

Walpole Hometown Wee

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A historic ride

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Hometown Weekly Staff

In the world of bicycle racing, Lance Armstrong is likely one name that represents endurance and dedication to many people. What many may not realize is that the first woman to ever ride around the globe was not a professional cyclist at all, but rather a mother of three from Boston. This summer, two local girls will recreate part of her ride and one of the journey's stops will happen right in town.

The woman in question is Annie "Londonderry" Kopchovsky, a 23-year-old Jewish immigrant who took the record-breaking ride in 1895. Using a 42-pound Columbia bike, she embarked on a journey spurred on by a wager that she could not ride around the world in 15 months. Annie jumped at the opportunity to prove her critics wrong and, in accomplishing the goal, earned herself \$5,000 as part of the bet. Her voyage, meanwhile, is one that continues to inspire to this day.

"Annie got herself around the world on her ingenuity and charm," says Walpole resident Meghan Shea who, along with Gillian Klempner, co-founded Spokeswoman Productions. The company was created as a means to film a documentary which details the ride to take place, as well as how the girls prepared for the journey.

Beginning on August 12th, "Team Londonderry" will leave the State House in Boston and embark on a ride that will take them to New York by August 19th. One team member sure to attract a lot of attention is Gary Sanderson who will be riding an antique "high bike". The 73-year-old, who is also helping to plan the ride, biked

HISTORIC RIDE

continued on page 31



Meghan Shea (left) and Gillian Klempner will take part in a journey this summer that will see them bike from Boston to New York in seven days. The girls and their group "Team Londonderry" are currently looking for support for the trip that will make a stop on the Walpole Town Common.

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