

AMERICAN IRON LIBRARY BY ADAM WILLIAMS

BLAST FROM H-D'S PAST

Nearly a half century of Harley's early days

THE LANGUAGE OF CYCLING CAN SURE BE strange. Only in a discussion of Harley's glorious past could someone mention being a fan of Knuckleheads and/or F-Heads without being derided as, well, a knucklehead or an f-head. Such discussions do take place with regularity, but, thankfully, historically minded cycling fans can escape derision when talking among themselves. And if you want to join the folks discussing Knucks and Fs (and everything in between), *Inside Harley-Davidson* by Jerry Hatfield (\$24.95, www.GreaseRag.com) is a good place to start.

Focusing on the Motor Company's inaugural four-and-a-half decades, the book provides a concise engineering history for H-D models from 1903-45. Each included year covers a wealth of technical information, highlighting mechanical changes and design overviews, and augmented by beautiful, historic, black and white plates. Starting with the early motorized bicycle and ending with the Model K, the text serves as a condensed encyclopedia of H-D's offerings from the company's start-up through World War II. Techies will enjoy the statistical data and regular cycling aficionados will be drawn to the rare archival pho-

tos. Within the book's 224 pages, there's racers and hill-climbers, weekenders and corporate reps, civilians and soldiers and police officers, all making the H-D line their own. And in the process of revisiting the past, readers have a chance to learn some interesting facts about their preferred motorcycle maker.

Whether your interests lie in H-D's first production models or its combat-ready sidecar rigs, *Inside Harley-Davidson* is filled with valuable textural and pictorial evidence of cycling's early days. And though a long time gone, the Motor Company's storied first half-century is still within reach. AIM

SOURCES

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