

1953 NW MC Review
By LILA BULEN

On February 22, 1953, the committee of the Northwest Motorcycle Association met at the Puyallup club house of the Tacoma Motorcycle club. This meeting was also attended by delegates from the thirteen motorcycle clubs that are currently affiliated with the organization.

The president of the group is Rod Hepburn, vice-president is Andy Skeel, Elaine Huffman was elected secretary-treasurer of the association. Don Huffman was returned to the office of State Referee, Lila Bulen (below) was elected publicity member of the committee.

During this February 22 session the dates for the season's events were planned.

Jolly Rogers Motorcycle club asked for the first date, March 8 for a reliability run open to all riders.

The next event was March 15 - the annual Shamrock run which Paul Allen of the Allen Cycle shop in Tacoma always sponsors. The interest of the riders on that date was divided because the Daytona Beach 200-mile National Championship race was also being run in Florida on that date and the foremost motorcycle champion of the Northwest was entered in the competition.

The men returning at the close of the event were shocked by the news that C.A. "Red" Farwell had been killed during the race because a spectator crossed the track in the path of Red's speeding cycle causing his own death as well as that of the beloved "Red."

The annual mud run was held at the Old Queen City track on March 29. This annual laff-provoker was won by Floyd Payne of Buckley.

April 5, Easter Sunday, the membership met at Woodinville for the yearly Easter egg hunt.

The first hill climb in the Northwest was run as usual by the Jolly Rogers club on their own grounds at 216th South. With the crowds wildly cheering for him, Bart Baker topped the 420 foot hill in 12.45 seconds to better the record and become the new champion of the spectacular hill.

On May 10 the Renton Ravens and the Cossacks of Seattle sponsored the hill climb at McDonald's Grove.

May 10 the annual Bob Knox Memorial race was held at Tacoma on the Motorcycle club grounds. The proceeds of this event were turned over to

the family of Red Farwell who had been a member of the club for several years.

Jolly Rogers, on June 14, sponsored the first Tourist Trophy race to be held in the Seattle area for the past few years. This two-star event was well attended and Ellen Wright of Portland, took home top honors in the trophy dash.

Frankie Williams of Eugene, Oregon, was the first in the Expert 12 lap event. The amateur 10 lap went to Bud, Budschott of 'Seattle. The 8 lap novice event was taken by Bob Armstrong of Seattle.

The Gypsy Tour at Long Beach Washington, which appeals to all motorcycle riders, including members of all N.M.A. clubs was held June 19, 20, and 21st.

On Sunday morning the Little Daytona was run and after this the thousand riders began the long trek home. This year the Gypsy tour was sponsored by the Oregon Motorcycle Dealers' Association.

The Third Annual Little Brown Jug run sponsored by the Renton Ravens was run on July 5.

On August 2 the Annual Death Head Derby T.T. was run on the Olympia Club grounds at Olympia. Eugene Theissen, a champion out of Oregon, took away top honors at this event.

In co-operation with the Seattle Seafair, Jolly Rogers garbed in their amusing pirate gear, rode in the regular parade which opens the celebration. They were also entered in the evening parade featured during this occasion.

A spectacular and novel race was sponsored by Arlene Barfuss, state director of the Motor Maids. This all-girl competition received a great deal of interest, especially at the takeoff from the Lake Washington floating bridge.

At a banquet held at the conclusion of the Enduro a trophy was awarded Evelyn Pugh of Tacoma for first place.

On a date during the latter part of August the Renton Ravens and the Jolly Rogers both were entered in the Renton Days Parade. The Cossacks presented several of their fine acts at the show held in cooperation with this civic event.

A three-star hillclimb, Pacific Coast championship gukkckumb, sponsored by the Cossacks and the Renton Ravens, was held at the McDonald's Grove site. In the amateur class Bob Goddard of Tacoma took the 45 cubic inch, and Jack Bloomquist of Tacoma, took the 80 cubic inch event.

September 13 closed the hillclimb season in the Northwest Motorcycle Association's calendar. In a hillclimb held that day at the Jolly Rogers Hill, Victor Ascenzi rode the famous bike called "the hores," went over the top of the hill in 12.44 seconds.

As the busy season began to taper off to a finish the Bremerton club presented to the public a race at the Silverdale Speedway. The following Sunday the Blue Barons sponsored a road drivers' field meet at the location of their clubhouse in South Tacoma.

Numerous small events, in addition to this recounting, have taken place during the active season of motorcycling but some of them were unreported. Many were impromptu, such as the Snow Run to Snoqualmie, which was as exciting as any of the summer events.