

# INVENTOR MAKES PLEASURE ROUND OF HIS UNICYCLE

BY JANET PECK

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If you ever meet a large wheel with a man inside merrily rolling down S. Lake Shore dr. some fine day, don't swear off the stuff merely because of the sight.

Bacchus had nothing to do with this galloping disc, for it is the completely original contraption of Charles Steinlauf and is but one of the several trick bicycles developed by him in his garage at 2241 State st.

## "It Can't Be So"

Called by Steinlauf a "uniwheel," the cycle is, at first sight, a vision to make even the most abstemious doubt the state of his eyes. It consists of a wheel, 7½ feet in diameter, inside of which are three smaller wheels which roll along the inner rim. Because of undying faith, and two pedals Steinlauf pilots his mechanical monstrosity as fast as 20 miles an hour.

Once or twice Steinlauf, a seemingly nerveless fellow, tried it out on the drive, where he drew as much attention as if he were rolling over Niagara in a barrel.

Bike building, which runs in the Steinlauf family, has been a hobby of Charles' since 1914 when he constructed a cycle with eccentric wheels for a local moving picture company.

## Now for the Sewing Machine

"I guess it's because I always wanted to be an actor," he said, "that I get such a bang out of show bikes."

Odd, tho it is, the uniwheel is relatively a model of simplicity when compared with his sewing machine bike. It seems that a couple of years ago Mrs. Steinlauf, fortunately a bike lover herself, sent her sewing machine to her husband's garage to be repaired.

"That's the last I saw or heard of it," she said, "until one day Charles told me he had put wheels on it." The long suffering machine now has a high saddle for the driver, a place for Mrs. Steinlauf to sit and sew and seats in front and back for the two youngsters.

## Come in All Sizes

Also in Steinlauf's garage are a couple of the 9 footers of the high wheel variety, so popular around the turn of the century as well as a rare junior size in that style. There also is a bicycle built for four and one built from an old iron bedstead—to name but a few.

Currently the mechanic is working on a walking robot bike, which is made up of a front wheel, handlebars, seat, and pedals, while in lieu of a rear wheel is a robot. As the bike is pedaled the dummy walks in jerky steps and gives the illusion it is pushing the whole thing, including the driver.

"It's not completed," said Steinlauf beaming with enthusiasm. "The robot has to be given a new face, clothes, and a name. This bike is hard to ride because it operates slowly, and is difficult to balance."

## Ride Anything on Wheels

However, both Steinlauf and his three bike building brothers seem to be able to ride anything on wheels and have been able to ride a score of queer cycles built by themselves. Steinlauf constructs his vehicles in his spare time [about two hours a week] out of old pieces of metal tubing and junked bicycles.

Steinlauf resides at 4854 Rice st. Other members of this bike-happy family are his brothers, Joseph, 3851 Ogden av.; Maurice, 614 Lawndale av., and Dave, 4252 Jackson blvd.

# This Fellow Will Make Bike Out of Anything



A typical Charles Steinlauf bicycle creation, developed in his spare time at his garage, 2241 State st., is the 7½ foot "uniwheel." Steinlauf, brave fellow that he is, sits inside the wheel and pedals the smaller wheels which run around the inside rim of the large wheel. The inventor says it's no bike for a beginner, for in addition to keeping his

balance the rider has to steer by throwing his weight from side to side. Steinlauf, who lives at 4854 Rice st., has been making trick bicycles as a hobby since about 1914 when he created a bike with eccentric wheels for a local moving picture company.

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One fine day Mrs. Steinlauf sent her sewing machine to her husband's garage to be repaired and the next thing she knew it had wheels on it. Steinlauf sits on top and steers as he and his son, Frederick, on the rear seat, pedal. Mrs. Steinlauf is seated at the machine which still sews despite the additions, while daughter, Ruth, keeps a firm lookout ahead.