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Charlie Chaplin, played by look-alike Audrey Ruttan, rode with police escort, from left, Sheriff's deputies David Sivard, Dave Neill and Shawn Dubusky.



Mounted on bicycles "built for two," the barbershop quartet Nickelodeon sang their way around Patsaouras Plaza.



PHOTOS BY BILL HEARD

Bike Event: An Eventful Day on Patsaouras Plaza

By LISA HUYNH

(April 29, 2004) At age 55, actor and environmentalist Ed Begley Jr. is living proof that a person is never too old to ride a bike.

Begley, who rides his bike every day, was more than happy to help MTA kick off the Bike to Work Day promotion. He gave the signal to begin a two-lap mini marathon on Plaza.

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Among the many participants in the two-lap ride was Michelle Mowery, manager of the City of Los Angeles Bicycle Program.

"I ride my bike to work at least once a week," said Mowery. "I think it's important to get everybody onto their bikes because not only is it good for your physical health, it's also good for the community."

Several booths, including a repair station, were set up on the Plaza to help bikers learn about safety. Tom Devane, manager of Bikestation in Long Beach, was on hand to talk about commuter preparedness and to demonstrate how to properly repair bikes.

Adjusting the brakes

For example, Devane showed commuters how to adjust their brakes and chain derailleurs.

The Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition also was there to hand out bike maps and safety fliers.

Celebrity impersonators Elvis, Marilyn Monroe and Charlie Chaplin were very much alive. They energetically worked



Elvis has left the building, on a bike.

the crowd and also took part in the two-lap ride.

The wrestler from Metro's current ad campaign showed up. He traded in the "ring," for a Segway scooter. He cruised around in a bright yellow cape and was definitely an attraction.

Although it was an eventful day, it was hard to escape the smooth harmony of Nickelodeon, a barbershop quartet. Not only did they perform at the microphone, they pedaled their way around the Plaza on old-fashioned tandem bikes singing:

- "Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer, do.
I'm half crazy, all for the love of you!
It won't be a stylish marriage,
I can't afford a carriage,
But you'll look sweet upon the seat
Of a bicycle built for two."