

# LETTERS

Cont'd.

## "WHY DUCATIS?"

Greetings,

This is one of those "I've been meaning to write and say thanks" letters..so here it is; thanks for taking your riding and personal time to put together the fine D.I.O.C. publication. In these parts any Ducati news is news.

A couple of hours with Adrian Palmer must have been positive because he hit several nails straight on for me. (Mr. Neilson, meet Mr. Palmer.)

I've asked myself (every once-in-a-while) over the past twelve (12!) years, "Why Ducatis?" and in a word it's got to be excitement!

In the 3½ hours I spent on the Blue Ridge Parkway today I must have encountered 2,000+ high-tech-far-eastern machines (and riders) and I can't help but feel that what Adrian has in mind will never be realized by most of those "riders." Seems to me "Soul" is coming in fewer forms these days...Italian and theirs and maybe that's good in some respects. During the occasional smoke-break at a pull-off to get the "...damn, you mean that thing's a 350 single-cylinder and I couldn't...no...!". That's confirmed excitement and that confirmation has to bring on a certain feeling of pride because I'm not a "hot" rider, just one of the few on a throughbred that allows moves that...well, just good feelings.

The enclosed photo is in answer to your block request for "What-cha got."

It's a '69 350 Desmo twin-plug that is mostly basic with the exception of a Mekuni that's been worked-over, a straight-through factory meg and gearing that allows 85mph "right-now!" The fiberglass has been sold and the stock tank and seat are back on (as it should have been all along). Love that front mudguard, tho and it, tank and side covers have been repainted the original "maroon" with proper gold stripping.

This is my 4th Duke and definately the most satisfying. I started with a 250 "scrambler" and tried to make a cafe-racer out of it, then a 450 D-genuine-Vic Camp-take-no-prisoners go-rilla which I sold to Robert Pauley much to my sorrow, then a Spanish 350 springer and this '69 in the same acquisition.

With only 8900 miles on the clock to-date this is one of those "artifacts" that I won't have regrets about letting go of 'cause I don't think I could.

If any Ducati bretheren are cutting up (or down) the Blue Ridge Parkway this fall take the 130 east exit at Otter Creek, run 12 miles to Elon, Va. and give me a call (384-9120) and I'll buy you a drink and a view of the Blue Ridge Mountains you shouldn't miss.

Best Wishes, Ed Lloyd, Rt. 1, Box 179C, Monroe, VA 24574

## WE'RE LOOKING FOR A 450 DESMO

Dear Joel,

Our family here in Rochester finally decided to get our butts in gear and help support our good old DIOC. Enclosed are the dues. Since the beginning we've been "borrowing" all the issues from a friend. Now decided to get our own.

In all, right now we have three Dukes. A '66 250 Diana with an Elite tank, a '69 350 Road Racer, a '69 350 MK III Desmo, and enough spares to keep all running and possibly build up a fourth.

The 250 is my brothers. A straight engine with a cam, Borreni rims, Tomeselli 1/4 turn throttle, Veglia tach, rearsets and Dunlop k&l's.

The 350 MK III D is mine, 99% original and almost immaculate but in need of minor detail work.

The racer is my fathers. A 350 Desmo with a grey end factory cam, Tomeselli racing throttle, Veglia tank, Borreni rims with an English double leading shoe front brake. Pz, Michelin tires.. let's see, what else? Oh yeah! Home made rearsets and factory racing megaphone.

We were racing it several years ago against the 125 Yamaha, until we started beating the club President, then he moved us up into the 250 class! We've also been running it in the Formula "S"; a "vintage-singles" class, which according to AAMRR is suitable for the new 500 Pantah's.

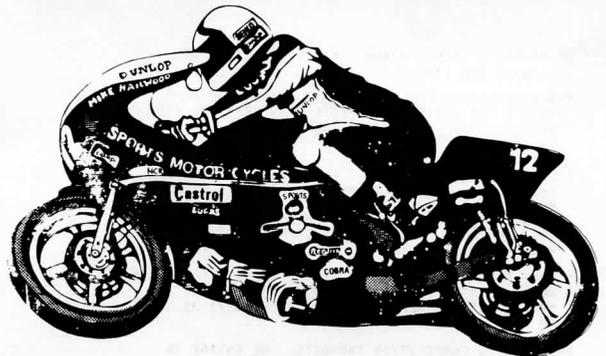
This AAMRR is getting more mickey mouse every year. Before long they might even catch up with the AMA!

By the way, we are looking for a used 450 Desmo in any stage of disrepair so that we can use it for racing. If anyone out there needs to unload their bike, try to get in touch. It will have a good foster home.

Good luck in the coming riding

David Mallett, 28 Summer Street, East Rochester, NH 03867

# DUCATI 900 WORLD CHAMPION



## Isle of Man - 2 June 1978 Driver Mike Hailwood ISLE OF MAN T-SHIRT

Also known as the Mike Hailwood T-Shirt. This shirt will keep alive the memory of the exciting come-back to racing of "Mike the Bike" in the summer of 1978 at the Isle of Man in England, when he soundly trounced the entire field of entries from the Japanese giants. The only Mike Hailwood T-Shirt in existence today. The shirt is on 50/50 Hanes white shirt with red, black and green oil-silk screen paint. The detailed drawing appears on both sides of this shirt which also has bright red rings on the collar and sleeves. Only \$7.15 & \$1.50 shpg. Overseas postage is \$3.10 Air Mail. Price is in U.S.A. Dollars.

