

CORDUROY ENDURO

By Ron Jackson

The fourth annual Corduroy Enduro was successfully run off on Sept. 22nd and 23rd. As in previous years the '56 edition of the B.E.M.C.'s two day event was held over a rugged course in the scenic Haliburton Highlands with headquarters at Gold Rock Lodge, near Cobocok on highway number 35.

This year's route, although slightly shortened from previous years, was probably the most challenging that has been used to date. Sheldon Smith from the Kawartha M.C.C. riding a 500 c.c. AJS scrambler was the winner by a handsome margin. He lead the scoring on both days to take home the "Log Trophy" as the overall winner and the "Best Second Day Award" for his convincing display of reliability and endurance on Sunday. His final score of 900 marks after two days and 400 miles of the toughest endurance run in Canada represents a high standard of heads up riding skill.

Gunter Sauren, B.E.M.C., (AJS), a newcomer to this country but evidently not to motorcycling was second with a very creditable score of 536 points. The "Best Opposite Class" trophy was won by Ken Heard riding a 200 c.c. N.S.U. The handsome team trophy went to the Vincent Owners Club team of Hunter, Massey and Martin.

Activities began promptly on Saturday morning at Gold Rock Lodge with the overture played by Don Charters on his plaintive cow bell. The first rider left promptly at 7.00 a.m. with the remainder following at two minute intervals. The weather turned out to be almost ideal, sunny and cool, but at first the accent was on cool with the sun blotted out by an unhealthy looking ground fog. However the pathfinders had thoughtfully provided a mud hole at the fifteen mile mark to give everyone a chance to warm up. The heavy rains during the summer made the run much muddier than in previous years but the 24 m.p.h. average speed which prevailed throughout made it possible to catch up on the gravel roads.

Highlight of the morning's run was the crossing of the Iondale River which is illustrated in the accompanying photographs. The lunch stop at Wilberforce provided the opportunity for the riders to enjoy a well earned rest and stoke up

on sandwiches, hot soup and coffee provided by the checkers.

The afternoon's route was a little easier than the morning's until the riders reached the most talked-about section of the run, the Burnt River Swamp. Unfortunately due to a misunderstanding the checkers who were intended to assist the entry in crossing the swamp, stopped just short of it unaware of what lay ahead. However by helping each other all riders crossed successfully but some were delayed by moist electrics. The remainder of the route was a straight forward run back to Gold Rock via Minden. The first man arrived at approximately 5.00 p.m. with the remainder following in short order.

The traditional Corduroy Banquet was indeed a welcome sight when it was served in the dining room of the lodge sharp at 6.15. Approximately 60 motorcycle enthusiasts sat down to a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings. The excellent meal earned many compliments for Les North, his wife and her hard working staff.

After the dishes were cleared away the perennial enthusiast, Bill Hastings organized one of the best showings of films on motor sport that has ever been seen in these parts. At midnight the crowd was still keen after three hours of it. Many thanks to Bill and to Les North for taking the trouble to round up the films and the projector and screen.

Sunday's run although substantially the same as Saturday's was shortened somewhat by omitting the Burnt River swamp in order to make sure that the entry finished in good time. The day was overcast and a light rain fell intermittently but not enough to dampen the spirits of the entry who proved themselves to be a pretty determined set of characters. Sunday's run finished again at Gold Rock and the majority of the gang stayed there for supper and a bull session afterwards before starting back home.

The organizers of the event were very pleased with the way this year's event was received by riders and spectators alike. The event ran much more smoothly, the standard of riding skill had improved and in general everyone seemed to have more fun during the weekend. This was due in no small measure to a large group



Some rode through . . . Sheldon Smith . . .

of people who volunteered to take check points and to do the other jobs essential to the success of the event. The Nor-town M.C.C. of Toronto deserve special mention for the support they have given this event since its inception, both in entries and in enthusiastic checkers. This year was fortunately no exception.

Everyone connected with the event is eager to get on with plans for next year's run which we hope to make one of the biggest dates in the C.M.A. calendar. It is our ambition to see the day when every club in the Ontario Centre and others across the Dominion and in the U.S.A. send one or more teams each with its own supporters to compete in the Corduroy Enduro. We feel certain that the friendly rivalry and enthusiasm generated by this type of event will provide a new source of strength both for motorcycling and for the C.M.A. All that is needed is your support. Plan now to enter a team in next year's event. There are an increasing number of opportunities to gain experience in endurance runs by supporting the numerous well organized one day events now appearing in the C.M.A. calendar.

RESULTS

1. Sheldon Smith, AJS, 900 points; 2. Gunter Sauren, AJS, 536 points; 3. Jock

Hunter, Matchless, 529 points; 4. Jack Vaillancourt, Matchless, 497 points; 5. Ken Heard, NSU, 177 points; 6. D. Massey, Matchless, -353 points; 7. N. Brooks, Matchless, -544 points.

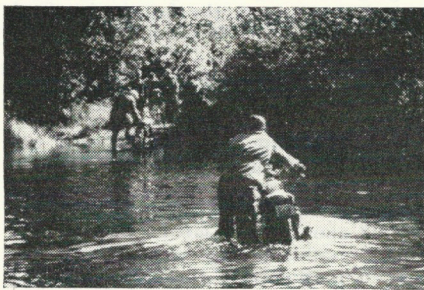
The following did not finish: D. Clark, C. Martin, D. Warburton, C. Venier, D. Read, and J. White.

AWARDS

Premier Award—Sheldon Smith, score 900.
Best Opposite Class—Ken Heard, score 177.

Best Second Day—Sheldon Smith.

Team Award—V.O.C.—H. Hunter
D. Massey
C. Martin



and some pushed . . . Photos by Don Charters.