

Bicycles and Three AMTNJ Presidents

Henry B. Fine, President #2 1915-1916, Martin M. Beer, President #64 1977-1978 and Paul Lawrence, President #82 1995-1996 all had an avid interest in bicycle riding.

H.B. Fine was a familiar figure on his bicycle, riding to and from classes at Princeton University and often took long rides in the country. Tragically, as Fine was riding his bicycle to visit his brother at Princeton Preparatory School on December 21, 1928 in late afternoon, he was struck from behind by an automobile whose driver had failed to see him in the dusk light. Professor Fine died the next morning at the young age of 70.



Princeton University



Henry B. Fine

M.M. Beer was born in Germany and later immigrated to the United States via France as a teenager and finished high school at Brooklyn Technical High School. In 1950 he met his future spouse, Winifred. What did they do on their date, naturally, went on a bicycle ride.

Martin and Winnie Beer took groups of high school students from the Haddonfield, NJ area every summer to Europe for six to seven weeks bicycling through London, Paris, Munich and the countryside educating teenagers about history and culture. Martin was fluent in German and French and managed the inevitable challenges of leading teenagers in other countries. Later on adults wanted their own bicycle tours in Europe some of whom were his original teenage adventurers. Mr. Beer passed away in 2012 at the age of 88. In his retirement he enjoyed being with his four daughters and 12 grandchildren and, of course, repairing bicycles for the children in his neighborhood.



Martin M. Beer



Bicycle Tours in Europe

Paul Lawrence began his intense interest in cycling as a paperboy every day in his youth. After college, his interest continued to grow when he purchased his first 10-speed 35-pound Schwinn bike. At age 27, he rode and camped for an entire summer passing through Kentucky, Missouri, Ontario and Maine. Later milestones included a six week trip from Santa Barbara, CA to Charleston, SC, at age 70, with 12 other riders – all younger than Paul. Recently at age 75, Paul rode with a group from Portland, OR to Portland, ME.

Paul still rides every day while wintering in Florida or living in rural Hunterdon County in New Jersey. His next big adventure – perhaps ride across Italy, Spain or even the USA again at 80. Should we encourage Paul to enter the Tour de France?



Pacific Ocean Starting Point



Paul Lawrence