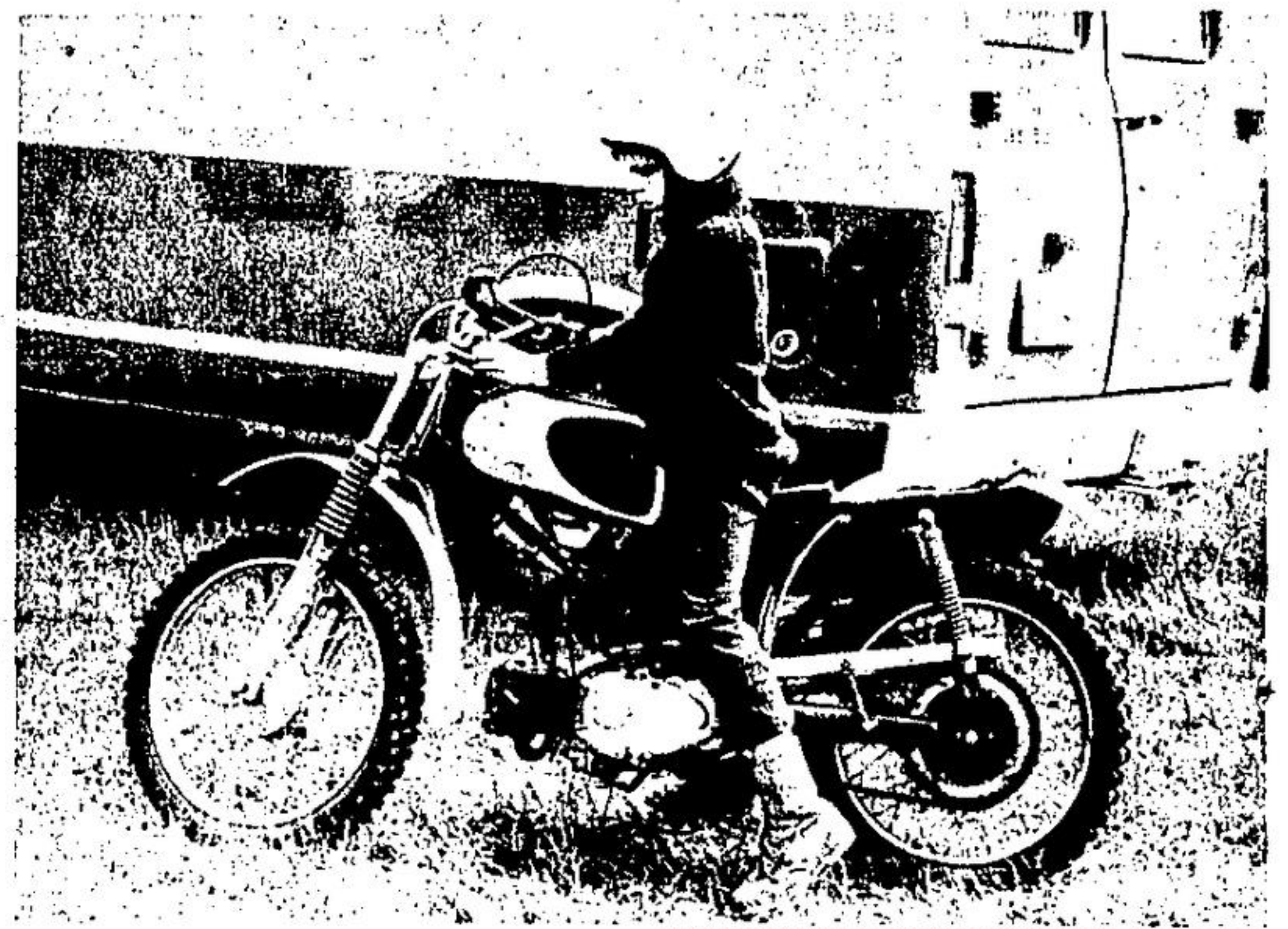




PREPARING FOR THE RACE Jon placed second overall in the Canadian Championships which were held in Calgary. Jon was twelve years old at the time.



IN ONE OF HIS TESTS OF ENDURANCE and stamina in the motocross course at Cope Town, Jon placed first overall. He was twelve years old at the time.



BARELY ABLE TO TOUCH THE GROUND, Jon, at eight years was already racing his Honda 55.

# Nothing holds him back

The leathers are on, the engines rev, the flag goes down, the crowd cheers, and the dust begins to fly.

What are your thoughts as you wait anxiously for the starter to drop the flag?

"I think how I'm going to get to the first corner before everyone else." Plain and simple thoughts of thirteen-year-old Jon Cornwell of Georgetown. Jon has been racing motorcycles since he was seven.

Jon's world revolves around motorcycles. He has competed in some 200 races, ranging from motocross to flat track to trials. He usually

places in the top three and has at least 30 trophies displaying his ambition and his ability. How did it all begin?

With his father, Norm, and mother Betsy, both riding bikes, Jon decided he wanted to get into the action. "I started because dad had been riding for a long time. One day I said 'Dad, I want to start to ride like you.' So, on his fifth birthday, Jon got his first mini-bike.

After about one year of riding he worked his way up to a Honda 55, a Honda 90 and is now riding in the 125 Junior class.

It's not just a simple matter of climbing

onto the bike, kicking it over, and driving off. Professional racing takes willpower, ambition, hours of exercise and guts.

"I practise riding at least twice a week. I exercise and stay off garbage food as much as possible."

Motocross, the result of physical mastery over machine and terrain is one of Jon's favorite forms of racing. Motocross is an ultimate test of a biker's physical strength and stamina. Within the closed course bikers race through ravines, bushes, mud-puddles enduring endless jolts from the rough, hilly terrain.

"It's hard on you but when you finish you feel total satisfaction in knowing that you did complete the course and did a good job at it."

What is going through Jon's mind as he reaches speeds of 50 to 60 mph on a quarter-mile course in a flat race?

"I usually wonder if my bike will hold together and if and how, I can catch up to the guys ahead of me. If I am ahead I just concentrate on staying ahead."

Is it all for the money or the knowledge and need to be a winner, or the ultimate ego trip that Jon practises and eagerly waits for his next race?

Jon races for the "fun of it. There is so much competition in the sport and you get to meet so many people. I go out for the fun of it. If you are out there for the money and your bike breaks down you really get up-tight. But when I'm out there for enjoyment and something happens I just think 'stuff it', there's always next weekend."

When the motorcycle gangs began challenging the world with their bikes and power people began to classify all bikers as "troublemakers of society". Since then motorcycles have been considered a symbol of threat and rebellion.

However Jon strongly believes that it is up to the younger generation to "tell the world that motorcycling is not all bad and that there is plenty of good in it."

"The sport has a lot of possibilities. If people would go out and watch the sport they would quickly change their image."

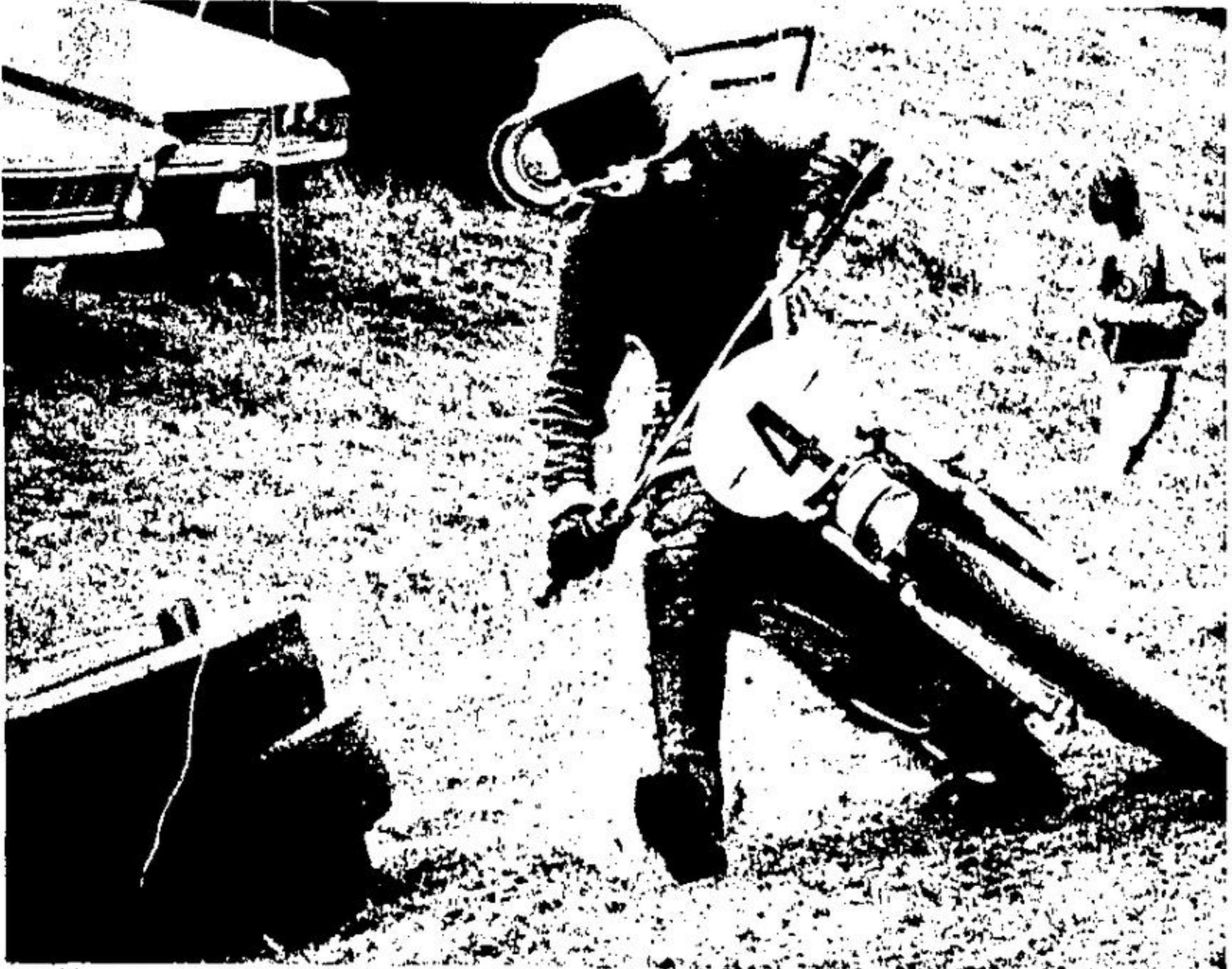
What is this fair-haired, confident and very ambitious youth striving for? "I want to try and get as good as I can so that maybe one day I can get to the world finals in motocross. But that will take lots of exercise and work."

He handles his bike like an expert. While racing against boys his age and men up to the age of 50 one could not notice the great age differences between Jon and the other riders.

He has placed first overall in the Ontario Motocross Championships and second overall in the Canadian Championships.

Considering his accomplishments already obtained at the mere age of 13 and considering the tremendous amount of willpower and ambition within Jon; he one day may very well be a "World Champion."

by Doris Lindauer



AT TWELVE YEARS OF AGE Jon, competed in a motocross competition in Cope Town, racing his Hodaka.



AT THE EARLY AGE of 11, Jon Cornwell, 'kicks-over' his Hodaka, ready to challenge other bikers.