

Hell No We Won't Glow!

Rocky Flats Conference

by Lawrence Wallman

The "Anti-Nuclear Fools" (translated from the Japanese) was one group among the 5000-6000 participants in attendance at the Rocky Flats Conference and demonstration held April 29-30 at Denver, Colorado, and at the Flats nuclear weapons plant 15 miles north of Denver. The Japanese delegation consisted of survivors and victims' relatives of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, truly concerned people.

The Lawrence delegation, made up of myself, Anne Moore, John Harvey and Patty Scobey, boarded a chartered bus at 8:00 PM Friday, and along with approximately 40 others from Kansas City, Salina, etc., arrived in Denver about 9:00 AM, Saturday.

About 2000 there heard speeches, ranging from cogent to impassioned, from seriously committed people like Pat Schroeder, U.S. Representative from Colo., and Stokely Carmichael, black activist from the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee days, among others. Carmichael's presentation was especially moving and brought all to their feet. Turns out he has been a closet "ban-the-bomber" for 20 years.

The most overwhelming event of the weekend was the caravan to the weapons facility which is operated by Rockwell International. It lies in the foothills of the Rockies between Boulder and Denver. The purpose of the demon-

stration was primarily to focus Colorado citizen's attention, especially the plant workers, on the extreme health threat and the desirability of conversion of the workers' skills to peace-time labor.

Conversion, the domestic policy which would take some of the \$150 billion earmarked for the military this year and put it into social programs, was the main theme of the conference. Conversion serves as a rallying point into which environmentalists, peace workers and social activists can all hook.

Six thousand of us from all over the country were there in Hell, as Helen Caldecott, the Harvard-based Australian physician, so eloquently stated. And we were inspired by about 15 different speakers, all long on valuable information and short on rhetoric. As it rained a huge rubber ball, painted like the Earth, bounced by human hands and heads from the front of the crowd to the back.

At the end of the rally Dan Ellsberg led approximately 40 persons to occupy the railroad tracks which carry nuclear materials to and from the plant.

Workshops on Sunday were well-planned and incisive. I attended a "Mobilization for Survival" meeting and learned of past progress. Plans for the upcoming conference in New York, May 25-30, in correlation with the special session on disarmament at the UN, were also announced. Disarmament supporters from all over the world will attend that conference.

We left the mountains with an urgent motivation to join the struggle against the politics of death so rampant in this and other countries. Brevity here does not convey the urgency well, but for those who are interested in learning more and in helping plan future actions in Lawrence, at Wolf Creek and in New York, we four will be present at a meeting 8PM Monday, May 8th, B-28 Watson Library.

"Get Active or Get Radioactive!"
No Kidding!



O-Keet-Sha-Trail
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

BY GEORGE LATHAM

More than 175 people rallied in front of the Tonganoxie City Hall April 9 to show their support of the bike, hike and nature trail along the railroad right-of-way between Lawrence and Leavenworth now being abandoned by Union Pacific. The trail is called the O-Keet-Sha Trail.

The colorful supporters moved off down the tracks toward Lawrence shortly after 1 p.m. Many in the group were decked out in full bicycling regalia of tights, jerseys and cleated shoes carrying bikes on shoulders. Others wore full hiking dress including packs, Colin Fletcher hat and walking staff.

They biked, drove and walked from more than eight neighboring communities and as far away as Kansas City, Missouri, Topeka and Wichita.

The Rails-to Trails project has a growing list of supporters, including the Mount Oread Bicycle Club, Henry Leavenworth Wheelmen, Lawrence Sierra Club, and Jayhawk Audubon Society. In Tonganoxie, O-Keet-Sha Trails Committee is supporting the trail. Various local Planning Commissions, including Douglas County's, have endorsed the project.

All of these bodies, sweat and miles demonstrate a significant public interest in development of new recreation areas in Kansas. To get involved, contact the Kansas Trails Council, 1226 W. 7th, Lawrence, 913-843-3328.

Marijuana

Alert!

BY THE STAFF

The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) has issued a consumer alert in an attempt to warn smokers of the presence of paraquat-contaminated marijuana in the U.S.

Paraquat is a highly toxic herbicide employed by Mexican authorities to destroy marijuana. The chemical causes the plants to decay in a matter of days if the fields are left standing.

Mexican growers, however, have apparently been harvesting their crops immediately after they are sprayed. This arrests the decaying process and leaves the poison on the harvested plants.

More than 20 per cent of the marijuana samples recently seized near the U.S.-Mexican border have been contaminated with paraquat.

Preliminary results of research on laboratory animals by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) have established that smoking paraquat-contaminated marijuana can cause permanent lung damage, a disorder called fibrosis.

NIDA estimates that an individual who smokes three to five contaminated joints a day could suffer permanent, measurable lung impairment after several months. Ironically, eating the contaminated marijuana is believed to be relatively harmless.

A confidential and anonymous test for contamination is now available to consumers. Send one joint in a plastic bag to Pharm Chem Analysis Anonymous, 1844 Bay Road, Palo Alto, Cal. 94303- Identify the sample with a five-digit number, enclose \$5 cash or money order, and mail in an envelope marked "hand cancel."

Results of the analysis can be obtained after three weeks by calling Pharm Chem at 415-322-9941 and identifying the sample by the number. The analysis fee is tax deductible.

Headquarters, the local drug crisis center, is making an effort to keep on top of the situation. The staff requests that you inform them of your test results.



The Paraquat Crisis

And you thought marijuana couldn't hurt you...

The federal government is now warning that 20% of the pot being imported to this country is contaminated with paraquat, a toxic herbicide sprayed on Mexican marijuana crops.

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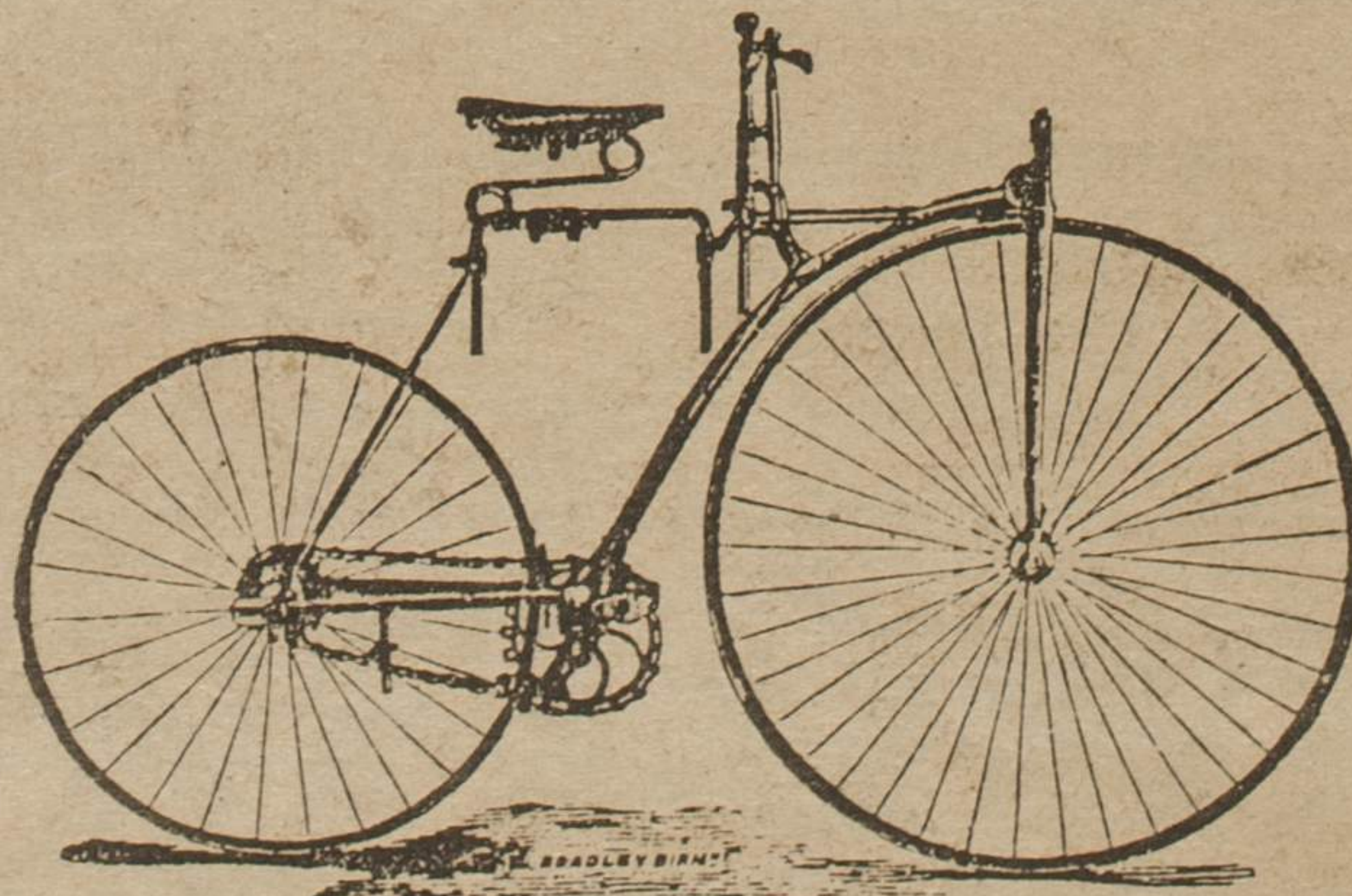
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