

Albert (Schelstraete) Coulier

Born November 15, 1918

- 1927 - Immigrated to Tupperville, Ontario (near Wallaceburg) Canada at age 9. Family worked in grain threshing for \$1 per day. Albert got 50¢ per day.
- 1931 – He got his first bicycle, a Royal Jenny, for \$5.
- 1934 – Trip back to Belgium in spring where he rode his first bike race. Upon return the family settled in Tillsonburg area.
- 1934 – Family moved to LaSalette Ontario (Delhi area) where they remained for 50 years until moving to Tillsonburg in 1984.
- 1936 – On weekends road bike to Chatham (120 miles) to race and returned on Sundays.
- 1936 – Started Delhi Criterium race that continued annually until mid-nineties at the Belgium Hall.
- 1937 – After winning a number of important races here in Canada he was allowed to go to Europe to race as an amateur.
He competed in 39 road races and one track race in Europe before his injury the next year. He had 4 wins with a number of top 10 placings.
- 1938 – September he was hit by a truck while returning from a training ride in Ghent Belgium velodrome. He was unconscious for 21 hours with both legs in a cast and told he may never race again.
Returned to Canada.
- 1939 – Albert was asked to design and build his first velodrome in Delhi Ontario.
- 1939- Won Six-Day race partnered with Rene Cyr of Montreal.
- 1939 – Formation of Norfolk Cycling Club – held position of President numerous years and after name change to present name Silver Spokes Cycling Club
- 1940 - Won Six-Day race at Delhi velodrome partnered with Andy McConnell.
- 1940 – Raced in USA placing 8th in the prestigious Tour of Somerville New Jersey.
- 1940 - Placed 2nd in the USA Midwestern Championships in Columbus Ohio after having a flat tire.
- 1940 - Named outstanding Canadian rider of 1940.
- 1940 - Awarded professional contract to ride Chicago Professional Six-Day in November partnered with John Crowder.
- 1941 – Rode Buffalo Professional Six-Day in March partnered with Gerard Debaets of Belgium.
- 1941 – Rode Montreal Forum Professional Six-Day in October partnered with Gerard Debaets of Belgium.

1942 - Married Irene Dhulst.

1942- Rode Montreal Forum Professional Six-Day in September partnered with Gerard Debaets of Belgium

1942 – Racing curtailed with start of WW11.

1942 – First son born (Robert, Dec 8/42)

1947 – Albert designed and built the world’s first portable velodrome and held the first race in Simcoe Ontario.

1947/48 – Track built and two races held in Shawinigan Falls and one in Trois-Riviere Quebec

1942 – Second son born (Ronald, April 25/47)

1949 - Track installed in new Delhi Arena and numerous races, including six-day and 9 day derby’s, held in the following 6 years

1948 – 2005 - Built numerous velodromes across North America – see separate track listing

1955, 56, 57 - Elected President of Canadian Wheelman’s Association (the national governing body for cycling). The name was later changed to Canadian Cycling Association.

1957 - Built velodrome and promoted a professional 9-Day derby in Cleveland Ohio.

1958 - Built velodrome and promoted a 2nd professional 9-Day derby in Cleveland Ohio

1972 – Chosen as the cycling representative for the 1976 Olympic Organizing Committee to travel to Munich for the 1972 games.

1974 – Built the Montreal velodrome for the 1974 World Championships

197??- Served as National Racing Board Chairman

1975 – Coach for Canadian team (Jocelyn Lovell and Andre Simard) at International Trinidad-Barbados race

1976 – Built the velodrome for the 1976 Montreal Olympics

1978 - Rode bike from Windsor Canada to Florida – 60th birthday

1979 – Changed name from Schelstraete to mothers maiden name Coulier..

1979 - Mont Ventoux – 10 Stage Brugge Belgium to Mont Ventoux France – 1568 km

1979 - Austria – Veterans World Cup – 7th place

1979 - Olympic Masters Championship – Belgium - 5th place (after spill)

1979 – America Cup (Open to 27 countries) – Gold medal - Sutton Quebec 1st

1980 – Olympic Masters Championship – Belgium - 6th place

1980 – Austria – Masters World Cup 8th place

1980 – America Cup – Sutton Quebec 2nd place (broke toe clip)

1981 – Detroit 24 hour race – 1st place – 325 mi. (523 km)

1982 – Austria – Masters World Cup 16th place

1982 – Detroit 24 hour race - 1st place – 380 mi (611 km)

1982 – World Masters Championship – LaRoche France –Hill Climb - 4th
- Road Race- 1st

1984 - Mont Ventoux – 10 Stage Brugge Belgium to Mont Ventoux France – 1568 km (second time)

1985 - World Masters Games – Toronto – Bronze medal

1987 – Ontario Masters Cup – 50 mile race – Gold medal

1988 - World Senior Games – St George Utah – Gold medal

1989 - World Senior Games – St George Utah – Gold medal

1989 – Austria – Masters World Cup 8th place

1990 – Austria – Masters World Cup 16th place

1993 - World Senior Games – St George Utah – Gold medal

1993 - Casa Grande Arizona –25 mi open race for all ages – 1st place (127 riders)

1994 - World Senior Games – St George Utah – Gold medal

1995 - World Senior Games – St George Utah – Gold medal

1970's, 80's and 90's – Rode 210 mile TORSV (Tour of Sciota River Valley) in Ohio 21 times

1990's – Hand built and operated 2 'Monster bikes' for fundraising for charitable organizations. One was 15 bikes and the other was 7 bikes both of which could be ridden on the road or on special designed rollers with a timing clock for indoor competitions.

NOTE:

A **‘velodrome’** is a banked race track. Every velodrome design is different based on the size, end radii and overall width and length restrictions.

Until recently, Albert was the only velodrome designer and builder in Canada. He has built velodromes for six-day races all across North America as well as the 1979 Pan-American Games track, the Montreal 1974 World Championship track and the 1976 Olympic track.

A **‘Six-Day Race’** was a 2 man team relay race held over 6 days. Until the start of the Second World War it was extremely popular with a circuit similar to what the NHL has today. Crowds of up to 25,000 crowded sites such as Madison Square Garden. Professional cyclists who were good enough to be offered a professional contract had larger paydays than football, baseball and hockey players at that time.

List of Velodrome’s built by Albert

- 1939 - Delhi (Outdoor)
- 1947 - Simcoe (World’s first portable velodrome) (Builder and Race Promoter)
- 1947 - Shawinigan (Fall) (Builder and Promoter)
- 1948 - Shawinigan (Spring) – to Delhi stored (Builder and Race Promoter)
- 1948 - Three Rivers Quebec (Builder and Race Promoter)
- 1949 - Delhi (Builder and Race Promoter)
- 1948 - Buffalo – October 5-11 Six-Day
- 1948 - Chicago – Oct 31 – Nov 6 Six-Day
- 1948 - New York – Nov 15-20 Six-Day
- 1949 - Cleveland – Jan 5-11 Six-Day
- 1949 - New York – Feb 28-March 6 Six-Day
- 1949 - Delhi (Builder and Race Promoter)
- 1949 - (Fall) – Detroit (Amateur)
- 1950 - Delhi (Builder and Race Promoter)
- 19?? - Chicago (Stolle track)
- 1951 - Delhi (Builder and Race Promoter)
- 1952 - Delhi (Builder and Race Promoter)

- 1952 - Chicago (Builder and Race Promoter)
- 1953 - Delhi (Builder and Race Promoter)
- 1953 - San Francisco (Builder)
- 1953 - Glendale California (Builder and rider)
- 1953 - El Paso, Texas (Builder and Race Promoter)
- 19?? - New York (Delhi track)
- 1954 - Delhi (Builder and Race Promoter)
- 1955 - Delhi (Builder and Race Promoter)
- 1956 - Delhi (Builder and Race Promoter)
- 1955 or 6 - Louisville, Kentucky
- 1956 - Chicago
- 1957 - Cleveland Ohio (Built track and was Race Promoter)
- 1958 - Cleveland Ohio (Built track and was Race Promoter)
- 1963 to 73 - Montreal – Paul Sauve (15 times)
- 1965 - Toronto Maple Leaf Gardens
- 1964/ 65/ 66 - Quebec City (3 times)
- 1967 - Pan American Games – Winnipeg (Outdoor)
- 1972 - Detroit, Michigan State Fairgrounds
- 1973 - Los Angeles
- 1973 - Vancouver BC – redesigned and rebuilt China Creek Velodrome
- 1974 - World Championship – Montreal – (Outdoor)
- 1976 - Olympics – Montreal – (Outdoor)
- 2005 - London Ontario - Forest City Velodrome