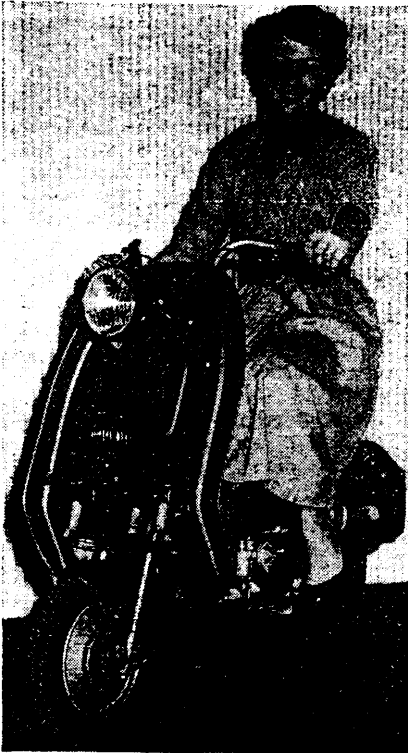


AIR MAIL from AMERICA

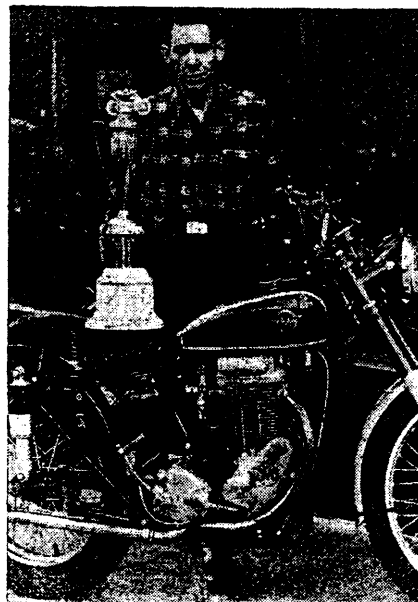
Another Report on Motorcycling
Happenings in the United States

By EMMETT MOORE



(Right) President Eisenhower visits Springfield, Mass., home of the Indian concern and is escorted by local police mounted on models from the factory.

Oh, Baby! The "Corgi" has now acquired U.S. nationality as is seen on the left. Produced by the Brockhouse people it is known as the Indian "Papoose."



Two A.M.C. competition riders who are bringing the London-built machines into the U.S.A. limelight. Above is Bill Ansenberger, Oregon State Endurance Champion and (left), Hap Hood (A.J.S.), winner of the Alabama State "Enduro." Ansenberger posed with his Matchless while his A.J.S. was being "de-mudded."

MANY motorcyclists attending the 1953 Daytona Races expressed disappointment that Geoff Duke could not stay over to see the races and meet the motorcycle folks. He was there the week before the event to compete in the sports car 12-hour race at Sebring, Florida. However, his schedule was so "tight" that he could not stay, much as he would have liked to, no doubt.

TURNING to more recent events, here are reports on some of the more important endurance runs. Sunday, March 29, saw the running of the Oregon State Championship Enduro over extremely rough terrain near Portland. Acclaimed to be one of the best planned and laid out courses of this type, the route led over 279 miles of back-country mountain roads, logging trails and bogged-down mud roads. A fast schedule made this run really tough, and out of 60 starters less than 25 completed the trip. The first rider was started at 6 a.m. and was due in at 3.21 p.m. Winner was Bill Ansenberger, popular Northwest enduro rider, mounted on his A.J.S. scrambles model. Second place was annexed by Mort Becker (Ariel) and third was taken by Roy Burke (B.S.A.).

Another recent event, the Alabama State Championship Endurance run was also accounted for by an A.J.S.-mounted rider. This run was laid out over 75 miles

of power-line trails and saw-mill roads, with a few mountainsides thrown in for good measure. In fact, so tough were the conditions facing the entrants that the winner, Hap Hood, was the only man actually to complete the run.

The bed of the Brazos river, a Texas stream that spends most of the year in a "semi-liquid" state, was the scene of a wild and woolly Western event. This was the endurance run sponsored by a motorcycle club with a picturesque title, "The Asphalt Aviators," of Mineral Wells, Texas. Though only 26 miles in length, this event was especially arduous due to the rock stream bed which alternates with stretches of sand, mud, and even some spots of the treacherous "quicksands." This run was without the usual complications of endurance run "points"—the first man home was the winner! Lane Fanning, one of the local boys, succeeded in "bulldogging" his Indian in front of the pack and toted the hardware home. Second was Larry Lynch (Indian), and third Ronald Dill (Mustang).

Famous California event—the "Cactus Hare and Hound Chase"—was won by the pride of Long Beach, Del Kuhn, this time mounted on a Harley-Davidson "K" model. The starting field was composed of 97 top-notch California ruff-stuff riders, and the event developed into a breakneck race. Assisting Kuhn in setting the pace were Bart Leeman (A.J.S.) and Bud Ekins (Matchless). After the snow line was reached, Ekins was Kuhn's most relentless pursuer. Eliminated by mechanical failures and obstacles were all but 37 of the field by the time the finish line was reached. Following Kuhn across

the line were Bart Leeman (A.J.S.) and Russ Good (H.-D.).

THE *Catalina Islander*, weekly newspaper published in Avalon, Catalina Island, reports that the establishment of a perpetual trophy was among the items up for discussion at the first regular meeting of the road-race committee. It was felt that the establishment of such a trophy would be a concrete way of expressing the appreciation of the islanders for the interest and business created by the now firmly established Catalina Grand National Motorcycle Road Race.

"HOME-BREW" spring frames are making their appearance in great variety on the West Coast. Most of them involve swinging-arm suspensions with the application of automobile-type shock absorber units. It's a strange fact that almost all private enterprise concerning motorcycles is localized in Southern California. It is but rarely that a "bitza" makes its appearance anywhere else in the nation.

BIG Eastern event next in the minds of motorcyclists is the two-day Laconia, N.H., rally and National Championship 100-mile road race. Actually, there are a number of races to be run over the one-mile course. On Saturday, June 20, there will be five Novice five-mile heat races, and a 25-mile Novice Feature. Then, on the Sunday following, there will be a 50-mile event for Amateurs and the big 100-mile Expert National Championship.

Most of the bikes manufactured or distributed in the U.S. will be represented in

the various events, and there is also to be a motorcycle display at the "Chateau," which is a mammoth log lodge. The entire programme is to be held within the confines of the beautiful Belknap Recreation Area, nestled among the rugged New Hampshire hills.

FOR the first time in many a moon, the Mid West will see a 24-hour motorcycle run. This event is sponsored by the Central Indiana Motorcycle Dealers' Association and the route will cover 600 miles through four States. Hard-surfaced roads only are to be the rule and classes will include 125-250 c.c., 250-750 c.c., 750 c.c. and over, with 23 trophies for the place winners.

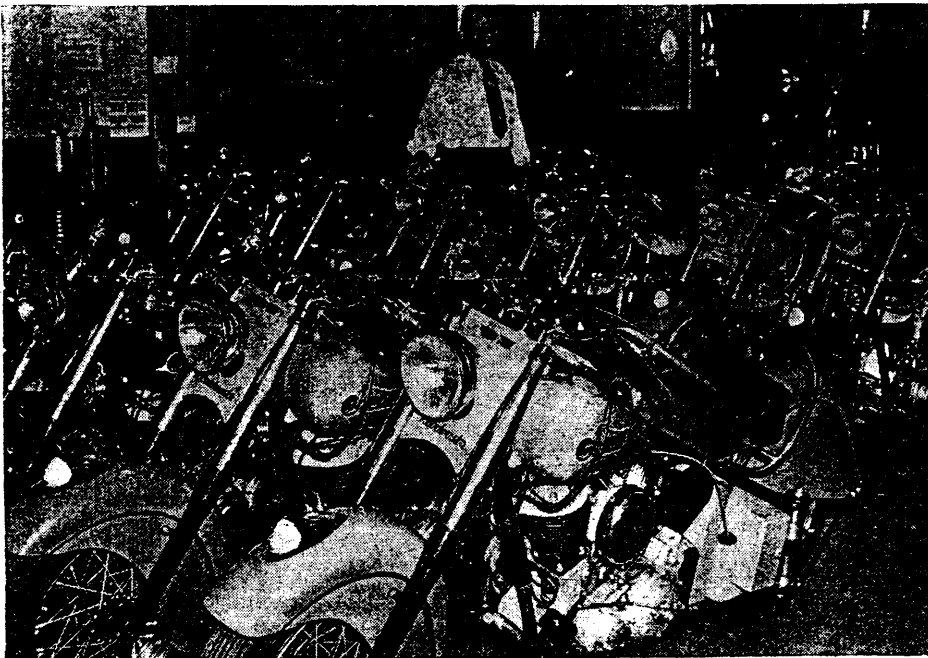
SOMETHING new on the American scene—an event honouring a motorcycle "cop"! Recipient of this unique honour is to be Officer "Chuck" Pollard, of the California State Highway Patrol. "Chuck" is known throughout the State for his many years of untiring effort in promoting motorcycle safety. He is also an ardent collector of vintage motorcycles and is planning a permanent exhibition building to house his many interesting old models.

A FURTHER piece of news on the movie, "Cyclists Raid," making in Hollywood. The title has been changed to "The Wild One"—and the publicity release from the studio only confirms the worst fears of thinking motorcyclists in the U.S. The "stills" that accompany the release portray a gang of disreputable characters attired in sloppy costume—and, of course, acting the parts of hoodlums to the limit. Obviously this film will do nothing to raise the public esteem of motorcycling but, despite the indignant protests, it seems likely that this opus will be released soon. A bad taste in the mouth of the public is bound to result.

JIMMY CHANN, veteran motorcycle competition rider who was so badly injured at Daytona, has been sent home to Columbus, Ohio, and is well on the way to recovery. Motorcycle race fans have "chipped in" to a fund to help Jimmy pay the heavy medical expenses.

THE National Championship 24-hour Endurance Run is being staged this year by the famous Crotona Motorcycle Club, of New York City. July 18-19 are the dates for this event which will cover 650 miles of New England highway starting from the Bronx, New York.

I HAD hoped to include a report on several spring racing events with this letter, but the story here has been 'rain, rain, and more rain as event after event has been cancelled because of evil weather conditions.



Part of a recent day's production of Indian "Chief" models is inspected by Walt Brown, engineer-in-charge of assembly operations at Springfield.