



CHEERING SQUAD — Standing in front of Mendon Town Hall, cheering Warren Goodnow who participated in the two-day Pan Massachusetts bikathon from Sturbridge to Provincetown, are from left Arlene Reed, Tracy Bethel, Marion Corcoran, Gail

Bethel and Madeline Taft. Goodnow was number 28 out of 204 participants when he passed through Mendon. The event was for the benefit of the Jimmy Fund. (Daily News Photo by Denise Marie Mize)

Benefit Bikathon: A Good Time

By **DENISE MARIE MIZE**
Daily News Staff

MENDON — "I can't stress it enough . . . it was a good time!"

So says Warren Goodnow of Miscoe Road who participated this past weekend in the 165-mile Pan Massachusetts Bike-A-Thon from Sturbridge to Provincetown.

Goodnow is so excited about his experience that he has begun a campaign locally to interest other bikers in participating in the event next year.

A total of 204 took part in the two-day with ages ranging from a 12-year-old boy from Southbridge to a grandmother in her mid-sixties.

The Bike-A-Thon left Sturbridge at 8:10 a.m. Saturday morning and ended the first day in Plymouth around 4 p.m. after a "nice, relaxed ride," Goodnow says.

"This was not a race, it was a ride," he stressed adding that he met many "interesting and good people" during the

trip.

Sunday morning, the bikers pedaled off at 7 a.m. ending the trip in Provincetown around 1 p.m. A boat took the group back to Boston at 3:30 p.m.

Besides providing the opportunity for camaraderie and exercise, the Bike-A-Thon had a serious side.

The participants raised \$60,000 for the Jimmy Fund by being sponsored for the event.

There were comical aspects of the two-day event also. A last-minute change of route caused snafus all along the proposed route.

Because of prior publicity about the Bike-A-Thon passing through town, Goodnow looked about for a friendly face as he whizzed through Mendon center, but saw no-one.

Apparently, he passed through before his cheering squad consisting of Arlene Reed, Tracy and Gail Bethel, Marion Cor-

coran and Madeline Taft set up camp in front of the Town Hall with a "go-Warren" banner.

After cheering many that passed by accompanied by "is that Warren?", the group informed by Lee Goodnow that her husband had passed through much earlier, and in fact, had been number 28 in line.

Goodnow admit that he hit Mendon "a lot quicker than I expected," covering the distance in two hours.

He said five doctors participated in the Bike-A-Thon, and also mechanics, but in fact, only one of the 204 bikers dropped out of the ride, and that was a young teenaged girl who had mechanical problems, according to Goodnow.

"It was very exciting," he said, "I hope to create more interest in going on it next year."

He said there's "talk" about extending the length of the Bike-A-Thon next year from Williamstown to Provincetown.

Reflecting on his experience, Goodnow expressed his gratitude to his sponsors Joe and Arlene Reed, and his other sponsors, who made his participation possible.

The Reed's spent the night before the Bike-A-Thon began in their camper at Sturbridge, and were on hand to take movies and cheer Goodnow and the others as they set off.

Goodnow, who owns Warren's Hair-cutting in Mendon center, has been riding bike for 10 years.

He said he will be "happy" to go into further detail about the experience with anyone interested in biking.