

GREGORY OFFENBACK

(BS'78, Heavy Equipment Operator, Department of Transportation)

WHEN DID YOU START RIDING A MOTORCYCLE?

I started riding my younger brother's Honda CB100 when I was about 18 years old, but didn't get serious about it until 2004 when my brother bought a Suzuki 1400 Intruder. He persuaded me to take it for a spin, and I was hooked.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE?

Finding a lonely country road on a warm summer day, with the wind in my face, so to speak (I wear a full-face helmet), the sound of the engine, and maybe a few curves in the road. Riding is even more enjoyable when some friends or family can go along. Frequently I get up early in the morning and go for a ride while the sun comes up. It gives me time to talk to God while enjoying the early morning before heading in to work.

IS OWNING A MOTORCYCLE ONE OF THE "EXPECTED CRITERIA" WHEN HIRING A NEW EMPLOYEE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION?

No, but it seems like it's becoming that way.

HAVE YOU EVER GONE ON A ROAD TRIP TOGETHER AS A GROUP OF FELLOW EMPLOYEES?

Several day trips, such as to a former student employee's wedding at Great Lakes Adventist Academy in Cedar Lake, Mich. We frequently ride somewhere for lunch.

WHERE IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO TRAVEL?

I have traveled about 300 miles on the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina and Virginia, as well as U.S. route 129, known by bikers as "The Tail of the Dragon." Last summer my son, my brother and some friends of his, my nephew and I rode around Lake Superior, a total of 2250 miles roundtrip from my house. Both trips were great rides—I can't really pick a favorite.

ARE YOU SAVING MONEY BY USING THIS MODE OF TRANSPORTATION?

I guess that depends on how you figure it. Maybe if I lived 15 miles from work, instead of two miles. Not really when I figure in the cost of keeping the bike maintained, insurance, etc. Fuel economy isn't a whole lot better than an economy car, 38 to 45 mpg depending on how fast I ride. I tend to take many rides just for pleasure that I wouldn't take in a car.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT ANDREWS UNIVERSITY?

30 years.



Left-right: Dennis Grzybowski (motor pool foreman), Bruce MacDougall (student bus driver), Greg Offenback, and Ryan Gooden (mechanic).