

KING OF THE ALPS

PHOTOS & TEXT BY JOHN HERMANN



There was indeed a 4th of July this year, as the BMW's parked in Herm's alley attest.



Hondas, like Painter Don's Hawk, parked inside.

Then Painter **Don Francque** high-tailed it for Laguna Seca to see Haga of Japan with the World Superbike Races.

Bill Brecht, that famous Escondido dealer, reports that his health is much improved. Meanwhile, Brecht's parts guy, **Jim Boydston**, plans a new life at New York Life in the Golden Triangle, no less.

Did you note that Escondido headline? Seems the owner of the Westside Cafe, often visited by BMW types, admitted to planning to kidnap and rob the bank courier who picks up his receipts. Doesn't make sense.

Meanwhile, **Norm Heath** has been six weeks at sea on the USS Lincoln. Tho't he was a senior civilian.



Think he looks good on this K1200? It's "Mandarin" and "Fjord Gray."

Our much admired editor is hurting and limping a bit... road rash. If there was just a comfortable way to wear leathers while riding the bicycle. And he was just a block from home. Darn.

There was some sort of gathering of the **Butch Hays** clan in Georgia.

Homemade **Bob Skirvin** went fishing in Mendocino.

A 100 plus year old building at U. Cal, Berkeley is ready for the big one now that **Hugo Schreiner** has installed a fiberglass reinforcement to its dome.

Wes Stark, just back from a Zundapp (yep) ride through the Dolomites of Italy.



That's **Cheryl Nemec** smiling because she's having so much fun on her new R1100 RT. That's **Walter Gates**, left, controlling his smile, 'cause he

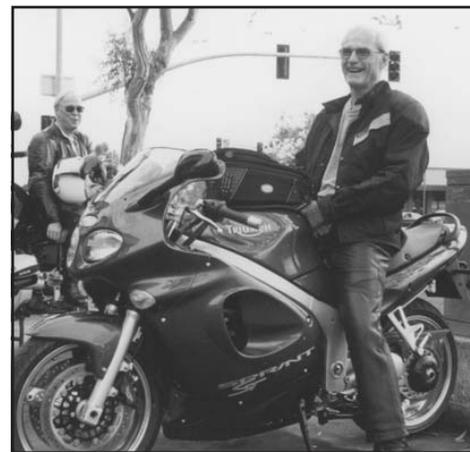
likes his K1200 LT so much, but he's had it a few months.

That's **Ken Leoni** between them, smiling 'cause he just rode his F650 from Manhattan (not Beach, the island of), and he's now a San Diegan.



That's **Gary Orr** smiling at his service writer desk at Brattin Motors 'cause he's back from Arkansas whence he and **Heather** ventured in the very very open Ford. Now there's a bit of a breeze at the shop, 'cause there's a new back door (see it?). Meet **Todd** and **Dave II**, new at the shop, making a total of six, counting Gary.

Scott Dinger is smiling—smugly maybe—on his unobtainium Africa Twin.



How can you trust 'em? That's **Bill Siebold**, smiling on his new Triumph Sprint. (He does have **Dave Jones'** R100S in the garage, plus the dual purpose Suzuki.) Uncertain about this Triumph business, is **Tom Mooney**, in the background. Tom's just back from checking Britain, Scotland, Belgium, France, and Switzerland, on his R100 GS... oh yes, and the Isle of Mann TT.



Practicing his best “Arrrgh,” Ken Light, center, in THE hat, tries for a laugh from the hot dog bunch at the July beach party. John Barnes, and his sister all the way from Florida, and Tom Mooney all the way from Munich, and Fulton Martin, smarting from the bicycle road rash, are indeed amused.



Then at the beach at Crown Point in July, it started to cool off. President Ken Shortt is at left, getting directions from John Wagner while first lady Pat Shortt (back to camera) supervises a table of hotdog full folk.



Right after the 4th of July, Carol Alley had a marvelous idea about how to cap off a Saturday ride. That’s right. Fat Ivors in Valley Center. Here’s Carol arriving on her Hawk, ready for ribs. Don and Peggie Picker were there.

Then Dave Mishalof took off (literally) for the Michigan MOA Rally.

Four from the club in the Alps in June.



That’s Kyle Hudson and Stacy Silverwood on the two 1100 GS’s (they were red) after lunch with hundreds of other bikers at Passo Giau in the Dolomites of Italy.



After riding Passo Gardena, they sought nourishment, Stacy and Kyle with *Coupe Danemarks*, Carol with hot chocolate, and awaiting Herm, vanilla ice cream with hot raspberries. Okay, it had sleeted on them on the Grossglockner, so they needed the ice cream.



Carol found a perfect fit and price on the BMW waterproof suede suit, and Herm a new front tire (being admired by Carol) at Motos Obertor, Chur, Switzerland.

Earlier, before meeting Kyle and Carol and Stacy, Herm had joined some occasional San Diego visitors, the Cates from New Jersey, the Higgins from Cape Cod, and the Gwyns from the mountains of Virginia. All the bikes went on the train in Munich, and so did the whole group, and overnight they were a thousand or so miles away on the Spanish / French border.

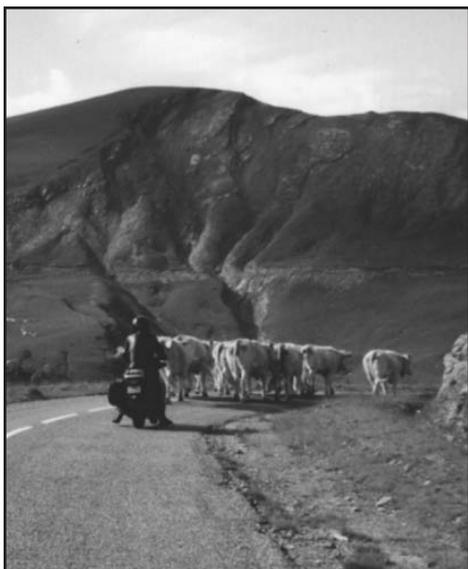


Here’s Herm on the mighty K75C waiting to board the train, the DB AutoZug.



Then the bike as it was secured by the crew.

KING...



After herding some Spanish cows across the Pyrenees, Herm and crew made it to Bilbao, Spain, where the famous and exotic new Guggenheim Museum was hosting the “Art of the Motorcycle” show. Thousands had seen the BMW-sponsored show at the New York Guggenheim. Don Neilson saw it in Chicago. Now, with the addition of an MV Augusta Four, “from the collection of His Majesty, the King,” it was in Bilbao.



Here, the gang walks by the museum which extends under the auto bridge in the background.



The museum is glass, titanium, and limestone. And over the main entrance, the BMW symbol. No pictures were permitted inside.

