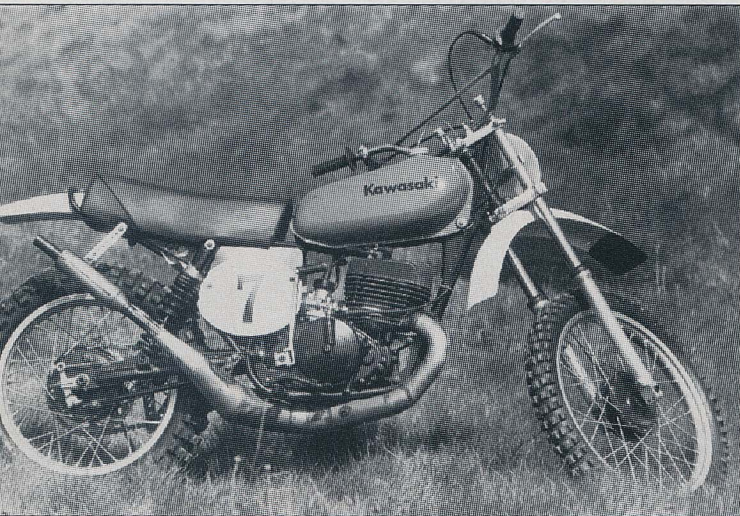


BIKES THAT MADE



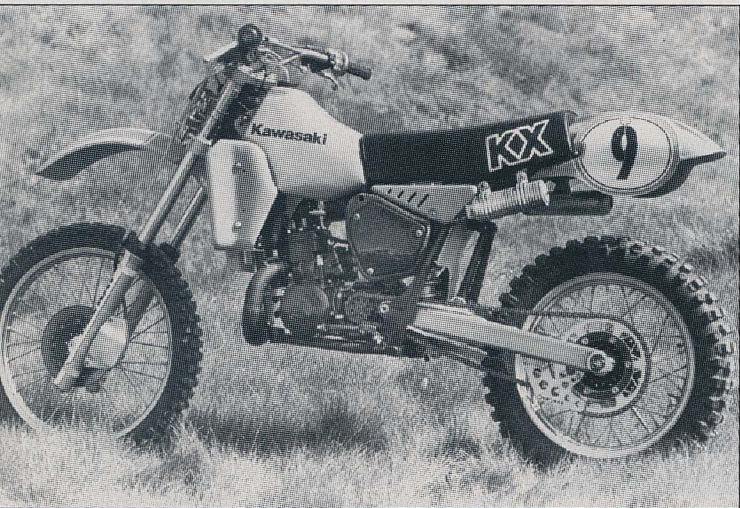
JIM WEINERT'S KX400

Jim Weinert rode this KX400 works bike to the '74 500 National Championship. Works forks, a hand-made works fiberglass/aluminum fuel tank and Kawasaki's earliest long-travel rear suspension grace the machine. Weinert took the #1 plate he won with the bike and put it on the Yamaha he was hired to ride for the '75 season



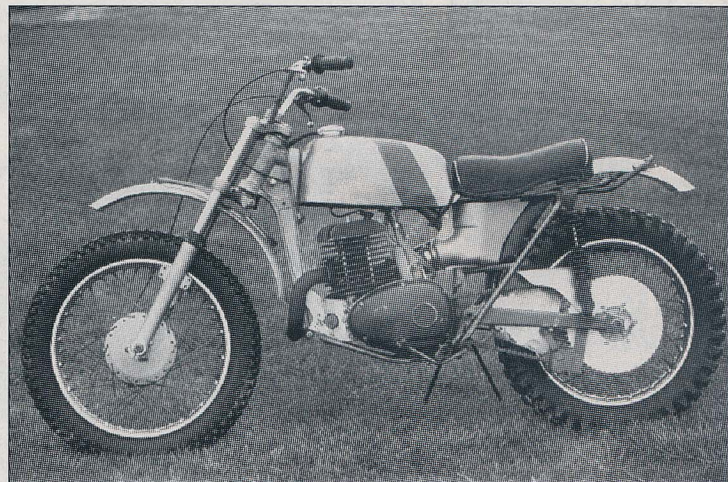
KENT HOWERTON'S '84 SUPERBIKERS KX500

Motocross great Kent Howerton looked to have as good a chance as anyone at winning the bizarre staged-for-TV superbikers dirt and street races. He only needed a worthy machine. Kawasaki heavily modified an '84 KX500, adding an oversized reed block and the front brake from Eddie Lawson's championship-winning superbike road racer. It could cruise effortlessly at 110 mph.



WARREN REID'S '81 KX250

This is what Kawasaki's racing department calls a "full works bike." Very few parts on the machine are not hand-made works items. A hand-made frame holds the earliest liquid-cooled KX engine ever raced. Its cases are unique to this machine. The works front fork carries one of the first hydraulic disc brakes in motocross. Reid raced this machine at outdoor events and used his proven air-cooled works KX for supercross.



GARY JONES' GREEVES

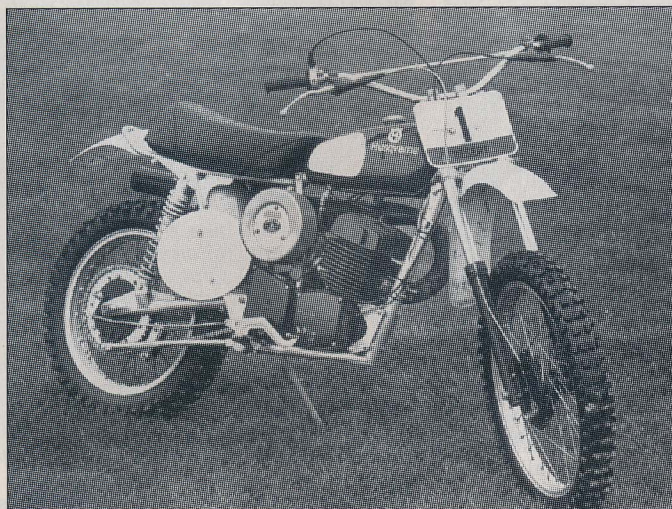
Gary Jones is best known for his successes aboard Yamahas but he also rode Greeves machines to quite a few wins. His special factory-prepared 250 Challenger has a Ceriani telescopic fork rather than the rubber-sprung link fork all the regular guys got.

HISTORY

Dirt biking is a fast-moving sport. Sometimes I think it moves too fast, like when only a few get to see some real history-making dirt bikes. Let's hit the brakes for a moment and slow down so we can get a decent look at some of the most interesting machines that *should* be famous but, until now, haven't gotten the attention they deserve. All these bikes are still around and in rideable condition.

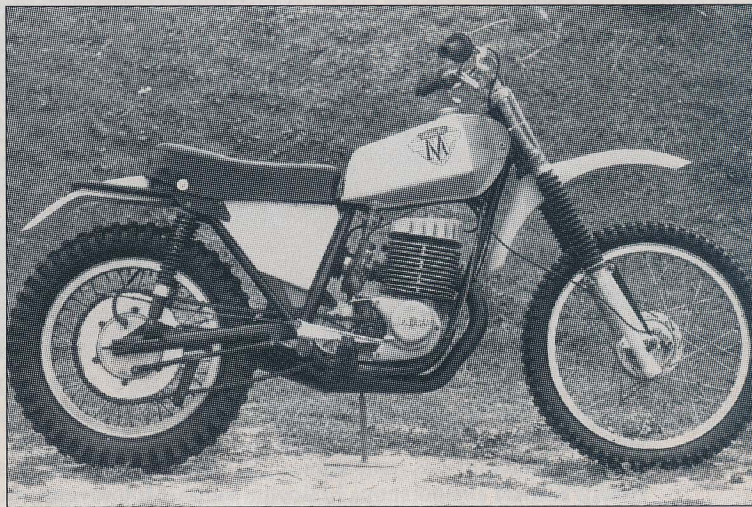
Still trick after all these years

By Joe Kosch



MITCH MAYES' 400 HUSQVARNA

Husqvarna owned the desert in the '70s and wanted to keep it, so Team Husky got high-speed heroes like Mitch Mayes to ride special factory desert bikes. Works transmissions, frames and swingarms kept these stock-looking Swedes so far out front they were mere dust spots on the horizon to lesser riders. Husky was extending the suspension travel of its factory bikes (as discreetly as they could) when some thought *shorter* travel was the hot ticket. This machine was rescued and restored by vintage bike nut/restorer Norm Francis.



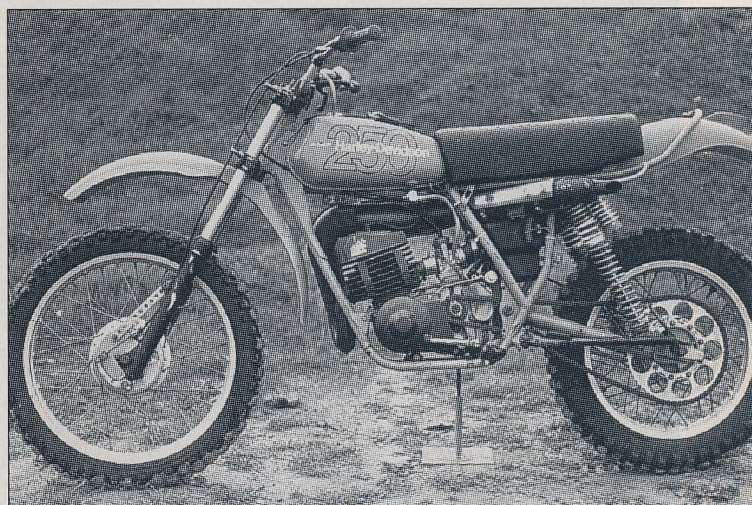
AKE JONSSON'S 400 MAICO

Ake Jonsson's (pronounced ahkee yonson) name was mangled many times in America but the famous Swede's Maico survived intact. VintageCross has the yet-unrestored machine and plans to make it fresh as the day it rolled out of the race shop in Germany.



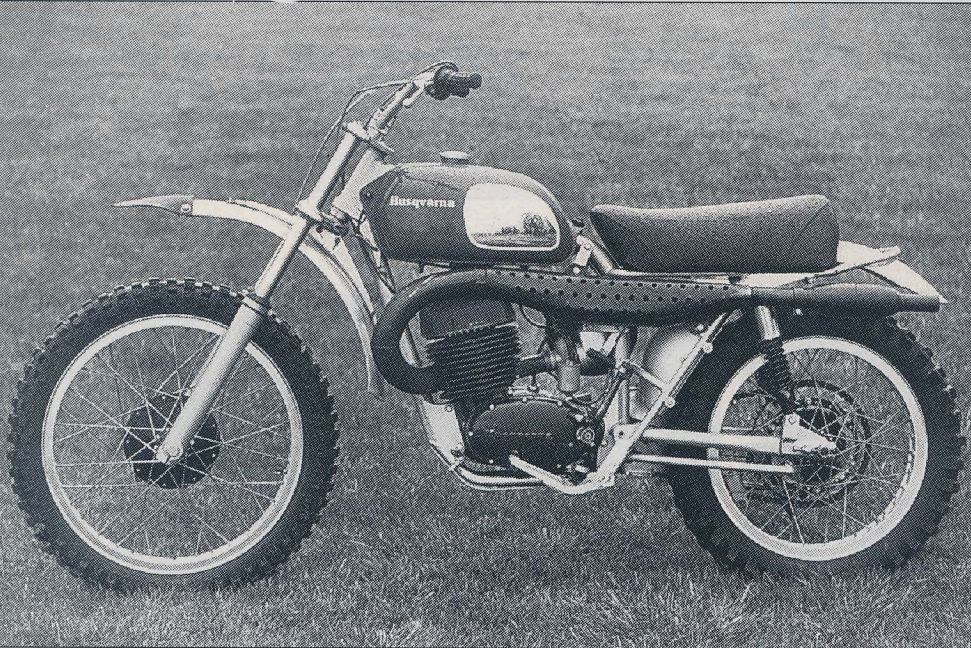
REX STATEN'S "FORKED" HARLEY 250 MX

Harley-Davidson is better known for chromed cruisers and movie stars than motocross bikes and famous racers, but there was a time when they got dirty with the real men. Who would have thought a company that has kept the same basic motorcycle design for 50 years would come up with a completely original suspension system for motocross?



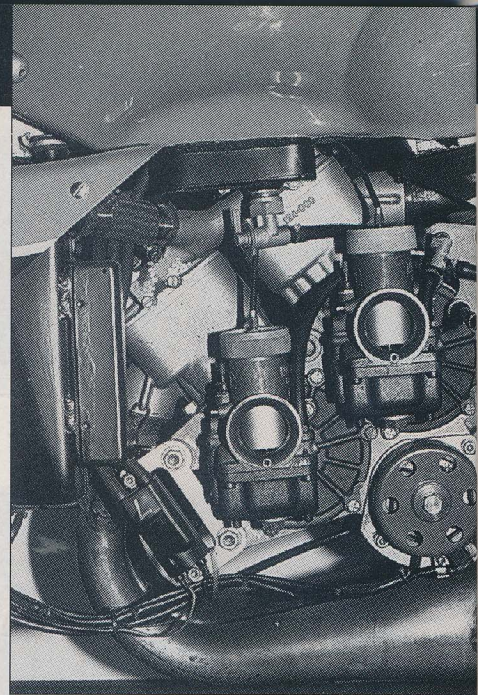
BRUCE OGILVIE'S '75 ISDT HARLEY

Most folks don't think of Harley-Davidson as a builder of great enduro machines, either, but back in '75 H-D built a beauty for Trophy Team member Bruce Ogilvie. Jeff Grismer, owner of the famous Carlsbad (California) Raceway and VintageCross motorcycle services, owns this machine, Johnson's Maico and Staten's Harley. VintageCross (619) 727-6137 sells, finds and restores vintage bikes.



MALCOLM SMITH'S ON ANY SUNDAY '70 HUSKY 400 CROSS

Perhaps the most famous dirt bike of all, this is the Husqvarna 400 ridden by Malcolm himself in the famous beach scene in the classic motorcycling film *On Any Sunday*. Malcolm has sold thousands of dirt bikes from his Riverside, California, Husky/KTM/Yamaha shop, Malcolm Smith Motorcycles, but he plans to keep the "movie star."



OK, it's not a dirt bike, but we had to show this engine for all you two-stroke horsepower freaks out there. It's the square four (two vertical twins with geared-together cranks) from Eddie Lawson's Kawasaki road racer; 500cc, 140 hp at 12,000 rpm. Check the carbs on the crank ends. There's a matching pair on the flip side. We heard they started this bike in the hallway at Kawasaki and it pulled posters off the walls. Get this, hill-climbers; this engine is scarcely wider than a 500cc motocross single. The latest versions make 160 hp!

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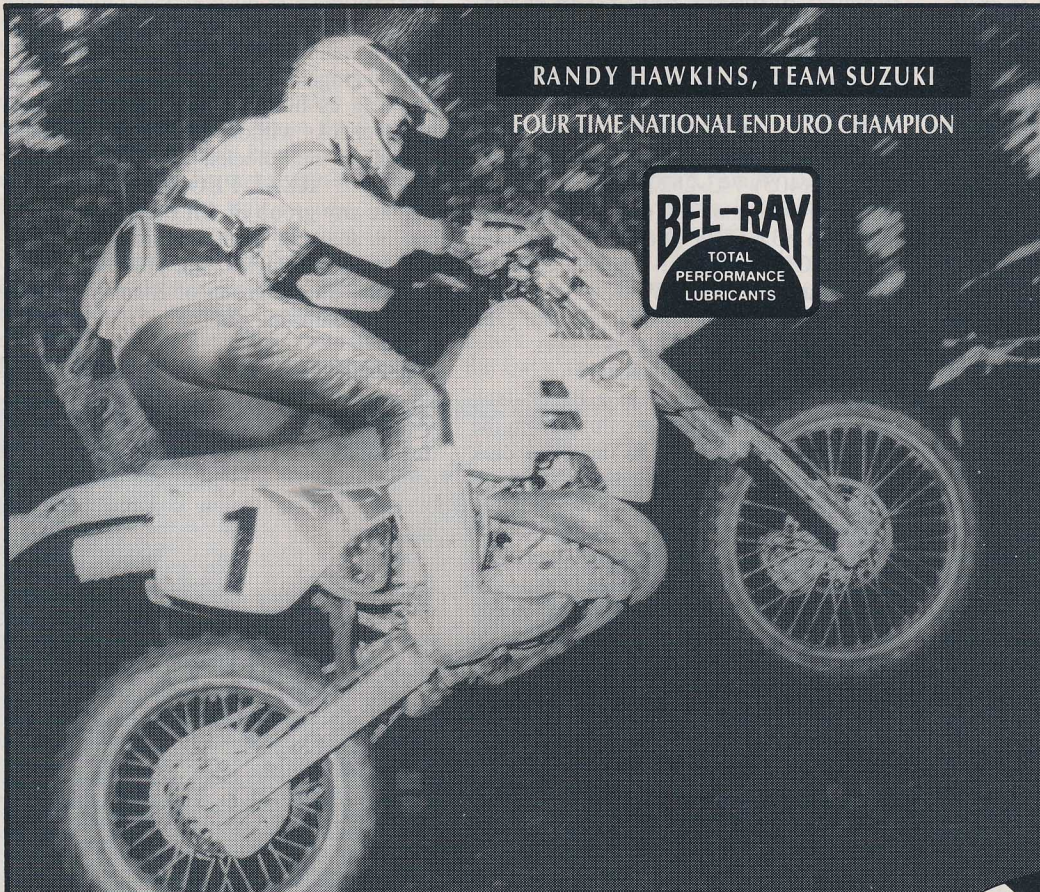
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VintageCross' Don Moore takes off from Carlsbad's famous "ledge" on the Husky Marty Tripes rode at the '74 Superbowl of Motocross.



Norm Francis enjoying, as he puts it, "the really fun part of vintage bike restoration" aboard Mitch Mayes' Husky. He will do the not-so-fun part for anyone at Norm Francis Vintage Bikes, (619) 242-1048. □



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