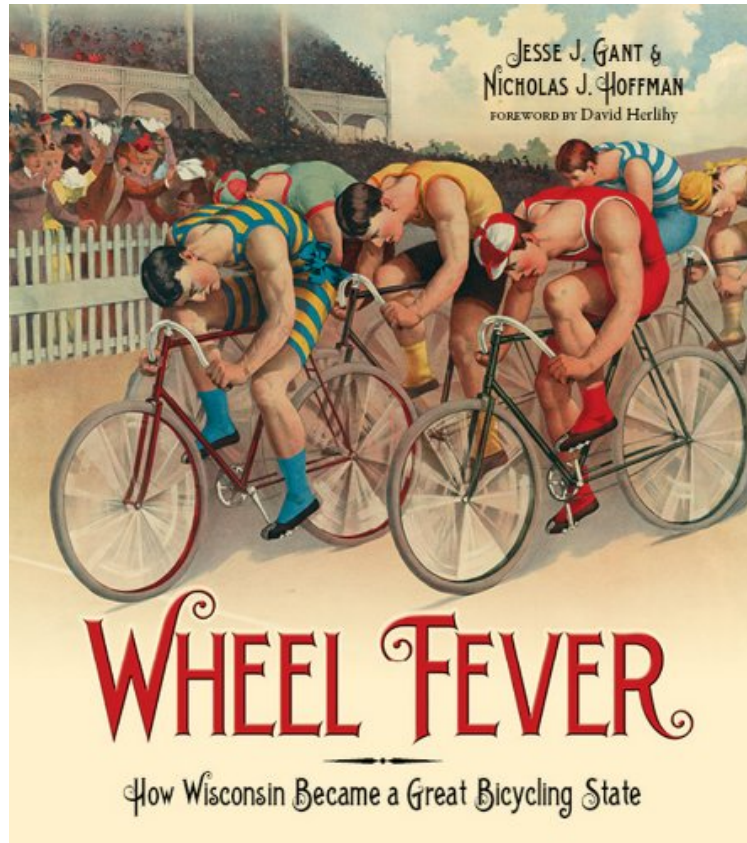


[Get free] Wheel Fever: How Wisconsin Became a Great Bicycling State

Wheel Fever: How Wisconsin Became a Great Bicycling State

Von Jesse J. Gant, Nicholas J. Hoffman

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Von Jesse J. Gant, Nicholas J. Hoffman : Wheel Fever: How Wisconsin Became a Great Bicycling State before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wheel Fever: How Wisconsin Became a Great Bicycling State:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Wisconsin Bicycles, Past And Present Von James Gallen Most of us ride, or have ridden bicycles, but have you ever wondered how this machine evolved and became so popular? What models lead to the ones we ride today? What forces and heroes were instrumental in achieving their popularity? If you are looking for the answers to these questions, "Wheel Fever: How Wisconsin Became a Great Bicycling State" is the place to begin. This book takes the reader through the models of the past. The Velocipede, ridden by Velocipedestrians, made its advent shortly after the Civil War. It differed from the modern bikes primarily because it had no chain but just a pedal that turned the front wheel. Next came the High-Wheel. You know, those bikes with the huge front wheels that some exhibitionist brings to the rides and you wonder why anyone would ever choose that model and how they got on and off? At one time they were the dominant model, chosen for the high ratio between the pedals and the size of the wheel but, yes, a lot of injuries occurred when riders fell off. Something safer was needed if very many people were going to risk their lives on bicycles so next came, the Safety Model, which is the early version our modern bicycle with a chain and normal

size wheels. Wheel Fever is not just about equipment. Bicycling has played important social roles in our country in general and in Wisconsin in particular. In the late 19th Century roads were poor. They were rutted, got muddy and were filled with animal waste. Yuck! That was just fine for equestrians, but cyclists wanted something better. Cycling Clubs arose to act as social groups and to lobby for better roads and to defend the rights of cyclists. Not everyone was in favor of bicycles. They alarmed horses and ran pedestrians off the sidewalk! Cycling Clubs, most prominently LAW, the League of American Wheelmen, became significant political forces, helping to elect President William McKinley and Wisconsin Governor William Upham. LAW united its members of the West and East with Wisconsin being the largest Division of the West. We are reminded that, like the society from which they derived their members, Cycling Clubs were exclusive, often limiting themselves to white men. Bicycles became the "Poor Man's Horse". They gave women enhanced mobility and independence while enabling working men to get to work, politicians to meet more people and the middle classes to tour the countryside. They affected fashion and encouraged the publication of road maps. After the two main bicycle booms they became toys for children until in recent decades they have become instruments of recreation and means of transportation that can promote health and protect the environment. Wisconsin has provided an example for the nation by its conversion of rail line to trails and its enthusiastic embracement of the cycling sport. Like any sport, bicycles were raced. Readers are introduced to the champions of both inside tracks and outside races who popularized their sport and made it one to be emulated by their fans. I have gotten carried away with the story, but what about the book? Authors Jesse Gant and Nicholas Hoffman have done an excellent job of telling the story of Wisconsin cycling. The writing is engaging and the many pictures are reminders of a Wisconsin of the past: its people, its landscape and, of course, its bicycles. This is a book you will want to read and then keep it handy to page through again. Don't be stingy, put it out on your coffee table for your guests to peruse while waiting or when the conversation slackens. If you like Wisconsin, cycling or just social history, "Wheel Fever" deserves a place in your library and on your table.

Kurzbeschreibung On rails-to-trails bike paths, city streets, and winding country roads, the bicycle seems ubiquitous in the Badger State. Yet there's a complex and fascinating history behind the popularity of biking in Wisconsin one that until now has never been told. Meticulously researched through periodicals and newspapers, Wheel Fever traces the story of Wisconsin's first bicycling boom, from the velocipede craze of 1869 through the wheel fever of the 1890s. It was during this crucial period that the sport Wisconsinites know and adore first took shape. From the start it has been defined by a rich and often impassioned debate over who should be allowed to ride, where they could ride, and even what they could wear. Many early riders embraced the bicycle as a solution to the age-old problem of how to get from here to there in the quickest and easiest way possible. Yet for every supporter of the poor man's horse, there were others who wanted to keep the rights and privileges of riding to an elite set. Women, the working class, and people of color were often left behind as middle- and upper-class white men benefitted from the masculine sport and all-male clubs and racing events began to shape the scene. Even as bikes became more affordable and accessible, a culture defined by inequality helped create bicycling in its own image, and these limitations continue to haunt the sport today. Wheel Fever is about the origins of bicycling in Wisconsin and why those origins still matter, but it is also about our continuing fascination with all things bicycle. From boneshakers to high-wheels, standard models to racing bikes, tandems to tricycles, the book is lushly illustrated with never-before-seen images of early cycling, and the people who rode them: bloomer girls, bicycle jockeys, young urbanites, and unionized workers. Laying the foundations for a much-beloved recreation, Wheel Fever challenges us to imagine anew the democratic possibilities that animated cycling's early debates.