

KING OF THE ALPS

PHOTOS & TEXT BY JOHN HERMANN

A recent Saturday outing paid a respectful visit to the burned out remains of Fat Ivor's in Valley Center.



That's Cliff Sharp, left, and then Tom Mooney, Bill Siebold, Rich Kapushinski, Don Picker, Gary Walker, and Tom Holland.



Then Herm had to pose with the hand lettered sign some had hung on the chain-link fence keeping us from looting the ruins for remnants of ribs. "If you rebuild it, we will come." Local reports are that the county is giving them a hard time getting permits. We do note that there has been a moratorium on building because a high water table makes it nigh on to impossible to pass percolation tests.



But wait! Don't give up all hope! There is an alternative. It's modest, but it is an alternative called, would you believe, Fat Ivor's. That's Herm's R1150 R parked at the door. Note, there's plenty of parking, 'cause no one is there. Whereas Valley Center's Fat Ivor's was cheap, but funky, this place just looks cheap. But the ribs do come out the same. Herm had seven on this visit, and each was falling off the bone in true Fat Ivor's style. Note, the sign over the door, "Under New Management. All you can eat beef ribs \$11.95."

It's light and bright at the end of a strip mall, overlooking a nice valley at the southwest corner of Camino del Real and Oceanside Blvd., about two miles east of I-5 and two miles north of 78, Fire Hall across the street.



What a troika! At Brecht BMW Motorcycle store, Tim Brecht, right, was discussing how to feed the Wildcat Canyon hungry mob with Arden Freisen and Randy Lassiter of the famous sales staff.



During April there was a rally of the Bus 'N' Bikers club at the waterfront behind the convention center in downtown San Diego. Members all have huge busses, custom designed and outfitted, and bikes also, mostly Harleys. Herm and Don Picker rode their R1150 R's into the maw to visit old Euro friend Sam Swope who was attending. Locals hosting the group were Art Engel, John Daley, and Ruge Cunningham. Ruge had an M-1 car and a Z-8 on site. The group did indeed ride every day through wondrous San Diego country. Nice people.



Cliff Sharp had enough of that Honda ... maybe two months, and he's back in favor with a K1200 RS. But, darn it, playing with the club folk on the East Grade, he cornered so smartly that he bent the shift lever out of sync. Getting little sympathy from the local GS riders, he's seeking consolation here from another RS type.



Oh, yeah, Don Picker's new R1150 R is a dual-plugged model (compare the valve cover with Tom Mooney's single-plugged GS in the next picture). In case you might still be uncertain, the valve covers say "2 sparks." And note, Don has put on the muffler lowering kit so the bike

will accommodate two full-size saddle bags. And the BMW smoke windscreen is a nice touch. (That Italian paint scheme on the helmet maybe should go with the Moto Guzzi.) Ron DeJohn and Cliff Sharp might be persuaded.



"But look," says President Mooney, "my GS with a hundred thirty and some thousand miles looks as shiny and clean as Don Picker's new R bike." Hugo Schreiner, an expert on the subject, is reserving judgement.



Giovanni's came alive with the annual club Swap Meet last month. Doc Williams, right, had the Honda Element packed with treasures, some with his artistic custom detailing. John Sullivan, left, is talking over some stuff with Kit Goldman, while Dan Toporoski checks with Ron DeJohn; Bruce Rogers fingers some goodies, and Dave Tegen haggles with Doc.



At the April club meeting, Dave Campbell gave the low down on his race in the Boxer Cup at Daytona. Dave explained gears and speeds for each part of the track. Here, he's pointing to a critical point, the chicane. He says there were more crashes than we saw on Speed Vision. Backed by Brattin Motors, he was riding a bike that belongs to Todd Schoenburg, which Todd rode to the meeting. Dave now has a F.I.M. license where the rules have no white flag ... just a checkered flag, so you have to count laps!



Would you believe that Don Nimon has topped out the projects on the beautiful blue and white GS, so he's added this nice R1100 RT to his stable.

Not too late to join the San Diego gang in the Pyrenees mountains between Spain and France late this month.