

A Plea for Stolen Bike

Editor, News-Press: This letter is to the boy who took my gold 10-speed Hercules racing bike from a driveway near La Cumbre school on Feb. 7.

I am an 11-year-old boy, and was substituting on a paper route to buy my mother a birthday present, when you took my bike. My mother works in an office to support my brother, my sister, herself, and me.

In addition to working in the office, and going to night school she also works extra to give us extra things.

This bike was my first real bike, except for a small one we saved blue chips for. I waited a very long time for this bike.

Please, I will give you \$5 reward to bring my bike back, and will not ask any questions.

Steven Van Hook
1561 Marquard Terrace

Gift of Bike Applauded

Editor, News-Press: May I convey my thanks to the very kind gentler, an who presented the little boy whose bicycle was stolen with a new one. A great many of us can well remember the great joy of achievement—of learning to ride our first bicycle. A spring morning, and a quiet country road gave one a marvelous thrill.

Gladys Lejeune
322 E. Padre St.



THE FIRST RIDE

Happiness is being surprised with the gift of a new \$80 bicycle after someone stole the one you had worked for for a long time. Steven Van Hook, 11, who wrote a letter to the editor of the News-Press last week offering a \$5 reward for his bike, tries out the one an anonymous man bought at Sears and had delivered to the lad yesterday. His mother, Mrs. Rita Van Hook, brother Joey, 10, and sister Susan, 15, watch him take his first ride on it near 1561 Marquard Terr. where the four live.

—News-Press photo

Good People Around . . .

Editor, News-Press: I am the boy whose bike was stolen and wrote the letter before. I never got my old bike back, but there are a lot of people I want to thank for helping me; their kindness and concern are important to me.

A lady called and said to call her if I did not get my bike back before Monday, because she wanted to help me get it back. A man called and said that I could use a bike he had until I could find a replacement. A lot of other people called to report biases they had found.

I want to thank them all very much. I would also like to express gratitude to the Santa Barbara News-Press for putting a letter from me and my picture in the paper. But most of all I would especially like to thank Mr. Anonymous, the wonderful man that bought me a new bicycle.

When my bike was stolen, I learned there are some people in the world who do bad things, but maybe he needed the bike more than I did; and like my mother said, she would rather I was the one who had the bike stolen than the one who would steal a bicycle. A chain lock came with the new bicycle, and I lock it all of the time now. I also learned how many good and concerned people there are.

Once again I would like to express my deep appreciation for everyone's kindness. Thank you.

Steven Van Hook
1561 Marquard Terr.