

EAST RIVER VICTORY LAP

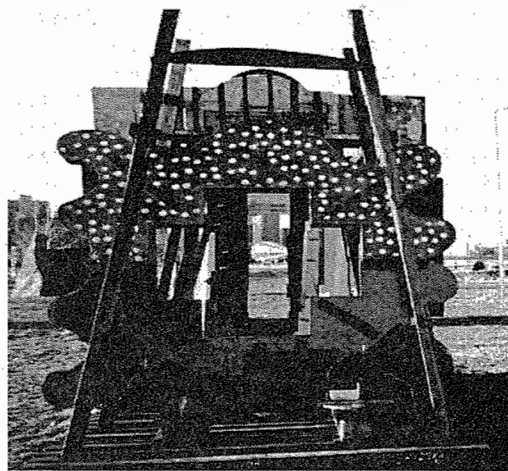
by Clarence Eckerson, Jr.

DO THIS RIDE WITH FRIENDLY T.A. FOLKS!
 Saturday March 20, 1999. Meet at the entrance to Pier 17 at 11 am. Leisurely pace. Lousy weather cancels.

It's time to celebrate some recent monumental victories T.A. has won for cyclists in New York. We've strung together three here along with a few stops at other prime vantage points of NYC along the East River in this 13-mile ride.

Starting at the South Street Seaport, you'll glide along the South Street bike path, a newly-completed segment of the future East River Greenway. Next, the grand opening of the new Willie B bike path awaits you (thanks to all those letters from T.A. members!). And finally, at ride's end you'll experience the joy of riding over the QBB on the future, 24-7, ped/bike-only North Outer Roadway!

In between, there are some must-see rest stops. Nestled in the shadow of the Willy-B lies a quaint blip of green called Grand Ferry Park. A few miles yonder in Queens, bask in the sunshine at a pair of elegantly rebuilt piers, which rise between 49th and 51st Aves in Hunters Point. And, of course, what would a trip to the waterfront be without a sojourn to the mischievous outdoor art expo known as Socrates Sculpture Park? *(see right)*



- START** Pier 17/South Street Seaport. Proceed north two blocks and enter the South Street bike path.
- 0.8 **Straight** Continue north on South Street and go under FDR. Use sidewalk to East River Park. Stick to the waterfront.
 - 1.6 **Left** Immediately on park path under Williamsburg Bridge. Use FDR ped overpass to Delancy Street.
 - 1.8 Head towards FDR Access road and take a **Right**. Then **Right** on Grand St.
 - 2.5 **Right** on Clinton
 - 2.7 **Right** on Delancy. Ahead are the stairs to the brand spankin' new Willie B bike path!
 - 4.1 **Left** off path then quick **Left** on South 5th Street.
 - 4.3 **Right** on Kent
 - 4.6 **Left** on Grand to visit Grand Ferry Park. Reverse back out. **Left** on Kent.
 - 5.4 **Straight** Kent becomes Franklin
 - 6.0 **Right** on Eagle
 - 6.3 **Left** on the Pulaski Bridge bike path.
 - 6.9 **Left** on Jackson. Becomes 51st Avenue.
 - 7.3 **Right** on 2nd Street
 - 7.4 **Left** on 50th Ave/becomes Center Blvd/becomes 48th Ave. Don't miss the piers!
 - 7.7 **Left** on Vernon Blvd
 - 9.6 **Left** into Socrates Sculpture Park (just past Costco.) When leaving take a **Right**, going back the way you came on Vernon Blvd.
 - 10.3 **Left** on 36th Avenue
 - 10.9 **Right** on Crescent
 - 11.5 **Right** over the QBB Bike Path to Manhattan.

(Below) Local residents have carved out a refuge on the Williamsburg waterfront with South Ferry park.

