

Tastes get fancy when people think about motorcycles

by MARK STEWART
of The Outlook staff

There is no shortage of models from which the motorcycle enthusiast can choose when making a purchase.

A potential buyer can spend as little as \$400 for a moped for riding around town. But if one of the new fully-equipped touring cycles which have hit the market is the buyer's desire, his wallet better be full of cash.

The largest market are for cycles which can be used for touring, says Les Barker of Gresham Suzuki. Gresham's three cycle shops have touring machines prices from about \$2,000 to nearly \$7,000 for what one manufacturer calls his Rolls-Royce on two wheels.

Yamaha started the trend toward high-performance cruisers a few years ago and now each major manufacturer has a wide variety for enthusiasts to choose from. Barker says most buyers — who are older primarily because the cost of the cycles has increased dramatically in recent years — are doing their homework before making a purchase.

"The average buyer is a lot more selective and a lot more educated on what's available in a motorcycle," he says. "A couple will come and ask about how much gear a bike can carry and whether the engine will last 100,000 miles."

Although enthusiasts are again favoring traditional styling and moving away from the "low rider, chopper style" machine, performance remains a top priority, Barker says. "How fast does it go" is a more important question than "how many miles to the gallon does it get," Barker says.

The manufacturers are giving the buyers the performance they want. Engines have become more sophisticated as items such as fuel injection, turbocharging, special piston and cylinder design, counterbalances and water cooling are appearing on more models. Also, many cycles have sophisticated suspensions, some of which can be adjusted by the owner, including during a ride.

Motorcycles also are being designed with extended maintenance intervals and to allow an owner with to make most mechanical adjustments themselves without the need for special tools.

While many models have been revamped this year, there are a number of new models which can be seen at the Gresham dealers — Country Yamaha-Kawazaki at 1989 E. Powell Blvd., Gresham Honda at 20 NE Hogan Road, and Gresham Suzuki, SE 242nd Avenue and Burnside Road. Here is a sampling of the new models which the dealers carry:

- The most expensive machine is the Honda Goldwing Aspencade, which carries a suggested price of \$6,795. Honda calls the Aspencade "a machine as dedicated to luxury on two wheels as the Rolls-Royce is dedicated to luxury on four."

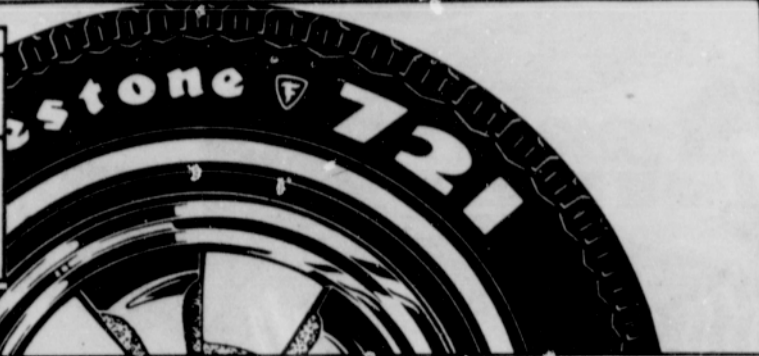
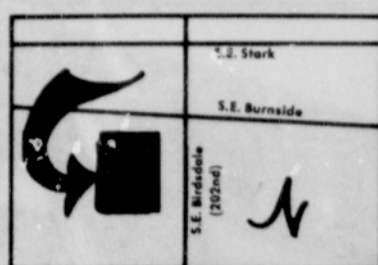
It seems as if the standard equipment list includes just about everything a rider would want including front fairing, saddlebags and a trunk, AM-FM stereo radio, an air suspension which is adjustable during a ride and touring saddles.

Mechanically, the motorcycle has a 1,100 cc, water-cooled four cylinder engine, shaft drive and disc brakes;

- Suzuki offers a similar model, the 1100 GK, but the suggested price of \$4,995 is nearly \$2,000 less than the Honda. However, it includes much of the same standard equipment such as stereo radio, side and rear luggage, air suspension (it is not adjustable during a ride, however) and high power lights;

- Also new this year and selling for a suggested \$4,995 is the Yamaha 650 Turbo. This cycle is one of the fastest available, running the quarter-mile in 11.6 seconds and with a top speed of 115 miles per hour.

The machine features a turbocharged 650cc engine, which gives it the power of a cycle with an engine nearly twice the size. The turbo forces a compressed air and fuel mixture into the cylinder head to be burned. The result is a dramatic increase in power. The device has what is called a "wastegate" to bleed off excess pressure so high pressures which can damage or destroy the engine can not develop.



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P-185/75R14	CR78/14	60.95	2.04
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P-205/70R14	DR70/14	67.95	2.23
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