

TY THE IMPOSSIBLE

DEBBIE EVANS: EXPERT

America's premiere plonkette



Hi, sports fans. Fred Fern, the ol' fredhead, here with another thrilling installment of Yours in Sports, presented by Kindly Mrs. Scurvy's Berry Pies, a division of Pellagra, Inc. Remember, with a name like Scurvy, it's got to be good. We're here in sunny Southern California and today's guest is this young lady right here, who is . . .

Debbie Evans.

And we're talking to you today because you did something special. Tell the folks.

Well, I transferred to the ATA Expert class here last Halloween.

Halloween, huh. I bet that was a real treat. You aren't playing a trick on us, are you, Debbie? Heh, heh, heh.

Oh, no sir.

And that makes you the first sportsperson of the female persuasion in America to become an observed trials Expert?

Yes.

That's really nice. How long did it take you?

Nine years.

Nine years, my gawd. It took your dad less than a year to make Master. See, it says that right here in my notes. Dave Evans, currently a member of the Montesa enduro team in District 37, made Master back in 1967.

That's when I started riding trials, Mr. Fern. I was nine.





Just call me Fred. It also says your dad was the dude who rode the endless wheelie in *On Any Sunday*. Can you do wheelies too?

Well, I can do wheelies on my TY175, but they're a bit harder on my unicycle.

I see that you're sponsored by Yamaha. That's the piano company, isn't it?

They also sell motorcycles, sir.

Oh . . . yeah. These notes say you can stand on your head. What's so unusual about that?

I do it on my bike.

You mean you stand on your head on your motorcycle? Amazing. I bet you need a good strong sidestand to hold the bike up.

Oh, I don't use the sidestand. I just balance the bike.

Awww, come on. I don't believe that.

It's true. I saw Elliott Schultz do it at a trial a couple of years ago and I tried it and I could do it. It's part of my act when we present trials exhibitions for schools and at shows. We put one on at Anaheim Stadium last December.

This I gotta see. Why don't you do your head stand and I'll go on interviewing you. It must be quite a thrill being the first lady Expert. That means you'll be riding the same sections as two-time national champion Marland Wheelie . . .

Whaley. Umph. Marland Whaley.

Oh, yes, Whaley, and two-time ATA champion Bernie Schreiber, and Mark Eggar.

Yes, umph, it should be, umph, quite a challenge.

Look at that, folks. She's actually doing it. I wouldn't have seen it if I didn't believe it myself. That's amazing. You can come down now, Debbie.

Thank you, sir.

Say, Deb. You don't mind if we take some pictures after the trial do you?

Oh. Ah, no, sir. How bad can my hair look after riding all day with a helmet. I mean, what girl would mind having pictures taken when her hair is a mess?

Let's skim over this cutsie pooh kid stuff. Hmmm. Started riding at six, got a Honda 55 step-through and then a Tohatsu/Suzuki and a 175 Yamaha trailbike, then a 250 Ossa and finally the TY175 early in 1975. Tell us about your Yamaha,

sweetie.

Well, you may have noticed that even though I am almost five foot four, I am kind of small for full-sized motorcycles. When I got on the TY175 everything seemed to fit in place and work right, and my riding really began to improve. I started to get transfer points regularly. And then after I went to Lane Leavitt's school last summer I went on a binge of seconds and thirds and here I am.

Wunnerful, Deb. I see you've appeared in *WomanSports Magazine* and you've been on television in a special called *Women in Sports*.

Right.

That's real swell, Donna.

Debbie. My sister is Donna. She rides trials too.

Oh, yeah, that's swell, too. I hear that trials is really a dull sport. When are you going to do something exciting like ride motocross?

Trials isn't dull, it's boss, Mr. Fern. But I have ridden some enduros in the desert with my dad. I finished a National Enduro on my Yamaha that half the entry DNF'd. I'd like to try some motocross and see if I like it.

Oh, my gawd. Did you see the size of the rock that young man just went up? It must be 12 feet tall. He could've killed himself. And look at that other . . . fellow. He just came down the same rock.

Oh, that's just Marland and Bernie. They're warming up for the trial today. I'll be riding the same sections as they do.

You people must all be insane. Say, did you notice that when the sun hits his hair . . . ah . . . getting back to you, Deb, what plans do you have for the future?

Well, I want to finish college and keep on riding for a long, long time. I want to ride as many of the Nationals as I can this year. If I ride the Wagner Cup, I think I would be the first woman to participate in an FIM world championship trial.

. . . and those forearms . . . uhh, that's nice, Ms. Evans. That's about it folks, another Yours in Sports show, brought to you by you know who's berry pies. As we say at Pellagra — if it's good enough for Scurvy, it's good enough for you. This is the ol' fredhead, Fred Fern, joining our guest, Debbie Evans, in saying . . .

Keep your feet up . . .