



ANDREW RUSSELL/TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Store owner and collector Craig Morrow shows off a banana seat and a small portion of his collection of Schwinn Sting-Ray bicycles Saturday at his home in Bellevue.

# Schwinn Sting-Ray 'hot rods' hot property

*The bikes, popular in the '60s and '70s, are back in favor with 'little kids with big wallets.'*

BY LISA MAURO  
FOR THE TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Orange Krate. Pea Picker. Grey Ghost.

All are names for versions of Schwinn Sting-Ray bicycles that with their banana seats, low-slung frames, and Stik Shifts were "hot rods" of the 1960s and '70s in neighborhoods throughout the country.

Today, they're a hot collectable. "If you have an Orange Krate, Apple Krate, Pea Picker or Grey Ghost in the garage, you've found a hidden gem," observed bicycle collector Craig Morrow, of Bellevue.

Morrow, also owner of on-line store Bicycle Heaven, has been collecting bicycles for 20 years. He has one of the largest collections of

antique bikes in Pennsylvania, including more than 200 Sting-Rays.

Morrow said bicycle collecting has tripled in Pittsburgh over the last eight months.

"The Sting-Rays of the 1960s and '70s were cutting-edge and took design cues from muscle cars," Schwinn President Byron Smith said.

The Sting-Ray was introduced in 1963 and was on the market until 1982. They were priced from about \$87 to \$130.

There were four models: Sting-Ray; Sting-Ray Deluxe; Sting-Ray Super-Deluxe; and the Krate series featuring a five-speed "Stik Shift," rear seat shock struts, 16-inch front tire and 20-inch rear tire.

"My first bike was an Orange Krate. It was stolen, like most of them were, because everyone wanted one," Morrow said.

The old Sting-Rays garner anywhere from \$600 to \$5,000 today, depending on model, condition and buyer, Morrow said.

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JERRY KRAYNICK  
OWNER OF KRAYNICK'S BIKE SHOP

"If people want something bad, they will drive the prices up," said Jerry Kraynick, owner of Kraynick's Bike Shop in Garfield. "When you go to swap meets, it's like watching little kids with big wallets."

While the birth of the BMX bike ended the original Sting-Ray era, Morrow believes much of the current popularity with the bike is driven by nostalgia.

"A bike meant a lot to people when they were younger," Morrow said. "You had to depend on your bicycle because most parents had only one car."