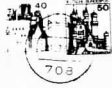


LETTERS



Continued

THE PAST OR DISTANT PAST

Dear Joel:

It's been quite awhile since I lived in Miami, Fla. I left there in November, 1974. I'm sure you wouldn't remember me but I owned a 1971 White Ambassador M.G. which I rode all over the U.S. for three consecutive years. I've bought quite a few parts from you for the M.G. I also remember a customer coming into the Escape one day. I think he was lost! Obviously looking for the local Honda shop. This fella made the mistake of asking me who or what kind of individual would own the new 750 GT parked in the window. After about five minutes of my near maniac rhetoric response you came in from the other room and overhearing part of my conversation tried to smooth over some of what I'd said. I'll bet that guy never got lost in your shop again!

Another time I remember is when you came in with your pants knee all torn. I was there with your wife waiting for your return. Wife was tending store - anyway I knew something was wrong when you first came in. Seems you'd been riding with a buddy on a single Ducati and fell off. Those are the two spectacular incidents that I remember, although I was at your shop many times just to chat and go for a ride. I also spent a short stint, about a year in Miami in 1978-1979 and rode up to your shop a couple of times although it was at night and you were closed. Enough of the past or distant past. It's not too hard to see what you've been doing for several years anyway. Organizing the DIOC - which I'd say is a considerable achievement.

Myself? Well I've relegated myself to more mundane activities - with the exception of working on and riding a Duck.

Ever since my first ride on the 750 Duke back in 1973 I've wanted to own one. I don't know why I never bought one - I guess it was other interests. In any event, I finally bought one from a consignee at Watson's BMW - M.B. in Gainesville and trailered it out here. That was in May, 1979. I've been riding it to and from work May - November, however, last year after Thanksgiving I allowed myself to get high in a left hander and ran off the road at about 50 mph. Thanks to luck no obstacles - trees, etc. and proper clothing, I received no injuries. I did ride the bike home although it had many hurt and some broken pieces.

Let me back up and tell you about the bike. It's 1975 - 750 GT with Barrani wheels and Contis and had the small ABS quarter fairing and the whole bike was '65 Mustang bright red - including frame, fork legs and seat cover. Starting out in Feb. I set out to completely restore to original condition or better. The bike is running again and is painted, after first stripping to bare metal all pieces, then applying Zinc Chromate primer. With the brightest Dupont Imron red. It has the following new large pieces plus many small ones: Gas tank, seat, Superbike touring handlebars - Contis, Triumph headlight with ampmeter - Bosch light - Albert mirrors - front Borrani with stainless spokes - new Vegilia instruments with custom bracket. The motor is stock with new rings and valve job - guides from Power house Products. All the work except the actual painting and valve work was done by myself and sure was pleasurable. I'm in the process of installing Electronic ignition from an 850 or later Duck. I'll send you some good 35mm shots soon. I haven't any yet.

Al Watson, 913 Locust Drive, Blue Springs, MD 64015

A LITTLE SILLY

Dear Uncle Joel: My old man is crazy about Ducatis and enjoys your little magazine an awful lot. He has a Monza and a Donzi. No, wait. Donzi is a boat. Its a Saturn.....or a Jupiter, one of those planets.....how the hell should I know! Anyway, he has all your T-Shirts and I can't think of what else Ducati to buy him to wear. Do you have any Ducati club underweares? I don't mean the ones that you wear around the house while you work on the club, or perhaps you walk around naked, I do sometimes when my old man is not home but usually I wear one of your Daytona 77 shirts which are real long and covers everything down to my knees. Anyway if you don't maybe you could come out with some. I don't mean go outside in your underwear, make them up and sell them to the club members. I'm sure a lot of them would look great in Ducati underwear, and even if they go naked too they can still wear the shorts for special occasions like changing in a locker room full of guys. Anyway that's all I wanted to ask. Or say. I did both didn't I?

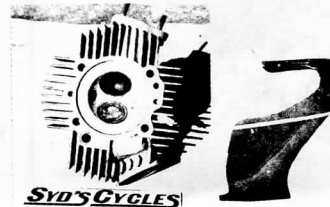
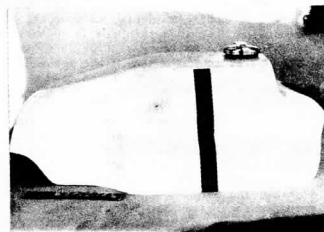
Renee Phillips, Oswego, Kansas.

SYD'S CYCLES

WE AT SYD'S CYCLES WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING NEW ITEMS:

- * MIKE HAILWOOD REPLIC FAIRING WHICH WILL BOLT ON ANY 750 - 900 SS COMPLETE WITH BRACKETS \$289.00 (FITS ALL OTHER V-TWINS WITH ADDITIONAL BRACKETS BY REQUEST.)
- * LONG DISTANCE GAS TANK. IMOLA REPLIC 24 LITER (6.3408 GAL.) WILL FIT ALL 750 - 900 SS MODELS HAS LEVEL WINDOW. DIMENSIONS ARE 14 3/8" (SAME AS SUPER SPORTS) WIDE, 10 1/2" TALL (1 1/2" TALLER THAN SS), 26" LONG FROM STEERING STEM TO BACK OF TANK. WILL FIT ALL V-TWIN MODELS WITH ACCESSORY SEAT.
- * DUAL PLUG HEADS FOR SINGLES AND TWINS, \$50.00 PER HEAD. LUCAS ELECTRONIC IGNITION SYSTEMS ALL 750 MODELS \$158.40 ALL 860 - 900 MODELS \$272.35. CALL OR WRITE FOR DETAILS.

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