

### The Adventures of Eric and Kathy Hertz

The MTC Newsletter reports on a lot of people running around here and there for X minutes and Y hours. But this time, the news is about bicycling! Around the world!! For almost a year!!! The good news? Taking bicycles on international air flights doesn't cost extra. The bad news? None! Eric and Kathy Hertz confidently report that such an adventure is within the reach of ordinary people who seek to celebrate life by knowing people and places beyond the ordinary. How? Seize the moment! Eric was between graduate school and career; Kathy between careers. Second, know what to enjoy and do it. Both Eric and Kathy liked to bicycle distances - not to race, but to pace. Outdoor, aerobic recreation.

So, the Hertzes liquidated, arranged monetary logistics, grinned good-byes and began to roll. From June 10, 1984 to May 3, 1985, Eric and Kathy travelled 6,000 miles. They flew, they biked, they trekked. To London. The English countryside. The Rhone Valley, crisscrossing between France and Germany, across the Alps in Switzerland. To Italy. The Yugoslavian Coast. Greece. Israel. Across the Sinai Desert to Egypt. Delhi, India. The Kashmir. New Delhi. Katmandu, Nepal. The base camp of Mt. Everest in the Himalayas. Bangkok, Thailand. The Hill Tribe Region of North Thailand (the Golden Triangle region). Indonesia. Melbourne and Tasmania, Australia. New Caledonia. New Zealand. Manila, Philippines. Hong Kong. Macau. Taiwan. Seoul, South Korea. Japan. Hawaii. Home. The modest itinerary of two recreational bikeys.

The Hertz way to travel is light: 18 speed touring Specialized Edition bikes, basic back-pack equipment and the clothes on their backs. Each carried sleeping bags, ground pads, and four panniers. Eric carried their dome tent. They were careful to bring metric parts, and they were surprised that the tubes and tires were in inches. They replaced MANY tubes, but only four tires. Eric was the mechanic for minor repairs. But a Greek did the major repair: a bent rim. Eric had kept his eyes too long on the scenery behind him instead of too carefully on the road ahead of him. Curses.

Curses. Curses. But remember the words of Tolkien: "Adventures are not all pony-rides in May sunshine." As Eric and Kathy reflect on the "lesser moments," they describe not what they lost, but what they gained: patience, flexibility, perseverance, and goal-orientation. Their adventure offered them breathless visions: the Alps, the Sinai. And laughter: no water, nowhere in the Sinai Desert. Yet Eric and Kathy shared the sand with a man carrying an outboard motor on his back. Destination unknown! And mild anxiety: riding into a curfew in Northwest India. And gourmet dining: roast dog for supper at a roadside stand in Malaysia. And surprise: a serious customs examination in New Zealand, the Miami of the Pacific (drugs). And understanding: the population density of Indian and Japan equal CROWDED!

Eric and Kathy chose to travel by bike because they wanted to be close to the land and the people. Consequently, their accommodations were at times expensive. They camped in the dunes of the Sinai and were fed by the Bedouins. They stayed one night at an Egyptian Army outpost. Next, management of a five-star hotel in Cairo didn't want to get close to the Hertzes. Four days of desert dirt and sweat was too much land for those people. But the Hertzes' American Express Card proved they could afford the expense.

More . . . . .

### Eric and Kathy Hertz (Continued)

Replace the track in MTC with travel. And watch for Eric and Kathy Hertz running round their new neighborhood near the Osteopathic Hospital. They are new too: new to Maine and new to the Maine Track Club. They'll love the lobster, and they'll love the laughs: courtesy of the Maine Track Club!

(Thanks to Carol Mills for this interesting focus report.)

**HertzEric&Kathy 03 1986**