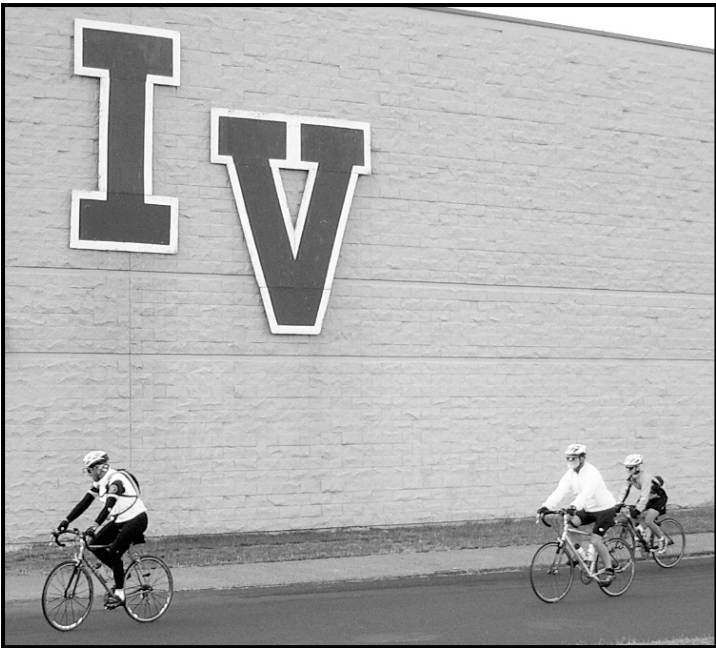


Arts & Entertainment



PLENTY OF BICYCLES and tents were in evidence at Illinois Valley High School Saturday, Aug. 11 as some 260 Oregon Bicycle Ride participants encamped. They left the next morning and will return Saturday, Aug. 18 (Photos by *Illinois Valley News*)

Takilma gardens two-wheel tour totally tasty

By PEGGY KARP
Once in a great while you have an experience that is so unexpectedly wonderful and so full of beauty and joy that you want to share it with as many people as possible.

That happened to me and a small group of other lucky people on Saturday, Aug. 4 during the first bicycle tour of Takilma's organic gardens. It was sponsored by Spiral Living Center, a new Illinois Valley-based nonprofit organization.

We assembled with our bikes at 9 a.m. on the parking lot of Dome School, a baker's dozen of us of very assorted ages, from Na'amah, who rode in a basket behind her mom, to people in their 50s and 60s. Sarah Kuhn, a young mother and gardener at Magic Forest Farm, organized the tour and led the group with Barry Snitkin, publicity director for Spiral Living Center.

Throughout the day, Barry, much like a friendly border collie, would ride back and forth on his bike, making sure that none of us were left behind or went astray. From start to finish, a palpable feeling of light-heartedness and adventure infused our band.

It was a perfect day, with the temperature in the mid-80s, and our spirits were high.

From Dome School we headed south on Takilma Road a couple of miles to our first stop at the home of Rachel Goodman & Ron Raven. Their lovely garden is bordered by towering mature forest, giving it an almost fairytale atmosphere.

The trees made the gar-

den somewhat shadier than is considered ideal, but the plants hadn't heard about that. They were all growing like gangbusters, including sun lovers like tomatoes, corn, and beans.

Rachel was modest to a fault, but it was clear that she has a brilliantly green thumb. We plied her with questions, and she happily shared her knowledge with



us. She urged us to take "anything that was ripe" from the garden as a snack, and then joined us as we continued our journey.

This scenario was repeated with variations at each of the gardens. All the gardens and their keepers exuded a spirit of generosity and abundance. We were invited to pick and eat anything we wanted, and happily munched our way through tender green beans, sugar-sweet cherry tomatoes, broccoli florets, nasturtium flowers, and handfuls of blueberries.

All the gardeners welcomed us with such unaffected friendliness and openness that we felt completely at home everywhere we went.

Our second stop was Doug & Alyce Kendall's

garden. Like Rachel and Ron, and most of the other gardeners, the Kendalls came to Takilma in the early 1970s. Their land was the site of the original Dome School, and they shared a photo of a class from those early days with Alyce as a young teacher.

The Kendalls' garden is divided into three areas for rotation, with vegetables and

ing our tour.

The fourth garden, owned by Joya Feltzin & Bill Gray is a smaller, more intimate setting. A spring-fed pond with blooming lotus lilies supplied water, as well as a Japanese-like tranquility, while flowers bloomed in happy profusion alongside the food crops.

The fifth garden, owned by Eric, another pioneer Takilma settler, consisted entirely of raised beds bursting with produce, showing how much food can be raised in a small space. When asked what he did with the excess, Eric said that he gives it away, much preferring that to selling it.

We then proceeded to our final stop, the Magic Forest Farm, a small commune which will celebrate its 40th birthday next year.

Currently some seven gardeners and their families live and work there. Lunch had been prepared for us, and we gorged on zucchini fritters, beets in garlic vinaigrette, salad, and other delicacies fresh from the garden. Afterwards we strolled about the farm, admiring the acres of lush produce.

We biked back to Dome School, our minds full of vivid impressions of the day. We had been granted a privileged glimpse into a world of magical beauty, a world created by gentle, hardworking people dedicated to living in harmony with their land and each other. It was altogether an inspiring, unforgettable experience.

Additional information about Spiral Living Center can be obtained by visiting spiralliving.org or by phoning 592-2693.

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courtesy of **Illinois Valley News**

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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10 Govt. agency that protects workers
14 Capital city
15 Dark
16 Schoolmate
17 Dairy product
18 Betrayal
20 Plato's T
21 French region where cheese is made
23 Examinations
24 Unkind
25 4840 square yards
27 Lido or Monte Carlo
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31 Young one
34 Eros' counterpart
35 Fence-climber's item
36 Natural substance
37 Achieve a monopoly
41 Nice season
42 Navigation system
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44 Start of Iowa's capital
45 Make arrangements
46 Sharper
48 Like Yul
49 Haughtiness
50 Señor's change
53 Thin
54 Lofty peak
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60 Cake ingredient
62 Roman road
63 Diminutive ending
64 Habituate: var.
65 Layers of earth
66 Tobacco dryer
67 Slender
DOWN
1 Bank record:
2 Mr. O'Hara's place
3 In ___ of Parseghian
5 Melancholy
6 Caesar's tongue
7 Fairy tale creature
8 Majors
9. As red ___ beet
10 Color: var.
11 Mets' spot
12 Fling
13 Carter and others
19 Eye part
22 One guilty of 18
24 Time when poets arise
25 Outsider
26 At peace
27 Ran
28 Ham it up
29 Tender spots
30 ___ Allen
31 Symbol
32 Crest of a mountain
33 Prevent
35 Valuable strings, for short
38 City on the Rio Grande
39 Dinner item
40 Lines of travel: abbr.
46 Caboodle's partner
47 Boo-boo eliminator
48 Impolite ones
49 Thing worth having
50 Fraternity letters
51 External: pref.
52 Storage building
53 Liberal ___
54 Sickness
55 Fat
56 Hunted animal
58 Modern: pref.
59 Greek letter
61 French one