

Day Two started out with breakfast in the dorm at OSU-Lima Extension.

This was a rare time for the group to socialize just among ourselves, which we appreciated. What we didn't know at the time was that this would be the last time we had together as a group. From the dorm we drove in the bus back to the Steiner Horse ranch where our bikes were stored. This also became the staging area for where our new day riders would join us. We had some new riders coming in from Sylvania, including two exchange students from Hungary – Attila and Peter.

The day began on a cool side and stayed delightfully perfect for cycling all day – the temperatures stayed in the mid-70's and the winds gave us periodic pushes to our destinations. Our first target was the quaint town of Bluffton where we met the Bluffton-Pandora Rotary club at the Bluffton Park. President Gene Lloyd and a handful of his board and officers welcomed the group to their city and complicated the riders for their efforts. He also mentioned how supportive their local hospital, the Blanchard Valley Regional Medical Center has been to the MESA project.



From Bluffton the group rode off in a northwesterly zig-zag course to Ottawa. This was to be the third time the tour has chosen to visit the Ottawa-Glandorf Rotary Club. We met the club at the local YMCA where we also enjoyed our first Rotary Club meeting of the week. President Tony Hovest presided over the meeting which was attended by many members. This club manages the traditional “happy dollar” routine in a different way – all attendees get a chance to state – and pay – what tickles them for the day. The collection of all these happy dollars today were added to the amount the club had already prepared to donate to MESA. So, MESA was happy today, too.



After lunch the group headed east toward Findlay on the Old State Route 224 and along the infamous Blanchard River. This is a beautiful cycling route and one the tour has used a number of times in its history. The occasional light tailwind made the trip all the more enjoyable. We pulled into Findlay right on time, around 4 p.m. and were greeted by MESA officers and Findlay Rotarians. We met at the Findlay Senior Center, operated by Rotarian John Ubanski.

First on the agenda was a brief MESA business meeting. This is something you have to visualize: the MESA officers and a few members trying to conduct a business meeting while sitting next to these people dressed in colorful Spandex and fuming with the day's exertion. Maybe you had to be there to see the humor in that. The meeting went appreciably fast and then a couple of donations were made – one by the Toledo rotary and another by the Chik-Fil-A Corporation. After the meeting the riders were whisked away to the homes of local Rotary members for cleaning up, only to return in an hour for

the dinner with the Findlay and Findlay Flag Rotary Clubs. This was an informal social highlighted by a terrific Mexican buffet and very few speeches.

Our second day closed after completing 65 miles (135 miles for the week so far). As you can see on our fundraising thermometer we have received to date about \$15,000 for this year's tour –half of which has been donated in the last 2 days on the road. This still leaves us needing quite a bit to reach this year's goal of \$50,000 but we know district 6600 will not let us down.

Ed Stewart – Tour Coordinator