

The first bicycle appeared in Jacksonville about 1885 and was said to have been owned by Harry Lampkin. It was an "Ordinary", the high kind with a 60-inch front wheel and a small wheel behind, metal tired and without chain gear. The owner of the next "Ordinary" here was Evelyn Sanderson, who afterwards became an expert rider and won most of the prizes in the early amateur racing contests in this section.

The low, diamond frame, solid rubber tired "safeties" with chain gear appeared in Jacksonville about 1888, when the "Ordinaries" soon became classed as curios. The first lady's bicycle in the State was a "Victoria", ordered for Miss Alice Robinson of Jacksonville, and it arrived in October, 1890. Then followed an epoch wherein the bicycle became an important factor in social life. There were fashionable bicycle parties and picnics, moonlight rides along the river out Talleyrand way, and along the railroad to Panama. Bicycle parties searched out the by-paths into the country and by popular usage blazed the way for most of our hard-roads. As a social feature the bicycle had its ascendancy and decline within the decade 1890-1900, the cause being ascribed by an authority to the fact that "They (the women) tired of it, as they do of every muscular sport, except when novelty gives a brief stimulus or social opportunity. The lamp laws nearly killed evening parties, the chief use they could make of the bicycle". It was not so with men, who continued to use the bicycle for both business and pleasure until the automobile came into more or less general use in 1906-7-8. Today the use of the bicycle is confined to light delivery and messenger service and to boys and girls for pleasure.

In the heyday of bicycle popularity the Wheelmen's Club of Jacksonville was an important organization. The first club was organized November 23, 1887, with J. H. Crosby, president, and L. A. Wilson, captain. The yellow fever epidemic of 1888 broke up the club, but it was reorganized afterward and was in existence until 1907, when it disbanded and sold its club house just west of the Law Exchange building to the Church Club for \$13,000.

Of those residents of Jacksonville before the fire who may read these lines, some will remember the donax speedway near the Old Soldiers' Home and a moonlight ride around the "belt" and back to town; some will muse—and close the vision with a sweitzer sandwich while Nick Arend "scraped the foam".