

CYCLING

SANTA CRUZ RACE NAMED CLASSIC

ROBERT A. LEIBOLD

Thirteen years ago this month, bicycle racing returned to Santa Cruz after a 35-year hiatus. The Santa Cruz Jaycees, the Los Gatos Bicycle Club, and since 1972, the Santa Cruz County Cycling Club

developed what has become one of the top 20 bicycle races in the United States, this year known as the Pepsi Classic, in Santa Cruz.

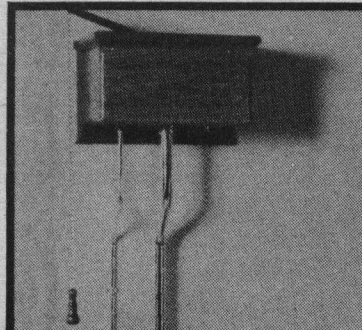
In the early Thirties, distance events such as the Kleiber Classic (San Jose to Santa Cruz) and the Palomar Classic (Palo Alto to Santa Cruz) brought crowds of up to 15,000 to watch the racers sprint to a finish on Riverside Avenue. Now, only a few blocks away, the crowds are back on Third Street. Since 1960, short-loop multi-lap races known as criteriums have been the most popular competitive cycling events in America, replacing both the long distance point-to-point events and the famous six-day track races of the Thirties.

Santa Cruz County is host to a number of criteriums each year, including the Garden Mall Criterium, the Watsonville Criterium, the Capitola Criterium, and the

granddaddy of them all, the Santa Cruz Criterium (Pepsi Classic). For 1979 the event has been honored with the United States Cycling Federation's highest acclaim, the National Classic designation. Top teams and riders from throughout the West will be competing, including national champions and national team members.

The course is a 9/10 mile loop on Beach Hill, utilizing Third Street, Front Street, Spruce Street, and the Laurel Extension along the river. This course is both physically demanding and visually exciting, and will provide an estimated 4,000 spectators with an opportunity to watch the best in American bicycle racing. Favorite vantage points are the Front Street hairpin (Front and Third) and the Third Street hill (between Liebrandt and Cliff). This year's finish will be on Third at Younger, one block after the climb. As the main race is 45 laps around the course, spectators can easily walk all of the way around the loop to see the action.

Remember, the race takes place on Sunday, April 22nd, from 10 am to 4 pm, with the main race beginning at 2 pm. The same weekend, Capitola will host the Western Collegiate Championships, and I'll discuss that in next week's column. In the meantime, for more information on the races, call Velo Promo, the bicycle racing promotion company, at 425-8688. •



History you can sit on... and live with—

The bathroom, always the last room to come under the decorator's eye, is once more gaining the attention that was lavished on it by our ancestors of a century ago. It all started during the 1880's with a man named Thomas Crapper and his invention, the Sanitary Water Waste Preventer. His invention, once the rave of the Continent, turned to great distaste by porcelain magnates, then to absolute horror by post-depression Americans. As Mr. Crapper's invention grew in disfavor, so too did the bathroom... up until now. Our manufacturers researched the historical archives and have reincarnated these long-forgotten beauties. And more! They have created their own Tour D'Force... The Throne! A Water Closet