

Inmates see cycle display in Correctional Center show

By Paula Bauer

Saturday's record low temperatures kept some people away, but about 100 motorcycles, 180 participants and 240 inmates braved the weather and took part in the First Annual Lincoln Correctional Center Bike Show.

LCC administrator Don Shada said he thought it was the first time in 15 years that a bike show was held in a Nebraska correctional facility.

"But if it goes well today," Shada said, "we'll do it again. One thing we're going to do differently, though, is to do it in July."

The show, which was sponsored by A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments of Nebraska, gave awards in thirteen categories.

Men were subject to a pat search before entering the center and purses, packages, cameras and questionable items could not be taken into the center. Shada said, "We haven't done much, though, except open the gates and close the gates."

Participants were mostly from Nebraska, but some came from Kansas and Iowa. Luann Haffner said she "froze" that morning driving from Omaha.

"A COUPLE OF times, people stopped and asked if I was having bike trouble, but I was just warming up my engine," she said. Haffner said that it is "different for a girl on a bike. You can read people's lips saying 'it's a girl.' And see them adjusting their mirror to look."

Haffner collected the Best Overall American Custom Award for her husband, who could not attend. She said the modified white and chrome Harley cost about \$7,000.

Although many of the bikes were Harley-Davidsons, there also were Yamahas, Kawasakis and Hondas. One original bike was a tinfoil and cardboard creation by an inmate. The custom Harley chopper, complete with rear view mirror, gas cap and decorative art, was finished only that morning. It took about 75 hours to make the bike, which was donated to ABATE after the show.

Amid the chrome and tin foil gleaming in the sun were one dirt bike, rat bikes and choppers. Dirt bikes are built higher off the ground than choppers. The two forks, which connect the handle bars and front wheel, are more vertical on a dirt bike than a chopper. This allows a dirt bike to take severe bumps without snapping the forks.

A rat, one biker said, is "not much to look at. It's got oil all over it and looks awful. But it gets you where you want to go."

AWARDS WERE PRESENTED after the inmates voted on the 13 categories. T-shirts, which were made for the show, said "Behind the Wall with ABATE of Nebraska."

The idea for the bike show inside the correctional facility originated with correctional officer Norm Stalbird and inmate Ken Casey. Stalbird, an ABATE member for five months, said they only had six weeks to organize the show and he was pleased with how well it went. Eight representatives from the inmate population helped with the organization. One of the eight was picked by the women at the show as king. The inmates had voted earlier on a queen from pictures that had been submitted.

Casey said the show "boosts a lot of people's morale. Seeing a bike shows them something out there that they want."

Mark, another inmate, said the show was a "chance to talk to people who are living a different kind of life. You get off in your own world in there. Coming to this reinforces that there is a real world out there. It hurts and it helps," he said. "I don't think about the real world much."

Mike said he almost didn't come to the show. "I don't come out in the yard and look at Lincoln much. It makes me hurt. I think about free people and I want to be free." But he came to the show and said he met "some pretty nice people. It didn't bother me like I thought it would."

THE PLAQUE PRESENTED to the LCC administration was collected by Shada. His comment that "if things go well as they have, this won't be the last time" drew loud applause.

ABATE's State Coordinator Aldis Augstums said he hopes "this is a take-off" for future bike shows at the center. Augstums said the proceeds, after expenses, will be donated to the inmates' fund.

ABATE is a national organization with about 60 chapters. The Nebraska chapter was formed about two years ago. Augstums said the Kansas ABATE chapter has been trying for six years to have a bike show inside a correctional facility, but has failed.

ABATE of Nebraska also teaches the motorcycle safety course held on summer weekends at Lincoln East High School's parking lot.

"Parents usually can't teach you how to drive a bike," ABATE member Steve Sypal said. The 24-hour long course includes safety films, a written test and practice.

"Skills are gone over so many times that things come instinctively," he said. About 60 people, ranging in age from 14 to 52, have taken the course in the two summers that it has been offered, he added.

Thone—no comment on Ag budget

By Kevin Field

Although Gov. Charles Thone said the university's overall request for a 15 percent increase in state funds for next year was "too high," he would not comment on the 16 percent increase requested by the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The vice chancellor of the institute described the increase as a "bare-bones budget." Martin Massengale said the increase would be used to plan for the start-up of a regional veterinary college, develop a center for agricultural marketing for the agricultural economics department, and increase Cooperative Extension Service personnel.

Randy Moody, administrative assistant to the governor, said the overall budget will not be as high as the requests. He said they are in the process of reviewing the requests, but have not looked at the specific components of the university. "We will be shooting for a goal somewhere around a 7 percent increase in the budget. Some components could receive more and some could receive less," he said.

Regent Robert Koefoot of Grand Island said he did not know about the institute's request until reading about it that morning and said, "the ag institute is part of the university and part of the university budget." He said he did not think the Institute's request was out of line and added that the university budget is "all bare-bones."

Alan Moeller, assistant to the vice chancellor for finance and personnel, said the institute general-fund request for the 1980-81 fiscal year is \$22,316,725, up from the \$19,244,721 appropriated for 1979-80.

The amounts do not include special contracts. The actual increase equals 17.2 percent for a total of \$23,721,799, if these are taken into consideration, Moeller said.

A number of programs would be added if the budget is approved, Moeller said. Included in the budget is \$82,200 for the development of an agricultural marketing center for the agricultural economics department. "We feel we need to provide more help to industry," said Moeller, adding that the importance of marketing has increased dramatically in recent years.

One of the largest increases provides for a 10 percent salary increase, which is in accordance to the regents' guidelines for the university, he said. That increase amounts to \$2,005,934.

\$66,500 has been requested for hiring more agricultural, horticultural and home agents for the Cooperative Extension Service, Moeller said.

Other requests include funds for remodeling the agricultural engineering building which is number two on the university's priority list, construction of the Nebraska's portion of the regional veterinary college and for funds to continue various development projects.

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