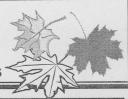


# **Fall Getaways**

★ Lodging ★ Overnight Accommodations ★ Rentals



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# Ne, myself

Chicago-based Jerry Soverinsky is riding coast-to-coast and docu-menting his trip weekly in the

#### By JERRY SOVERINSKY

SPECIAL TO THE HERALD

Most of us would have no trouble traveling alone — as long as we could be someone else. On this solo journey I have way too much time to learn things about me. These include the following.

1. I'm stubborn. I'm in the midst of a 4,000-mile cross-country bike trip, and most people assume I'm doing it because I'm experiencing a midlife crisis/spiritual quest. But the real motivation for my embarking on this trip? A bar bet.

Is that the ultimate in male ego run amok? Maybe so. All I know is, I've got a little less than 2,000 miles to ride and then six ice-cold Heinekens are all mine, courtesy of three suckers at a Chicago-Loop

2. I'm neurotic. The best example was on my ride in Montana when after 85 hot miles a Dairy Queen sign caught my eye. Ah, civilization.

After a hearty fried something dinner at a diner, I headed for the DQ, eager to taste the rewards for a hard day's cycle. It was closing time and the store's lone employee, an elderly woman, was wiping down the counters. She agreed to serve me, so I placed my order for an extra-large banana split Blizzard — and watched lustfully as she prepared my dessert.

Just as she was about to hand the finished creation to me, she noticed that some ice cream was dripping down the cup's side, so she reached for a cleaning rag to wipe it that only moments earlier had been wiping the counter.

Strike one. And while still holding onto my Blizzard, when re-turning the soiled rag to the pail of dirty water, she dripped filthy water onto my Blizzard. Strikes two, three and four.

Now normally, I (maybe) would have been all over the employee and demanded a replacement Blizzard. But a few things were weighing on my mind: She might be in desperate need of this job and per-haps any customer conflict could jeopardize her lone source of income (my mind works fast, huh?); she did me a favor by allowing me to order when it was after closing time; and I didn't want to ask for a replacement Blizzard, lest the woman whom I would never meet again think I was wasteful.

So, I thanked her for my Blizzard, then exited the store. And when I was 100 yards away, I threw the ice

cream into a Dumpster.
I'm in Hayward, Wis., tonight, home of the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame, and approaching the five-week mark of my trip. My only complaint: I wish my company were sometimes,