

EXCLUSIVE: BRONSON RIDES AGAIN!

CUSTOM BIKE

HIGH-PERFORMANCE AND
CUSTOM MOTORCYCLES

Choppers

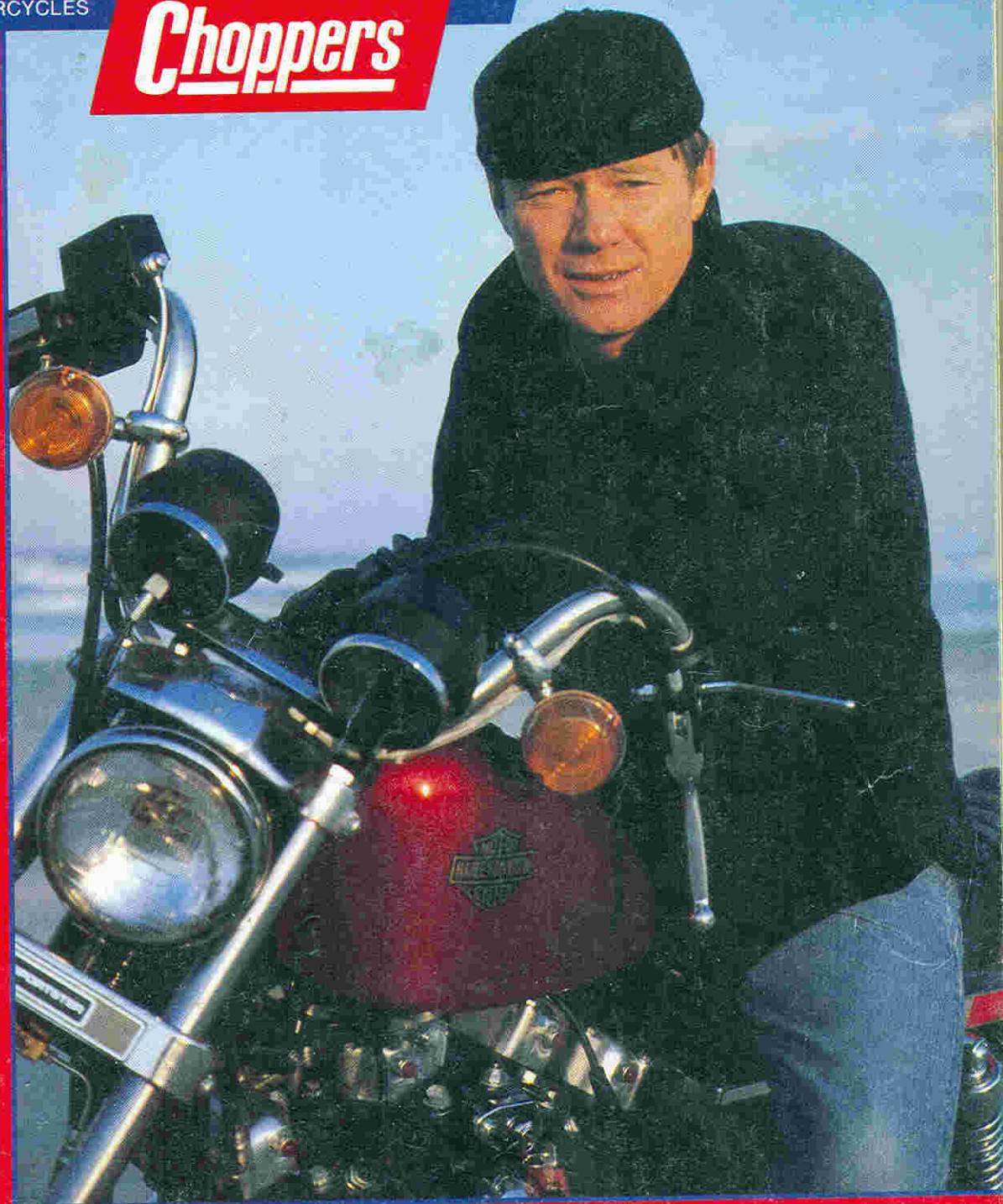
48253
MAY, 1982 • U.S. \$4.75
Canada \$2.00
UK90p

**PERFORMANCE
FORMULAS
FOR STREET
AND STRIP**

**TANK ART:
EXPERT
RESULTS
WITH DECAL
"PAINTING"
TRICKS**

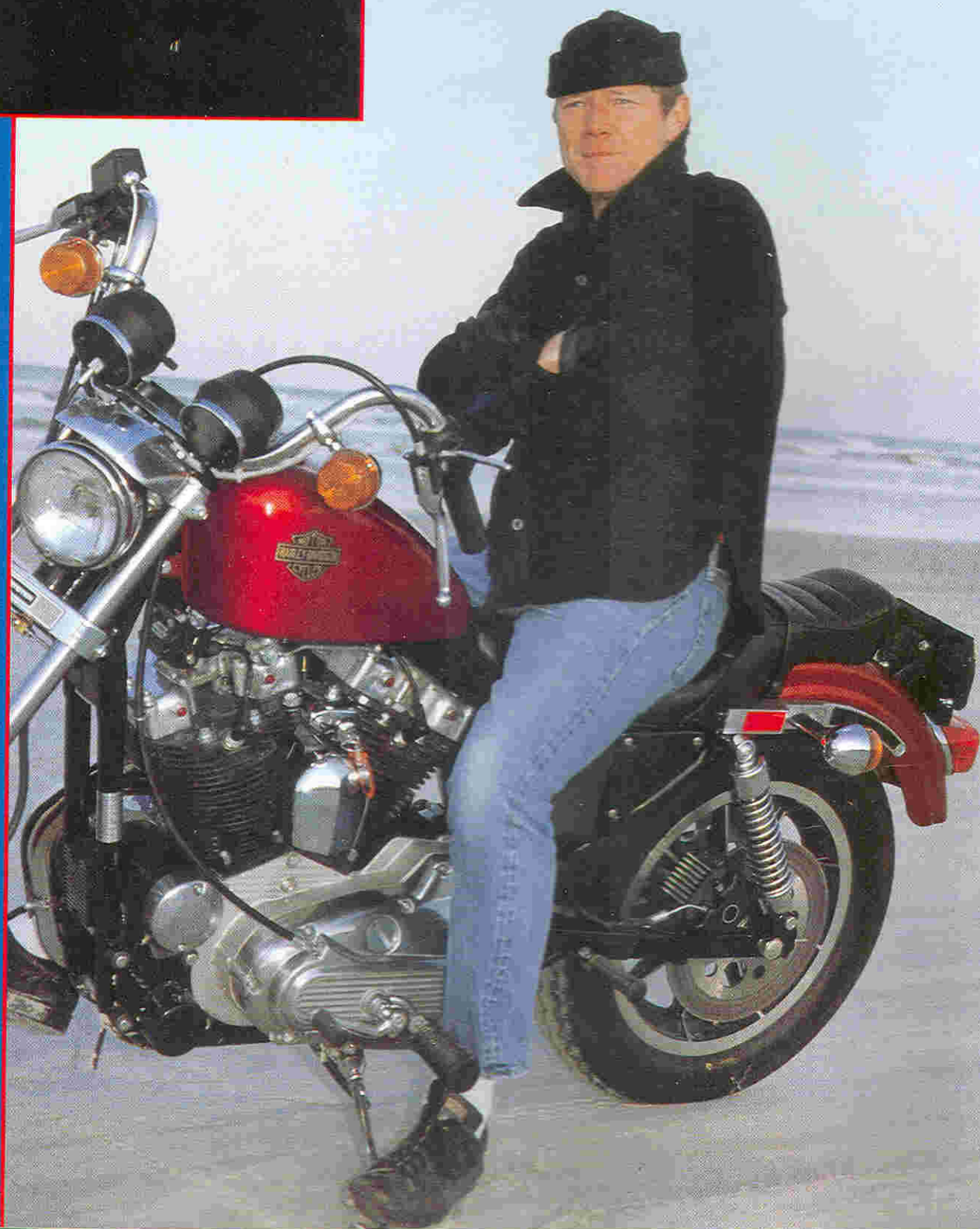
**SO YOU
WANT TO BE A
MOTORCYCLE
MECHANIC?
HERE'S HOW**

**PLUS FOUR
GREAT
FEATURE
BIKES**



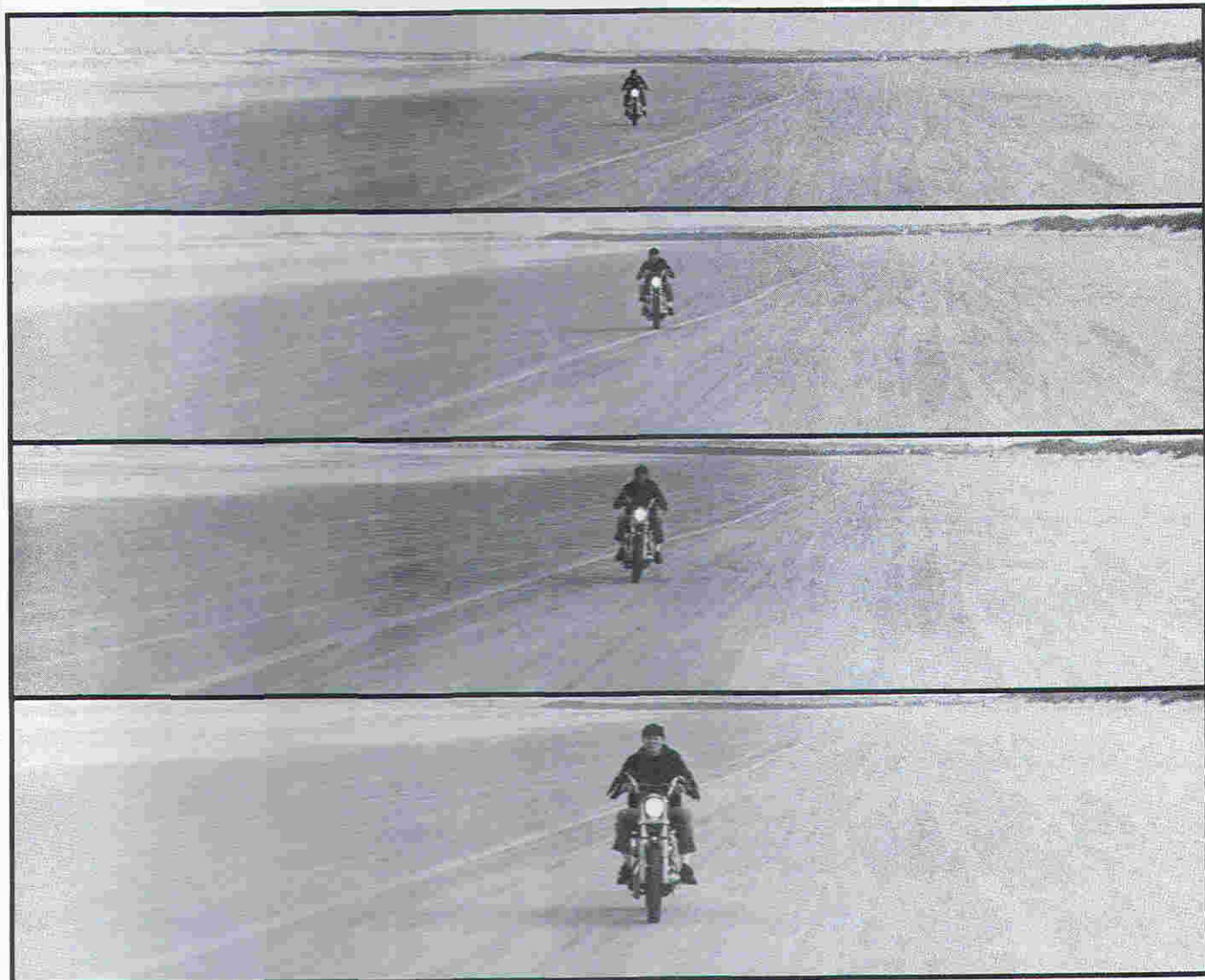
**CUSTOM
BIKE**

Choppers

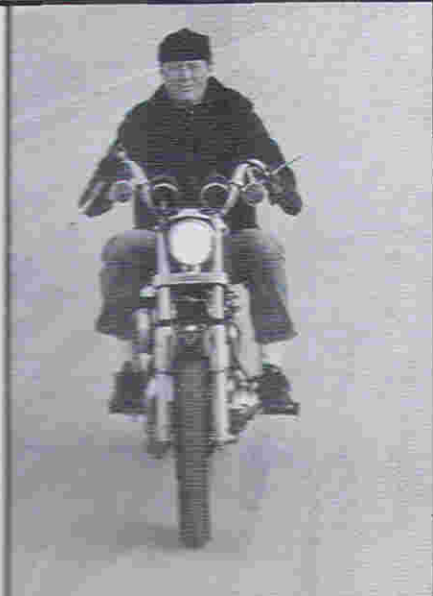


AN INTERVIEW WITH **MICHAEL PARKS** WILL BRONSON RIDE AGAIN?

BY JOHN WARREN



Inadvertently overheard an interesting comment as I was standing elbow to elbow in a room that was filled with motorcycle people who had gathered to help celebrate the 25th birthday of the Harley Sportster. During a lull in the off-the-dBa-scale crowd noise I heard someone summarize an observation... goes like this; "When you think of Sportster, who do you think of?" The answer: Bronson—and Michael Parks, the actor who played Bronson on the TV series that had him criss-crossing the country on a Sportster. (Much like Route 66, only with a Sportster instead of a Corvette.)



Fact is, the Bronson series did a lot to "immortalize" the Sportster, and the series also played a large part in improving the average citizen's outlook toward motorcycles and motorcycle riders. And if you're one of those who really enjoyed watching Bronson putt across the screen, you may be interested to know that there are plans in the works to bring Bronson back for a two-hour TV special.

We met up with Michael Parks at Daytona this year where he was one of the "headliners" on hand for the Harley-Davidson Bike Week activities in helping The Muscular Dystrophy

continued to page 67

BRONSON RIDES AGAIN

continued from page 45



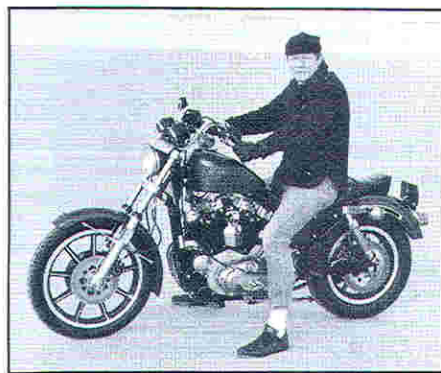
Association fund-raising program Harley is so actively promoting.

Parks is a quiet sort of guy, not much on making speeches, and certainly a whole lot happier to be on a scoot away from a crowd that's waiting to hear him talk. Talking with him about his own background in motorcycles, seems he's been riding since before he was old enough to legally ride. His first machine was an Indian that he got back in 1950—he says he was 10 years old at the time. From there, it was a steady round of Harleys, Triumphs, dirt bikes and whatever else crossed his path with the right price tag.

His current machine is a 1967 Showel that he's just finished building. Didn't get to see any photos of the bike but it must be some kind of a machine—he sure perked up and got excited talking about that scoot.

We discussed the original "Then Came Bronson" series, which ran for two years, 1969 and 1970. It was interesting to listen to Parks talk about some of the pressure on the show concerning helmets, the concern of whether a state with a helmet law would let a scene without helmets (filmed in a non-helmet state) run. Parks says they kept the series as close to "real" as possible, although sometimes there were some discrepancies he was forced into because of a script.

While we were talking to him, one angry biker came over and chewed him out for being a "phony" because of a scene where Bronson used the kickstarter and the sound of the bike's start didn't match. The problem was in the sound "mix", not a point within Bronson's control. He shrugs his shoulders. Not much he can say to change the opinion.



Parks is one of those individuals who stands ready to support what he believes in, such as the helmet issue. A resident of California, Parks put his name on the line when it came time to vote on the issue of a mandatory helmet law as a "no". Not that he's against helmets, like most of us believe, Parks feels that wearing a helmet should be a matter of free choice. One of the comments he made about the prejudice to motorcycle riders on the helmet issue is why there isn't similar pressure on automobile drivers being mandated into wearing a helmet while driving. Don't think any of us need to be told there are a whole lot of head injuries in car accidents—injuries that the wearing of a helmet would have made a big difference in the degree of damage inflicted to the individual.

Recent credits for Parks has been an NBC Movie of the Week, "Dial M for Murder", a recently released motion picture "Hard Country", and he's also a talented jazz musician and screenplay writer.

Well, "Hang in there, now," a phrase Bronson kind of owns the title to, and maybe we'll all get to see Bronson and his Sporty thunder across our American highways and byways in living color again.

DIGITAL SPEEDOMETER

OR
KILOMETER



OR TACH

\$99⁹⁵

VACUUM GAUGES



\$39⁹⁵

VACU-TUNE

Synchronize your carbs using the precision made VACU-TUNE Gauge set. No need to preset gauges, specially designed orifices keep needles from pulsating.

FORK TUBES



From \$69⁹⁵

STOCK LENGTH or EXTENDED
All makes and models. Chromed plated



EXPERT CYCLE, INC.

11761 Sherman Way

North Hollywood, California 91605

Send \$1.00 for CATALOG. 213-982-5732

Learn Motorcycle Repair

★ TRAIN AT HOME TO BE A

Motorcycle Mechanic



If you like to ride a cycle for fun... learn how to fix it for profit! Can you imagine a better way to earn your living, whether you choose to work in a cycle shop for someone else or decide to start your own cycle repair business? Now there's a fast, easy way to get training at home in your spare time. No need to quit school or your job. Experts show you step-by-step everything from minor tune-ups to major overhauls.

Street Bikes!
Dirt Bikes!
Choppers!

CYCLES ARE BIG BUSINESS ... AND SO IS FIXING THEM!

There are more than 5 million cycles registered in the U.S. today. Plus an estimated million more dirt bikes. And they all need maintenance.

Graduation from this course does not insure that you will get a job. To find out how our graduates have done, send for our job placement record.

INCLUDED TO START YOU FAST! TOOLS & TEST INSTRUMENTS. Professional tools plus your North American "know how" help you become a skilled mechanic. We even include a set of special cycle tools and instruments to get you started fast! **Send for FREE FACTS.** No cost, no obligation. No salesman will call. Rush coupon today.

CALL TOLL FREE

1-800-228-2028/Ext. 142

Dept. ED042

In Nebraska call (402) 571-4900 Ext. 142

CALL ANYTIME—24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

No cost. No obligation. No salesman will call.

OR MAIL COUPON TODAY

NORTH AMERICAN SCHOOL OF MOTORCYCLE REPAIR
4500 Campus Dr., Dept. ED042, Newport Beach, CA 92660

Rush free color brochure and full information on how I can learn motorcycle repair. Check here for GI or VA.

NAME _____ AGE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____