



Living History of Illinois and Chicago®

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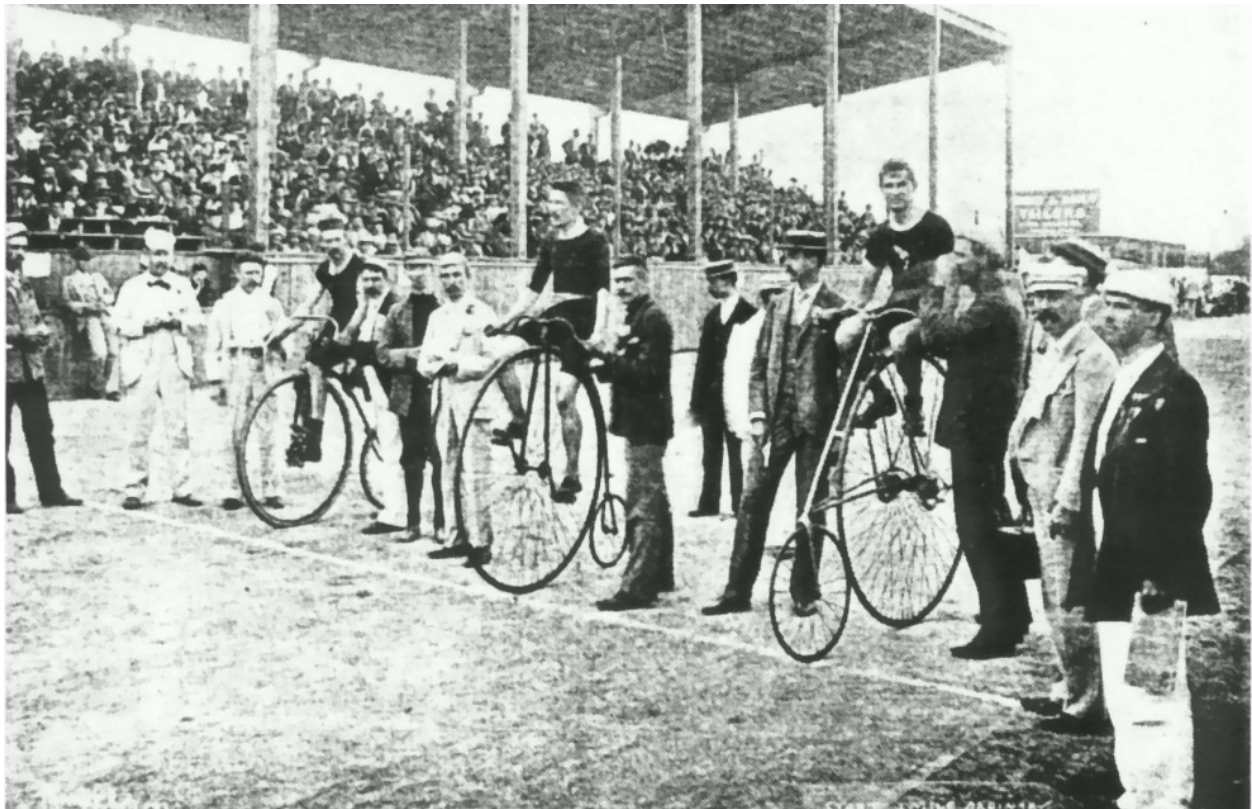
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Wheelmen's Night, August 10, 1893 at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago

This was the annual meet of the League of American Wheelmen, and was the beginning of the evening *fêtes* (celebrations) that added so much to the brilliance and success of the latter half of the Exposition period.



The last sanctioned League of American Wheelmen high-wheel race was the International LAW meet in Chicago during the summer of 1893.

It appears to be at Washington Park Race Track at 61st and Cottage Grove in Chicago.

About one thousand riders, including one hundred women, were in line on bicycles, tricycles, tandems, high wheels, low wheels, plain wheels, and wheels rigged out in the most gorgeous fashion.



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All carried Chinese lanterns on their handles, and many riders had devices for carrying lanterns built up around and above them. Some of the riders were in fancy costume, personating cowboys, Turks, Indians, and other people of the Plaisance. The grounds along the route were especially lighted and decorated, and bands of music were stationed at prominent points.