



## DEAN'S LIST HONDA

THERE'S SOMETHING to be said about the magical appeal of Honda Fours when a seasoned campaigner like Don Dean selects the Japanese newcomer to be on the "Dean's list" of bikes he's owned: five Harleys, three Triumphs, two Ajays, one Velocette, an Ariel Square Four, three Indians and a Whizzer. He started riding on an Indian 25 years ago and hasn't stopped since; this Honda gets ridden to work every day, a cool 50-mile jaunt from his San Fernando Valley, Calif., home — 50 miles each way! As a sheetmetal man Don had the know-how to do all the work on the Honda himself. He removed the two upper frame rails, raked the neck to 42°, welded on a homemade hard tail and did all molding before Holly Custom did the painting. Don machined his own fork tubes for a 10-inch extension and installed a 6-inch Bates headlight on a stock triple crown with the instrument bracket removed. A 17-inch wheel with Honda 90 brake runs up front. Don's wife Eunice (a mother of four) did the stitching on the seat which dips more than a foot below stock level before shooting up hand-built 1/4 x 1-inch bar stock sissy. In an effort to retain as many Honda parts as possible, except where he made his own, Don left the rear wheel stock and mounted two small bullet running lights on the axle. The stock Honda tire is long gone, however, for mileage when photographed was just under 35,000, and this is the third Dunlop K70. That 100-miles-a-day really adds up. Don's sheetmetal expertise is evident in the hand-fabricated oil tank which nestles snugly under the seat and glistens with TechniPlate chrome. The engine remains stock except for velocity stacks and VW mufflers, and a neat job of concealing ignition wires where the electric starter used to be — Don's still enough of a purist to light 'er off himself.

