

Cycling's living legend visits here from Italy

by Jim Robinson

Giacinto Benotto glides to a stop on his cacophony-colored 10-speed bicycle, a deeply-tanned face and brilliant white teeth showing satisfaction.

Four other racer-clad riders gather around him, not because this 76-year-old led them on a 37-kilometre run to Aberfoyle and back; but because they are gazing at Giacinto Benotto, a legend.

At 76, he is lean as the professional racers he employs in Europe. He would be central casting's delight in finding someone to look like the quintessential Italian patrician.

He started racing in the 20s and won his last major race in Savona in 1931. Those were the days when racing cycling as we know it was vastly different from what we know today.

Through his interpreter, North Halton resident and Mississauga cycle builder, Joe Gardin, Mr. Benotto said the racers "where much stronger, they had to be."

"The major problem was the dust. The roads weren't paved and the dust coming up into the mouths of the competitors gave them tuberculosis.

"Many of them died from that, many," he said.

Many also collapsed from the exertion. There were only two speeds when Giacinto was racing. There were no derailleurs to change up and down across 10 speeds.

In those days, the bicycles had two wheels but one was bigger than the other. Using wing nuts, the racers would put the little wheel on the back going up hill and then switch at the bottom to use the big wheel at the back for speed.

Today, Benotto is considered the third largest manufacturer of bicycles in the world. His firm, Bicicletas Benotto, has been functioning for 52 years.

He was the first to use aluminum tubing on a bicycle frame. He invented and holds the world patent for the racing tape used on the handle bars. Even the Japanese have to buy their tape from Giacinto Benotto.

Gardin said the legend cycles 50 kilometres everyday. On his 76th birthday in February, Benotto celebrated by cycling 76 kilometres.

Sitting in the Gardin home in north Halton Saturday, he was excited because one of his Benotto team riders had won a stage in the 19-day Tour de Italia bike race.

The talk about racing lead to the future of cycle racing in Canada, something that rankles Joe Gardin.

Gardin owns Mobile Equipment in Mississauga, but most of his life has been one of intimate involvement with cycle racing. He was one of the people who built the now-abandoned concrete bike velodrome in the Toronto area.

He manufactures and markets his own

Gardin special 10-speed and he is the distributor for the Cambio Rino line of Italian racing bicycles.

Gardin sponsors no less than 30 riders in Canada. One of his Cambio bikes was used by the top Canadian finisher in the Tri-Athalon race run in Hawaii.

Gardin has also negotiated to sell the Benotto top of the line bicycles here in Canada, which was the reason the legend was staying at the Gardin home.

"Look at this man," Mr. Gardin said, "and you can see what cycling is in Europe."

"People stay at home to watch the races there. But here... we are in terrible shape," he said.

"We have four top, world-class, I mean Olympic class riders right here in Ontario, but they have no place to train. We can send them to Montreal, but if they want to train they have to train at night."

"That's because the Quebec Federation has the Velodrome all sewed up and they only let their own practise during the day."

"The only other thing we can do is send them down to Detroit."

"We have nothing. There's next to no support except from those interested like myself."

"We want to win gold medals in the Olympics for cycling and I know we have the

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Giacinto Benotto, right is shown on a 37 kilometre run from the Gardin home to Aberfoyle and back. Left is Joe Gardin, the local resident, who manufactures bicycles in Mississauga.



newsmakers

Georgetown/Acton, Wednesday, June 22, 1983



Pitching hay is just one of the skills Suzanne Abray is learning on the Lister farm at RR 4, Acton, this summer. Calling it a dream come true, Suzanne's days are full of work as a farmhand, a job she got through the Canada Employment Centre for Students.

Farm job — dream come true

Suzanne Abray's dream of working on a farm for the summer became a reality last month when she was offered a job as a farm hand through the Canada Employment Centre for Students.

The 19 year old student from Metcalfe Court, Georgetown, is working until the end of August at Mountainview Farms, R.R. No. 4, Acton.

An added bonus for Suzanne was knowing her boss before she went to work. "I took riding lessons a few years ago here, so I already knew the Listers," she explained. "It's super," said the enthusiastic Suzanne. "What's really great is getting a job you really like for the summer. There is such a variety of things to do here and I'm learning a lot."

She commented that it was a dream for her to work on a farm, but what has made the job perfect for her is the opportunity to work with horses.

Mountainview Farms have some thoroughbred racers, a stallion, brood mares and school horses.

Just finished her first year at Trent University in Peterborough, where she obtained a \$1,400 a year scholarship, Suzanne would like to be a veterinarian after obtaining her biology degree.

"This job is great because I can watch the vet when he comes to treat the horses," she said. "If I want to be a vet, I need practical experience. With vet medicine, farm experience is a necessity."

Last summer, Suzanne worked at Canada's Wonderland doing public surveys. "I liked working with the people, but this job is perfect because I like being outdoors."

In the mornings, Suzanne mucks out the barn and feeds the horses before getting on with her other chores.

She works five days a week, beginning at 8 a.m. and ending whenever the work is done. She receives an hourly wage of \$3.75 an hour.

But the money does not mean a lot to Suzanne who regards the experience as invaluable.

"I just love it here," she said. Mountainview Farms' owner Ron Lister tries to hire students every summer and says he is happy with Suzanne's work, explaining it is difficult to get a student "who fits in with the horses."

"It's a breeding farm and working farm and sometimes, although the students are eager, they can be all thumbs and it takes time to explain things to them," he said. "But this work is exposing Suzanne to all types of work and she's a good worker."

"Generally, I've been really pleased with the students over the years," he added.

The Canada Employment Centre for Students called Lister to ask if he was hiring any students this year.

"Almost within minutes, I was getting calls," he said. "Most students in other years seem to have preferred a job in a supermarket or something where there's air-conditioning, but this year I got a pile of calls."

Three people charged, tapes labelled obscene

Three Georgetown people have been charged by Halton Regional Police in connection with obscene material found at H and H Video on May 25, police say.

Armed with a search warrant, three Halton Regional police officers raided the store on May 25 at 2:30 p.m., seizing 50 video tapes suspected of being obscene.

Prior to the raid by the officers, a police officer had posed as a customer and rented a video movie from the store.

The charges resulted from 10 tapes, described as obscene after they were subjected to review by Halton's Drug and Morality Squad.

Co-owners Randy Humeniski, 36, and Milly Adams, 48, have been charged with

two counts of possession of obscene material and one count of circulating obscene material.

Store clerk Beverley Boulton, 21, has been charged with one count of circulating obscene material.

All will appear in Milton court on July 4.

Correction

In last week's coverage of the Progressive Conservative leadership convention a Brampton-Georgetown Youth delegate was identified as John Goeballe when in fact his first name is Hugh. This newspaper regrets the error.

Devine to stand trial

County court Judge William Sharpe declared Wednesday morning there appeared to be enough evidence for Dennis Devine to stand trial for the theft of \$16,500 from the Pioneer Gas Bar on Queen Street, Acton.

Devine, 29, was a candidate for an Acton seat in the November 8 election, placing last in a field of five candidates.

During a preliminary hearing, vice-president of Pioneer, Robert Allen of Scarborough, testified about \$32,000 was missing between December 10 and 20, after he had done an audit on the gas pumps.

During that time, Allen said he had tried at least three times a day to get in touch with Devine, by phone. He had been manager of the gas bar since July 20, 1982.

Allen said as a commissioned manager guaranteed to make \$500 a week, Devine was averaging about \$700 a week, out of which he paid his employees. All utilities were paid by Pioneer.

Halton Regional Police were called on December 20 when the alleged theft was discovered, the court was told.

Allen said the company's policy stipulates

daily deposits be made and that if the cash is short, the manager must make up the difference.

About \$15,000 was recovered when a lump deposit was made to the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce on December 20. Four deposits were made on that day.

Crown Attorney Anthony Vale called Mike Lesperence, 23, of Acton to the stand where he stated he was a friend of Devine's and was asked to lend him money.

On December 19, Lesperence said he was asked by Devine if he wanted to invest \$5,000 in a bar, but he refused. The next day, he was again asked by Devine for money, this time as a loan of \$10,000.

He again refused, saying he "didn't know him well enough." The two men met a few months before the theft at the gas bar, he said.

The Crown asked that witness, Michael Steadman, 18, of Acton take the stand, where he told the court he received messages from Pioneer when he worked there as a full-time employee. "I told him Pioneer had phoned several times," said Steadman.

Summer action at libraries

Due to the support of the Summer Canada Student Employment Program and the Outreach Program of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, the Magical Mystery Tour for children will depart June 29, from Halton Hills libraries.

The Library will offer a full range of children's and young adult programmes this summer. Pre-schoolers have two programmes to choose from: The Munchkin Club members will have stories, songs and films every Friday.

Junior Scientists will meet at the Library Lab on Tuesday afternoons. School-age children have a wide range of programs to choose from, with the annual Summer Reading Club being the most well known. Mad Scientist Specials will give children the

opportunity to meet experts on a variety of topics ranging from chemistry to amphibians. Wednesdays will be exciting, unpredictable days at the library. A Spy School, Teddy Bear's Tea Party, and many more exciting events are planned.

Due to popular demand, Munch to the Movies on Thursdays at noon, will return.

Young people are invited to drop into the Georgetown Library on Tuesday evenings or Acton Library on Thursday evenings when a wide range of activities, including a Dungeons and Dragons tournament and a Baby-sitter's Night will be offered.

Contact the Acton Library, 853-0301, or the Georgetown Library, 877-2681, for more information about summer programs.

Works exhibit is praised

Halton Hills works staff has been commended on a job well done for the Public Work Week exhibit at Alcott Arena last month.

Last week at Halton Hills general committee, Mayor Peter Pomeroy praised the works staff efforts, some duties were performed on personnel's own time he noted, for public works week. The mayor said a letter was going to the staff complimenting them.

Councillor Pam Sheldon also observed the works staff did an excellent job.

A staff reported about 300 citizens and 420 school children attended the exhibition

between May 24 and 27. "All indications are that it was enjoyed and very much appreciated."

This was the first observance in Halton Hills of public works week, and staff hopes council will support it becoming an annual affair. Besides works staff, arena staff also helped with the show. Frank Morette, Keith Smiley, Rod Kruger and Al Hay were on the organizing committee. The works department expressed appreciation to Sheridan Nurseries, Champion Road Machinery, Duke Lawn Equipment, Nielsen's Clothing, A.E. LePage and Carpet Barn for assisting with exhibits.



Region is for the birds!

The region has laid another egg? Not in so many words, but there happens to be five blue eggs nestled in straw in the regional mailbox, prompting Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett to comment that "regional government really is for the birds!"

Mother hens and her eggs are being diligently taken care of by regional staff who have made a sign telling where to drop off mail.



The new executive of the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded, elected June 14, are left to right, front row: Bert Arnold, Ed Schmeier, John Barratt, Charlie Harrison; back row: Gene Valeriot, Ron Hudd, Chris Dewdney, Audrey Mitchell, and Father Dave Cote.