

# YAMAHA HORIZONS

Volume 1, Issue IV



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WOLFE



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity of sharing with you, through Yamaha Horizons, the many new and exciting products and public service programs planned for the future.

At this time of the year I would like to thank you for the confidence and support you have extended to our products by being a Yamaha owner. The enthusiasm you have shown has encouraged our Yamaha employees to make an even greater effort to give you a motorcycle or other quality product which meets the highest standards in reliable performance. In addition, this product of Yamaha will be supported by further upgrading our service network to ensure your maximum satisfaction.

I sincerely hope that you and your family are enjoying our products. I am pleased that you have become a Yamaha owner and hope that your patronage will continue in years to come.

We at Yamaha look at the new year as one of challenge, and through your continued support, a great many accomplishments will be achieved. We hope that you will closely watch our product lines for evidence of our continued research and progressive approach.

For myself and on behalf of all Yamaha employees, I wish you a Joyous Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Masazumi Miyake". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MASAZUMI MIYAKE  
President

## Letters to the Editor . . .

Dear Sir:

*For the past couple of months I have been reading Horizons, and have finally come up with a really neat Christmas gift idea.*

*Most of my friends own motorcycles; in fact, most of them own Yamahas, and they all like to read your magazine (which I pass around). I have decided to get each one of them a subscription to Horizons for Christmas—for two reasons: in the first place, I know they would like it, and in the second place I can afford it.*

*Best wishes,  
Charlene Doheny  
Boulder, Colorado*

Dear Editor:

*You hear a lot of people saying that Christmas isn't like it used to be. Well, I thought I would share my experience of last Christmas with the readers of Horizons.*

*I was spending the holidays with my son, his wife and my two grandchildren. After a lot of discussing, we decided to make it an old fashioned Christmas: popcorn balls (dipped in red and green), cutout silver ornaments, gingerbread men, homemade jam, cookies, fruit cakes, etc. In fact, every decoration in the house was made by hand or fresh from the outdoors, and everything we ate or drank was prepared from scratch—in other words, no mixes.*

*Please understand, my family is very modern. In fact, you would call them today-type people. They just wanted a Christmas their children would remember as being a very special day to celebrate a very special event.*

*When they made the decision to have this type of Christmas, they were stymied as far as gifts were concerned. They wanted to give gifts that would be a lasting memory for everybody, and bring the family closer to nature.*

*Do you know what my son and daughter-in-law decided upon? They bought four Yamaha motorcycles—and what a beautiful sight sitting around the tree. A little crowded I might add.*

*To some people, that might seem like a strange selection of gifts, but it brought this family closer than they had ever been. Every weekend they do something—camping, picnics up in the hills, or just long family rides.*

*Thank you, Yamaha.*

*Sincerely,  
Jessica Alderson  
Akron, Ohio*

Dear Yamaha Horizons:

*I am writing you this letter, hoping it will be in your magazine around the Christmas season.*

*Last year, thanks to Yamaha (and my parents), I had the best Christmas a guy could ask for.*

*For eleven months before Christmas, I had been hinting for a motorcycle. Right up to Christmas morning, my parents kept saying, "We know how badly you want that Yamaha, but we just can't afford it." I wanted that bike so much, but knew I wasn't going to get it. And I had to be adult enough not to act disappointed.*

*At 6:00 a.m. I walked into the living room, and there was MY Yamaha 250. I was so happy that, would you believe, my Mom actually got tears in her eyes?*

*I hope a lot of kids will be as lucky this year as I was last year.*

*Merry Christmas,  
Larry Townsend  
Park Forest, Illinois*

Dear Editor:

*Yamaha, you are beautiful.*

*When most people think of Christmas, they automatically think of Santa Claus, riding in his sleigh, pulled by reindeer.*

*Not Yamaha!*

*You may recall, last Christmas there was an energy problem, and the country was asked to conserve energy. I went to a shopping center for some last minute Christmas shopping, and took my daughter along to visit Santa.*

*Oh yes, Santa Claus was there sitting in his sleigh—but no reindeer. Instead, there was a sign reading, "Our reindeer are conserving their energy for the 25th"—and there, with harnesses on, were two bright beautiful Yamahas.*

*Ho-ho-ho to you, too.*

*Diana Gray  
Palo Alto, California*

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## GOT A STORY?

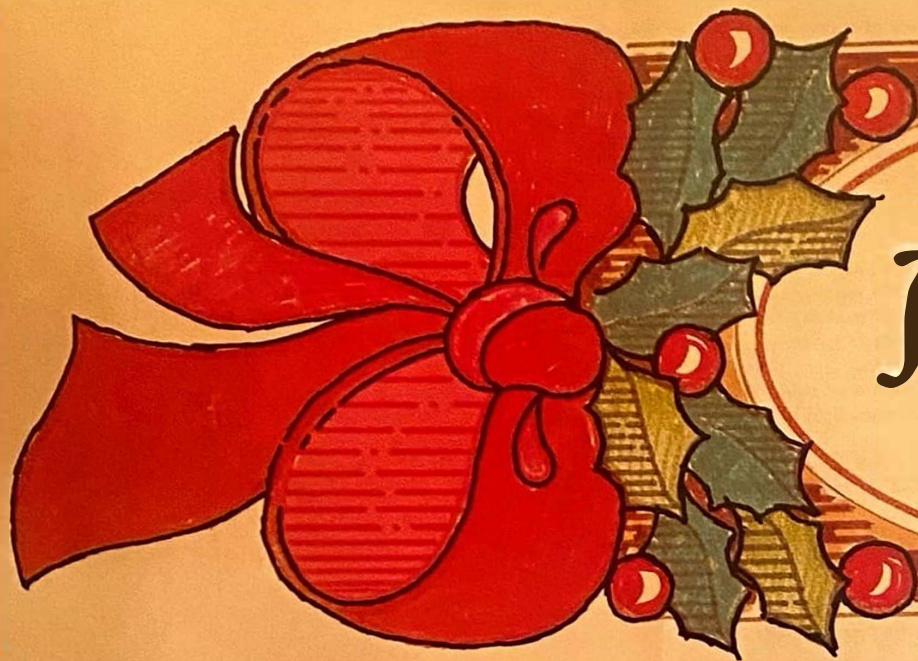
If accepted by editor, Horizons will pay \$25 for articles, story ideas, and items of interest in local communities for future issues of the magazine.

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# A Yamaha



The first name in Santa's "Good Book" is Harold. He is going to get those Yamaha MX boots, designed by Pierre Karsmakers, that he always wanted.

Jerry is going to get a new Yamaha helmet – he had been hoping for a red one. Santa is smart: he knows whatever a person's taste in color, style or type of motorcycle or gear, there is a Yamaha product that meets it.

And there sitting on the floor is Dad's gift – a DT 250 Yamaha. What a beauty! It's probably the most popular street/trail machine around today. For one thing, it has a low center of gravity, so Dad can corner easily around city streets or country trails. Wait until he sees that.

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Photos taken at Santa's Village in Sky Forest, California



# Christmas



Oh, Aunt Sarah can now wake up to music. Santa put her Yamaha CS-70R 4-channel stereo receiver all by itself on that table. It is more than just a stereo; it is the most complete music control center ever made. She can even record or reproduce a tape, switch to stereo automatically when the station broadcasts in stereo, mix her lovely voice with the recorded sound, and lots more.

Before his journey, Santa asked his elves to play "Jingle Bells" on Yamaha instruments, including hand-crafted Yamaha classic guitars, which are preferred by the world's leading professional performers. This guitar brings out subtle variations in mood and sound—the richest bass, the clearest treble and the mellowest resonance.







The family Santa is visiting is really going to have a musical Christmas. Santa is bringing the three children a French horn, clarinet and trumpet. Their Mom and Dad will applaud Santa's choice because Yamaha instruments have superior response and tone quality; and, the children will be amazed by the balance and playing ease. With their new instruments, they may start a new musical group.

Dad isn't the only one getting a DT 250 Yamaha – Uncle Jim is, too, and Aunt Donna is getting a DT 125. Because of a very generous Santa Claus, they can now take trips together every weekend. Aunt Donna will like her motorcycle because she can ride it to work and at the end of each day climb the high hills to see the sunset. What makes the motorcycles especially nice this year is that they have Yamaha's exclusive Torque Induction intake system, which gives extra power at the lower end of the rpm range.

Phil is going to get that Moto-Bike<sup>®</sup> after all. Now he can enter Yamaha's Bicycle Gold Cup races. Seven foot jumps. Hairpin turns. Mud holes. Phil will have all the fun of motocross racing with his Moto-Bike<sup>®</sup>, which comes with a real Yamaha motocross type frame.

Everyone is getting Yamaha clothes this year. Santa knows that the kids think they are a great Christmas gift. Whether it is the 100 per cent orlon acrylic sweater, competition jacket, wind shirt or knit vest, Yamaha clothing creates a look of movement.



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Jackie and Janet may be twins, but their hobbies are certainly not identical. Smart old Santa figured that one out. Jackie gets a Yamaha tennis racket (and she is buying one for her boyfriend), and Janet gets Yamaha skis.

Timothy is old enough for the Yamaha 10-speed bicycle. The bike weighs only 22 pounds, 7 ounces, yet provides features normally associated with custom-made racing and touring bicycles.

Okay, Santa, it's time to go. Why not make the rest of your trip on a GPX-338G Yamaha snowmobile? The Yamaha snowmobile has won more events than any other brand in its class so it's easily fast enough for you to make all of your stops.



# Why Reindeer Are



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Photo courtesy of Scandinavian National Tourist Offices





# Part Of Christmas

Think of Santa Claus and the mind automatically conjures up visions of reindeer. But why?

Why don't people think that Santa's high red sleigh streaks across chilled December night skies behind a team of horses? Or musk ox? Or bison?



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The reindeer isn't native to North America; only the scattered descendents of a herd imported to Alaska around the turn of the century still leave their splayed hoof prints on the North American snow. Yet, every American child knows that Saint Nick makes his annual rounds in the company of Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donder and Blitzen, and that he has recruited Rudolf as a scout to guide him on his round-the-world journey each Christmas.

Who should get the credit for "discovering" that reindeer was the mode of transportation of Santa Claus?

Well, before the nineteenth century, children in sophisticated New York City were convinced that the jolly gentleman rode a donkey or, sometimes, a horse.

But author Washington Irving, who has titillated generations of readers with the antics of Rip Van Winkle and the Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow, concluded in 1809 that Saint Nick was a bit too rotund and his gifts too bulky for one animal to manage – so he persuaded his fellow New Yorkers that Santa had switched to a sleigh drawn by a team of reindeer.

Irving reasoned that Santa Claus started his nocturnal journey in Europe, arriving in North America just as the winter sun dipped below the Appalachian Mountains, which span the eastern United States from north to south.

Now, the whimsical author concluded, the quickest route from Europe to North America is via the Arctic Circle. And the best way to get across those snowy wastes is the way the Laplanders of Scandinavia do it – reindeer-drawn sledges.

Irving's logic may have been irrefutable, but the idea didn't catch on until an anonymous poem appeared in the *Troy* (N.Y.) *Sentinel* in December of 1829.

The poem, *The Night Before Christmas*, had been penned by a New York City divinity professor for his own children. A friend passed it on to the newspaper and it quickly became a Christmas classic.

The author, Clement Moore, had been captivated by Irving's thesis on Saint Nick's transportation system. Not only did he announce the reindeer names, he also reported that they had the power of flight.

Cartoonist Thomas Nast further popularized Santa's reindeer with a drawing that appeared in *Harper's Illustrated Weekly* in 1866 – and from that time on there was no way of getting Saint Nick back on a horse or donkey.

Actually, Irving, Moore and Nast showed good sense in reasoning that Santa Claus uses reindeer.

They're swift – a single reindeer can pull a Lapp sledge

at speeds of between 12 to 15 miles an hour for hours at a time.

And they can be domesticated – many Lapp families keep them as pets, letting them roam the house much the same as American families allow cats and dogs to come and go as they please.

Lapland is that barren region of Scandinavia that lies far above the Arctic Circle.

And the Lapps in northern Norway, Sweden and Finland look on the reindeer as the "staff of life."

Reindeer herds – and it's been conservatively estimated that more than a half a million reindeer thrive in the Land of the Midnight Sun – provide Laplanders with not only nourishing meat, but with milk that has a butterfat content four times that of cow's milk.

The hair of the reindeer is used by Lapps in their mattresses.

The skin is transformed into parkas, mittens, trousers and shoes.

The antlers are converted into needles and knife handles.

Despite the fact that reindeer abound in Lapland, Siberia and Greenland, they were not introduced to this continent until 1891, when a missionary, Dr. Sheldon Jackson, noted that Alaskan Eskimos were dying of starvation, while across the Bering Strait in Russia they were healthy and well fed.

The difference, the missionary concluded, was the fact the Siberian Eskimos maintained reindeer herds.

Dr. Jackson raised \$2,000 and had 187 of the antlered creatures shipped to Alaska.

The United States Congress then appropriated sufficient funds to import another 1,100 reindeer.

They did well in their new home.

Most of the herds were owned by private individuals and the animals were slaughtered only to keep the herds at manageable levels.

Then Congress stepped in again.

In 1937, the United States paid \$2 million to buy all the reindeer in Alaska and turned them over to the Eskimos.

Unlike his brethren in Siberia, the Alaskan Eskimo is a nomad and a hunter. The reindeer died off by the tens of thousands. And today, only a few thousand survive in that area.

But the reindeer continued to flourish in other parts of the world and large herds, some of which today are overseen by tenders on Yamahas, still roam in many places.



# YAMAHA TALKS BACK



## THE OTHER YAMAHAS

There are two Yamahas in our family, my husband's 250 MX and my new Yamaha piano. We are so pleased with both products that we were wondering what other products Yamaha has to offer. We would like to consider including other Yamaha products for Christmas gifts.

Paula Banks  
Ashville, North Carolina

People are often surprised by Yamaha's vast line of quality products. In addition to a full line of motorcycles and pianos the Santa in your house might want to consider Yamaha's stereo systems; snowmobiles; skis and tennis rackets; 10 speed bicycles; the popular MX bicycle, Moto-Bike®; action fashions for men, women and children; motorcycle accessories; and an outstanding line of musical instruments. Refer to your local Yellow Pages to find the dealers in your area for these products.

### A Gift for the Rider 'Who Has Everything'

My husband is the most difficult man in the world to buy gifts for. He is an outdoorsman whose only interest is riding and working on his two motorcycles. During the last several years, birthday and Christmas gifts have consisted of motorcycle accessories. He has accumulated everything imaginable for both his street and dirt bike – and now I'm stumped for a Christmas gift. Can you suggest something unusual for this lovable motorcycle buff I married?

Julie Wisniewski  
Trenton, New Jersey

A gift guaranteed to add excitement and comfort to his overnight riding adventures is the Yamaha Cycle Camper, a totally new concept in motorcycle camping. The Yamaha Cycle Camper is a compact package that fits securely on the back of the motorcycle. It includes a motorcycle tent, sleeping bag, three quarter length sleeping mattress, butane cooking stove with gas bottle, cook kit, plastic water bottles and a night light powered by the bike's battery. Should you wish to join him for a weekend outing there is room in the tent for two people and the vinyl carrier will hold an additional sleeping bag and supplies.

### Fast Riders

The speeds motorcycles achieved during 1974 at Bonneville were extraordinary. Looking towards 1975 do you feel anyone will break 300 mph? Who were the top ten riders in various classes at Bonneville in '74, how fast were they going and what did they ride?

Richard Meyer  
Madison, Wisconsin

It is highly probable that someone will exceed 300 mph in 1975, hopefully Yamaha's Don Vesco, the worlds fastest man on two wheels. Vesco holds the motorcycle land speed record with a recorded 281.702 mph. The top ten riders in various classes:

Name	Speed	Motorcycle
Don Vesco	248.397	Yamaha
Don Vesco	248.285	Yamaha
Dave Campos	231.597	H-D
Dave Campos	208.450	H-D
Warner Riley	199.500	H-D
Tom Elrod	197.047	H-D
Bill Vickery	183.796	Yamaha
Don Vesco	178.527	Yamaha
Don Vesco	178.442	Yamaha
Michael Corbin	165.367	Electric

Send your questions to Yamaha Talks Back, Yamaha Horizons, P. O. Box 6600, Buena Park, California 90620.





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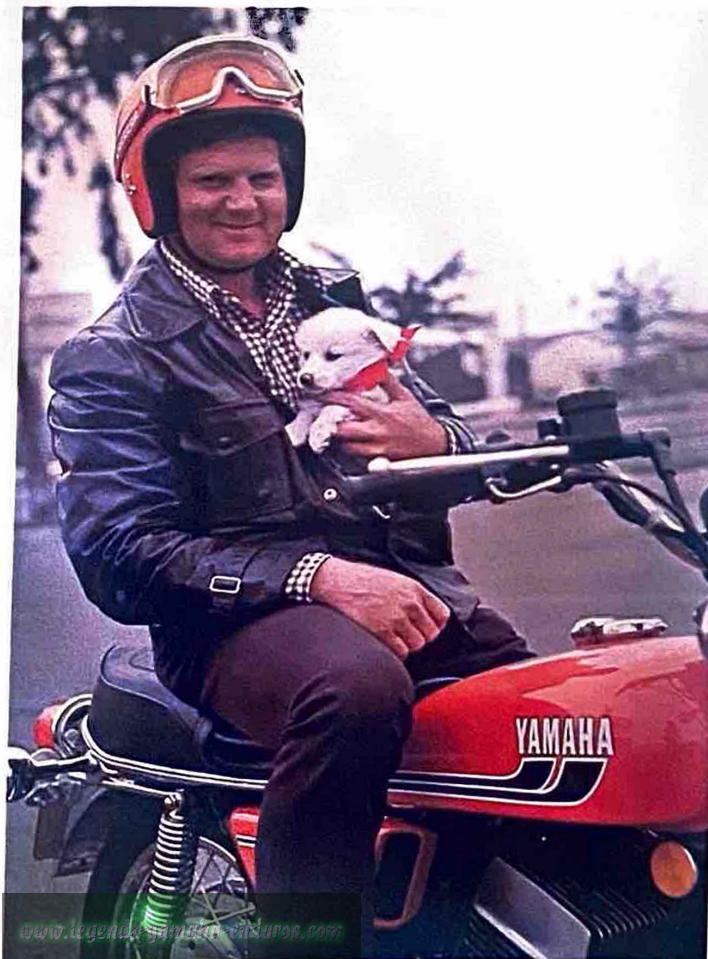
# A PUPPY AND A BOY: A CHRISTMAS STORY

*Christmas is a family holiday when the excitement and laughter of little children and the joy of giving blend together to fill the world's cup of tranquility.*

The father rose early the morning before Christmas. There was a chill in the air as he quietly dressed. Everyone in the household was asleep and he did not want to wake them. He tiptoed past his young son's room and peeked in. The boy was curled up, deep in his dreams. "Good," the father said to himself. "He won't know."

*Children are children only once and each Christmas with them is a day you want to cherish forever.*

The father walked to the garage, opened it, and wheeled his Yamaha onto the street. His destination was not quite a mile away – but it was a trip that had been on his mind for weeks. He was anxious as he started his motorcycle and began the ride toward the early morning sun climbing over the hills.



*As Christmas day approaches, each hour seems special.*

A sign out front said the building was a kennel. The father pulled into the driveway and parked his motorcycle. He knocked on the door. A silver-thatched large man with large hands answered the door with a smile. "I thought you'd be here early," he said. "She's ready." The father nodded. "Can I see her?" he asked. The large man replied, "Of course."

*Joy is often found in little things. It is never more apparent than during the Christmas holiday.*

"She's beautiful," the father said. Before him was a fluff of white, its tail wagging, its eyes looking for adventure. The father picked up the puppy and stroked it. The dog responded by licking his hand. "Let's go," the father said to the puppy. "Soon you will have a new friend." The father thanked the man and said goodbye.

*Companionship and togetherness of all living things is reflected by the spirit of Christmas.*

Outside the father tucked the puppy into his jacket, started his motorcycle and began the slow, careful ride down the still-vacant road to his home. The puppy nestled next to him and relaxed. The father was excited. This is going to be a wonderful Christmas.

*Christmas is a small puppy, a child, and love.*

The dog was given a temporary home at a neighbor's residence. The father returned to his house as his family was beginning to stir and started a few morning chores. He eyed his watch frequently through the seconds and the minutes and the hours. Finally, Christmas Eve was here.

*Like a volcano beginning to erupt, suspense builds each Christmas. It is an almost indescribable feeling of happiness, a pleasurable part of life.*

The son, age four, moved like a grasshopper in the house. He sensed that Christmas was only a short time away. Anticipation . . . anticipation . . . anticipation. "Gosh, the tree is pretty . . . Let's leave some milk and cookies for Santa . . . My stocking is hung up . . . Look at all those packages! . . . I'm going to sit up and wait all night for Santa Claus. I am." Slowly he wound down and fell asleep.

*After a child has gone to bed on Christmas Eve, a house is always quiet. The parents talk in muffled tones, making preparations, and deep inside they hope that Santa Claus would come down the chimney while they are still awake.*

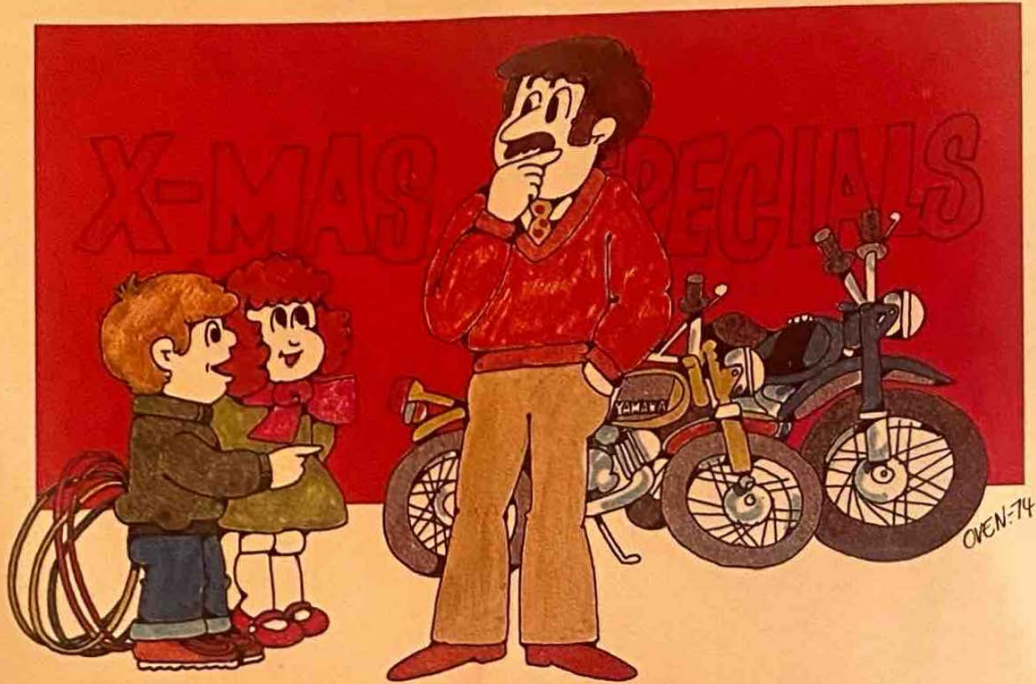
Christmas morning! Little feet thump to the floor, rush to the living room and then to Mommy and Daddy to awake them and back again. There is a puppy! There is a puppy! Flash bulbs pop as the child begins to play with it. It is finally Christmas – and a time for the family.



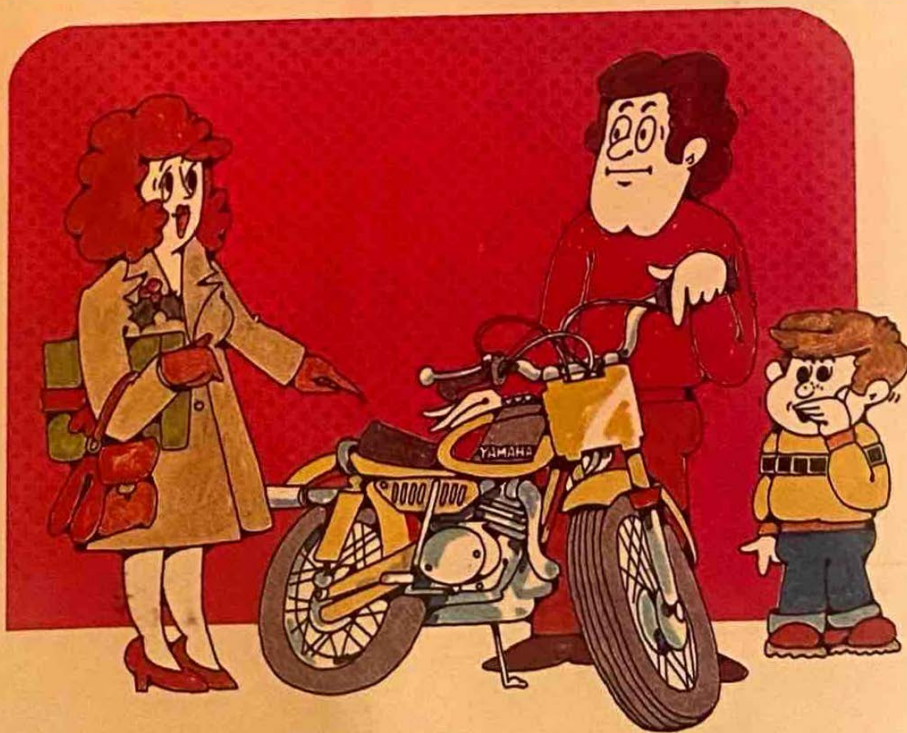




# The Family Goes Christmas Shopping

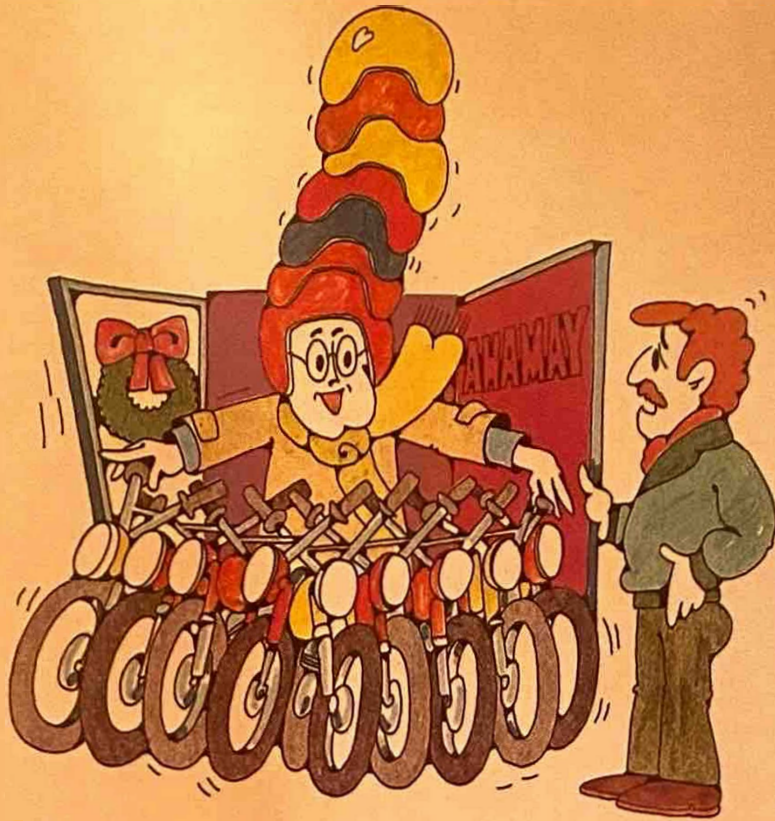


*"How much trade-in allowance do we get for 14 hula hoops?"*

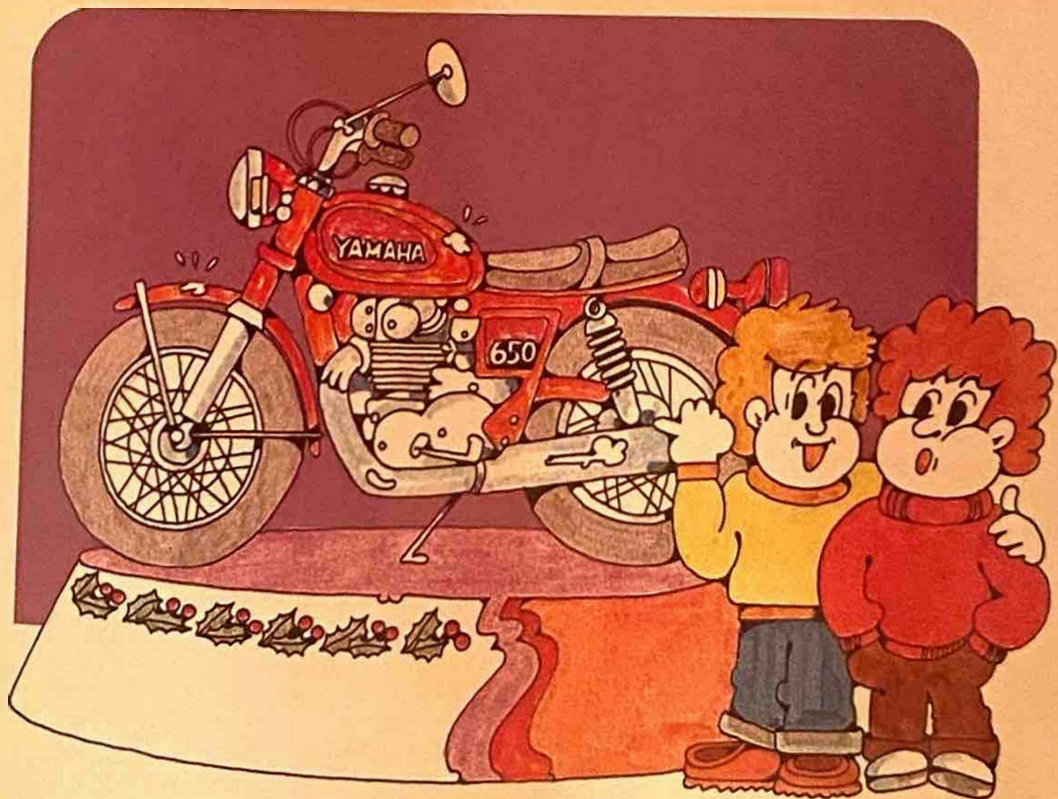


*"Are you sure it's supposed to have only two wheels?"*





*"But I've got nine kids . . ."*



*"Wait until Mom arrives at the bridge party on that."*



On top of the world is a snow-capped oasis of children's dreams where deep pools of goodwill overflow once a year to wash the continents with the spirit of Christmas.

It is an acropolis of the fine things in man — a fortress of kindness that is watched over by a sweet old gentleman who has woven together the past and the future in an ageless tapestry of joy.

To some the old man is a myth, a wisp of imaginary optimism blown away by the hurricane of day-to-day life.

But to others he is as real as you are — in fact he may be part of you — and their only regret is that he appears only once every twelve months from the North Pole of mankind to bring happiness to others.

This man is known differently in different parts of the world: Santa Claus, Saint Nicholas, Kris Kringle, Father Christmas. Yamaha Horizons sent a writer to find him. The writer combed the unknown by motorcycle and then snowmobile in his travels to the old man's distant home and reached it by using the compass of his heart.

Santa Claus, puffing slowly on his meerschaum pipe, was sitting in an overstuffed chair by the log cottage's fireplace, waiting for him. The frantic preparation for this Christmas was done, except for a few final details he had assigned the elves; and the Yamahas, toys and other gifts were ready to be packed on his sleigh.

He looked like his pictures, this round man in a bright red suit and coal black boots and belt. His hair and beard were as white as new snow, and his eyes had the twinkle of a proud little boy who had just triumphed over one of life's little challenges.

Outside his reindeer darted back and forth playfully, giving the visitor a glimpse of their excitement over the coming all-night Christmas journey.

"Sit down . . . Sit down," Santa told the writer and pointed to another chair by the warm fire. He then patted his stomach and laughed. "What do you want for Christmas?"

The writer, suddenly feeling a tinge of shyness, smiled sheepishly. "Well, ah, actually," he said, "I would like an interview."

"Fine," Santa said. "An interview you shall have."

And here's how it went:

**HORIZONS:** Santa, many people don't believe that you exist. They think you are a myth. Are you real?

**SANTA CLAUS:** That's a question I'm asked all the time. Of course I am real. As long as there is goodness in the world you will find

me here. People sometimes ask, "Santa, if you are real how can you be in so many different places at once?" My answer is simple: "The same way that kindness can be in so many places at once."

**HORIZONS:** If you are real, why doesn't anyone ever see you at his house?

**SANTA CLAUS:** I think that question was very well answered by the old New York Sun when 8-year-old Virginia O'Hanion wrote and asked them: "Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says 'If you see it in The Sun it's so.' Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?" The editor replied,

# Santa's Fireside Chat

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus," and wrote: ". . . Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world . . . No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

**HORIZONS:** What is your secret that enables you to make all your Christmas deliveries around the world in one night?

**SANTA CLAUS:** Natural speed and good reindeer. We've been doing it for a long time now and the experience is another asset. I know of no one else who can travel as fast as I can, but I think your Kenny Roberts might someday do it.

**HORIZONS:** Since you brought up the subject of Kenny Roberts, what do you think of motorcycling?

**SANTA CLAUS:** I'd like to have my own motorcycle, and have Pierre Karsmakers teach me the motocross technique of flying through the air as high as chimneys. Do you think I could get one with a red nose?

**HORIZONS:** Yamaha makes an RD 60, which is perfect for traveling from one house to another. I'd have to check to see if the "RD" stands for Rudolph.

**SANTA CLAUS:** It might stand for reindeer.

**HORIZONS:** One question I have always been wondering is how many elves do you have?

**SANTA CLAUS:** Six fifty. We've been a little short on elves. It's always that way at the height of our season. It's not that they leave here; it's just that there is so much work to be done.

**HORIZONS:** I've always been curious about the way your elves dress. Are pointed hats mandatory, or do the elves just find them comfortable?

**SANTA CLAUS:** They're safety hats to protect them from falls. It's kind of like a motorcyclist and his helmet.

**HORIZONS:** Then you believe people should pay particular attention to safety?

**SANTA CLAUS:** Definitely. I would hate to see someone's Christmas spoiled because they didn't.

**HORIZONS:** Do you have any advice for people who receive motorcycles for Christmas?

**SANTA CLAUS:** Learn how to ride it properly. Yamaha's Learn to Ride Safety Program is one way to get a good start. Don't venture onto the street on a motorcycle until you have mastered it. Ride defensively, and always put safety first.

**HORIZONS:** I agree.

**SANTA CLAUS:** If everyone who receives a motorcycle is careful, it will make my Christmas very merry.

The writer then rose and shook hands with the kindly old gentleman. Santa Claus smiled and pressed his nose. The writer suddenly found himself in his own study, watching the fireplace. Did the interview really take place?

He was sure of it.









# New Year's Of Yamaha Racing

## KENNY ROBERTS

At age 23, Kenny Roberts is looking for his third consecutive American Motorcycle Association Grand National racing championship.

Veteran observers of AMA competition rate him as one of the most natural riders ever to come along — and his credentials back them up.

The Yamaha ace won six features on the rugged Grand National circuit last season, twice as many as he collected in the previous campaign, when he also sped to the title with ease. He scored points in each of the 23 races on the '74 schedule and finished fifth or better on 17 occasions.

All of this carried him to another record point total. He amassed 2,286 points, 272 more than his all-time mark of '73. His margin over runner-up Gary Scott in the final standings was a whopping 819 points.

During the banner season, he earned an estimated \$150,000. Roberts last season also became the second rider in history to attain the distinction of having scored victories in all five of the demanding types of racing encountered on the AMA Grand National circuit — mile, half-mile and short-track dirt oval varieties, along with Tourist Trophy (steeplechase) and road course competition.

The only other performer ever to accomplish that remarkable feat was veteran Dick Mann, who finally completed the "grand slam" when he was 37 . . . and in the 16th season of racing.

In his spare time during '74, Roberts also went overseas to win even more acclaim. Among other honors, he collected the individual championship of the annual "Easter Match Race Series" by winning three races and finishing second three other times in a string of road races run at various English courses which he had never seen before.

He also dazzled European cycling enthusiasts by sprinting to huge leads in meetings with the world's best riders at Imola, Italy, and Mallory Park, England, only to encounter trouble with experimental tires that relegated him to second place in the former and to the sidelines in the latter.

Roberts' versatility is stressed by the range of victories he collected on the AMA circuit last season. He won a race on the mile dirt track at San Jose, Calif.; a short-track event at Hinsdale, Ill.; a TT at Peoria, Ill.; and road races at Atlanta, Ga.; Monterey, Calif.; and Talladega, Ala.

That boosted his number of career wins to 10 in just three seasons of campaigning in the Expert (or top grade) class of competition. He

finished fourth in the standings in his "rookie" season on the big circuit, after acquiring the national Novice and Junior crowns in consecutive years.

Roberts, a native of Modesto, Calif., recently moved his wife, Pat, and son, Kenny Lee, into a new home he purchased in Orange, Calif., near the Yamaha headquarters.

Here is his New Year's resolution:

**"I will do my best to win my third consecutive American Motorcycle Association Grand National racing championship. What is even more important than winning, though, is to continue using the race track as a laboratory for the development of better and better motorcycles. That's really what racing for Yamaha is all about. I also plan to spend time helping my young son, Kenny Lee, become the fastest tricyclist around."**

## PIERRE KARSMAKERS

Not many men dominate a sport with the total impact that Pierre Karsmakers did in 1973, his first year as a member of the Yamaha motocross racing team in the United States.

Karsmakers, the 1974 AMA Open Class moto champion, raced a total of 36 times his first year here and was a winner on 17 occasions, a phenomenal record in such grueling competition.

Pierre, a three-time national champion in his native Holland, captured seven of the 11 AMA National motocross races enroute to the title. He also earned the Florida Winter Series title, winning four of the six races, and won half a dozen other events throughout the year, including two of the demanding Trans-AMA competitions, pitting the best riders from Europe and the U.S. in a traditional autumn series.

Karsmakers, 27, and his family — wife Denise and daughter Natascha, 3 — now make their home in Mission Viejo, Calif., not far from Yamaha's headquarters in Buena Park.

His resolution for New Year's:

**"I will continue to work on the development of better safety equipment, such as Yamaha's MX boots, and want to contribute even more in the coming years."**

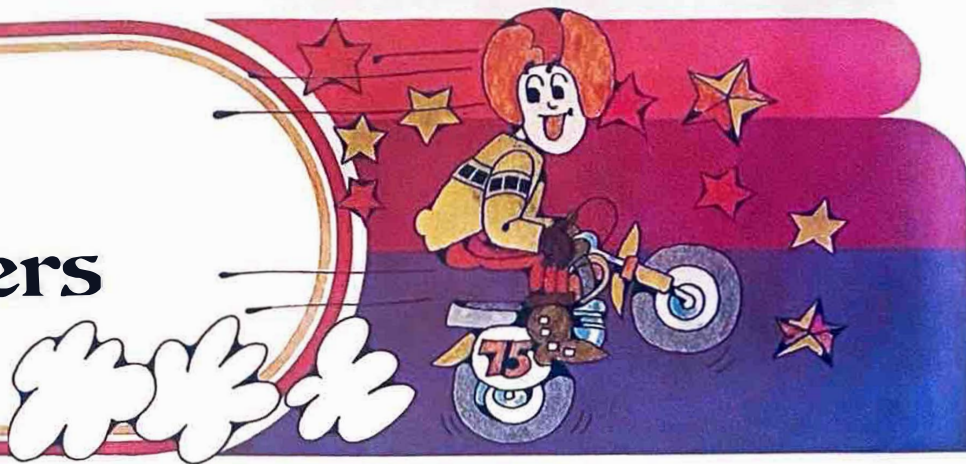
## GENE ROMERO

In his first season as a member of the Yamaha team 1970 AMA Grand National champion Gene Romero collected two of the prize races on the circuit and established a world speed record.

The dramatic wins came on the mile dirt oval at the Indianapolis (Ind.) Fairgrounds and over the Ontario (Calif.) Motor Speedway road course.



# Resolutions Team Members



In the former, "Burrito" rocketed into the lead on the final turn of the race and out-dragged Doug Schl to the finish line. At Ontario, he won one 100-mile heat and was second in the other to nip teammate and reigning champion Kenny Roberts for the overall victory, Romero's first ever on pavement.

Those efforts ran his total of career wins to 11. His consistency in other races earned him third place behind Roberts and Gary Scott in season standings. In the last seven years he has won a title, been runnerup twice, third twice and seventh twice.

He also rode one of the Yamaha road racers to a world record by averaging 150.8419 mph for one hour around the high-banked 2½-mile Daytona (Fla.) International Speedway tri-oval on March 3. That blitized an 11-year-old mark established on the same course by Mike Hailwood of England, who had averaged 144.8297.

In the process, Romero broke his own one lap mark which had stood for four years. His peak lap of 159.8074 mph eclipsed his 1970 standard of 157.342.

About his New Year's resolution, he said:

**"For years people have been calling me "Burrito." I thought about changing it to "Enchilada" but settled upon "Try and Catch Me." Now that I am with the Yamaha team I can concentrate just on racing. Before, I was my own tuner, mechanic, tire changer, transporter and rider. Being with Yamaha is really great."**

## DON CASTRO

An accident early last season in a benefit dirt racing program sidetracked veteran Don Castro from what had all the earmarks of a good season.

Less than a fortnight after his solid fourth-place finish in the Daytona 200 Classic, Castro fell while dueling for the lead during a race being run at Chula Vista, Calif., for the benefit of the family of the late Cal Rayborn.

Resulting injuries to both legs kept Don from competing in the next six AMA races on the schedule and severely limited his dirt track activity for the remainder of the season.

He made a courageous comeback by finishing seventh on the mile dirt at San Jose, Calif., July 7. Later in the season he was a solid second in the Talladega (Ala.) road race feature and was running second at Ontario (Calif.) when he crashed, this time without injury.

Despite his problems, he finished 12th in AMA standings in his

second season of riding for the Yamaha team. In addition to his rousing fourth in the Daytona 200, he also had won the companion race for lightweight models there.

The Yamaha-mounted Castro scored his first career win as an Expert rider on the half-mile dirt at San Jose in 1973. He has placed high in many other major races in his five years of campaigning the circuit.

His New Year's resolution is:

**"An accident last season put me on the sidelines, but I will be back. This coming year will be my best ever. I also again want to thank my father for all he's done. He encouraged me to race on the track after he discovered me drag racing in the streets when I was 16 years old. He explained to me that if I had to race that I'd better do it on the race track, instead of jeopardizing everybody by street racing. And when I did, he was behind me all the way and has remained that way. What a great guy!"**

## RANDY MAMOLA

Newest member of the Yamaha racing team is easy to spot on the track, despite his 4-foot, 8-inch frame. He's a 14-year-old fiery red-head who is usually running far ahead of his closest competitors at race time.

Randy Mamola, a native of San Jose, now living in Santa Clara, Calif., joined the American Motorcycle Association Youth Division at the age of 12 and became a star right from the start.

While in the AMA Youth Division, he won 14 out of 15 races at the Fremont Raceway to capture the point series. He raced to the Number One spot in the Oakdale series as well.

Two years and 180 trophies later, he graduated into the Sportsman Division, racing to a 2nd, 1st, and 1st at point standings in San Jose, Santa Rosa and San Francisco.

Carrying a full-time schedule at Buckser High School in Santa Clara, Randy rides almost everyday till dark. On the weekends, he and his parents take off for competition in other northern California cities.

Randy's biggest thrill was becoming a member of the distinguished Yamaha Racing Team in April 1974.

His New Year's resolutions:

**"As the youngest member of the Yamaha Racing Team, I plan to work toward following Kenny Roberts' footsteps one day. Maybe, I'll even get to race him."**



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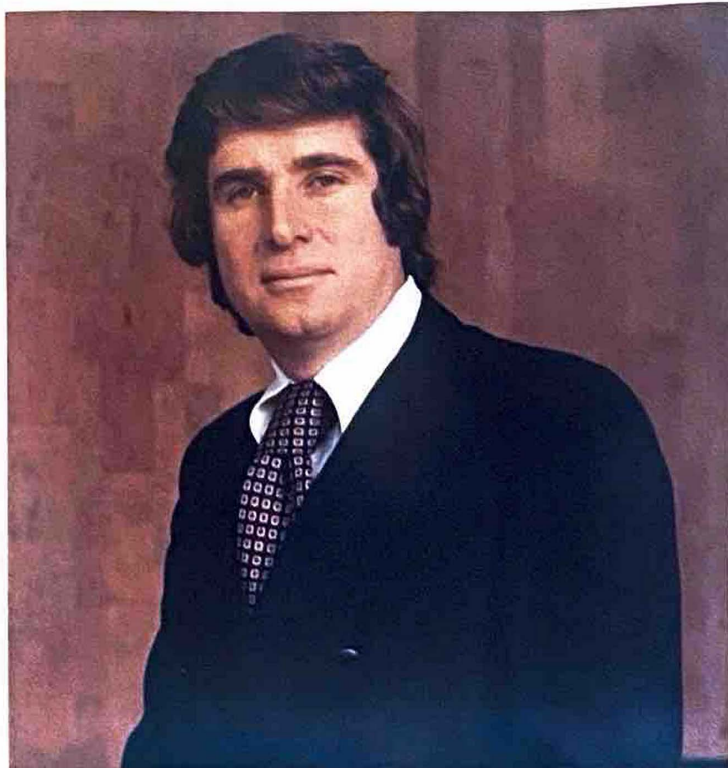
Don't forget your friends. They will enjoy Horizons, too.





# A Christmas Wish

By Dick Thomas  
Manager of Advertising  
and Public Relations



Christmas would mean nothing if it were not shared with someone. It is a season which cannot be indulged in alone.

We at Yamaha have had great pleasure in preparing this issue of Horizons. We want to share with you the nostalgia and warmth of this truly meaningful holiday.

Since you are a part of the Yamaha family, we have incorporated the spirit of Christmas into stories involving motorcycles. We hope that during this year our product has in some way brought joy and happiness to you and your family.

We receive numerous letters from youngsters around the world wishing they had a motorcycle, particularly at this time of year. We hope that many of these materialistic wishes are fulfilled; but more importantly, we wish that the true spirit of Christmas prevails in your home.

The following poem best describes a Christmas wish and the sincere joys and feelings of Christmas:

## A Christmas Wish

What I'd like to have for Christmas  
I can tell you in a minute.  
The family all around me,  
And the home with laughter in it.

Never mind the usual trinkets,  
Wrapped in tissue, tied with ribbon,  
I want chuckles from the oldest,  
To the baby with her bib on.

What I really want for Christmas  
Is a gift that's precious, very.  
It's the family all around me,  
And a Christmas Day that's merry.  
But the richest man now living,  
Hasn't gold enough to buy it,  
Only God above can grant it,  
And His blessing must supply it.

—Edgar A. Guest

We at Yamaha wish you good will and extend season's greetings to you and your family.



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