

The Basket On My Bicycle

By Mike Simcik

In my youth, I never worried about peer pressure as I believed it showed a lack of leadership, character, and respect for one's self.

From age 10 to 15, I went everywhere on a bike with a basket mounted on my handlebars. In 1954 my dad paid some guy's bar bill. A week later, the guy came to my father. He said he didn't have the money to pay him back but he was holding on to a 26 inch, three speed English bike, with a basket mounted on the handlebars. He asked if dad would take it in payment. Dad said, "Yes, of course," and I got my first bike.

Boy did I catch all kinds of flack from my friends, because baskets were not cool and not a guy thing. But it only showed a lack of foresight on their part, for its many uses.

The importance of that basket was immeasurable. I started with my paper route, delivering the weekend edition of the Chicago Times. Where else could one put several baseballs, a bat and glove or the beer and pop bottles picked up on the side of the road, at five or ten cents a piece.

At age 12, I would take my 16 gauge bolt action shotgun and tie it to the handlebars, then ride to my favorite gas station, because the railroad tracks were only 50 feet behind the station. I knew the owner of the station real well, and he happened to be the mayor of our town and a good friend of my dad. These were some of the best times I had, as in the fall I walked the tracks for about five miles to the next town and back, bagging rabbits, squirrels and pheasants on the way. Good strong twine was always in my pocket to make hang loops from my belt, so the game foot was held fast to my side for the long walk back to my bike. The rabbits and birds went into the basket for the ride home and, needless to say, we ate very well at our house.

One day, I was riding back from a sandlot ball game and saw a small gray Scotty dog, with a collar but no tag, trotting down the street looking very lost. All dogs love me, so I stopped to pick him up and put him in the basket. I proceeded to ride up and down every street, till either the dog showed some response or someone recognized the dog. It only took three blocks to pass a house where a grateful older lady in the front yard opened her arms to welcome her best pal back home.

My friend Jim and I rode to our lake to fish as often as possible. The south end of our lake was a deep channel where the striped bass and crappies spawned in the springtime. On several occasions, we did not have fishing rods. Once we were in the right place at the right time, but we had nothing to fish with, so we broke off long willow limbs and we found some kite string and a three-inch stick for a bobber. We carefully made bent hooks from the safety pins Mother put inside my pants, and we didn't have to worry about bait, as the area was loaded with crickets and grasshoppers.

After two hours of fishing, my basket was full of fish and off we went to Jim's house, as he had a barbecue grill. It took a while to light it up and a half hour to clean the fish. With a bunch of cut up onions, lots of butter and tin foil, it was a meal that would live in infamy. Unfortunately, we forgot it was a school day, my mother was a school bus driver. That afternoon I saw my 6' 2", 240-pound father, with impending doom in his eyes, walking down the gravel road, coming right at us. Reaching Jim's driveway, he paused for a minute, looked at me and Jim then looked at the open tin foil on the grill and said, "Do you have an extra plate?" My Dad was a very special guy.

I have picked apples and pears on the road side, asparagus along the railroad tracks, wild raspberries along fences. Not to mention a ton of sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers and watermelon from a nearby farm, milk, and bread from the local grocery store.

Almost everything was brought home in "The Basket on My Bicycle."

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 "The person who says it cannot be done
 should not interrupt the person doing it."

Submitted by Pam Poort

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Join us for a FREE Community Orientation & Networking Event for Area Interns

What is Interns on Deck?

- An opportunity for area interns to network with peers from other area businesses
- A tour of Muskegon's most popular attractions
- End the day attending a Chamber Business After Hours event



Why you should send your interns?

- To familiarize them with the Muskegon Lakeshore area, making them more comfortable with their surroundings.
- To provide interns with an opportunity to meet other interns.
- To promote attraction and retention of young professionals.
- To provide an opportunity for young professionals to network with local business leaders at a Business After Hours event.

Who should attend?

- Students interning with Chamber member businesses and professionals that are new to the Muskegon Lakeshore area.

Event Details:

Thursday, June 15, 2017

3:30 - 5:30 pm

FREE to attend - includes access to Business After Hours

Future 15 Business After Hours

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Event Sponsor:



ARCONIC

Whitehall Operations



Stroke Warning Signs

Stroke is a medical emergency. Every second counts, because time lost is brain lost! Know these stroke warning signs and share them with others:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body.
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding.
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes.
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause.

If you or someone with you has one or more of these signs, don't delay! Call 9-1-1 or the emergency medical services (EMS) number immediately so an ambulance — ideally with advanced life support — can come. Also, check the time so you'll know when the first symptoms appeared. It's important to take immediate action. If given within three hours of the start of symptoms, a clot-busting drug can reduce long-term disability for the most common type of stroke.



Heart Attack Warning Signs

Some heart attacks are sudden and intense, but most of them start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Here are signs that can mean a heart attack is happening:

- **Chest discomfort.** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.
- **Discomfort in other areas of the upper body.** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
- **Shortness of breath.** This feeling often comes along with chest discomfort. But it can also occur without chest discomfort.
- **Other signs** may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

If you or someone you're with has one or more of these signs, call 9-1-1 immediately. Get to the hospital right away.

If you're the one having symptoms, and you can't access the emergency medical services (EMS), have someone drive you to the hospital right away. Don't drive yourself, unless you have absolutely no other option.

For more information, contact your nearest American Heart Association office or call 1-800-AHA-USA1 (1-800-242-8721) or online at www.heart.org.

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