

'The life of the bicycle program'

A pioneer of city pedal paths, she wrote the book on bikes

By Deborah Janes
Of the Emerald

Ruth Bascom is a pioneer. She may not have traveled the Oregon Trail, but the Eugenean has cycled hundreds of miles on Eugene's first, primitive bike trails. In fact, Bascom devoted the past 12 of her 56 years to help design those bikeways.

"She's the life of the bicycle program," says Diane Bishop, one of two bicycle coordinators for the city of Eugene.

"No one has played a more important, active role in establishing the bikeways and safety standards (in Eugene) than Ruth," says Lane County Commissioner Scott Lieuallen, a local biking enthusiast.

As chairer of the Eugene Bicycle Committee from 1971 to 1978 and as a citizen member since 1978, Bascom has been the driving force behind the Greenway Bridge Project, the bicycle bridge linking Eugene downtown and Valley River Center, and the Eugene Bikeways Master Plan, Lieuallen says.

And early last year Bascom decided the accomplishments of the Eugene Bicycle Committee and the history behind Eugene's unique bikeway system deserved recording.

After a 1½ years of research and writing, Bascom has produced "Bicycles in Cities: The Eugene Experience." The series of 12 reports focuses on everything from the Eugene master plan to the Willamette River Bank Trail System.

The master plan outlines 12 years of brainstorming and experimentation that hired consultants, Eugene Bicycle Committee members and concerned citizens have devoted to formulating Eugene's extensive bike network.

"Route detail must be altered in the light of experience and bikeway planning and design requires fine tuning," reads the master plan report.

During the bikeway's early days, Bascom often would strap on her helmet and test that fine tuning.

Another report, Bridges for Bicycles, summarizes the approach taken to garner funds for the Greenway Bridge. At Bascom's request, Sen. Bob Packwood authored the National Bikeway Demonstration Bill. After the bill passed, Eugene competed nationally for the appropriated funds but lost.

But Bascom came to the rescue. She initiated a letter-writing campaign to Packwood's office. The results?

"Packwood received more letters on that issue than any other that year," Bascom says. And the Eugene Bicycle Committee got the money.

Although Bascom produced 80 percent of the bicycle publication's copy, several University professors provided technical assistance and actual material.

John Crawford, a retired journalism professor, advised Bascom on advertising procedures for her mail-out order forms. Duncan McDonald, assistant professor of journalism, supplied photographs and design guidance. And Professor C. Bennett Pascal, head of the classics department, wrote part of the "Bridges for Bicycles" report.

During October, shortly after the report's completion, Bascom presented the publication to the annual Pro-Bike conference in Colorado, where Eugene won three of five national excellence awards.

Eugene's city council also viewed the reports last Wednesday.

The documents are on sale in local bike stores and Bascom has sent order forms to urban planners, city councils, consulting firms and citizen groups across the country.

As an author, political activist and avid cyclist, Bascom helped "pave the way" for Eugene's bike paths and bike lanes.

But she humbly denies she played a key role in planning and implementing Eugene's successful bike commuting system.

"I just found my niche in the community, a community that encouraged me to keep going."



Photo by Bob Baker

Ruth Bascom has spent 12 years, and ridden hundreds of miles, to help develop and review Eugene's prize-winning bicycle paths.

et al.

MEETINGS

The next meeting of the IFC will be held today at 5:30 p.m. in 337 EMU. The agenda is expected to include: Goal Hearings including Am. Ad. Fed., Asian Studies, and University Song and Dance.

There will be a meeting for all women interested in trying out for the varsity wrestling rally squad at 7 p.m. tonight in the letterman's room in MacArthur Court. Experience with wrestling is helpful but not required. Additional information can be obtained through the wrestling office in MacArthur Court or by calling x5495.

The College Republicans will hold a meeting tonight at 7 in the EMU Fishbowl.

SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

Child Care Inc., a private non-profit day care center, is sponsoring a free workshop on "Toys." The workshop will be held from 7 to 8:30 tonight at Child Care Inc., 169 N. Washington Street. Guest speaker Muriel Singer, director of Child Care Inc., will lead an informal discussion on different types of worthwhile toys for children. She will also be exploring the link between child abuse

and toys. Free child care provided on advance notice. For more information contact Dolly at 344-1165.

"Mind As Healer, Mind As Slayer" is the title of a free workshop on psychosomatic medicine to be given by Douglas Bloch tonight from 7:30 to 10 at the Eugene Center for Acupuncture and Acupressure, 1177 Pearl St. For further information, please call 345-4175.

"Depositional Environments in the Chile Trench and Their Influence on the Composition of Accreted Terranes of Convergent Margins" is the title of a luncheon seminar presented by Dr. La Verne D. Kulm, Oregon State University, today at 12:30 p.m. in 307 Volcanology. The seminar is sponsored by the University Department of Geology.

Want to major in business administration? The Office of Academic Advising and Student Services is sponsoring a workshop at 3:30 p.m. today in 164 Oregon Hall.

MISCELLANEOUS

There will be an Open House today from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. to give you an opportunity to meet Joseph Chilton Pearce, author and lecturer. The open house will be held at Dan and Lynn Noble's, 86 W. 25th, Eugene. For more information call 342-8387.

Last opportunity to nominate your favorite professor for Professor of the Month. Submit your nomination to the nomination box on the first floor of the library, or the Mortar Board mailbox in Suite 4, EMU. Deadline for nominations is Wednesday, Nov. 24.

ASLCC First Annual Peace Week is this week. Today at noon Dr. Aaron Novick will be speaking and a film, "No First Use" will be shown in 244 Math & Art. At 1 p.m., the poetry contest winners will be announced. Steven Shinn, songwriter and singer, will sing protest songs and songs for peace at 2:15 p.m. The essay contest winners will be announced at 2:45 p.m. in the LCC Main Cafeteria.

OXFAM's Annual Fast For a World Harvest is today. Stop by the table in the EMU lobby to answer your questions and find out more. Donation boxes will be at the table and near the entrance to the cafeteria all day. There will be a free breakfast celebration dinner tonight at Grace Lutheran Church, 17th and Hilyard, at 6.

"The Politics of World Hunger" is the title of a forum coinciding with OXFAM's Fast for World Hunger. The forum will feature Ed Comstock of the International Studies Department, Raymond Wolfe of the Chemistry

Department and Cynthia Kokes of C.A.L.C. The forum will be at 4:30 p.m. today at the Faculty Club. Admission is free. This event is yet another public service of the International Studies Association.

"Afro-Turf: Racism and Contemporary Oral Tradition" is the topic of the Interfaith Lecture Series, Monday, Nov. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the EMU Forum, with Barre Toelken, Professor of English and Director of Folklore and Ethnic Studies. This lecture is free and open to the public. Sponsored by Campus Interfaith Ministry.

A free film entitled "Long Canyon, The Wilderness Issue" will be shown tonight at 7 in 177 Lawrence. Presented by the Survival Center.

ORCA members going on the HP tour will meet at 11:15 a.m. outside Anderson's Sporting Goods, EMU. Persons providing their own transportation will travel with the van, and should pick up directions and a timetable from ORCA's mailbox, Suite 4, EMU.

Leitz/Wild Analytical Microscope Exhibit will be held Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in 111 Science III. The exhibit will feature computer controlled microdensitometer, DADS-560; computer driven automatic microtiter scanner, MPV-MT; computer system for biomedical image analysis, BIOQUANT; and much more.

POLICY

The Emerald's briefs column is the responsibility of the news/editorial department and is open to anyone wishing to announce meetings, lectures, seminars, exhibits, scholarships, interviews, or miscellaneous events. Briefs are run once and they are subject to space limitations. They must be typed and triple-spaced in a 65-character margin, include all pertinent information. Also, list a name and phone number in case we have questions, and the date you want the brief to run. Events with donations or admission charges will not be accepted unless the organization is non-profit. All items must be turned in by noon the day before publication at the Emerald Office, Room 300, EMU. If you have a question, contact Cort at 686-5511.

DOONESBURY



by Garry Trudeau

BLOOM COUNTY



by Berke Breathed