

We've got you covered!

SKATE NEWS

65¢ **America's only bi-weekly Skate newspaper** 65¢

February 24, 1981, Issue 4, Vol. 3.



- **ASPO AWARDS**
- **APPLE SERIES**
- **GULF NEWS**

- **GIL LOSI SR.**
- **CAMPBELL BUST**
- **MOUNTAIN PIPE**

and lots more....

WEEKLY GRINDERS

BY Anita Grynd

GRINDERS

Newest SIMS amateur team members are Ken Mollica and Casey Mazotti. And the hunt is on by Tom Sims to field the best amateur and pro team this coming season. He's looking so make yourselves visible, no matter where you are, 'cause you never know when Tom will show up and say: "you're on candid camera".

We hear that one of the local Southern California skateparks will be undergoing major management changes. We've been ask to hold off from details until all the i's are dotted and the "t's" crossed. So we'll wait, but not too much longer.

GULLWING has to win the "tough trucks" award for the month. We saw a brand new skateboard, just purchased from a skateshop not more than 30 minutes, get runned over by a big truck and semi rig. So devastating was the blow that we had a hard time telling what type of board and wheels were crunched. But the blue GULLS pulled through with not even a bent axle. Caption for that headline should be "truck spares trucks".

We hear that the demand for the new 50/50 and 3/4 wheel from G & S is so great that they are two months behind on back orders. Steve Cathey says, please hang on 'cause the new shipment is in and the orders are being filled at a rapid rate. Steve has the whip out and wont stop until everyone is serviced.

It's official, VARIFLEX will sponsor two Pro/Am events this Spring. One will be at the COLTON Skatepark during Easter vacation and the other one will be at KONA, in Jacksonville, Florida. Details of money and prizes are not in yet and of the exact date, but stayed tuned, we'll get it to ya!

We do have details of the

SKATE CITY Pro/Am, in the Keyhole Pool. The Whittier, California facility is putting up a \$2,000.00 purse for the March 14 and 15 contest. Early entry for Pros is \$30. and Amateurs \$20. After February 28th, the Pro entry goes to \$40. and the Am. entry goes to \$30. Included in the program is also a "Longest Carve" contest. By the way, the \$2,000. purse is guaranteed. For further information on practices and such call the park at (213) 946-1402.

More on the SKATE CITY contest. There's also a "Doubles" event, which is \$30. entry per team. If you enter all three events, the Keyhole, Longest Carve and the Doubles you can pay \$60. for all three and save some bucks. And we know what that's all about right?

The VARIFLEX Tour is ON. It is set for June 1981 and it should go for about three to four weeks. Any park, shop or community that would like to see the Tour come through your area, should write VARIFLEX immediately, so that they can schedule you in. Write early enough so you won't be left out. Gil Losi says that they will try to make as many places, but unlike last season, they want to have enough time in each place to get to know the skaters and the terrain.

Similar requests are to be made to people like POWELL, SIMS, G & S and others. We understand they too are planning a Tour of their own.

Wouldn't it be great if all these manufacturers coordinated the tours of their Teams so that they hit the same places at the same time. And then while everybody is there, they can get together and hold a contest! Right? Then the locals can advertise that all these hot pros are coming and that if you want to see some of the best skaters in the world and maybe you'd like to be part of that scene, you ought to come to the park and compete or watch. And maybe they can call it the GOLD CUP II, or the SUMMER GOLD CUP, or whatever. Just a thought.

Talking about taking trips. We've just learned that our Publisher is planning a working vacation this coming May. His plans are to visit as many parks around the country and meet lots of owners, managers, local hot shoes and document it for future SKATN NEWS issues. Also in his head are plans to help anyone with the setting of an amateur competition program. Is that a subtle hint that we want to hear from those of you who are interested?

Tom Sims just released part of his Amateur Team. There are still a few spots to be filled but here it is: Named Assistant Coach of the SIMS Team is Brian Martin. From Winchester, Anthony Dias; Kenny Heath, and Casey Chmielinski from Florida; Jex Harrison from Michigan; Clark Harrell, Alabama; Terence Barnes, Missouri; Casey Marsetti, Ken Mollica, Brett Martin and Robie Bergendall all from the APPLE Skatepark area and Phil Burgoyne, the English number one slalom skater. All there's left is to fill the So. Cal. amateur team for ASPO. Like we said he's looking. Make the next contest.

Speaking of ASPO, as of this writing, we yet don't have the details or schedule of the new ASPO season. For sure we've been promised we'll have it by next issue. Stand by folks.

The contest in the indoor Youth Center half pipe in Georgetown, Delaware is on for February 21 and it will start at 12 noon. There will be a \$3.00 entry fee, two classes; 15 & Under and 16 & Over; with really big skate trophies for each class. They invite everyone to make the contest and if you need a place to stay contact Leighton Lord at (302) 856-7523 and I'm sure he can arrange something for you. Prizes are being donated so this sounds like it's going to be a great contest. We will be covering the event for our issue following said date.

CONFUCIUS said: Advertise when things are tough 'cause when they're good, you're too busy spending money."

Mike Folmer (SIMS Pro) says he's planning a return to Southern California in March. He and Brad Bowman want to plan another tour of Southern U.S.A. Their first one was so successful that they want to hit that area again now that they know how long to stay in one spot and how to figure driving time, etc. He wants to especially hit the parks and ramps in Alabama, since he didn't have much time to spend last Fall. Mike is the type of skater who likes to meet people and help whenever he can, so call him if you want him to come through your area.

We seldom like to deviate from the basic core of this publication which is skateboarding. But we have to tell the tales of woe of our publisher and his racing "off road" program. You remember we last told you how he burned up (to the ground) the hot HONDA he was racing in the BAJA 1000. Well now after rebuilding it for yet another attempt at the Parker 400, in Arizona, he encountered flat tire problems knocking him off the bike at about 80 mph, doing a mid-air flip, (nothing we've ever seen done in pools or pipes) and landing on his "kister". Will he ever learn? Them old bones are not meant for such frivolity. When last seen coming into the office he was carrying a "king size" tube of BenGay.

MADRID is getting ready to come out with their new Mike Smith model. It should be out this week, now that they're finishing the graphics. Madrid also has the new Roger Hickey speed boards on tap for this Spring.

Check out the ad for POWELL in this issue. Stacy Peralta was the creator and it took quite a while to put it together. Check it out, carefully to see all that's in it.

ON THE COVER: Enrique Esparza, local at Lance Mountain's half pipe totally shreds.

EDITORIAL

PEP TALK

When times are tough, and the outlook for the near future doesn't look all that great, it has to be comforting to hear from some one, any body, any type of positive input that will help ease the current situation.

It is with that in mind that we dedicate this editorial for those who think that things are getting worse not better for skateboarding.

We're happy to tell you, that while you may think things have not gotten better, we hear otherwise, from those who make up the core of our industry. They are the skaters.

All we can feed you is information we get here at SKAT'N NEWS.

For example: Would you believe that this paper is now being read, and religiously I may add in many European and South American countries.

One issue copy sometimes get read by seven to ten people. We recently received a letter from a skater in Belgium who said that he had gotten a hold of an issue from three months back and that the paper was just about in shreds. As a matter of fact there were several sections that had been taped to keep together. He just wanted to tell us that although it was hard to read, it still had enough material and news to keep him interested in the sport and to know what's happening

This should prove at least one point. It isn't so much that our paper is making someone happy, but it is the fact that the skater in Belgium is still interested enough in skateboarding that any thing that comes his way, as did SKAT N NEWS, he has to read it and digest it.

Another example is that our paper is reaching many kids that don't have a skatepark or even a skate shop near them. We wanted to know how they were getting some our copies, so we made a few calls to these kids.

As it turned out in most cases, they picked up a copy of our issue during their travels

through a city where there's a skatepark or shop or in some cases a relative or friend send them a copy.

The important thing here to consider is that that skater is out there and he is interested enough in skateboarding to perseue at any length to get the latest information, details, results in skateboarding. In short he wants to know what's happening, because he is interested. He is into it.

While we sometimes get discouraged from the attitudes that some people take toward our publication, albeit the

industry and the sport itself, all we need is to pick up a letter or answer a call from these thousands of kids who think enough of the sport to take the time to write or call.

To this we are committed to "keep it alive" because we know that they are out there.

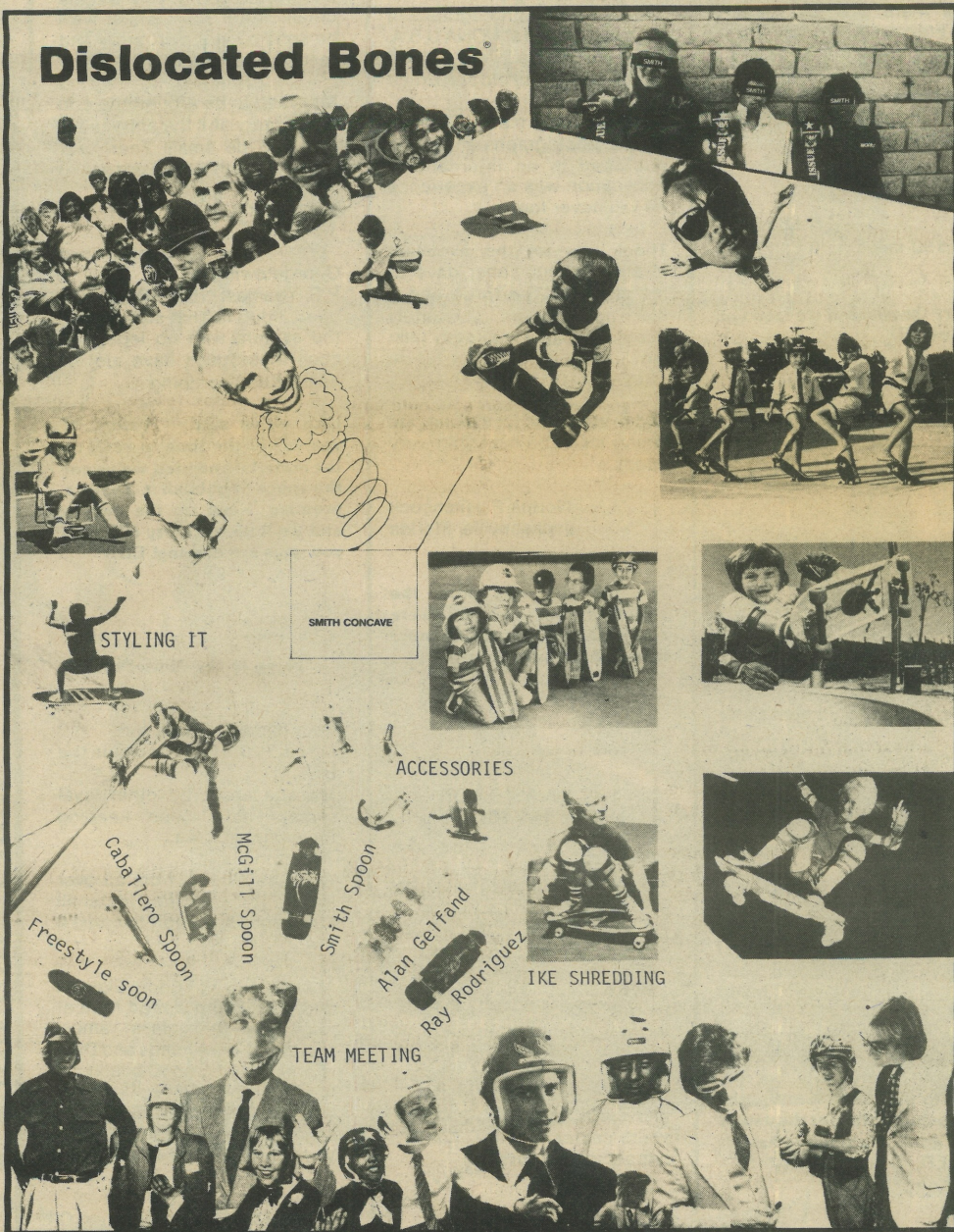
So if you sitting back and thinking that it may just be all over for you, take my word; they are out there. Those kids are hungry for the sport, we just got to get it to them. One way or another.

I don't know if it's got to be in the

form of ads, contests, demos, or just plain encouragement, but we have to let them know that we're not abandoning ship. That even though times are now tough we will be willing to stick it out with them. Cause when the good times come, we, who were committed will reap the benefits.

SKAT'N NEWS will continue to publish, will you be a part of it?

Lou Peralta



VOICES

ATTENTION!... SO CALLED EDITOR

Just finished almost looking at you(sic.) rag, besides an upside down photo. San Jose is about 50 miles from the City, also Mr. Editor there is a park in S.F. (San Francisco), it's called Hill-top Park, in the nice Hunter's Point Dist. It is a shame that some have to spoil it for other's(sic.) so take my advice give it up.

THAT'S THE NEWS

Mic Shea
150 miles from San Fran.

You're thrashy but we love you anyway. ED.

PARK DIRECTORY PLEASE

I'm writing from the sister city of San Diego, Vancouver, Canada.

We have had Olson, Shogo, Plummer, Alva and other California skaters up here. We have a number of pros and amateurs here, also skate shops, parks and competitions.

We frequent the Olympic Skate-park which is 300 miles from here.(park closed in Dec.ED) I enjoyed skating with Eddy and Roland of the VARIFLEX Tour.

Please send me "Park Directory", as I'm planning a trip to California in the future.

Rick DeCicco
"Village of Vancouver", Canada

We've been trying to put a "directory" for quite a while now, but every time we get ready to publish it more parks are closing, either for the winter or for good. We hope to have it soon.ED.

NO WORDS TO...

There are no words to describe the thrill your issue of February 3, 1981 has brought to my home.

The article and photographs of the contest held at KONA U.S.A. Jacksonville, Fla., were submitted by my 17 year old son Bruce Hitchcock. For this young man to see his article, photographs and name published in an International publication was an experience he will never forget.

Thank you for the excellent treatment your paper gave to his material. The three and a half pages were absolutely beautiful. Bruce is already talking about his ideas for future articles.

Thank you again for making one young man and his family very happy.

Norma P. Hitchcock
Jacksonville, Florida

The pleasure was ours, the coverage and pictures were also great and we expect more from Bruce in the future. ED.

THE INVASION OF CHERRY HILL

Thanks for printing those pic's I sent you. We are working on some up-to-date ones now. They will be in the mail soon.

There's been alot of skater activity around here. New skaters getting new boards and old skaters getting back into it. There's also alot of skaters traveling from D.C., Maryland and other towns, to skate the youth center on weekends. It's happening for sure.

We are planning a massive invasion of Cherry Hill this weekend!

Also the big news is that there's going to be a half pipe contest at the Youth Center.

I was just wondering if you might write up something in your grinders to let people know about the contest.

I'll send you another letter later this week giving you all the details. After the contest we'll be sending you pics, story and results if you want to print it.

It's going to be around the end of February and the entry fee is going to be small. There will also be trophies and prizes.

Keep skat'n.

Leighton Lord
Georgetown, Del.
P.S. Your last NEWS was really good, I dug it. That story about the skaters with no legs was cool, those guys have alot of heart. Keep on doing it.

Like we've said before, if you've got the time to send us the material and pics, we've got the space to publish it. That's a promise. Keep up the energy and we'll alert Cherry Hill that you guys are coming! ED.

Hope to see more Pros

Your paper is totally hot! It gets to the facts and cuts the B.S.

Me and about 20 other loyal skaters have been keeping things hot in Iowa.

We have skaters from all over the State, Des Moines, Marshall Town and Davenport to name a few.

About a year ago Eddie Elguera and Dale Smith visited here at Fun Park. (plexiglass ramps) and totally blew minds and Dale is one hell of a good coach.

We hope to see more Pros visit this summer when Fun Park reopens.

We'll rip ramps in the meantime.

Keep up the good work!

Jeff Eilers
West Des Moines, Iowa

We hear that several manufacturers are planning extensive tours for their teams this coming spring and summer. The best thing to do is to write to them directly and request they schedule their tour through your area. It doesn't hurt to ask. ED.

SKAT'N NEWS

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PUBLISHER
Lou Peralta

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
Lois Davis P.

EDITOR
Lori Peralta
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Leslie Peralta

Executive Secretary
Kim Grisham

SENIOR PHOTO EDITORS
Rusty Harris
Paul Votava Sr

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS
Chris Yandall, Phil Chiochio
Jaron Lucas, Mark Goodson
Jeff Voegeli, Anita Gryn
Mike Apperson, Wes Aho
L. Peralta,

GRAPHICS & PRODUCTION
Cindy Maller, Lori Peralta
Bill Yaw, Joe Terradyne

ADVERTISING
Ms. Eager Lee A. Watin

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P.O. Box 411
Woodland Hills, California
91364
(213) 345-7300

Variflex 811

9644 LURLINE AVENUE, CHATSWORTH 91314
(213) 341-7301

ERIC GRISHAM

EDDIE ELGUERA

STEVE HIRSCH
ALLEN LOSI

BILL HANES

"ZIGGY" SIEGFRIED

FREDDY DESOTA

PATTY HOFFMAN

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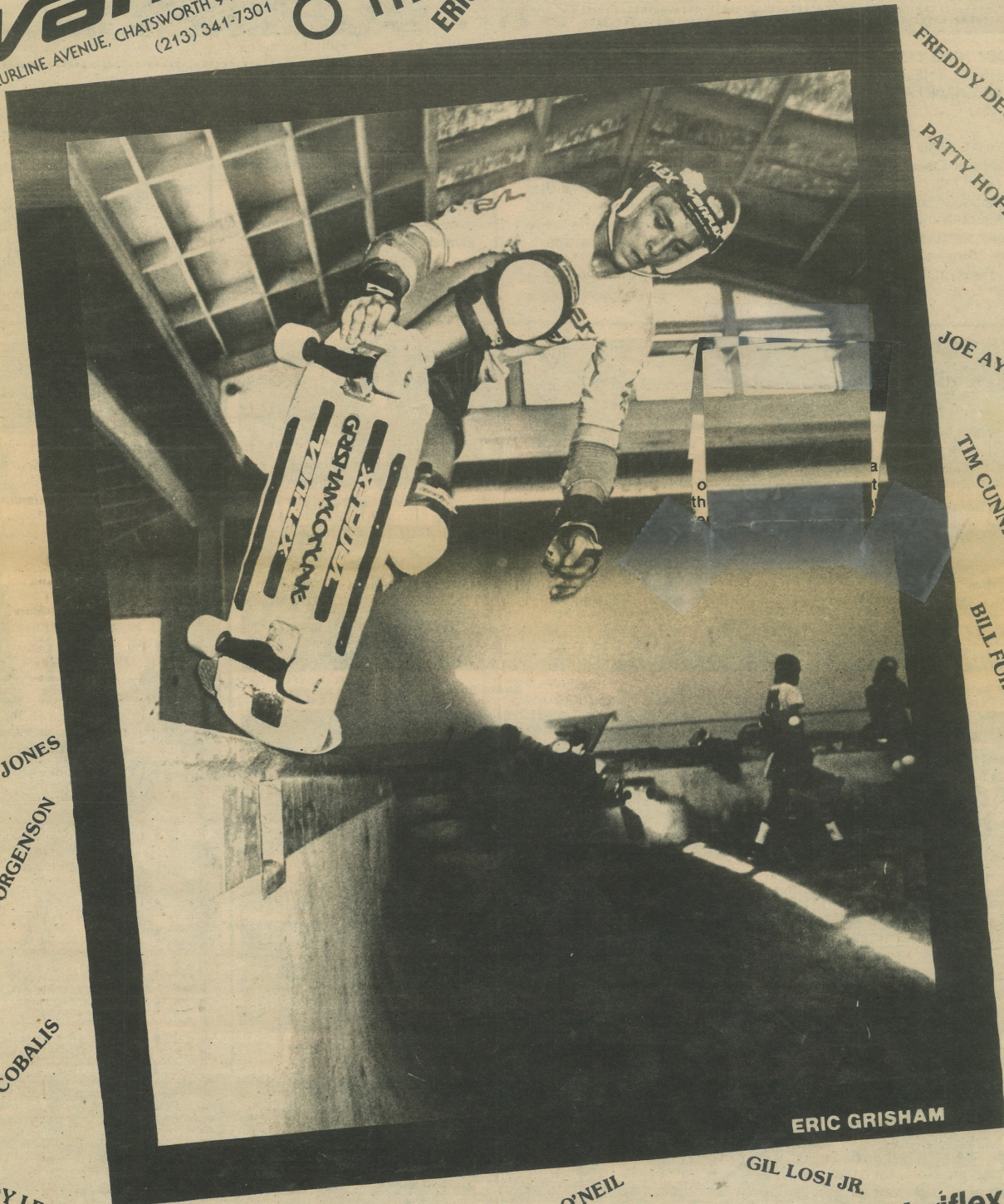
DOUG COBALIS

DANNY JORGENSEN

JEFF JONES

BILL BEAUREGARD

LANCE MOUNTAIN



1980

ASPO AWARDS

THE GRAND FINALE

ALMOST NINE MONTHS AFTER THE FIRST ASPO OF 1980 WAS HELD, THE FINAL SCHEDULED ACTIVITY WAS HELD THIS WEEKEND AT THE WILL REID SCOUT PARK.

January 31, 1980
Long Beach, Calif.

The 12 acre Scout park was the site for the annual ASPO Awards and judging from the number of people that showed up it turned out to be a perfect setting.

There were approximately 250 people that came to the festivities. Gratifying to see was that many of them were parents and family groups of those that were to receive the ASPO awards.

For the most part, those that attended were those skaters

that either knew for sure they were getting an award or that thought they were in line for one.

This year, once again ASPO came up with a unique line of awards or trophies.

Thanks to the help and co-operation of SKAT'N NEWS,

awards for first, second and third included an action picture of the skater receiving the award.

These pictures were taken from SKAT'N NEWS' files from the past season and mounted between two pieces of plexiglass which included a plaque with the name, placing and



Eric Berquist

Tim Metz

Doug Cobalis

Les Pearlman

Bill Wahl



Ed Bettencourt

Todd Joseph

Jim Coane

Andre Watts

Todd Smoke



Yoree Henley

Charlie Pina

Jeff Heath

Joe Hardy

Rich Ito



Ron Yearman

Chris Robinson

Jason LaFay

Matt Richards

Ken Yuponco



Charlie Lewis

Adrian Lozano

Mark Bailly

Tommy Finch

Paul Hinkler

Eric Berquist

Jermy. Fletcher



Jim Goodrich put on a great slide show of vintage/newwave skaters.



Over 250 people attended the awards and left content and well fed.

class of the winning skater. It was certainly one of the high-light of the day's activities.

The awards started at noon on Staurday, with lunch which consisted of hamburgers, hot dogs, B.B.Qed outdoors, overlooking the beautiful 10 acres of ground and trees and all the trimmings. Hot chilly, potato salad, beans, cake, drinks, were inside the auditorium where the ceremonies were later to be held.

The entire food preparation,

menu and service was done by Lois Peralta (Mrs. Lou Peralta) with the able assistance of Mrs. Pina, Mrs. Votava and Mr. and Mrs. Terry and Elizabeth Wolf.

After the serving of the food, Jim Goodrich brought his forty minute slide show, which focused on some sentimental footage of yesterday's skaters with a blend of some of the new wave skaters. The show was well received by the full house of people.

Immediately after the slide show, the presentation of the awards was started, with Lou Peralta opening the ceremonies by thanking all of the people that participated and helped with last year's ASPO.

Singled out were Jeane Hoffman and Jannet Losi both park owners that were at every ASPO lending a hand at running the events.

Also mentioned were those parents that supported the program all year and that in many cases were also "in there" helping with the events.

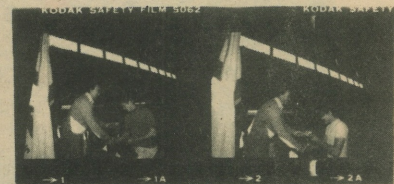
Mr. Peralta indicated that it was gratifying to see an increase of parent participation last year and that he looked forward to even a greater number of parents being involved this coming season.

He also mentioned that there were several parents working on starting a "parents group" to help support the ASPO program this year. Heading those parents is Jim Ranstrom, whose son Jack is an ASPO member. Anyone wishing to share some of their ideas as to how a parent group should be organized should contact Mr. Ranstrom at (213)536-1486.



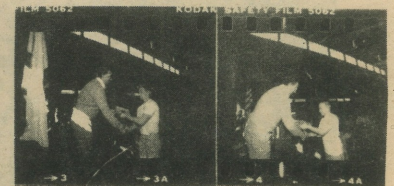
Mike Kruger

Lester Kasai



Tom Steenbock

Henry Matus



Rick Tracey

Bill D'Angelo



James Murphy

Kent Douglas

D. Jorgenson



Tony Hawk

Chris Miller

Mark Rogowski



Mike Hirsch

Bob Serafin

Brad Jackman



Terry Wolf (BIG O owner) and Melanie Pina (parent) helped out with the B.B.Q, which by everyone's opinion was just right.



BIG O Skatepark was the "overall park team" winner. Accepting for the park were owners **Elizabeth and Terry Wolf**.



Roland Cobalis



Lance Mountain



Neil Blender



Bill Ruff

Eddie Meek

Rusty Morris

David Weaver

Gerry Hurtado

Carabeth Burnside

Penny Fritts

Sue Feldman

Dave Goldsmith

Bobby Chase

Tracy Baldwin

Paul Votava

Following that part of the ceremonies, Mr. Peralta gave general information of the coming season which was received with great expectation. (See next issue for details)

Then the really fun part of the awards were started. It was the drawing for the prizes.

These prizes were donated by many of the manufacturers in the industry and outside and by some of the park.

There were over \$10,000. in prizes donated this year which included as the main prize a full-size pinball machine. This last prize was obtained by the BIG O Skatepark from his Arcade consessionaire; The Wizard

Coin Amusement Co.

The drawings started by pulling out the ticket stubs bought by the skaters and their families at the beginning of the day. From the drawing box, over 75 tags were pulled out, giving many of the ASPO skaters some great prizes, like: skateboard decks, trucks, wheels, safety equipment, tennis shoes, hats, bags, subscriptions, roller skates, and many skating accessories.

The last prize, the pinball machine, was drawn from a box containing the names of the top three skaters in each ASPO division and age group.

The entire drawing took over an hour. Finally the drawing for the big prize was on hand and the first name pulled out was that of Todd Joseph. Todd was there, but ironically, he had left only five minutes before the final drawing, so that when his name was called, he was not there to pick up the pin ball machine. A second name was then drawn and Bobby Chase, of Tarzana was the big winner. His mom and dad were there, and quick arrangements were made to cart the machine back home.

The entire awards lasted about three and a half hours and the overwhelming reaction of those that attended was that it was a

great, fun and exciting awards.

Thanks goes to all those that supported the ASPO season and especially to those that contributed those great prizes: SIMS, VARIFLEX, POWELL, Z-FLEX, VANS, G & S, NIKE, SANTA CRUZ, SKAT'N NEWS, TRACKER, GULLWING, IMPACT, RECTOR, MAD RATS, BIG O, SKATERCROSS, SKATE CITY, MARINA, PIPELINE, COLTON Skateparks.

Look for details of the upcoming ASPO season in the next issue.

BMX'ers at APPLE

Story & photos by
Kevin C. Tate

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25th, WAS THE DATE FOR APPLE SKATE-PARKS' FIRST BMX COMPETITION.

In the past Apple has tried to have a BMX contest, but it could not draw enough entries to make it possible.

This time, however, much to their delight, there were more BMX'ers than expected. There were 34 entries for this event.

I had seen many BMX'ers before at the park, but this time we had some of the best guys around and they were totally blowing all minds, including yours truly.

★ RESULTS

HIGHEST AIR First Contest

1. Ed Morris 81.5"
2. Todd Bitter 76.0"

3/4 PIPE FREESTYLE

1. Ed Morris
2. Dave Fenstermaker
3. Guy Craft
3. Anthony Romero

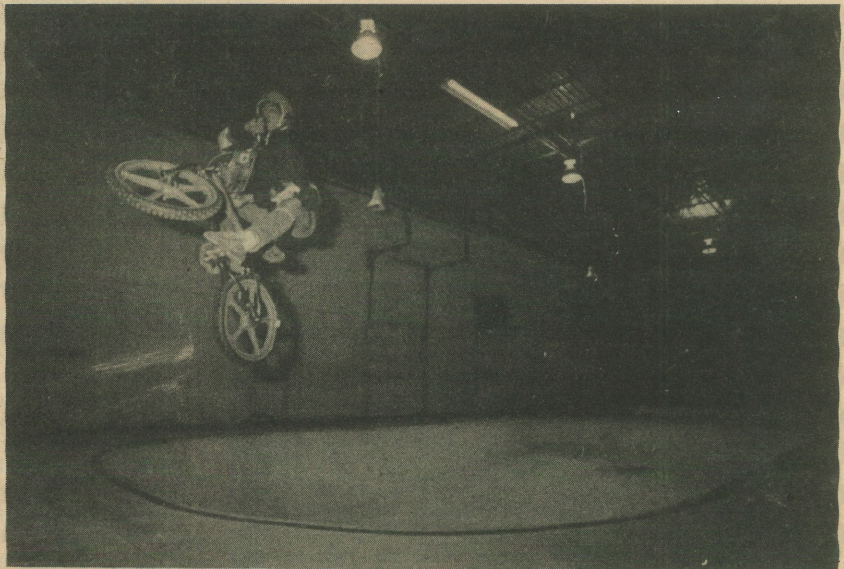
HIGHEST AIR Second Contest

1. Ed Morris 76.0"
2. Todd Bitter 76.5"

3/4 PIPE FREESTYLE

1. Ed Morris
2. Dave Fenstermaker
3. Russell Tschimpke
4. Guy Craft

•••••



Ed Morris, the crowd favorite, rides for factory TOCKER and he totally lived up to expectations.

In the "Highest Air" department, Ed was hitting no less than six and a half feet airs, with his highest being seven feet!

Right behind Ed was Todd Bitter, with airs of six and a half feet.

This part of the contest was right down intense. Unfortunately, pictures of those aerials were not available at press time

On the 3/4 pipe these guys were unreal! Kickouts atop of the 3/4 pipe were enough to scare the daylights out of all unsuspecting on lookers.

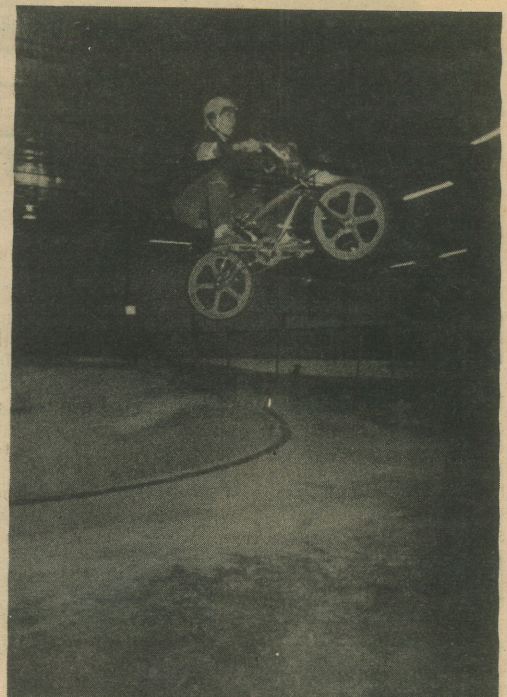
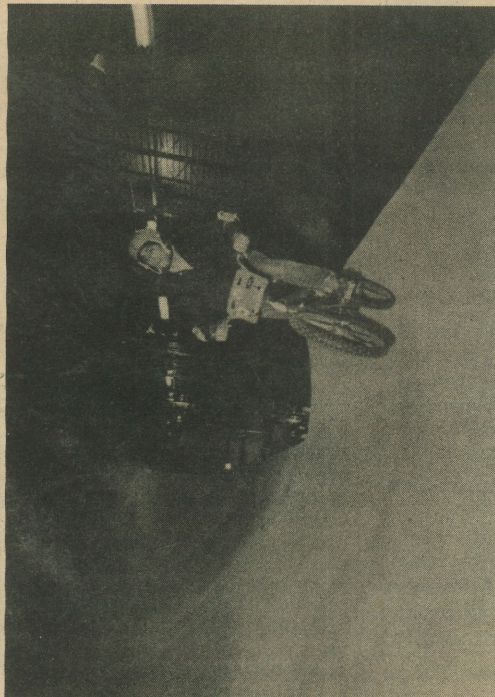
This first time event was a suc-

cess, and Apple is now planning many more contests for all these wild BMX'ers in Ohio and the surrounding areas.

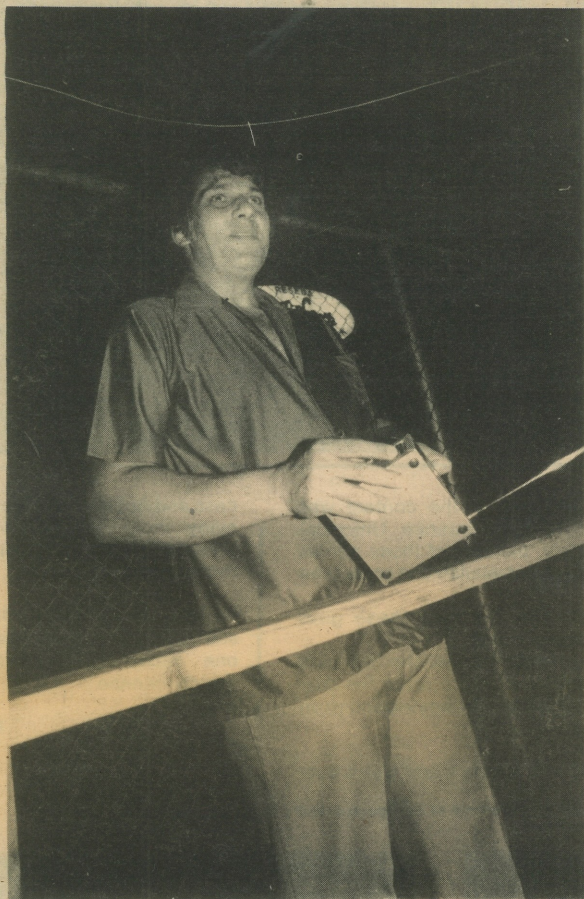
All you two-wheeled rippers start getting ready for the next one 'cause it's going to be heavily intense.

K.C.T.

New dimensions on an old piece of equipment that's been around for years. Phot Kevin Tate.



FOCUS:



GIL LOSI SR. Variflex

He has designed most of the product made by VARIFLEX, he and his wife Jannet own part and manage the Rancho Meditterania Skatepark in Colton, California and he is the leader, coach and mentor of the VARIFLEX Team.

For this reason, we thought that an interview with him would be informative and enlightening.

Gil lives in Rialto, near San Bernardino and works during the week in Northridge, in the San Fernando Valley, about 80 miles from home. We caught up with him one evening recently when he stayed "in town" to get to work early.

Gil, how did you get involved in skateboarding?

Ok, it was kind of funny. I was running another company making motorcycles and mini bikes and swimming pools, Christmas things, and my brother Ray had a rep company in California, a "manufacturers representative", and my nephew (Jay) was working for a skateboard company and we all got together at my neices wedding and said, why don't we do something on our own.

So we decided to go into the skateboard business. At that time it was just going to be a sidelight thing, just you know, something we would work on on the side. My nephew, wanted to work on it on a full time, and as it turned out, my brother and I wound up also on a full time basis.

When was this...what year?

1977, late 1977.

Here in California?

Yeah.

Before we get into specifics, you've got a family.

I have a wife Jannet, and two boys, Alan and Gil Jr., who both skate, you know...Gil mostly skates Slalom and Alan skates pools and freestyle.

How long have you been married?

A long time...nineteen years.

Nineteen years, that's great. When VARIFLEX first started, what was its first product?

Well the first thing we did was to make a line of mass-merchant boards called "Flexible Flyer", what our goal was though to get into professional goods, and our first professional product that we made was the "Clouds" cushions.

Then I started going into parks and that's when my kids started skating and I kept seeing that kids were going through these cushions, you know left and right and every time I saw a skater, he was changing cushions on his board. So we got together with some urethane people and started making urethane cushions and that was the beginning for the bro end of it.

What's your responsibility in the company?

I handle all the product design and advertising...and packaging and the Team, which everyone thinks it's a little job but sometimes can get to be a big job.

Yeah, I know what you mean. What came after the "clouds"?

Then we started coming out with boards. In those days they were the 8 1/4" boards. And we were buying trucks...other trucks, not our own. And... then we came out with our own wheel. I think our first wheel was the "Variflex Express". It was poured by a company called IDI, who made the Panther wheels and they made SIMS Snakes and alot of others.

And then we went on with the evolution of skateboards. Got into the wider boards, you know we designed our own trucks, got into new wheels and now we've just come out with the "core" wheel and we're working on alot of new things.

Well VARIFLEX has become one of the important names in the industry. Was that part of a long range program you and your brother set up? Because it didn't take too long.

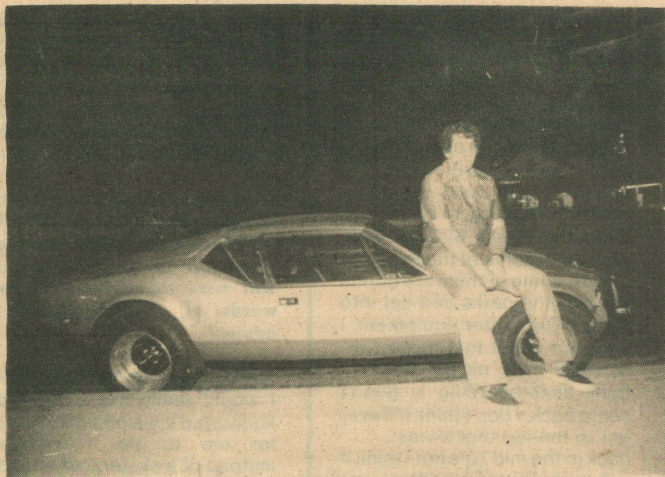
Well, our program was to try to make the best possible equipment and get some good skaters behind it. I think that's what we did.

Our first pro skater was George Orton and then Eric Grisham. I guess when people saw what they could do with our equipment, they realized it must be alright. And little by little we tried to make the best stuff, you know. There are three or four other companies that make some real good products too. But we keep trying to update it, change it all the time.

VARIFLEX now makes just about the whole range of skateboard equipment and accessories right?

Well, I think you know that we're the only company that makes decks and wheels and trucks and everything to go along with them; of course "clouds" and nose guards, tail blocks and we've been selling alot of hardware, cuz we've got the best hardware.

Also copers and you know the sliders, the rails. We try to do it the right way, rather than buying extrusions or something like that, we've made molds and try to use the best material available, to keep it light and long-



Gil and pride and joy, the reconditioned Pantera

lasting.

And besides skateboards we make a line of rollerskate products too. We make plates and wheels that the outdoor distance racers are all using and doing very well. We're playing with some indoor rink wheels, I'm not sure what's gonna happen with it, some of the skaters like it. So we're in the roller skate business too.

So far it seems that you and your brother have been very successful with all your product and in a very short time. How does an idea come about and how do you put it into production?

Well, you know, Ray handles the financing and sales of the company and he's good at it and I handle the advertising and promotion and design. We have different talents and respect each other and we just don't jump at everything we want to do. I mean you have to make something that's got a potential of sales and you gamble. You spend the money on tooling and you hope that you can sell enough to pay for the tooling and make a profit. And so far, in everything we've toolled we have.

It looks like you're batting a 1000.

Yeah mostly. Some of the things took a while to catch on. Like when we went into the roller skate plates we spent about \$90,000. in tooling that project. And our goal was to pay for it in a year and we did it in eight months. So...uhh, that was our big one and that one (sigh of relief) worked!

What's next in terms of a major development, or are you just going to continue to improve what you have?

Well, I still have a couple more steps left on the "core" wheel. The wheels we're shipping out now are made out of our test mold. In about four weeks our production mold will be done which makes alot of cavities so we can really support the market. We're also playing with a set of new indoor plates for roller skates and we're working on something new for skateboards too, but we're not ready to go into that yet.

Do you think that there's still alot of room to improve skateboards?

Yeah there is. The problem is if you try to make things indestructable, they cost an awful lot of money. And I think that the skater would rather go through three or four boards at \$30. or \$40., than to pay \$100. for something that lasts three times as long. So we're trying to come out with something in the right price range that lasts longer.

Let's talk about the VARIFLEX Team. You said Orton was the first and then Grisham, but how did you go about putting together the team you now have, which is an excellent team both in the pro and amateur ranks.

Well, we got lucky at first. You know...I think that most manufacturers go to skateparks that are closer to where they are at. And I live in San Bernardino and the first park I went to was Skater Crater and that's where I

met Patty Hoffman and Bill Hanes and then Alan, you know my youngest son, he started out as a freestyler. I'll never forget, the first contest we went to was a USASA contest at Skatopia. Of course nobody knew who we were or anything else, but we did really good. I think that Patty and Billy both won the Slalom and Alan won freestyle and uh...I think Patty was second on the half pipe, Alan was about 6th, which wasn't bad in those days, since the park they were skating didn't even have any vertical.

Then I think that the next skater was Eric Grisham. Eric really helped us alot cuz Eric is a high-powered skater and I can remember, you know going to those USASA contests with Eric when he was doing footplants and nobody else was and he was really radical. He was also probably the best equipment tester in the world, cuz, you know, he just doesn't jump off a trick, he's hard, just...I guess that's why he won that "Bongo" award. He puts the equipment through...really through hell.

How did you find Eric?

At SKATERCROSS, you know... our factory is in Chatsworth and we spent alot of time going to SKATERCROSS and I saw Eric skate alot. We talked to him for a long time and we were new and he didn't know who we were and then as time went on I think he got some faith in us. I think that Lou sat down with him one day and told him that these guys are for real and they're really serious about skateboarding.

There were alot of contests going on and I didn't see Eric at them and I kept telling him he ought to be at all contets and so he started skating for us and we made sure he got to them, and he started doing very well and we've done very well together.

As a matter of fact your entire team has done well in contests hasn't it?

Yeah well, After the Skatopia contets I spoke of, our team grew and we went on and won alot of championships. At the VANS, I think the VANS State Championships we won in every division we had a skater in. You know this was really absolutely unvelievable. Then there were a couple of professional highlights too. The first pro contest I ever went to with a skater was Boulder...The Hester Series. We went there with Eric Grisham and Bill Hanes and Eddie Elguera who was skating for Hobie and Variflex.

It was an unbelievable first contest cuz Billy won the Slalom against all the Colorado skaters, Eric was second in the pool and Eddie was third! So that was a tremendous thing for us. I think the next highlight was the Hester Finals at Upland a year ago (actually two), when we won all divisions there. Steve Hirsch won amateur, Eric Grisham won pro; Eric and Steve won "doubles" and Patty Hoffman won girls amateur and pro. So we won every category!

And now of course I'm really proud of Eddie Elguera, for winning last season's Gold Cup.



No longer racing the real off-road cars, Gil is now heavily into R/C racing.

So as a result of such excellent skaters, you now have lots of signature models. How many?

Four...five...well, really six...seven all together, ok?

Ok. Which are they?

Uh...now I got to remember'em all. Well, you know the El Gato model, Eddie's and Steve Hirsch has a model,...hum Eric Grisham, of course, Alan Losi, we've just come out with his model...those four are all concave. Then we have Dennis Martinez, and Stuart Singer, he has a freestyle model, and Bill Hanes Slalom board...I think that's it.

Another tough question, how many people in your team. Put you in a spot?

Yeah, it's tough...altogether probably 18 or 19. We have some on the East as well. Well you know one of our pros is Freddy DeSota, he's a tremendous skater and Mike Hirsch. He's been skating for us for a while and he's always near the top as an amateur. Lance Mountain was our newest skater a year ago, and he wound up third in the Gold Cup which is not bad. We've just picked up Doug Cobalis, he's 13 years old and I think he's going to be an excellent skater. In the East we have Bobby Reese, in the Milwaukee area... Bill Furgeson in the Detroit area and in the Cherry Hill area we have Jeff Jones and Cody Let-singer and then we get down to the Maryland area and Timmy Cunningham and Joe Harris who's a freestyler. Then we go down to Florida and we have Monty Nolder and Bill Beauregard and out here little Danny Jorgesen and of course Gil Jr. Gil has been a great help to Alan and as you know Gil is also a great Slalom skater.

What do you look for in a skater, does he have to prove his worth by competing all the time?

Well, you really put a skater on your team to promote your product, so you look for some who'll represent your company well, because when they skate and they wear one of our shirts, they're...they're not only representing themselves but the company too. And the one's that are really serious about the sport is what we want. That doesn't mean you can't have a

good time and you know, screw around, but that you give it the best you can. I don't care if a guy finishes first or last if he just gives all he's got, that's all I ask.

Your Team Tour was one of the highlights last summer for some of the skaters outside of California. Whose idea was it and will you do it again?

Well, it's something I've always wanted to do, you know...I went back to Cherry Hill with Eddie once and you know, we sent Eric and Steve to a few places and Alan went back to Cherry Hill. But I always thought it would be great just to get a whole bunch of guys together if we got along. Yeah, it turned out to be really great and we were totally impressed with some of the parks and skaters around the country. There's really some

the beginning of 1980, probably got as low as it's gonna get. I know that there's more boards selling at the cheaper levels and that's really good, cuz that's where it all starts, you know. A kid isn't gonna go out and buy a \$120. skateboard when he doesn't know how to skate-board. He's going to buy something that costs \$20. or \$30. and out of some of those bunch of kids, some of them are gonna get into the parks and get into ramps. Get better equipment. I know for a fact that those type of sales have picked up...so I think skateboarding is gonna come back. I don't think it'll ever get to the fad that it was, back in the mid 70's but I think it will be a good, solid business and more than that a good sport.

Let's talk about you



Many nights when most people spend time watching the tube, Gil will spend it with his team checking for new routines. Here with Eric Grisham at SKATERCROSS.

great parks out there. And yeah, we're going to do it again. I don't know if we can get everywhere, but in the time we've got, we'd like to go to as many places as we can. I'd like parks or skaters to write me or call me if they would like to see us and if there's a chance we'll get there. There's no charge for this at all...and if they can, just give us a place to sleep and maybe something to eat while we're there. that's all we ask. We'll sleep on the floor, we did it last tour and didn't mind it at all. It was alot of fun, we met alot of people and learned alot about skateboarding.

What do you see in the future for skateboarding?

Well I think skateboarding, in

What do you like, what are your hobbies, what do you do for entertainment and recreation?

Well, I try to spend alot of time with my kids and I really enjoy them. Gil Jr. is 18 now and I don't know how much longer he'll be around so we try to spend alot of time together. Gil is building what they call a "California Buggy". It's a 57 Volks Wagon convertible and he's bought a high powered 2180 motor. I'm trying to help him with that as much as I can. And of course, I trying to spend alot of time with Alan at the skatepark.

Also, because Eric and Lou, we got into the radio controlled automobile "off road" racing, which is great for me because I'm a frustrated race driver any-

way, I used to do it. So the three of us do that and we get into the racing which is good for me and for the them. Their whole life is going to school and skateboarding, so this kinda breaks it up for all of us. It's lots of fun.

It sounds like you and Janner's life and the boys is pretty full. In closing is there anything you'd like to tell the kids that will read this interview. Any words of encouragement or advise?

I don't know. The one thing that I would really like to do, you know, and it's kinda of different for me to be interviewed, instead of a skater, but the first thing I want to do is to thank all of our skaters. Because alot of them were with VARIFLEX when we weren't well known and they took alot of boloney from it. You know, it was hard for them, but they stuck with us and we've tried to be vary fair with all of them and they have been super with us.

I think the other thing I want to say is that I get alot of phone calls from kids that want to get sponsored and they want free equipment. Well, I think the days of free equipment are over because the volume just isn't there to give away a whole lot of product. But what those kids have to do is get involved in a series like the ASPO series in California or the GLSA up in the Great Lakes area. I know Apple is now having a series of six contests and then there's the contest at Cherry Hill. They just got to get into competition and get known. It's great to skate in your back yard but you can't promote a product for a company if you skate in your back yard, in ramps or pools. If you want to skate for somebody, you've got to be visible and you've got to get a reputation. It takes alot of work to put it on the line.

I guess that's about it.

THE MOUNTAIN HALF PIPE

outstanding session in wood.

By Rusty Harris

Photos Rusty Harris.

Many of the boys returning from the Northern California session at Winchester and Campbell made their stop at the no longer secret skating spot...the Lance Mountain backyard ramp.

The up and coming star of VARIFLEX's amateur team has a half pipe that measures 12 feet wide, with coping on both sides. It's really an excellent home made ramp, where Lance and many of the local skaters get a chance to hone their abilities.

One local ripper and neighbor of Lance's is Enrique Esparza. He has that ramp wired and although he's not skated in any organized events, he looks like he could hold his own against some of the top skaters in ASPO or any other amateur events. His bag of tricks included insane frontside airs, fakie ollies, front side lapper grinds and front side ollies.



Lance Mountain on his backyard ramp showing the lines.

I hope we will be seeing more of him in the near future.

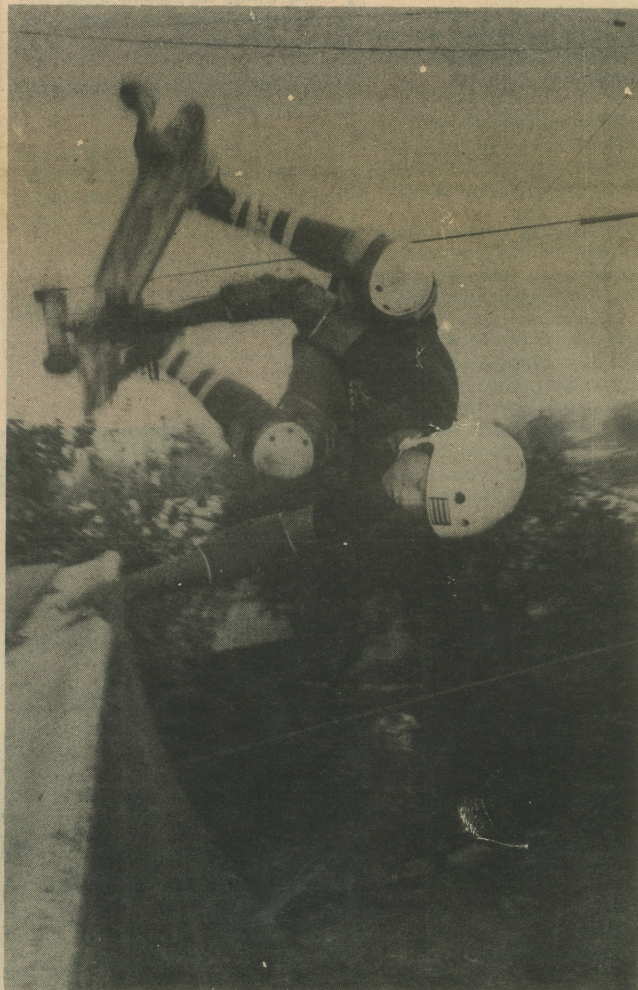
Of course Lance has his backyard terrain totally wired and demonstrated his ability on the wood edges to the max.

While Lance blazed away, other notable skaters like Ray Bones, Bob Serafin and George Sherman showed a trick or two to the locals.

It's a great ramp and lots of fun to skate.

Coming soon, the Huntington Pier Surfstyle Freestyle.

R.H.



Ray "Bones" Rodriguez took to the wood like a termite and liked it.
Photo. Rusty Harris

FIRST ANNUAL APPLE SKATEPARK AMATEUR SERIES...

Jan. 1, first contest & Jan. 10th second contest.

Story and photos by
Kevin C. Tate.

APPLE SKATEPARK WAS THE PERFECT PLACE AND SETTING FOR A WINTERTIME SERIES.

For those of you who may not know, APPLE is the hottest indoor skatepark anywhere and this series, hopefully will receive some of the recognition it deserves.

On to the contest. So far in the series we've had skaters from Michigan, Indiana, Pittsburgh, Kentucky and all parts of Ohio.

The energy is unreal! These guys want people to know that they are here, just ripping as well as anybody in the country.

Starting with the 14 & Under class: Chris Phillips, now sponsored by Santa Cruz, proved to be the man to beat. This kid has got to be one of the hottest vert skaters around. Someone who knows this is Sean Patrick, and lately, he's been pushing himself beyond belief.

The competition was tough but Sean went on to beat Chris by just one point. In the second contest, Chris suffered a bad fall but still went on with the competition.

In the 15 & Over class, we had 16 entrants who were real intense.

Brett Martin from Springfield, Ohio has come a long way in just a couple of months to show these guys what ripping is all about. Brett remains to be the only local to rock n' roll the 3/4 pipe at Apple, not to mention the countless amount of other tricks this guy can do. The man rips! Brett ripped his way into 1st in both contests but not easily.

A young man by the name of Ken Mollica (crowd favorite) has been keeping the pressure on Brett, with unreal moves and lots of speed. Kenny, I'm proud to say is now riding as amateur for SIMS. He's a fine skater and for over a year now he's continued to rip Apple.

Results of both contests appear here below.

Ron Dudley and myself would like to thank all the participants up to this point and we would like to see more of you keep coming back.
Till next time. Good luck.

Kevin Tate

★



Ken Mollica, age 15 in flight.

RESULTS

EGG BOWL & HAL PIPE

14 & Under:

Jan. 1, 1981 Contest

1. Sean Patrick 84.125/100 pts.
2. Chris Phillips 83.750/99 pts.

14 & Under:

Jan 10th contest:

1. Sean Patrick 82.375/100 pts.
2. Jex Herrison 76.000/99 pts.
3. Whitney Calpin 76.000/99 pts.
4. Chris Phillips 73.75/98 pts.

15 & Over.

Jan. 1, 1981 contest

1. Brett Martin 83.125/100 pts.
2. Ken Mollica 81.375/99 pts.
3. Robbie Bergendall 80.25/98 pts.
4. Bill Furgeson 80.25/98 pts.
4. Bill Furgeson 78.875/97 pts.
5. Wayne Lyons 77.375/96 pts.
6. Greg Mack 77.25/95 pts.
7. Rob Dolby 76.75/94 pts.
8. Casey Marzetti 76.5/93 pts.
9. Todd Cadieux 76.125/92 pts.
10. Blaise Nesser 75.75/91 pts.

- 11 Mike Ohm 75.125/90 pts.
- 12 Dave Bush 73.75/89 pts.
- 13 Mike Toth 72.375/88 pts.
- 14 Mark Peters 71.875/87 pts.
- 14 Mark Carpenter 71.875/87 pts.
- 16 John Hoshtrasser 70.375/86 pts.
- 17 Alan Wallace 65.25/85 pts.

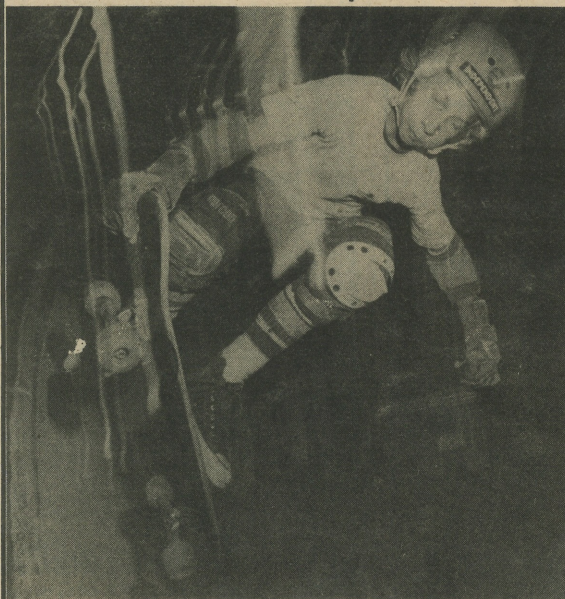
15 & Over.

Jan. 10, 1981 contest:

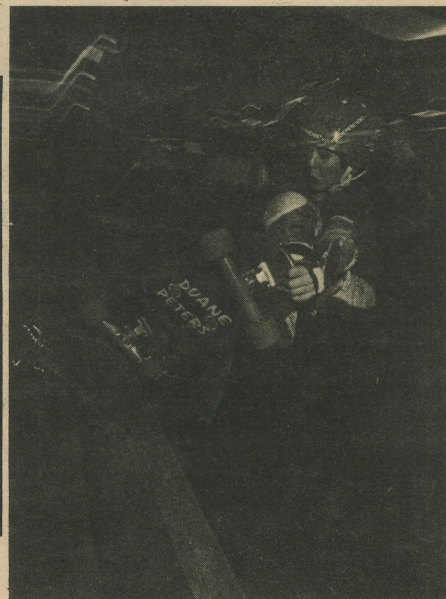
1. Brett Martin 82.5/100 pts.
2. Ken Mollica 81.875/99 pts.
3. Rob Roskopp 78.875/98 pts.
4. Wayne Lyons 78.125/97 pts.
4. Robbie Bergendall 78.125/97 pts.
6. Blaise Nesser 77.875/96 pts.
7. Shawn Scott 77.75/95 pts.
8. Kevin Chinchar 77.625/94 pts.
9. Bill Furgeson 77.0/93 pts.
10. Dave Bush 76.125/92 pts.
11. Greg Mack 76.0/91 pts.
12. Casey Marzetti 75.125/90 pts.
13. Joe Omelchuck 73.875/89 pts.
14. Rob Dolby 72.75/88 pts.
15. Harod Ansonge 72.125/87 pts.
16. Mike Toth 70.125/86 pts.
17. Marty Jimenez 69.75/85 pts.
18. Mike Blauvelt 65.0/84 pts.

(Overall totals forthcoming)

●●●●



Sean Patrick took first in both the first and second contest. He's 14.



Chris Phillips age 11, grinding the edge.

THE CAMPBELL BUST... or "closed session".

Photos and story by

Rusty Harris.

Christmas vacation found some of the Southern California boys on the loose and looking for new "crete" to slash.

Not satisfied with the local southern scene, myself and several hot skaters decided to invade the Northern California terrain for a few days.

The group included Ray "Bones" Rodriguez, Steve Caballero, Jay Smith, Bill Ruff, Scott Foss, Lance Mountain, Bob Serafin, George Sherman, and joined later by some local skaters.

We skated Winchester, but not satisfied with the controlled atmosphere, they all decided to give the now "closed" Campbell Skatepark a try, for old time sake.

The park seems to be more popular now that it is closed than it was when it was open.

Campbell has one of the best half pipes around and when we got there, that's where the sessioning concentrated.

Unfortunately, just when things were getting hot, the boys in blue showed up to put a temp-



Bob Serafin working the outer extremities of the CAMPBELL half pipe.

orary halt to the vert madness.

All, made their way out of the park through the back way through somebody's yard, only to jump back to the park after confronting a rather surprised and vicious looking dog.

Later on the boys regrouped a block away, only to be busted in front of the famous sandwich place, TOGOS.

The gentlemen in blue later let them go after a typical lecture and as to the fact that there wasn't enough room in the car for fourteen skaters and their equipment.

Irrespectively, while it lasted, it was a great session on a great half pipe.

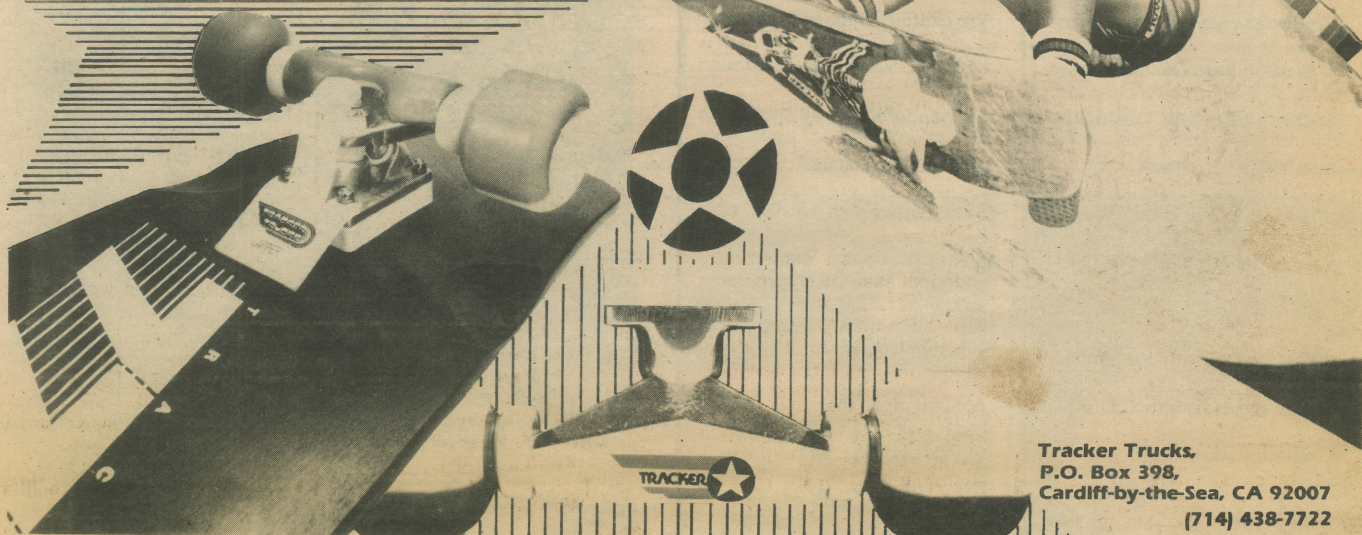
R.H.



Harry Williams at Winchester. Photo Rusty Harris.

Ray "Bones" Rodriguez Sezi

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SCOOP...

CLARK HARRELL...

World's youngest skatepark manager.



By Patrick Wachter

Clark Harrell has climbed the ranks of Alabama skaters well. From regular local at Flying Wheels Skatepark, in Gadsden, Alabama; to team captain, to skate patrol employee, to his present position of park manager! Not bad, considering he is only 16 years old!

In the mid summer of 1980, the park was looking for a new manager. Clark was there and jumped in at the opportunity and has provided a mature and level-headed leadership that the park sorely needed.

Flying Wheels' search for a manager was over. Owner, Bill Norton, evidently has faith in Clark, since he will be starting his second season as manager. The atmosphere at the park is really unique, very youth oriented.

Clark not only possesses good management qualities, but has a great supply of skating talent. He is an all-around excellent skater.

Though Clark spends most skating hours on the "vert", he is also an accomplished freestyle and slalom skater. During the 1980 season Clark

finished in the top three in all competitions he entered. He has a smooth style and a large quiver of tricks. He has won the respect of many Southeastern skaters.

Here is part of an interview with the young skater from Gadsden Alabama, who's dreams are rapidly becoming realities. Even though Clark's 17th birthday is just around the corner, he will have no problem remaining the "world's youngest skatepark manager".

P.W.- How does it feel to be the youngest skatepark manager?

C.H.- I don't really know. When you put it that way I guess it feels kinda weird. It's definitely not all fun and games like some people may think. Like there's lots of times when I had rather just go out and skate. One thing is for sure, it beats cooking hamburgers.

P.W.- Of all the pros that have skated Flying Wheels, who impressed you the most?

C.H.- Well, when Gelfand came out to our park he absolutely blew my mind with his ollies. This past summer, the VARIFLEX Team came out to the park, all of their skaters shred, but Freddie DeSota seemed to skate our park the best.

P.W.- You organized and competed in the second Flying Wheels Invitational without one protest.

C.H.- Yeah, that contest was a blast, everybody skated real well, and I think everybody had a great time. Thanks to VARIFLEX, TRACKER, GULLWING and Kinney Shoes for their support.

P.W.- What equipment are you riding these days?

C.H.- For vert, I ride a Bert LaMar, Indy's 151, and the new SIMS wheels. For freestyle, I ride a Rocco with INDY's 121 and SIMS Roller Snakes. I also wear VAN hitops and SIO hip-pads.



Manager Clark Harrell
Photo. Tom Weathington

P.W.- How about the tunes you are playing at the park?

C.H.- Our park is temporarily closed for the winter. We usually listen to the Sex Pistols, Clash, 999, Dickey's, Devo, B-52's, Surf Punks and occasionally a little Van Halen.

P.W.- Who do you usually skate with?

C.H.- Hacker Wilson, Buddy Rawls, Kurt Jose, Bart Burgess and Jon Moyer. I like to watch Deloris McCoy and Paul Gierow rollerskate. Totally bio!

P.W.- I know you're kinda of young to be giving advice, but do you have any advice for skatepark managers or owners?

C.H.- The first thing you have to do is stick with it. With all the dozers at work these days, only the best will survive. Skaters are gonna need a place to skate. Another thing, lower your skatertime rates because you have to remember the age group you're dealing with. I've been there, I mean asking Pop for a \$1.50 all the time doesn't work. I also think skating should have more coverage by Television and newspaper because the general public has the impression that it is dead. They never see it.

P.W.- Clark, good luck in your second season as manager of Flying Wheels.

C.H.- Thanks Pat. I'm definitely gonna need it. I would like to thank Bill Norton(owner) for my free skating and my job.

Pat Wachter

Brad Jackman

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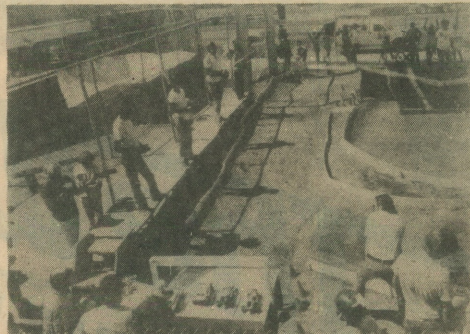
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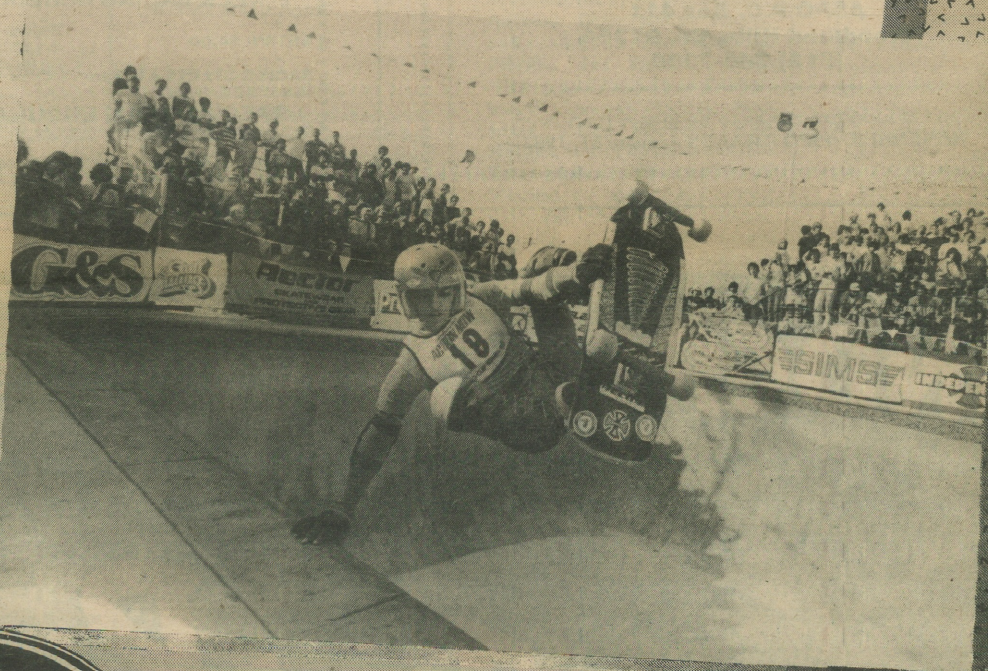
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