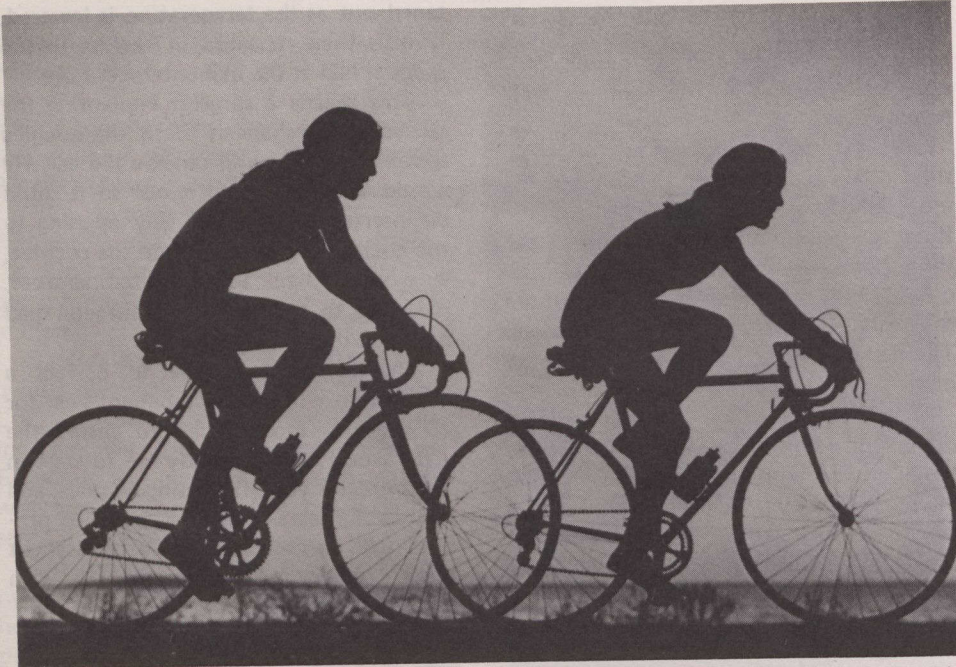


Twins top triathlon in New York state



CANAPRESS

Sylviane and Patricia Puntous, 22-year-old identical twins from Montreal, finished in a tie for the women's title in the second annual 59-kilometre Manufacturers Hanover triathlon held recently near Sag Harbor, New York. The twins were clocked in at two hours, 47.28 seconds. In seven short-course triathalons this year they have won six and placed second in the other. There were 618 competitors in the event, which started with a 2.4-kilometre swim, followed by a 40-kilometre bicycle race and concluded with the 16-kilometre run.

Museum a source of learning and a rollicking world for kids

The London Regional Children's Museum in London, Ontario is not an ordinary, everyday kind of museum — it looks more like a glorified playground than any form of traditional museum.

Children are encouraged to participate in the museum's displays by riding tricycles through miniature traffic jams on a mockup of a city street and to dress in bat costumes and scramble through the intricate passageways of an authentic-looking cave. In the atrium, a copy of a mummy case provides an irresistible temptation for little visitors to climb inside and close the cover.

Indeed the museum does live up to its credo "I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand." There is not a dusty artifact or closely guarded display case in sight.

The London Regional Children's Museum began in 1975 as a series of programs and displays in parks and other public places, without a permanent home. It was the first children's museum in Canada (one has since been opened in Hamilton). The museum survived for two

years as a storefront in a shopping mall, and another four years housed in the bottom of an apartment building, before finally acquiring its own quarters in a renovated public school building.

The dominating features of the building are the atrium, which covers what were once the front doors of the school, and an octagonal wing at the back of the building which features stained-glass windows depicting nursery rhymes.

Three galleries

The museum opened with three permanent galleries — Things In Caves, The Street Where You Live and A Child Long Ago. The first includes the cave itself, ingeniously constructed with tiny passages, stalagmites, fossils and dripping water. In an adjoining room there are bat and dinosaur costumes, sandboxes where children can "dig" for bones, fibreglass replicas of fossil bones which can be picked up and handled, and a wall-mounted dinosaur skeleton on permanent loan from the Royal Ontario Museum. One of the archaeological digs is at wheel-

System tracks brain pressure

A new neurological equipment system developed over the past three years by a Toronto-area company is now operating in or has been ordered by major hospitals and health centres across Canada and the United States.

The Aurora System was designed by Owl Instruments of Markham, Ontario. It measures and analyzes increases in intracranial pressure — the increased brain pressure that is one of the major causes of death or permanent injury in patients who suffer massive head injuries as a result of auto accidents, assault and other events. It is microprocessor-controlled and has timing capabilities that can detect slowly evolving trends in a patient's condition.

The system consists of a bedside monitor and a central station. The bedside monitor not only tracks a wider range of vital signs than other monitoring equipment does, according to the company, but its microprocessor capability enables essential data to be analyzed and displayed at the patient's bedside. Information from up to 12 monitors can be fed into a central station.

The inventor of the system is Dr. Leslie Organ, a medical doctor and electrical engineer, who is president of Owl Instruments. The Toronto General Hospital has been involved in testing the equipment from the early stages and among other hospitals that provided advice and consultation were the University of California Medical Center in San Diego, California, and the Jacobi Hospital in New York.

chair level accessible for the handicapped.

The Street Where You Live, largely financed and equipped by private corporations, is a hodge-podge of traffic signals, a telephone booth, a house under construction, and a manhole through which a child can climb under the floor and look through a window into the cave on the floor below.

A Child Long Ago is the only exhibit with traditional display windows, though most of the artifacts, from pioneer irons to a commode chair, are meant to be handled. Soon to be opened is a special Halloween display, including an oversized, fur-lined cat through which children can crawl from head to tail. This year the museum plans to open four more exhibits, including a planetarium.