



C. A. Biederman set a record for two-wheelers in 1887, at Santa Cruz. He traveled one mile in two minutes and 50.2 seconds.

San Francisco racer Charles Biederman won two events at the 1887 Fourth of July League of American Wheelmen State Championships, including the one-mile handicap. (Photo from *Parade of the Past* by Margaret Koch).

They Race Cycles, Don't They?

Some of the nation's best cyclists are gearing up for this weekend's 9th Annual La Contiendia de las Colinas race in Santa Cruz, a grueling event that tests the legs and lungs of riders over the course of two days and three events. Veteran race fans will line the three circuits to root on old favorites, while neophyte fans will have a chance to experience the genuine thrills of bicycle racing for the first time. It's hard not to wince when a tight pack of racers leans into a curve with sets of whirring wheels just inches apart.

The competition is broken into four categories — one for women and three for men — and begins Saturday morning at 8am with the UCSC Road Race. Wending along a three-mile loop through the University, the cyclists will cover from 36 to 57 miles depending on their classification.

The second stage of the La Contiendia is the Glen Canyon Time Trial, a 4.2 mile, one-way run from Santa Cruz to Scotts Valley. The first heat gets under way at 5pm. The weekend's competition concludes on Sunday with the prestigious Garden Mall Criterium. The .66 mile course loops through downtown Santa Cruz, starting at Cedar and Walnut, turning left on Cathcart for one block before heading down Pacific to Locust, then turning back onto Cedar and aiming for the finish line. The first race commences at 8am. The women take off at 9:50am, and the final event is slated for 11am.

La Contiendia de las Colinas is sanctioned by the US Cycling Federation, sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Cycling Club and organized by Velo Promo. For more information about the race, you can call 425-8688.

— Charles Loomis



These rakish gentlemen on and under their cycles were known as the Good Boys of Bicycling and they all worked at Ford's department store. (Photo from Pajaro Valley Historical Society).



Two crack racing cyclists from Watsonville — Palmtag and Tuttle — pose with their bikes in front of a studio backdrop. Note the flowing curves of the handlebars and the wicker jib of liquid refreshment front and center. (Photo from *Watsonville, Memories That Linger*, Vol. 2, by Betty Lewis).