

1,000 riders expected Wednesday

Bikes a big attraction in Kalamazoo this week

About 1,000 visitors will descend upon Kalamazoo Wednesday for a four-day national convention of bicyclists sponsored by the League of American Wheelmen.

The convention, which was organized by the Kalamazoo Bicycle Club, will be held at Goldsworth Valley dormitories at Western Michigan University, and will include workshops, bicycle tours and bus tours in the Kalamazoo area.

The official opening of the convention will be a gathering of participants from all over the country at Kalamazoo Valley Community College Wednesday for a 1 p.m. ride

to the WMU campus. Bicycle club organizers expect about 200 bicyclists to make the ride together.

The ride, called Escape-In, will precede Wednesday registration and business meetings and Thursday, Friday and Saturday workshops and tours.

According to the bicycle club's Rick Bauer, interested local bicyclists may take part in the convention by purchasing \$3 passes at the information and registration booth at the Goldsworth Valley II cafeteria.

The convention has been named, "Escape '78. It will conclude after

breakfast on Sunday.

Bicycle tours will begin at 6 a.m. each day and continue through mid-afternoon. Workshops are scheduled for afternoons and evenings.

Workshop topics include bicycle safety and education; frame design and building; explaining and defending bicycle transportation to governmental bodies; long-distance touring in Michigan, the United States and other countries; cycling with children; commuting by bicycle; and improving bicycle clubs.

Representatives of a delivery firm from Ann Arbor which makes

its deliveries by bicycle will discuss their experiences at one of the seminars.

Bus tours will include trips to Gibson Inc., makers of guitars in Kalamazoo; the Kalamazoo Nature Center; area wineries; and Battle Creek cereal companies.

Sandra Mriscin, executive director of the Kalamazoo County Safety Council, joined bicycle club members in urging motorists to use special caution to ensure safety for the visiting bicyclists.

■

Cyclists converge on Kalamazoo

About 200 bicyclists left Kalamazoo Valley Community College in unison Wednesday afternoon to join about 800 fellow delegates to a convention of the League of American Wheelmen at Western Michigan University. The cyclists' four-day get-together here is based in the Goldsworth Valley dormitory complex at WMU and includes workshops, bus tours and bike rides. Wednesday's kick-off ride, billed as "Escape-in," began at 1 p.m. Local cyclists have been invited to participate in convention activities by buying \$3 passes at the information and registration booth at the Goldsworth Valley II cafeteria. Morning bicycle rides begin at 6 daily. Afternoon and evening workshops center on bike safety, frame-design and building, lobbying, long-distance touring, cycling with children, club activities and bicycle commuting.

—Gazette photo by Carl Bennell

