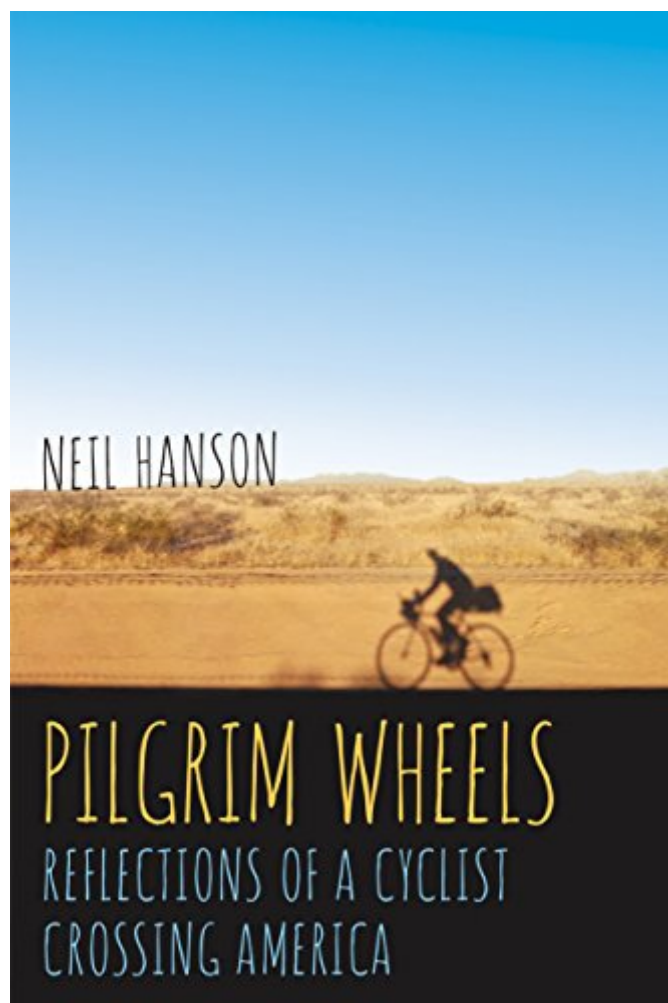


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# Pilgrim Wheels: Reflections Of A Cyclist Crossing America (Cycling Reflections Book 1)



## Synopsis

WINNER - National Indie Excellence Book Awards  
FIRST PLACE - Next Generation Indie Book Awards  
FIRST PLACE - Independent Publisher Living Now Book Awards  
SILVER HONOREE - Benjamin Franklin Digital Award  
SECOND PLACE - Reader Views Reviewers Choice Award  
SECOND PLACE - Great Southwest Book Festival  
SECOND PLACE - CIPA EVVY Awards

An engaging and reflective story woven around the western half of Hanson's bicycle journey from the Pacific to the Atlantic, exploring an America that can only be discovered on winding backroads from the saddle of a bicycle. More than just a travelogue of a bike ride across the country, Hanson's delightful and beautifully written story takes the reader on a journey that is engaging and insightful, often hilarious, sometimes poignant, and always inspiring. It's a must-read adventure that will stir your soul.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Pilgrim Wheels is about a cross country bike ride from a guy that rode the miles and put the time in the saddle. Neil is a later middle aged man in reasonably good shape undertaking the ride of his life, and we get to know Neil as Neil gets to know himself through reflections on a life lived. Neil is a

skillful writer and the story carries you easily from day to day, destination to destination. His descriptions of the road, the route, the hills, the people and places and dogs and food and hotels are the essence of the ride. However, he also captures the musings a cyclist has on long open stretches of road but can never write down. I found myself getting worried as I was running out of book but still had half a country to go, until I went back to read the prologue to learn there is a Part II to the book, Kansas to Maryland. As a cyclist living in the mountains of Virginia, I kind of wished heâ™d chosen to ride on some of my roads here, just to read his description of the places I ride every day. The book makes me want to ride the ride myself â€” I recommend the companion book for pictures, his actual log, and more of the technical aspects of the ride. Thereâ™s a lot here, for cyclists and non-cyclists both. I canâ™t wait for the second part of the journey.

I always enjoy reading books from people my age that do some pretty amazing things, like riding a bike across country. Neil not only does a great job of being an inspiration, but each chapter goes far beyond the technical end of the story. He talks about people he meets (which is typical of this genre) but also goes much deeper into thoughts of his own. When you ride long distances, like Neil or myself, you spend a lot of hours lost in thought. Most people never record those thoughts to discuss with others; Neil puts it all out there for the reader to also think about. Most of these books I enjoy reading but that's it. However, I would love to sit down one day in one of the obscure places that Neil talks about finding along the route to enjoy a cheeseburger and a few beers with him. Very good read!

Neil's book conveys the joys and travails of a self-propelled journey, which is so different--physically and mentally--from any other kind. I cringed when I read that his knee was bothering him, because it reminded me of the trek Neil and I shared on the Appalachian Trail in 1977. Neil's knee blew out on that trip, and despite three days of rest in a state park lean-to and a visit to a small-town doctor, there was no recourse but for him to get off the trail. Obviously, this time his knee recovered. What astounds me is that all these years later Neil is healthy and determined enough to accomplish a cross-county bike trip, which would stymie most people a third our age. The idea of it certainly stymied me when Neil called to ask if I wanted to join him for a stretch. My bad back can't handle it anymore, and I had to decline. This book reminded me of the flights of fancy one's mind takes to cope with long distances traveled on foot or bike. And it conjured up the ecstasy found in simple pleasures, like ice-cold water, a hot shower, and a sublime sunrise on the prairie. I wish I could've been there. This book was very tightly written and flows smoothly. I'm looking forward to another

vicarious adventure when the book on the second half of Neil's journey comes out.

Neil Hanson has once again authored a book, *Pilgrim Wheels*, which hits one deep in the soul requiring introspection as one joins him in his journey. I thoroughly enjoyed experiencing the wind in its various presentations, the changing and challenges of the landscape, the people and Neil's thought provoking observations. Day 11 - Sedona "strummed my heart strings reminding me of how fleeting life is; how our pursuit of external objectives can and often does result in missing life's priceless moments. Sadly, we seem to be too often in big gear during our travels that we don't even recognize the missed opportunities. I will remember Dale. I will widen my observations not just breeze unseeing through life. I look forward to Neil's remaining story and the life lessons that I can glean from his journey that will enhance my own journey.

*Pilgrim Wheels* is an amazing story of a bicycle journey and so much more. I appreciated Neil Hanson's stories of all the joys and challenges with the ride itself through areas of the country I am familiar with. I then enjoyed his observations from the saddle about people, "places", history, culture, the scenery, and himself (since a ride like this gives a person so much time to think). I found myself, smiling, laughing, and shaking my head. After being reminded it really is about the journey and not the destination, I'm eagerly anticipating the second half of the journey.....

This book gave me a deans of what it feels like to ride from the Pacific coast to the east side of Kansas. He shares his thoughts and experiences while riding across the changing terrain in all kinds of weather. Just what I was looking for.

I'm interested in reading about bicycle travel/touring, and the aspects/challenges of that. This book read more like a travel guide...it seemed more about the places he went than the fact he went on a bicycle. A good read, but not what I was expecting.

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