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# MAINE HISTORY

*Vol. 38, No. 3 & 4*

*1999*



**Bicycling in Maine**

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Maine's motto - *Dirigo* - seems appropriate to David V. Herlihy's article on the history of velocipedes; the people of the Pine Tree State pioneered this new transportation vogue in 1868-1869 with manufacturers, indoor rinks, dazzling stunts and races, and other velocipede ventures. Our cover photo from the *Police Gazette* of 1883 illustrates a later phase of bicycle development, but it suggests the consternation this craze generated in Maine and elsewhere. Herlihy explains why this promising industry failed to meet the expectations of its early promoters and enthusiasts. The articles in this issue were presented earlier at the fourth Annual Washburn Humanities Conference in Livermore, June 1996, and represent a small sample of the lively scholarship the Living History Center attracts to the historic Washburn homestead at each of its spring gatherings.