

## All about bikes

How to buy the right bike can be an easily-solved problem if you stick to the smaller, local dealers who know what they're talking about and are more willing to help you than the employees of large, discount stores.

Another thing to look out for is a store with a good service department. Make sure the dealer keeps a good stock of parts and ask him, specifically, how long a bike repair would take.

Ask a lot of questions about brakes, weight and

gears because these features generally change and improve with each new model a company produces.

The most important thing to take into account is height. When you straddle a bike you feet should rest flat on the floor. All other

features you can decide on with the help of the dealer.

## Safety

It's important for a bike rider to remember that he is at a disadvantage on the road. He must look out for his own safety because car operators will often behave as though they don't see bicycles.

For this reason, lights on the bike and reflective lights strapped on your leg are a must for night cycling. For daytime visibility, buy the orange flag on a pole which attaches to the frame.

Cyclists are required by law to follow all the traffic laws that apply to motor vehicles. This includes riding on the right side of the road, stopping at stop signs and stop lights and yielding at yield signs, etc. Although adults usually follow the laws instinctively, children are atrocious law-breakers on their bikes. Parents should instruct children in laws applying to bicycles because it's a good way to improve bicycle

safety.

Although bikes can be dangerous on the road, they are a lot safer than they used to be. In 1935, for example, the number of bicycle-related deaths was 450, with about 3.5 million bikes on the road. In 1976 the number of deaths had doubled to 900, but the number of bikes on the road had grown 27 times to 95 million. So the death rate in 1976 in one-thirteenth what it was in 1935.

## What's new

Bikes are always improving in safety, convenience and looks. One of the newer features is the front freewheel. This allows the rider to shift gears without pedalling. Jim Roberts of Western Auto in Mount Joy showed us a BMX Motorcross bike which is

specially made for off-the-road use by youngsters. The tires, the fork, the frame and the tail end are all constructed to stand up under heavy use in less-than-optimal conditions. Another new feature that Jim has in stock is an all chrome 12-speed bike —

it's the flashy sportscar of the bike world.

When you go out to buy your bike, take a good look around and ask dealers to point out the newer features on their bikes. You'll be surprised at how much they've changed since you were a kid.



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Heineman's after inventory clearance starts Friday, July 7, promptly at 9AM. Plan to attend this midsummer saving event Friday and Saturday of this week. Watch the Columbia News for complete listing of sale items.

The New

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