

CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP CORDUROY ENDURO

by Basil Jackson



A group of eager riders with starter Ted Buck.

With the mingled sounds of the "bog wheels" gasping their last, groans from the tired mud runners, and a hearty huzzah for the winners the 1961 edition of the Corduroy Enduro passed into the record books after a cool, sunny weekend September 30 - October 1. The Canadian Championship Enduro was organized by the British Empire Motor Club in the scenic Haliburton district of Ontario. This year's 350 mile route included about 75 miles of new trail mixed with the best of the traditional Corduroy fare. Although shorter than in previous years, it proved tougher for even the hardest of the entry.

John Penton, this year sporting a 250 BMW, once again showed that he is a superlative second day man and became the Canadian National Champion for the third consecutive year. After a bruising Saturday, the Lorain, Ohio star at 16 points lost, was closely followed by Toronto riders Bill Sharpless (200 Triumph) at 20, and Hart Kennedy (650 AJS) at 24, and Norm Smith (500 Triumph) from Brecksville, Ohio at 25. But on Sunday John showed the profit of experience, giving up a meagre 5 additional points to win in convincing style. Bill maintained his second place in the overall standings and took the Lightweight class with a total of 36. Hart Kennedy, Toronto Nortown Club's enduro master mind, showed the stuff that Nortown men are made of. Despite a painful puncture in one bicep suffered in a fall on Sunday morning, he stayed with it and took the Heavy Weight class with 62 points. He was beaten at the last check for Best Opposite Class honours by Marvin Cutler (600 Match-



George Davidson and W. Ryan coming out from the "Pinery Road".

Photos by Peter Jackson

less), the indestructible locksmith from Dearborn, Mich. who gave one of his usual reliable performances for 57 points — and proved for any of us sceptical youngsters that even a mud runner's life can begin at forty.

A newcomer to Corduroy this year, Jay Latham (500 Triumph) from Pontiac, Mich. put in a fine performance to take the Medium Weight class with 78 points. Meanwhile Norm Smith was busy losing the third check on Sunday and winning a fat 86 points for his troubles to push him to 138 points total. The Sidecar class went to Clare Mathies from Campbellville, Ontario and passenger Walt Wilson (650 Matchless) with 305, after a close battle from last year's champ George Davidson and W. Ryan from Toronto (600 Matchless) who trailed by only 14 points.

Toronto's Nortown Club stood by last year's victorious team entry of Sharpless, Kennedy and Jerry Van der Eyken and proved it was no fluke by coasting home with a comfortable margin of over 100 points. Jerry made it a sure thing by finishing second to Bill in the Lightweight class on a 250 BSA.

Backed by brilliant fall weather and the excellent facilities and service of Les



John Penton at the Beaver Dam.



Bill Sharpless being checked in by Peter Jackson and Chuck Charlesworth.

Photos by Peter Jackson North and his tireless staff at Gold Rock Lodge, the run's headquarters, the weekend was enjoyed by all, particularly the large contingent of newcomers from south of the border who gave such a fine account of themselves. The tales, both tall and true, will bring many a laugh in the months to come.

AMA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Daytona Beach, Fla. — Motorcycling's biggest purse, a total jackpot of more than \$20,000, will be at stake for riders competing in America's greatest handlebar classics at Daytona Beach from February 26 through March 4, 1962.

The major event will be the annual 200-mile national road racing championship event to be staged over a selected two-mile course at Daytona International Speedway on Sunday, March 4, this climaxing a full week of motorcycling activities that will include short track, sportsman, drag and endurance contests along with the championship races.

Novice riders, heretofore always barred from competition at Daytona when the races were staged over the old four-mile beach-road course and for the first time last year at the world famous speedway, will get their first chance to compete at Daytona.

A 70-mile race for novice riders will be staged Saturday, March 3, over the same two-mile course as a preliminary to the annual amateur championship race which has been lengthened this year from 100 to 130 miles or 65 laps over the two-mile course.

A total purse of \$12,000 is being posted for the 200-mile expert classic, making this the major event in American motorcycling history. The winner will receive \$3,000 plus lap money at the rate of \$10 per lap, making a possible \$4,000 first place money.

In addition to the expert purse, speedway officials are posting \$3,000 for the amateur race and \$1,500 for the new novice event, plus additional prizes of more than \$3,000 for short track races to be held at Memorial Stadium during the week.

The entire program is being sponsored by Community Promotions, Inc., a non-profit Daytona organization headed by Luis Scherer as chairman, with Bill France and associates promoting the races.

RESULTS (Trophy Winners)

Grand Champion — J. Penton, Lorain Ohio, 250 BMW, 21 points; Best Opposite Class — M. Cutler, Dearborn Mich., 600 Matchless, 57 points.

Lightweights

1. W. Sharpless, Toronto, 200 Triumph, 36 points; 2. J. Van der Eyken,

Continued on P. 31