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Corduroy Grand Champion, Sal Scirpo

Corduoy Enduro 1963

by Ron Jackson

A record entry of 54 riders from two provinces and six states took part in the Canadian Championship Corduroy Enduro on September 14 and 15. Top honours went to veteran U.S. east coast riders. The overall winner was Sal Scirpo riding a 250 cc Harley from Hartford Connecticut with 63 points lost. The Best Opposite Class was won by Eugene Esposito of Brooklyn N.Y. on a 500 Triumph. The Lightweight Championship went to Don Lohnes, Bennington Vermont on a 250 Greeves. The Medium and Heavyweight Championships were won by Ohio riders Norm Smith, 500 Triumph and Al Garratt, 600 Matchless. Clare Mathies and Walt Wilson of Georgetown, Ontario prevented a U.S. shutout by winning the Sidecar Championship by a narrow margin over Dewey Wertz and Floyd Brandow of Wheeler, Michigan.

As in previous years, the run was laid out on the rocky edge of the Canadian Shield in the Ontario resort district of Haliburton. The total distance covered in the two days was reduced from 370 miles in 1962 to 290. This change was popular with most riders, especially those from distant points since it permitted an early start home Sunday afternoon. Results were published and trophies awarded in an informal ceremony on Sunday evening.

Saturday's course consisted of two laps of an 86.8 mile route which started and finished at Gold Rock Lodge, headquarters for the run throughout the week-end. By repositioning checks the organizers managed to collect just as many points after lunch as before and in fact several riders got lost the second time around.

Sunday evening Norm Smith was leading with 22 points followed by Esposito 28, Scirpo 30, Cutler 35, Lohnes 39, Garratt 40 and Hartman 42. Unfortunately, Bill Decker of Butler N.J. had to retire at 132.4 miles because of a sprained ankle suffered in a collision with a spectator's car. At this point he was tied for first place with 19 points.

Twenty machines including two of the four sidecars failed to finish Saturday's run. Mechanical failure was the common complaint and several riders

spent a good part of Sunday extracting their unfaithful machinery from remote regions.

On Sunday morning 34 stalwart rock jumpers set out to tackle the remaining 116.2 miles. All but five made it. Best score on Sunday was Scirpo's 33 followed by Lohnes, 39 and Esposito, 53. Norm Smith, Saturday's leader, drowned his Triumph and his hopes of winning in a beaver pond Sunday morning. Considering the circumstances, he made a rapid recovery and managed to edge Hartman for the Medium weight Championship. There was a forty minute break for lunch at Carnarvon. This came none too soon for sidecar champion Mathies who spent more than an hour with the local blacksmith welding fractures in the sidecar ironmongery.

The final 60 miles included two stretches of woods and three sustained sessions with a power line right-of-way. Key time for the final check was 2.12 and at 4.38 George English, the last of the 29 finishers checked in to complete the 1963 Corduroy.

Top Canadian solo riders included Ray Holloway, third Lightweight, 260 points; Bert Irwin, fourth Heavyweight, 206 points; and Bill Sharpless, fourth Mediumweight, 208 points.

We hope that everyone who took part in this year's Corduroy enjoyed the week-end. Our congratulations to the winners: the trophies they received were well earned. In our opinion a record entry, fine weather, the somewhat shorter course, improved route marking and timing all contributed to one of the most successful Corduroy runs to date.

The British Empire Motor Club wishes to thank the following for their generosity in donating trophies for the event.

Canadian Motorcycle Assoc., Replica for Grand Champion; Clare Heard Cycles, Peterborough, Replica for Best Opposite Class; Percy A. McBride Ltd., Toronto, Replica for Lightweight Champion; Firth Motorcycles Ltd., Toronto, Replica for Medium Weight Champion; Russell Winter & Co., Toronto, Replica for Heavy Weight Champion; Toronto Honda - Ducati Centre, Replicas for Sidecar Champion; Mac's Motorcycles, Peterborough, Replica for Best Novice

We also wish to thank the genial proprietor of Gold Rock Lodge, Les North, his wife and their capable staff for the excellent fashion in which arrangements at the Lodge were handled. Thanks also to Bill Hastings for the PA and the films, to starter and timer, Ron White, to the Tom Cats MC for special signs, and to the patient group of checkers.

LAYOUT CREW

Dave Jackson, Don Charters, Ted Buck, Basil Jackson, Ron Jackson.

OFFICIAL RESULTS

GRAND CHAMPION

Sal Scirpo: Hartford, Conn.; 250 HD, 63 points. Awards. BEMC Corduroy 'Log', CMA Brash Trophy.

BEST OPPOSITE CLASS

Eugene Esposito: Brooklyn N.Y.; 500 Triumph, 81 points. Award: Clare Heard Trophy.

LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION

Don Lohnes: Bennington, Vermont; 250 Greeves, 78 points.

MEDIUM WEIGHT CHAMPION

Norman Smith, Brecksville, Ohio; 500 Triumph, 103 points.

HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION

Al Garratt: Cleveland, Ohio; 600 Matchless, 108 points.

SIDECAR CHAMPION

C. Mathies - W. Wilson: Campbellville, Ont.; 600 Matchless, 581.

WINNING TEAM

The Wrecking Team: N. Smith, S. Scirpo, A. Garratt, 869.4 miles, 274 points. Award: Gold Rock Team Trophy.

BEST NOVICE ENDURO RIDER

Paul Goulet: Lansing, Michigan; 500 Triumph, 140 points.

Expert Retires From Dirt Track

by Ellen Craig

Amongst the many dirt track riders in the Expert class, one of the top men has been Edward Ford, known to everyone as "Buddy."

After the last dirt track at Richelieu in Montreal last month, Buddy decided that this would be his last dirt track race after many years of riding.

A long time holder of No. 180 and this year No. 61, Buddy who rides a Triumph, is a resident of Three Rivers, Que., a nice fellow both on and off the track.

This is probably Buddy's first step towards retirement, for he still plans to continue road racing. It is very hard to drop out of racing all at once.

I am sure everyone joins me in wishing him every success as he continues with road racing.

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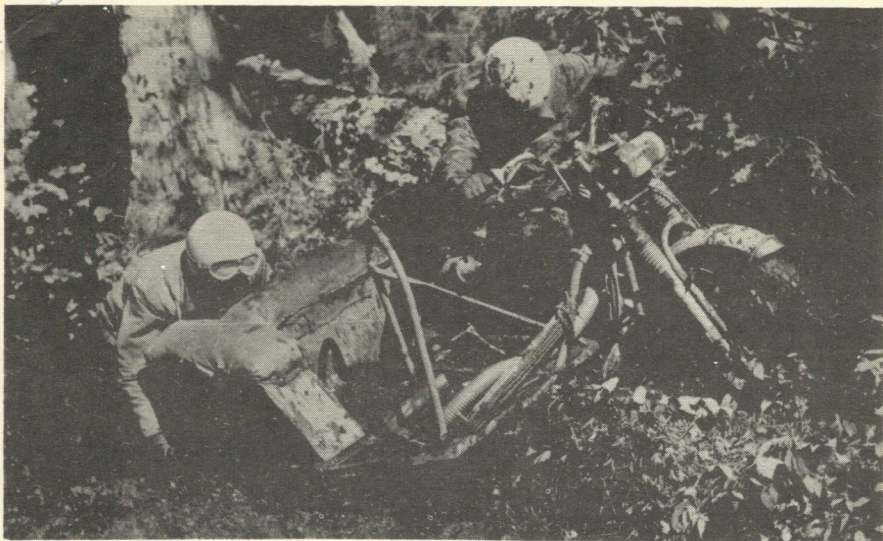
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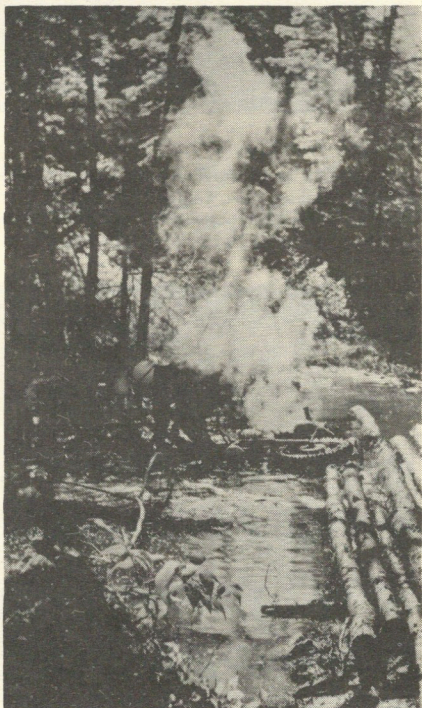
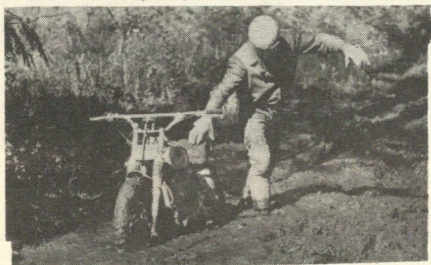
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Personal Attention to Club Orders



Top: Corduroy Sidecar Champions Clare Mathies and Walter Wilson mucking in.

Middle: Gerry Van der Eyken abandons his 500 BSA. Bottom left: George English lost more points than any other competitor, but he finished the course. That's pathfinder Ron Jackson on hand to assist. Basil Jackson photos. Right: Don Haddow was on hand to snap John Mileham with his "horizontally disposed twin" in beaver pond.



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THIS MONTH'S COVER

Sal Scirpo of Hartford, Conn., smiles on his way to a decisive win in the '63 National Championship Cord Run. Scirpo rode a 250cc Harley Davidson Sprint.