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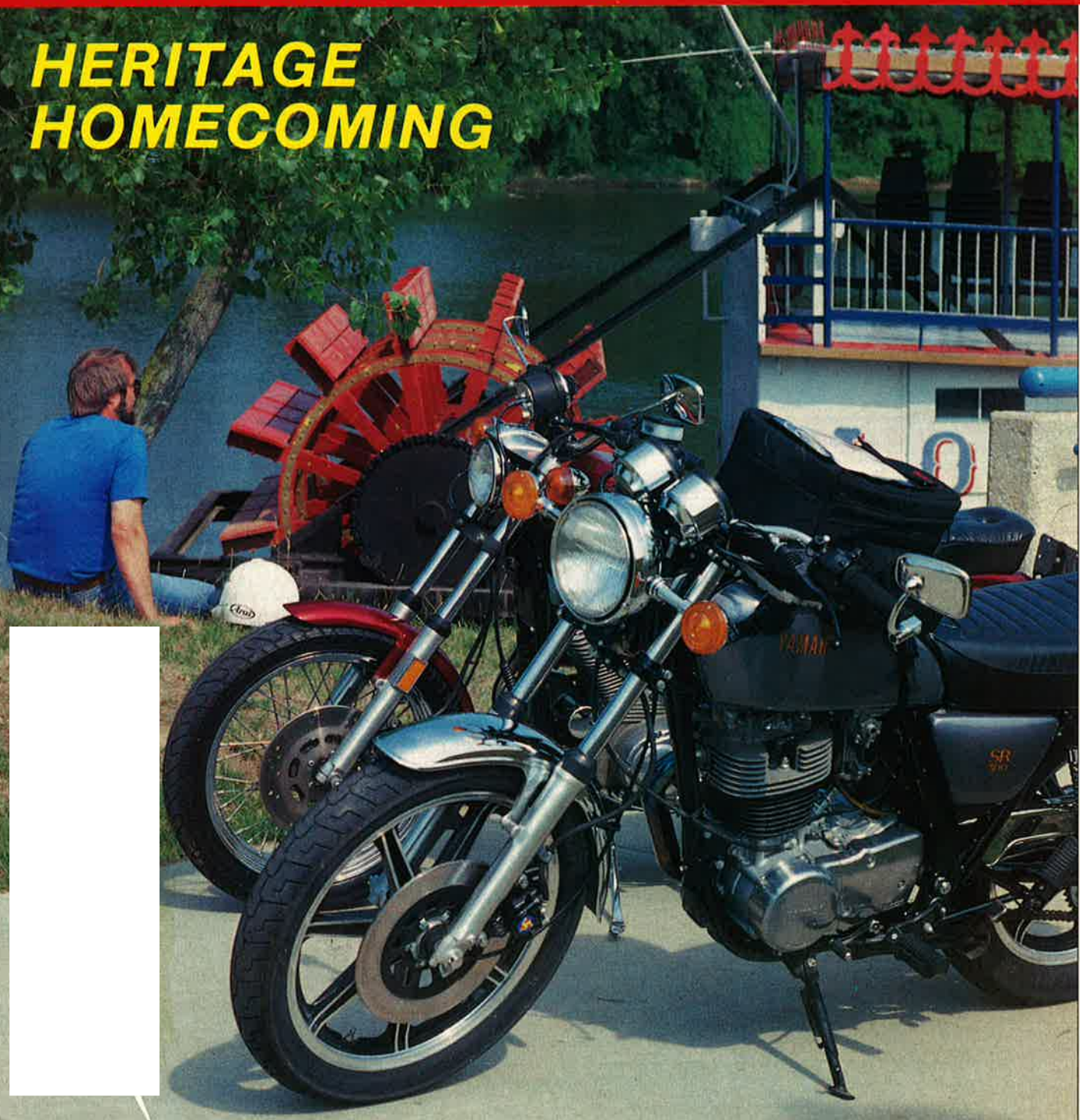
September  
1991

# American Motorcyclist

Journal of the American Motorcyclist Association

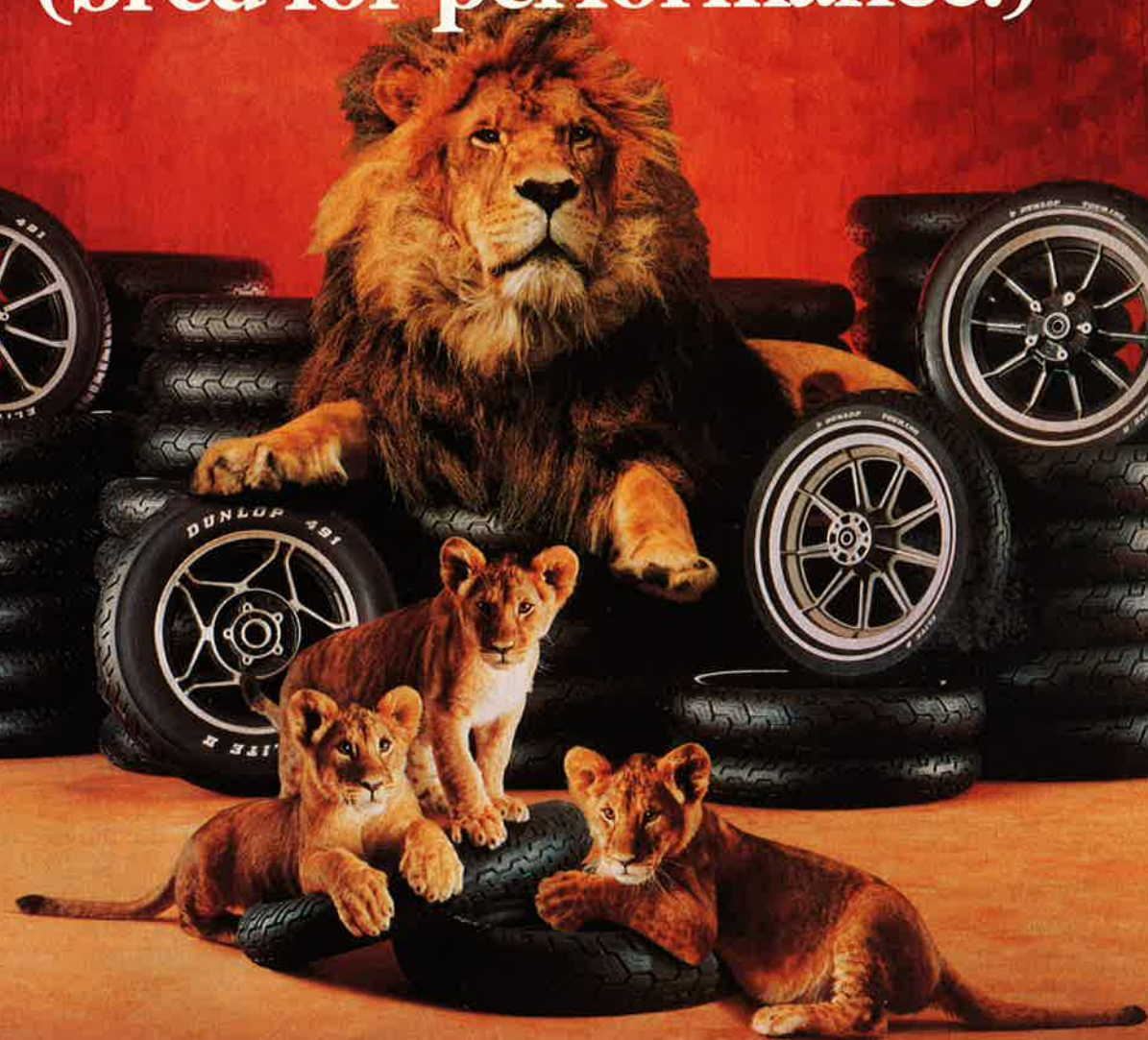
\$1.25

HERITAGE  
HOMECOMING





# Dunlop Elite® Touring Tires (bred for performance.)



The stars of "On Any Sunday": Steve McQueen, Mert Lawwill and Malcolm Smith.

Photos courtesy Bruce Brown Films

## ON EVERY SUNDAY

Steve McQueen floated effortlessly through the sand wash, maintaining his position near the front of the pack in the Elsinore Grand Prix. I matched him move for move, darting through the water holes, gassing it in the ruts and feeling the thrill of accelerating through town in front of thousands of spectators.

Suddenly, my wife interrupted. "Can I get you some popcorn?"

The year was 1971 and we were at a small movie theater in Palo Alto, California. At least, my wife and the rest of the audience were there. I, on the other hand, was in Elsinore, California, Daytona Beach, Florida, the Baja Peninsula and all of the other famous racing locations that formed the backdrop for "On Any Sunday," Bruce Brown's legend-

ary documentary film about motorcycles.

It was the first time I had seen "On Any Sunday," and my life would never be the same. That night, what had been a passing interest in motorcycles grew into a passion that would be sated only when I was able to own and ride my own bike.

For many years, I had believed there was no place in my life for motorcycles. I was a responsible married man, the caring and devoted father of three children, with a fourth on the way. Besides, I had a professional reputation to maintain. I was working as an electronics equipment designer, a responsible position that didn't fit with the image I had of outlaws on chopped motorcycles ransacking innocent towns. Although

**How a  
motorcycle  
movie  
changed  
my life**

**By Bob Marcho**

SEPTEMBER 1991 11

**Improving the breed.** It's a never-ending quest for Dunlop motorcycle tire engineers.

As the only North American motorcycle tire manufacturer, Dunlop understands the nature of the touring beast. Because the technology that goes into Dunlop Elites® is proven in the touring tire's natural habitat...the roads of North America. That's why Dunlop Elites have become the natural selection for serious riders across the country.

Now Dunlop introduces the third, and most advanced, generation of Elite touring tires the Touring Elite II and 491 Elite II. Both Elites offer a **1** specially formulated tread compound with computer-optimized tread pattern for even contact pressure distribution, long mileage, reduced cupping and even wear.

Their **2** continuous tread groove configuration provides efficient water dispersion for reduced aquaplaning on wet roads. And an **3** innovative offset center groove offers superior confidence on rain grooves and steel-grated bridges.

### DUNLOP TOURING ELITE® II

For Harley-Davidson touring models, Dunlop has unleashed the Touring Elite® II.

Dunlop is the only brand of tire approved by Harley-Davidson for fitment on Harley-Davidson motorcycles; and the Touring Elite II offers all the benefits



of Dunlop's advanced touring technology for today's Harley-Davidson riders. Its **4** three ply polyester casing and **5** two fiberglass belts, fine-tuned specifically for the needs of Harley bikes. The Touring Elite II is available in either single white line or sleek black sidewall styling that will enhance the looks of any Harley-Davidson model.

### DUNLOP 491 ELITE® II

If you received great performance from the K491 Elite® G/T, you'll be even more impressed with the 491 Elite II. Available in raised white letter styling, in sizes for Honda†, Kawasaki, Suzuki and Yamaha touring bikes, the 491 Elite II uses Dunlop's newest Elite technology to deliver superior performance. The 491 Elite II features a proven bias belted construc-

tion\* with a **4** three ply nylon casing reinforced with **5** two fiberglass belts\* for a confidently smooth, stable ride across a range of speeds.

Whatever touring bike you ride, if you want a tire descended from a proven pedigree, tame the roads with Dunlop Elite Touring Tires. See the complete value-priced line-up of Dunlop premium touring tires including the K491 Elite® G/T at your nearest Dunlop Performance Center.

**DUNLOP**  
Stick With Us

NOTE: Touring Elite II not available in white outline lettering as depicted in photo. † Honda GL-1500 491 Elite II sizes available only in blackwall. \*MSR90-18 71H front is bias construction. Cutaways depict rear tire construction.





motorcycling looked like a lot of fun, I didn't want to be even remotely associated with such a lifestyle.

But Bruce Brown's film showed me another side of motorcycling. He introduced me to businessman Mert Lawwill, Harley-Davidson factory racer and the 1969 AMA Grand National Champion; actor Steve McQueen, who spent so many of his off-screen hours on a motorcycle; and off-road racer Malcolm Smith, who seemed to get so much enjoyment out of riding motorcycles.

These men weren't outlaws. They had families and responsibilities just like me. If motorcycling fit into their lives, couldn't it fit into mine, too?

When we returned home from the theater that night, I sat reflectively in the easy chair as my wife put the kids to bed. I flashed back to my high school days, when it seemed that only bad guys rode motorcycles. And I remembered how close I had once come to riding a motorcycle myself.

I was a sophomore in high school and a friend and I were cruising near Hun-

proud owner of a 1952 BSA that was, he assured me, complete in every detail. He hated to part with it, but under the present circumstances, he might be willing to sell it for a mere \$25.

His sales pitch, along with a promise of a complete post-date report about everything that happened, convinced me. I handed over my hard-earned money and he delivered the BSA to my house. I hadn't quite expected it to appear in six separate boxes, each containing grease-coated, barely identifiable parts, but a deal was a deal.

Now I had to break the news to my father. I anticipated a stern parental reaction, but he astonished me by looking over the collection of boxes and saying I could keep it. It wasn't until after his death years later that I learned he had owned a motorcycle himself once. But I don't think it was his secret love of motorcycles that prompted his response that day. I think he had looked at those boxes and quickly realized that I would never get that mess running.

He was right. The BSA eventually

they were having as much fun as I had imagined.

With the kids safely in bed, my wife returned to the living room and asked what I was thinking about. I related my one motorcycle story and told her how the movie had brought back so many feelings from those days. We talked at length about the film and how well it portrayed the fun side of motorcycling. Sure, there was plenty of drama involving racing championships and a couple of dangerous crashes, but the image that stuck in my mind was of Malcolm Smith, his face covered with grime after finishing the grueling Baja 1,000, turning to the camera and giving an ear-to-ear grin. That one shot seemed to define the movie.

I had to admit that many of the motorcyclists in the movie were a bit unique—definitely not run-of-the-mill citizens—but they were all having such a good time. I noted to my wife that their fami-

*The image that stuck in my mind was of Malcolm Smith, his face covered with grime after finishing the grueling Baja 1,000, turning to the camera and giving an ear-to-ear grin.*

lies also seemed to be enjoying themselves. In fact, some of the wives even rode motorcycles themselves.

At that point she sensed the drift of the conversation, and quickly replied, "Don't get any ideas, Bob!"

Too late. I already had ideas.

A funny thing happened at the office the next day. I casually mentioned that I had seen "On Any Sunday." The movie received great reviews and was eventually nominated for an Academy Award, so talking about it didn't brand me as a motorcycle enthusiast. Even "respectable" people were talking about "On Any Sunday" that year.

But the next thing I knew, motorcyclists seemed to be coming out of the woodwork! It turned out that Roy rode a dirt bike on weekends in the hills behind his home. And Gene had an ancient German bike he'd imported after a tour of duty with the military in Europe. Several others told me their riding stories and asked if I was thinking about buying a bike.

Then, the inevitable happened. One of them mentioned he had a "spare" Honda 450 with a broken kickstart lever. But, he assured me, it ran. That is, if you could push it fast enough and far

enough, and if you were agile enough to jump onto the seat and manipulate the throttle just so. Of course, he couldn't demonstrate the technique personally ("bad back..."), but he assured me, no, he *guaranteed* that it would run, or at least that it had run great the last time he was on it a couple of years before.

Would I be interested?

All the way home that evening I tried to think of some way to tell my wife I'd just spent \$150 of our hard-earned money for a motorcycle I couldn't even ride home—and that I would need her help to pick it up the next Saturday in Cupertino.

She was amazingly calm after the shock wore off. Many years later, she admitted that one reason she hadn't objected was because she figured I would never get it running.

The next weekend, we loaded the kids—including 3-month-old Carrie—into the station wagon and headed out. To make a long story short, the former owner and I worked, cussed, then worked and cussed some more, but we couldn't get it to fire. Eventually, he offered to haul it over in his pickup, with a guarantee that he would buy any parts necessary to get it running except the pieces for the kickstarter.

I suspect I lost 10 pounds over the next

## 'On any Sunday' again

If you're one of the thousands of motorcyclists who were captivated by "On Any Sunday" back in 1971, we've got great news. This year, on the 20th anniversary of its premiere, "On Any Sunday" will be re-released on videotape.

Director Bruce Brown, who wasn't involved in the original videotape release of the film in 1982, has remastered the film from original negatives to come up with a tape that is faithful to his landmark documentary.

Brown also is releasing tapes of five television specials he created in the late '60s covering motorcycle races, including the 1967 Corriganville Motocross events, featuring Joel Robert, Torsten Hallman and Roger DeCoster; the 1968 Baja 1,000; and the 1970 100-lap Ascot TT, featuring Mert Lawwill, Skip Van Leeuwen and Dallas Baker.

"On Any Sunday" should be available through Pacific Arts Video in rental stores this fall, while all the videotapes will also be offered for sale in motorcycle shops.



Motorcycle racing legend Cal Rayborn, wearing a motion picture camera on his helmet, receives last-minute instructions from Brown.

two weeks pushing that Honda up and down the street in front of our house. Eventually, I found a problem in the ignition, remedied it and gave it one more try.

I'll never be able to convey the feeling I experienced when that engine sputtered to life and I hopped aboard my motorcycle for my first ride. It was like a spiritual awakening. I was nervous, excited and a little worried all at the same time. But I know I had a grin on my face to rival Malcolm Smith's own as I rode around the block. All of the dreams I had dreamt over that basket-case BSA, all of the emotions I had experienced on the screen in "On Any Sunday," were wrapped up in those few moments when I finally became a motorcyclist.

Unfortunately, this was before rider education was available, so I learned to handle that Honda the way everybody else learned to ride back then. Some friends took me to an empty parking lot and put me through my paces, showing me techniques they had picked up over the years.

I never did get the kickstarter repaired. I bought a repair manual and priced the shaft required to do the job, but the intricacies of a Japanese transmission were simply beyond my comprehension and the local Honda dealer wanted a small fortune to do the job himself.

Eventually, I used that Honda as a down payment on some nondescript family sedan. But I was hooked, and I have continued to own motorcycles (or more correctly, motorcycles have continued to own me) to this day.

Little Carrie is now 20 years old, and her wedding day is fast approaching. Her two older brothers both love motorcycles and look forward to the day when they can afford their own. And "Baby" Amy, who wasn't even born when "On Any Sunday" premiered in movie theaters, is a junior in high school who has enjoyed several experiences as a passenger with me.

My wife and I ride a touring bike, but I'm a regular at the local motorcycle dealership, conning test rides on everything from the latest sportbikes to boulevard cruisers. And with thousands of Bureau of Land Management acres literally bordering our city limits, well, a good dirt bike would seem a natural addition to the family.

As I look back on my two decades of motorcycling, there's one thing that really stands out. "On Any Sunday" showed me that it was possible to be a responsible, supportive family man and a motorcyclist, too. But the past 20 years have taught me that one of the best parts of riding is that it doesn't always make me feel like a responsible, supportive family man. With the pressures that confront all of us to get ahead and provide for our families, a little escapism can be a valuable tool. Maybe other people find it in golf or fishing, but for me, motorcycles provide that healthy escape.

By the way, on every Sunday you can still find me out on the road, enjoying myself just a little bit more than I would have if it wasn't for that night 20 years ago when "On Any Sunday" changed my life. ■



Director Bruce Brown (left) and cameraman Bob Bagley film Steve, Mert and Malcolm cresting a sand dune for the movie's closing sequence.

tington Beach on a beautiful Southern California Saturday. He was telling me in delicious detail about an impending date with a cheerleader.

Now, you need to understand that we weren't the kind of guys you'd normally find dating cheerleaders. We were lucky if they would even talk to us. So my friend was really desperate to show his date a good time. The only problem was, he was broke.

It took a while, but he finally came around to the point. You see, he was the

found its way to the dump still packed in its six caskets. I finished school, got married and became a responsible adult—without a motorcycle.

But that night, after watching "On Any Sunday," I remembered how I had felt years before when I looked at those boxes of parts and pictured myself on a motorcycle. I recalled the daydreams I had conjured up of myself at the controls of the BSA, going wherever I wanted to go and having fun along the way. Those riders in the movie looked like