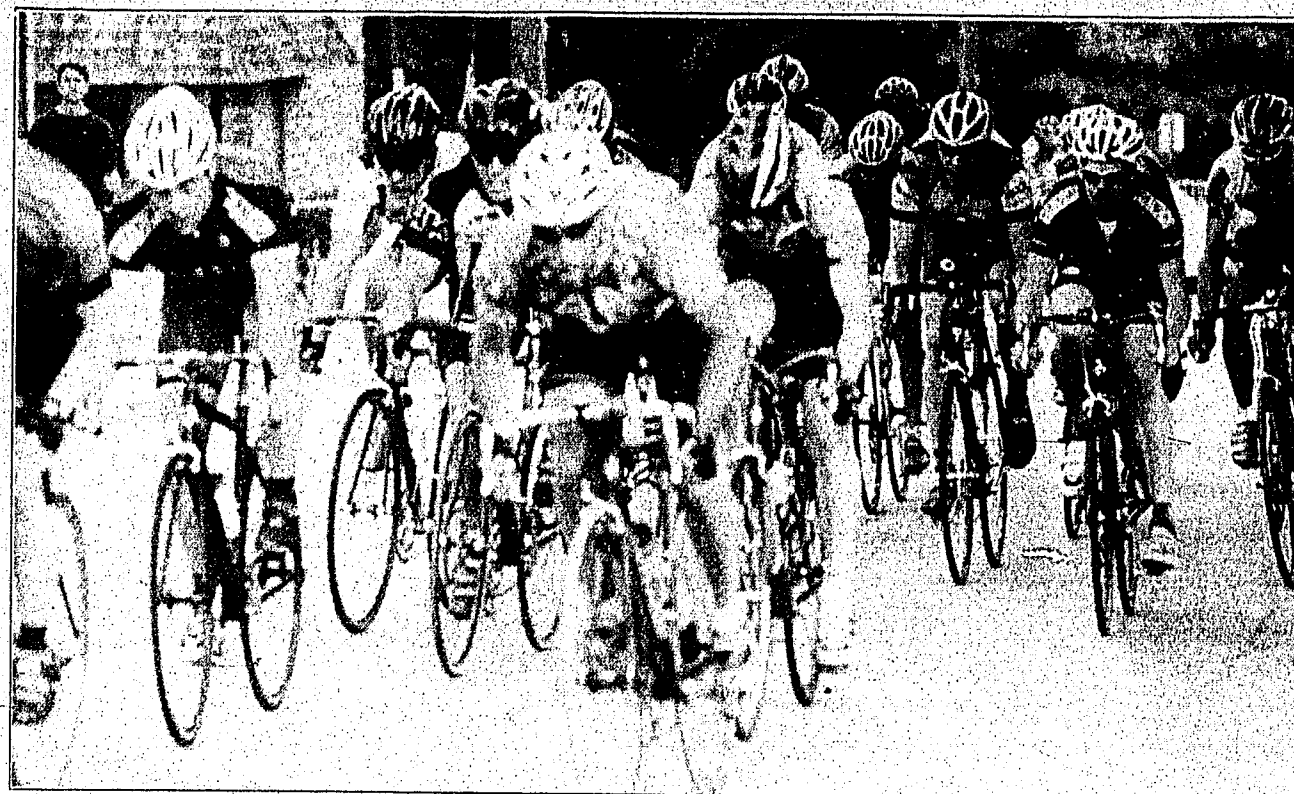


## Big-time pedalers



Racing for position is as much a part of the race itself as pack of riders jockey to improve status during segment

### Mooreville is first, last stop on first racing tour

They started here. They ended here.

Along the way, in the neighborhood of some 1,000 bicycle riders, some of them representing the most respected professional bike riding teams across the country, used the two local appearances to help form the four-day racing Defeat Crossroads Cycling Classic for Hospice of Iredell County competition that made such an impression, plans are already underway towards the possibility of making a return.

Two blocks of Main Street joined just as many along Church Street and one each on East Center and East on Iredell Avenues, in being blocked off for nearly a five-hour period to help open the four-stage event Thursday evening.

It was all part of the Downtown Mooreville Criticism that served to kick off the extended weekend festivities. Bikers of all levels, ages and genders arrived in the early afternoon hours

to test-ride the course before it was officially closed to all vehicle traffic shortly after 5 p.m. It remained off limits to all motorized vehicles save for the field's official pace car until around 11 p.m.

During that time, bikers decked out in bright team colors and outfitted to the hilt with racing bikes, helmets, water bottles and a curb full of extra wheels used timed races to cover the approximately seventh-tenths of a mile course. Most of the races were staged in 30-minute increments, with those turning the most laps declared the winners.

With downtown serving as the first-ever host site of such an event, a number of interested spectators showed up to watch the action, lined up along the Main Street sidewalks for front-row viewing a times mere feet from the speeding bikers who along the straightaways reached speeds in excess of 30-40 miles per hour.

Following Thursday's debut, which drew some 220

entries according to race organizers, most of the same ones also engaged in similar events held in Hickory and Statesville over the next two days, respectively.

Then, starting Sunday morning and continuing through early afternoon hours, a field of some 280 riders, some of them those who also participated in each of the previous three stages, again rode back into the Mooreville area, this time covering a course laid out around the Mooreville Business Park for the Race City Criticism.

Again, streets were closed off to allow only bike traffic as the riders lined up along the start/finish line on Knob Hill Road. The path led the field to Rolling Hills Road, along Gasoline Alley, onto Raceway Drive and finally up the hill on Crosslake Park Drive before returning to Knob Hill. It, too, covered just slightly less than a mile in length.

Those in the field were peddling more than just for

their health. The Downtown Mooreville event featured a total purse of \$2,000 paid off in four different categories, while the Race City affair featured a total purse of \$3,300, paid out in a total of eight divisions.

"We'd love to come back to the Mooreville area in the future," stated Neal Boyd, president of Charlotte Sports Cycling, Inc. that supervised the races. "The area was very receptive, and we enjoyed our association with all of those involved in making sure that the races took place without a hitch."

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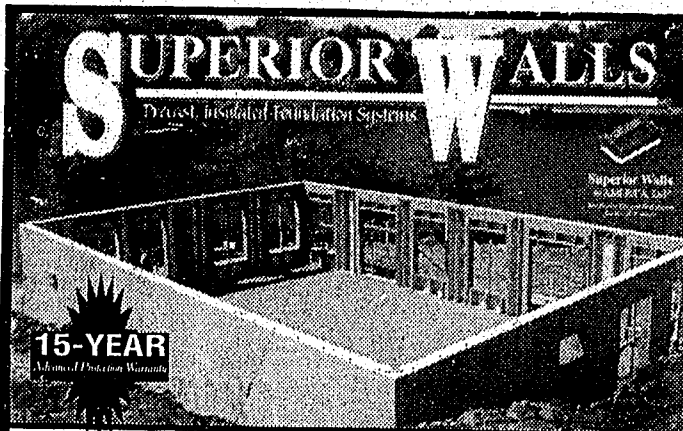
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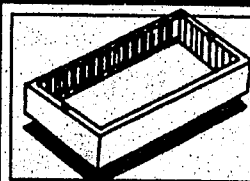
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### Journey's life gone to dogs

Charles Journey didn't have any takers when he offered those in attendance at his dog training seminar a chance at wearing a shock collar.

No surprise there. After all, it's not the people population that has made Journey such a considered expert in his field in the first place.

A one-time licensed pharmacist with his own thriving medicine business in Mooreville, Terrell resident Journey is now making the most of working with what he loves best, that of training dogs of all breeds to engage in all facets of obedience, be it for hunting or domestic reasons.

"If you folks want to talk about dogs," propositioned Journey to his audience during the final of three days of seminars during the annual Fall Hunting Classic held at Concord Mills Mall, "then I can stay here all day."

After all, he was going to be there anyway.

Conducting seminars and manning booths to talk about what he does and offer for sell items and materials that he uses to accomplish his profession, respectively has become a standard part of Journey's agenda since reaching his expert status in the field of dog obedience.

He and his Beaver Dam Kennels of N.C. Highway 150 west of Mooreville have been the subject of major newspaper and magazine articles, and he has been involved in the making of videos revealing how he helps the canine class respond to directors. He is now on a regular seminar tour at the request of some of his nationally-recognized sponsors.

It's during these tours when he sets aside time to talk to any and all who will listen about what he does and methods he uses to complete his tasks. They often ask questions concerning

these procedures, and he not only answers them but also provides proof of his information.

Journey also handles a booth promoting various brand products, such as the aforementioned dog shock collars, he recommends should patrons attempt to train dogs on their own.

Contrary to what many believe, rewarding dogs in training with food treats is not among the routines that Journey ascribes to by any means.

"Negative," is the definitive way he answered a question from an audience member regarding food rewards.

"That's not the way I recommend it at all. It's one of the most asked questions, and it surprises a lot of them when I say no. There are other ways dogs prefer being rewarded, such as petting or with simple companionship. We never train our dogs with food treats."

An avid hunter and outdoorsman, Journey decided to give up the time-consuming life of a pharmacist and, literally, throw it to the dogs. He owns and operates a kennel specifically designed for dog training, primarily for use when hunting all types of game in all types of weather conditions. He has also conducted a dog obedience class for the Mooreville Recreation Department that in just a few short weeks revealed rapid order-and-obey results for all participants.

"The act of retrieving is instinctive for just about all dogs," explained Journey, whose profession also gives him time for more hunting trips both on his own and job related. "The training comes in with the returning and giving back of what is being retrieved. You have to be forceful, and sometimes mean, at first, but it doesn't take them long to learn. There are ways to make them

understand and do it in a loving way."

At the recent Fall Classic, Journey was able to provide a first-hand view of some of his handiwork, being accompanied during his spill by his personal pet, Scoop. As the trainer talked about the various methods being used during the training process, Scoop spent time working the audience as well, one of his favorite fetch items constantly in tow.

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