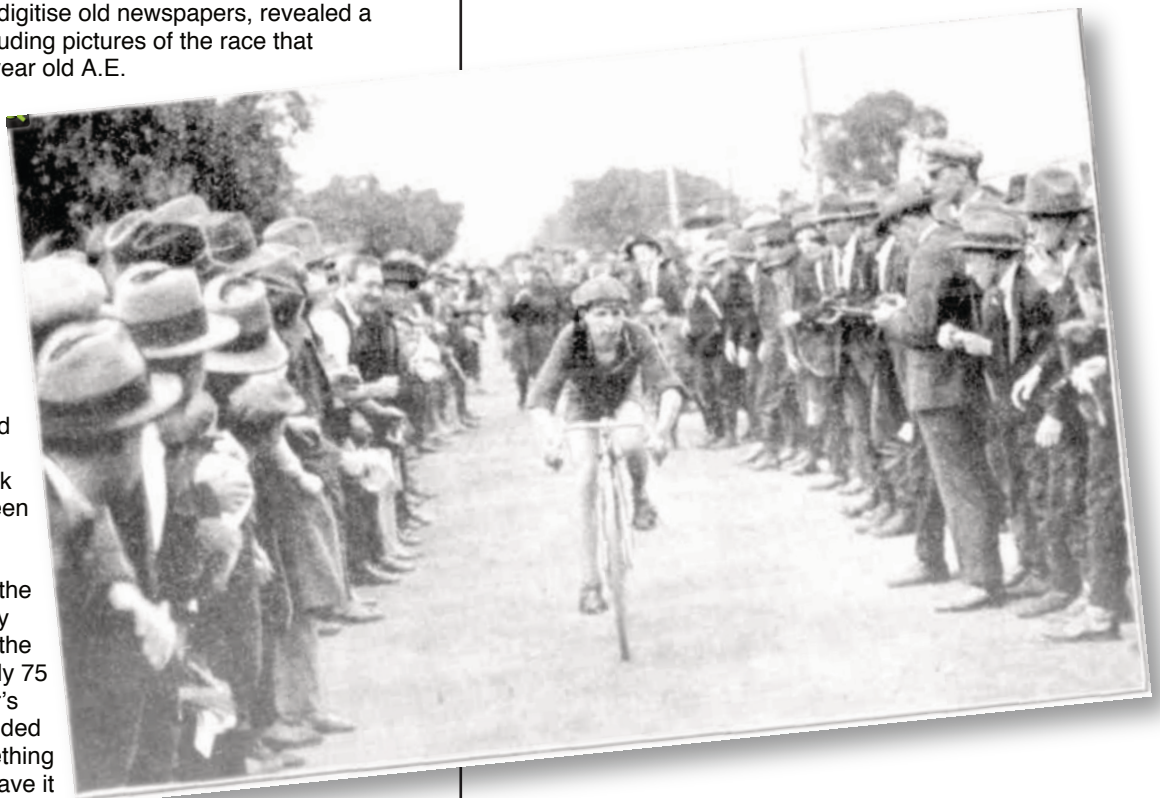
As fate would have it, the bike would end up very much forgotten under the Golder house for nearly 75 years. In 1998, Golder's elderly son-in-law decided it was time to do something with the bike and he gave it to Mal.

Much to my surprise and delight, though the bike was in poor cosmetic condition, there on the head tube was the original brass badge - *The West, Built by West Cycle Ltd of Hay St.* The bike's original components, some of the best available at the time and generally in very good condition included Chater Lea cranks and axle, BSA pedals & headset, Brooks Sprinter saddle and Major Taylor style adjustable head stem. The wooden front wheel was complete and the only missing component of note was the rear hub. With regard to the frame, of note are the especially fine seat stays, 7/8" diameter top tube and ChaterLea bottom bracket shell. Three types of wooden rims of varying diameters came with bike - small and large tubular rims and medium sized clinchers.

The bike has been cleaned, fish oiled and coated with conservation wax. The plan is to leave the bike in very much "as found" condition and to build a rear wood rimmed wheel for display purposes and a set of steel Westwood wheels for the very occasional gentle outing.

The Trove newspaper articles are available here;
<https://bit.ly/2AA3hye>

Frank West.



Club Calendar

Christmas Wind Up - December 9th

Applecross Clubrooms - 12 midday. Bring a salad and a drink (and a bike!) The club will supply bread, ice and cold meat.

Display - December 1st 7pm

Channel Seven Christmas Pageant -
St Georges Tce, Perth

Contact **Mal Bell** for your wristband 0428 718 073

Drop off Location: Please head south down Milligan Street from Wellington Street. When you arrived (depending on the time), you may need to go through Traffic Management on the corner of Hay and Milligan let them know you are delivering the Historical Club bikes. They will let you into the closed road area of Milligan Street. Go as far down Milligan as you can and unload the bikes safely. Stop before you reach St Georges Terrace and park safely. Once unloaded and someone is there to look after the bikes, leave and head north up Milligan the way you came.

Parking Location for bike trailers: You will need your parking passes to park in the Langley Park area. On arrival at the Langley Parking Area please have your parking pass on display. This will be checked by security before you can enter. Once on the park please follow parking instructions from event staff on where to park.

Entry to the Langley parking is off Plain Street. Please take note of road closures in the area.

Please drop off all Bikes before 6.30pm: Floats will be moving into place at this time along St Georges Tce. Once all the bikes have riders head towards the start line area along St Georges Tce. Event Marshals will give you direction and let you know your location in the line-up of the pageant.

Route: The official pageant start is at the intersection of St Georges Tce at William Street. The pageant travels down St Georges Tce, turns right onto Bennett Street and finishes on Langley Park.

Langley Park Finish Line Compound and Parking



Western Australian Historical Cycle Club Inc. PO Box 224,
Applecross, WA, 6153 email info.wahcc@gmail.com Chairperson: Robert Frith
Vice President: William Riseborough Treasurer: Frank West
Secretary: Robert Hunt Committee Member: Malcolm Buckland

DISCLAIMER The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the WA Historical Cycle Club and the accuracy of information published herein is not guaranteed.

Club News

Logo Concept Vote

More than 30 club members participated in the vote on the logo concept. The winning vote was for a logo based on the the old League of WA Wheelmen logo, so it has some local historical relevance.



Committee will meet to discuss getting this into a form that we can use across our stationery, clothing and display materials.

New members

The past couple of months has seen four new members join the club.

Toby Hodgson is already known to many in the club as the organiser of Giro d'Perth and the Beverley Heroic weekend.

Neville Turner joined us after participating in the Penny Farthing Dan ride a few months ago.

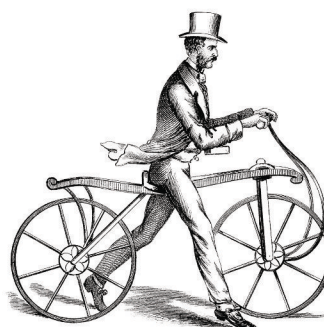
Bob Sommerville is a photographer and graphic designer. He took part in the Bonjour Perth Display last month.

Iain Kenny signed up a while ago, he works FIFO and has yet to make it to a meeting. He is restoring a bike from the 1900 - 1920 period, brand unknown Iain is keen to rent a garden shed or small garage to store, work on a bicycle. Anything considered. Condition immaterial, willing to repair. Electricity not essential. Prefer independent access. Ideally near train line Maylands to Fremantle; thus near cyclepath. Away from Perth a lot.

References available.

Please phone Iain 0406949211 or email:

finefettling@gmail.com



The "Dandy Horse"