Days gone by, or have they?

Do you remember that first bike ride you had? Some of us were very young while others were adults. The outcome was the same for most of us I'm thinking. The exhilaration of the ride, the power in the twist of a throttle or a push of a lever with your thumb. No matter what that ride was, it still lives vividly in the minds of most.

My first action on two wheels powered by more than my own legs was a small arctic cat mini-bike. The time I spent riding was to say the least, the first taste of freedom I encountered. The hours



spent on that leopard patterned seat on all kinds of terrains, that made up my imaginary race tracks.

At 6 years old the smallest mound of dirt made for the biggest air ever to be had. The turned up corners that are constantly driven over by the knobby tires cutting a groove in the dirt that enabled the machine to sling-shot through gracefully. With what seemed like an endless supply of power at my disposal, launched the bike towards the finish line to win the motocross championship.

Did I really win a race? Were the thousands of cheering fans in the stands rooting me on? Not really, but they're might as well have been. As the years fly by, we tend to forget the things from our childhood that I believe could keep us feeling young. As a kid, there are so many memories stored in the back of each of our brains, that we could probably write dozens of books. This is just one of the many memories I have of my first time riding. What's yours?

Send me an e-mail of a memory you have when you were riding. preacher@freeriderspress.us



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A neat little story that many of us feel Local Government Resources

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A local resident was furious; the County Board had raised his property taxes once again. He called the courthouse and demanded to be put on the next County Board agenda. He wanted to explain his disgust with his taxes being raised and to ask the County Board to reconsider his new tax assessment. The County Board voted unanimously to keep his tax assessment at the new rate.

What really made him mad though was that his very own County Board representative, a person whom he supported over many years, voted against his request to lower his tax assessment. Upon leaving the courthouse, he was furious and headed directly for a filthy little curio shop in a seedy part of town. He planned to purchase a fitting gift for his County Board representative who voted against him. While in the little curio shop, he looked at all kinds of exotic merchandise but nothing captured his true feelings of contempt for his County representative. Then, in the corner of his eye, he noticed a very life-like, life-sized, bronze statue of a rat. "How much for the bronze rat? he asked the elderly store clerk.

"Ahhh, you have chosen wisely my son," said the shop owner. "It is \$12 for the rat and \$100 for the story that goes with it," said the old man. The man opened his wallet and handed the clerk two singles and a ten and said, "I just need this rat; you keep the story."

The man walked proudly out of the store carrying the bronze rat which he was now going to give to his County Board member. However, as he walked, he noticed a few real rats running out of the alley and following him. Since this was a little unnerving, he began to walk faster. A few feet later, he turned around and, to his horror, he saw a large pack of rats crawling out of the sewers and following him.

Fearful for his life, he started to run as fast as he could, but the number of rats kept growing. There were now nearly 500 rats all squealing and chasing right after him. As he ran across the downtown city bridge, he threw the bronze rat statue as far as he could off the bridge into the icy cold water and amazingly, all the rats jumped off the bridge after the bronze rat statue. Once the rats hit the icy water, they all drowned.

Relieved he had gotten rid of all those rats, the man walked straight back to the little curio shop. When he walked in the owner immediately spoke, "Ahhh, you have come back for story?"

"No sir," said the man, "I came back to see if you have a bronze statue of any locally elected government official." I hope you enjoyed this humor. For more great local government humor Google: Gabe's Local Government Humor Best Wishes

Gabe Gabrielsen