First Bicycle West of Mississippi
FIRST BICYCLE WEST OF MISSISSIPPI

Velocipedes: We learn that our fellow townsman, B. F. Allen and C. P. Luse, have each ordered a velocipede for their own use. All right! Des Moines being the fastest city in the state, ought to have the first bicycle; and we did have a little ambition of our own to live in history as being the first chap who brought a bicycle west of the Mississippi, but we haven't got it now as bad as we had. Anyhow we don't envy you fellows the bumps and tumbles and laughs you'll get.—Daily State Register, Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 20, 1869. (Thought to have been written by Ret Clarkson.—Ed.) (In the Newspaper Division of the Historical, Memorial and Art Department.