

the siren stopped mysteriously after about five seconds.

Later, Markel heard a rumor that a police car had struck a tree at the bottom of the hill. Markel figures that the fuzz spotted him racing and attempted one of those turns that they see their buddies do nightly on the TV police series.

At any rate, Markel decided it was time to give his bike a new look

because he anticipated hassles from the police. Time for a visit to his painter friend, Don Heckman. Markel helped with the sanding and prep work and he claims that watching Heckman remove the paper after spray painting was like watching the unraveling of a Christmas gift.

But all new toys are meant to be broken. Two days after Markel's

machine got its paint job, he was cruising along the Mulholland Highway at about 40 mph when an inexperienced fellow rider tapped him on the left side.

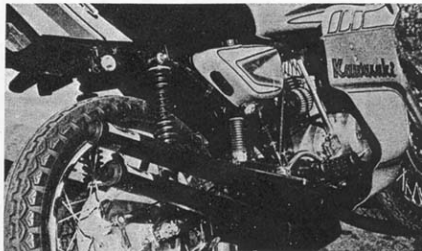
The result? As you might have guessed, Markel picked up a helluva road rash. And the bike got some rash treatment too.

... back to the drawing board.

*Continued on page 70*



*After an unfortunate crash on Mulholland Highway, Markel decided to go with a Read Titan full fairing on his 750 Kawa cafe racer.*



*The J&R power pipes from Racecrafters International are tucked toward the frame to avoid scraping on the pavement during hairpin turns. Koni shocks were added for better handling and the mill was ported and polished.*



*Somehow Markel managed to survive Ms. Spartin's porcelain fingernail assault on his chest during one of his fabulous first-gear wheelies.*