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BODYSLAM
summer 1982

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mc canyon jump -
tim's bowl june 82
by Chris Gunderson



send photos,
letters, stories

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PORTLAND, OR
97214

D R O P I N

Ok, it's true. This issue includes a Mark Conahan interview. You're thinking, "ah ha! now we know why Conahan started BODYSLAM in the first place: so he could finally see his name in the mag." Well, you're right! Not really, it was all Tom's idea. Tom has been promoted from sometime writer/photog to photo editor and partner in crime for this issue. So blame him for both the length of the interview, (he didn't want to edit it at all.) and for the fact that it's in here in the first place. Don't blame me, I just answered the questions, I didn't know he was taping it, honest! Besides, even if you don't believe me and you're still suspicious, calm down there will be plenty of room next issue for pictures of your ugly mug!

In case you haven't noticed, this is a hot issue. In case you doubted it, next issue will be even better. There's a new ramp and Marcus is expanding his. Some gnarly action should be happening soon, so take pictures. No doubt, you'll also have noticed a conspicuous lack of pictures of Huckabee. Sorry, wrong place at the wrong time, and no camera. Tom's happy about it for some strange reason. Oh well, the little "th" you'll see on a lot of the pictures means "Tom Huckabee took this one!" He's been there, he's just been shooting more than skating.

For the record, Jay Mugging finally dropped in. Tom and I were both there; he elevated at Tim's. I know you've been losing sleep wondering I know Jay has. We're still waiting for him to do it somewhere high, You sissy!

That's all, skate hard and enjoy the mag.

MAC

WASHINGTON SKATE GODS

an interview with MARC HOLT MIKE SHAUGHNESSY & MARK HEALEY

Washington and Oregon skaters have a lot in common. Both states are isolated from the hotbed of skating activity and in both areas hardcore vertical skaters thrive. The attitudes of Washington skaters differ from those of their Oregon counterparts however. The following interview reveals some of those differences. The interview was conducted by Tom Huckabee with three members of Washington's hardcore vertical scene.

Fife, WA.

Ok, what are you guys doing now that skateboarding is dead?

HOLT: Skateboarding.

MS: It's not dead!

HEALEY: OH, sometimes I - I'm into skating. I don't care whether it's dead or not.

HOLT: It's dead for the people who were never into it in the first place, and it's totally alive for the actual hardcores who are into it.

Uh, how many years have you been skating?

HOLT: Six. Six years.

MS: Six.

HEALEY: Yeah I'd say about just about the same, five six maybe, yeah.

What do you think of this ramp?

MS: Aaaaarghaha!

HOLT: It has no vertical so there's no potential for high aeri-als. It's adequate, but it's not all that great.

Describe the ramp.

HEALEY: The ramp, OK, it's about twelve feet wide one side's about 11 or maybe-yeah about 11 tall and the other sides nine feet tall. One side's got two feet of vert, the other side has maybe four or five inches. It's got pool coping on one side...

MS: Which we stole from Shelton's.

HEALEY: Yeah.

MS: GT and Mike Shaughnessy.

HEALEY: Yeah they stole it. It's got platforms on both sides and it's in need of repair. We need some new plywood. We'll have to go out and snag some more pretty soon.

Ummmm...

MS: Too much Old English.

What do you see you'll be doing in like fifty years?

(laughter)

HEALEY: Come on man.

Will you be skateboarding as long as you live, like the next couple hours?

HOLT: Yeah, the next couple hours.

HEALEY: The only thing that could mess up my skate career is an employment situation.

HOLT: An employment situation?

HEALEY: Yeah, 'cause it might get to the point where I'd have to work more than I'd be able to skate. Come on, think up some good questions Tom.

Ok...

MS: Tell us, we've heard about a downhill run called Somerset, what's that like?

HOLT: Oh, it's got a corner, it's...

HEY, this is only vertical skating so don't do that.

HOLT: Ok. Where are the hot spots right now?

HEALEY: Hey, there's this cool...

Who besides yourself do you think is hot?

HOLT: From this area? I think uh, I think Mark Conahan is really good.

MS: He's burnt out though.

HEALEY: David Garrigues! David Garrigues!

HOLT: David Garrigues is a good skater.

MS: David Garrigues.

HOLT: He's not... The typical Washington skater is the guy who really holds back.

MS: Yeah, truly.

HEALEY: Garrigues is pretty much of a "go for it" guy. There's lots of good skaters. There's a guy in Mercer Island who's all right. We call him pencilneck.

MS: Yeah, or swivelneck.

HEALEY: His name's Steve.

He's all right.

MS: He's real good.

Do you have a lot of wimps up here?

MS: Many. Like, about 98%

HOLT: Actually there's only a few hard-core skaters and-

MS:-and there's only a few hard-core wimps.

MIKE SHAUGHNESSY - bionic frontside



HOLT - backside ollie



HEALEY: This guy who owns the ramp or, he doesn't own it, he kind of...
MS: He's a hard core wimp.
HEALEY: Yeah, he's a wimp, he doesn't go for it.
HOLT/MS: "Who's a wimp?"
HEALEY: Kevin's a wimp.

What do you think of this ramp?

HEALEY: Oh man, we need some heavy thinking questions.

What do you guys do now that Olympia's closed (Olympic Skateboard Park)?

MS: Laugh at McGraw.

HEALEY: Typical skater response.

MS: He's laughing all the way to the bank to get a loan.

HEALEY: Hey There's some pretty good local spots though. There's this one place in Bellevue, this bank and it's about a block

long, white cement...

MS: There's a bank here & a bank there, but they're all banks.

HOLT: I just received a call from a friend of mine in the Tri-Cities area, in Eastern Washington and I guess they're getting into skating again.

HEALEY: Yeah, they've got some pretty good skaters there.

MS: Bill Reese, John Potter

HOLT: There's an indoor ramp...

MS: You hit the ceiling rafters on aerials.

Who's your favorite skater? (at this point, Tom says, a small child climbed onto Mike's car.)

MS: GET OFF MY CAR!

What do you think of LA or down south skaters?

HEALEY: LA is a total hex. All those Cal skaters are a bunch of jerks.

HOLT: They're not as good as Washington skaters would be given the same terrain. They just get really negative about everything. We'd just blow them away if we had the same terrain.

Again, who's your favorite skater?

HOLT: Stevie Caballero.

MS: Stevie Caballero.

HEALEY: Oh I don't know man, this guy Lester Casal

HOLT



"the typical Washington skater is the guy who really holds back."

HEALEY - tail slide



he's one of the only cool amateur competitive skaters I've met. I don't know I don't really have a favorite skater. I like watching a lot of good skaters.

MS: His favorite skater is Jay Mugging.

HEALEY: Wrong!

HOLT: No his favorite skater is Hobo Skank.

HEALEY: Yeah, Chico Skank he's my favorite skater. I need a quick hit, I think

I'll go skate. (The sound of wheels on wood.)

What do you think of Portland?

HOLT: I don't go down there very often, but every time I go down there it seems like they've always got a good half-pipe to session.

uh, what would Mark ask in a situation like this?

MS: "Where's the beer?" (laughter)

HEALEY: Just tell the mag BODYSLAM that there's some heavy action here.

HOLT: Yeah, we just need the heavy terrain.--BS

MARK CONAHAN INTERVIEW



MARK CONAHAN
As told to TOMth HUCKABEE



TH: WELL MARK, TELL ME ABOUT SKATEBOARDING.

MC: Mmmmm... skateboarding is really cool.

That is the usual response you get from Mark when you ask him about the subject. Better yet, he would just as soon show you what he means.

TH: YOU ARE KNOWN AS THE BEST SKATEBOARDER IN THE NORTHWEST. WHAT DO YOU SAY ABOUT THAT?

MC: It's true.

TH: WHY DO YOU THINK IT IS TRUE?

MC: Well I don't think it is true. I've probably been skating longer than anybody else around here... had more opportunity to see people skate...and skate with the pros and things like that. It just works out that way. People in the Northwest could be as good as me. People have the same talent... if you want to call it a natural talent or something. I've just had more practice, I



guess that's it.

TH: MORE EXPERIENCE, FROM CALIFORNIA.

MC: Yeah... that's about it.

TH: WHO'S STYLE DO YOU LIKE?

MC: I don't know about who but I like watching people who get really out of control and make it. I just think that's really cool when people skate fast and get into critical positions and pull it off every time.

TH: DO YOU TRY TO SKATE THAT WAY?

MC: You can't really try to skate that way... except for the speed part. You know, go as fast as you can and throw it up there and hope you make it. Once you get up, say, in the air three feet over the top of the ramp, you don't have much choice, you go for it or you don't. You can move your feet around if you want but...

TH: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SKATING ADVENTURE?



MC: (Mark and his brother Craig look at each other and laugh.) There have been a couple of good ones. It's always fun to get arrested. Those are memorable, when you get busted at pools, that's happened to me twice. Umm, I really liked a couple pipe skating adventures we had. They're exciting because those pipes are always somewhere you're not supposed to be. So you have to sneak in. This One pipe project, in a sewage treatment plant near my mom's house in Los Angeles... we skated there a couple of times... All of the pipes were under ground but there was one end open and man hole covers that were open but to get to either of these, you had to crawl under fences...

TH: COMMANDO.

MC: ...and jump down into these big ditches and sneak up to the opening and dive down this twenty foot hole to get to the pipe. People had to be watching... and you would see a shadow of somebody on the wall of the pipe and everybody would take off running up the pipe. It's exciting you know, to get chased and stuff. Skating is great all the time, you can skate safe and still have the same fun... but it is a totally different thrill being chased. I also liked it the first time we went out to Tim's. The first time I saw that ramp, I couldn't believe it. I just couldn't believe anybody could build something like that. That was an adventure. There was the thirty mile drive, and here was this mysterious guy who hadn't let anyone skate his ramp

(except his surfing friends) for two and a half years and all of a sudden , we have a chance to go and we get there and its great... hot!

TH: YOU REALLY LIKED THAT RAMP?

MC: It was pretty good . There were some problems with it , because the guy wasn't really a skate-boarder. He was a surfer who skated sometimes, and he really didn't know what he was doing as far as building a pool for skating. He could build the curves all right, but he didn't know any-thing about the top, lip or about the need for drop-in platforms, but it was a bowl , a place to carve. As far as the Northwest was concerned, it was really great.

TH: YOU WERE IN THE DOG BOWL PRO.

MC: And I did really lame too.

TH: WHAT WAS THAT LIKE?

MC: Well, I had been living in Oregon for about a year . I was skating Larry's halfpipe pretty regularly and so I was in pretty good shape as far as half pipes were concerned. I got this call and its this guy named George who's the team manager for KANOA. He calls me, talks to me and says hi , and I was pretty surprised to hear from him . And he says "Hey there's a contest at Marina Del Rey Skate - Park", and "what would you think if we paid your way down here, to skate in it for us?". It turned out that a good friend of mine on the team, Ray Oriel, had recommended me. I was pretty stoked , I thought that this was great, I was really excited. I had to be back in four days or something , for some business at school , but it was really cool and I wanted to go , bad. It was my first real pro contest , you know , against

people who could really skate well. I got down there on Thursday and warmed up for a day and a half. I tried as hard as I could to get used to the pool and to get all my tricks but I just got beat to shit the first day. I was all beat up. My elbows were all bruised up, and my hips were all bruised and swollen. Ever though I had had safety gear on, I fell hard! A lot of times. By the end of the night, Friday, I could skate, but I couldn't walk. Needless to say, I didn't do very well in the contest.

It was hard to get practice in the Dog Bowl. There was just a massive snake session with all the pros. It was impossible to get a ride if you weren't ready to jump right in there, and when you aren't used to a bowl, you've got to take your time. I didn't have time to do that. You had to snake. When you did get in... beat somebody in by snaking, you were going so fast that you just couldn't do anything. You've got to take your time. (Mark had only ridden the bowl once before, he was first through the gate on its opening day.) I just got out of control, and it was lousy practice. Also, when I first got there they'd switched boards on me. They gave me a new board, trucks, and wheels that I didn't know, I wasn't used to the new board.

TH: THAT KANOA TRI-BEAM?

MC: Yeah. I had been using that Kryptonics board I had, with X-Calibur trucks. All of a sudden, I was on that 10½" Tri-beam with grab rails and sixtraks. I wasn't used to it, I was thrown off from the start. They were pleased by my performance though, because I

was doing some of the new moves and their own boys just were not very exciting skaters. They could do some tricks, but none of the new moves like ollie airs, or lay-back airs. I could do those, so they were stoked with that, at least. But I got 34th, or something like that, out of 42.

TH: YOU DID BETTER THAN I DID, MY FIRST TIME OUT.

MC: I don't know, that was luck. A lot of people skated really shitty. I didn't do very well, I was really shaky and unsure of myself there was no doubt about that, but if I had had more time...

CONTESTS IN GENERAL, WHAT ABOUT THAT?

MC: They can be fun. Except if you practice a long time to get a routine down for the contest. By the time you've got it, you are so bored doing it that its... automatic. There is a kind of rush from the fact that here it is... your final run in the contest, you have to do it right, but sometimes it takes the fun out of it all, the skating.

TH: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT TYPES OF SKATING OTHER THAN VERTICAL?

MC: Well, people say we shouldn't say bad things about people who skate street all the time, because a lot of kids don't have the terrain to skate vertical, so its cool that they're going for skating however they can get it. That's true, in a sense, but why can't they build ramps? A lot of people do that. I think vertical skateboarding is the best fun in skating ... the most fun to watch, and to do. People should skate vertical. The other kinds of skating are ok, for warming up, for learning new tricks. I never do that though, when I learn a new trick, its on





the vertical.

TH: THAT'S WHY BODYSLAM IS ALL VERTICAL?

MC: Yeah, pretty much.

TH: CHANGING THE SUBJECT, WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE PLACES TO SKATEBOARD, ANYWHERE, EVER? YOU'VE DONE ALOT.

MC: For sheer mystique, the Mt. Baldy Pipeline...just because of all of the skate history that goes with it, all the people who have skated it. Its just a legendary spot and it was really fun, skating there. I've gotten to like ramps a lot, good half pipe ramps, like Larry's ramp was really good. The fact that it was sixteen wide and had a little vertical, (which most ramps around here don't have) was good. I like Marcus' ramp, his is really solid and its really fast when it has a good surface on it.

Aaaaa...as far as parks go, I like Marina the best. Its the hottest park I've ever skated, the surface was great and they had a good variety of bowls. I like places you don't have to wear safety equipment, though. I think it really hinder you. I can't get used to wearing a helmet, or wristguards

TH: WHAT IS OR WAS YOUR FAVORITE POOL?

MC: There was this pool we skated a couple of years ago, in PV. (Palos Verdes, Ca.) What was the name we used to get in? Oh yeah... It was Joe Jeffries, #2 Boner dr. You see, there were these gates, it was a burned out house in an area where rich people lived. You had to tell a guard who you were visiting. All you had to do was give the name of someone who was living back there. You just say you



are going to see this guy, and he waves you through. We weren't going to bother anyone, we'd just park our car, and go skate this pool. It was really a great pool it had a left handed kidney. You couldn't skate in the shallow end but it had a big deep end. You could do frontside two wheel carves in the pocket, and it was a lot of fun. It was your typical pool session, sneaking around and stuff, it was great. It was like going through a jungle to get in.

TH: ANYTHING ELSE?

MC: People should stop worrying about getting hurt, or about being bi-sonic all the time. They should make what they can and try hard, but not bail, or just throw it out of control, acting like you are trying something really gnar-

ly. You know, like throwing a big ollie air and just bail off.. I don't like watching that. If you can't make your tricks, then just skate for a while and do grinds. Do something else for a while, don't keep pounding away at the same trick, missing it every time because that's stupid. --BS



rAMP mugging



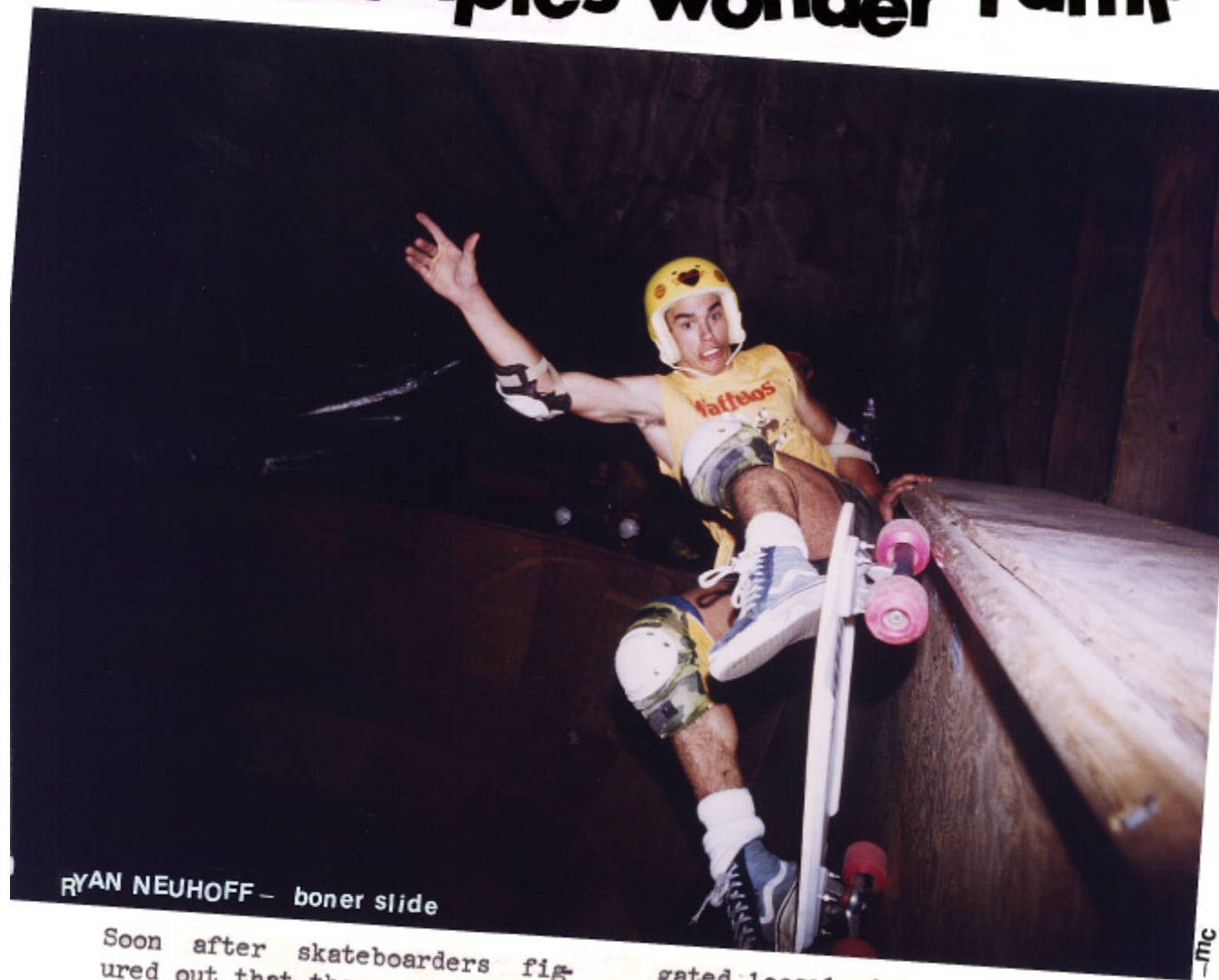
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THE BOWL

tim sample's wonder ramp



RYAN NEUHOF - boner slide

Soon after skateboarders figured out that they could fabricate their own skate terrain using wood, they began to fantasize about building pool-like bowl ramps. Pictures were released of ramps consisting of multiple pipe sections aggre-

gated loosely into bigger ramps like bowls. These bowls differed from real bowls in the same way that storm control basins like the Toilet Bowl or Vipers Bowl did. They were mere approximations at best.

Deep in the heart of the Northwest however, a thirty year-old surfer named Tim Sample was getting bored with the half-pipe he had built to get him and his friends through flat spells. Tim had been through a two year engineering program at a local college and had also been a professional carpenter. He wanted to expand the old ramp by putting bowls on the ends. Better yet, he knew how it could be done. Tim spent 4-5 hours a week hand shaping the over 200 plywood panels for the ramp surface, the over 400 two by six cross braces and multiple templates. It took a year to do, but sometime about

Master RAMP builder TIM SAMPLE off the lip.

-cd

two and a half years ago, Tim completed the bowls. He and his surfing buddies sessioned the ramp from that point on carving lines for over two years that other Northwest skaters could only dream about. Need it be said that Tim and his friends had the place wired long before the BODYSLAM crew learned of it?

the ramp is basically an eight foot wide by 18 foot diameter half-pipe with the ends bowled. There are two canyon-like drop-in chutes that can be plugged to close off the bowl. The only major flaws are: a lack of coping in the bowls and a lack of roll-out space. There is also some minor kinkage in one of the bowls. The ramp is a



Jay mugging

-mc

Local Rob thrusting off the top.

-mc

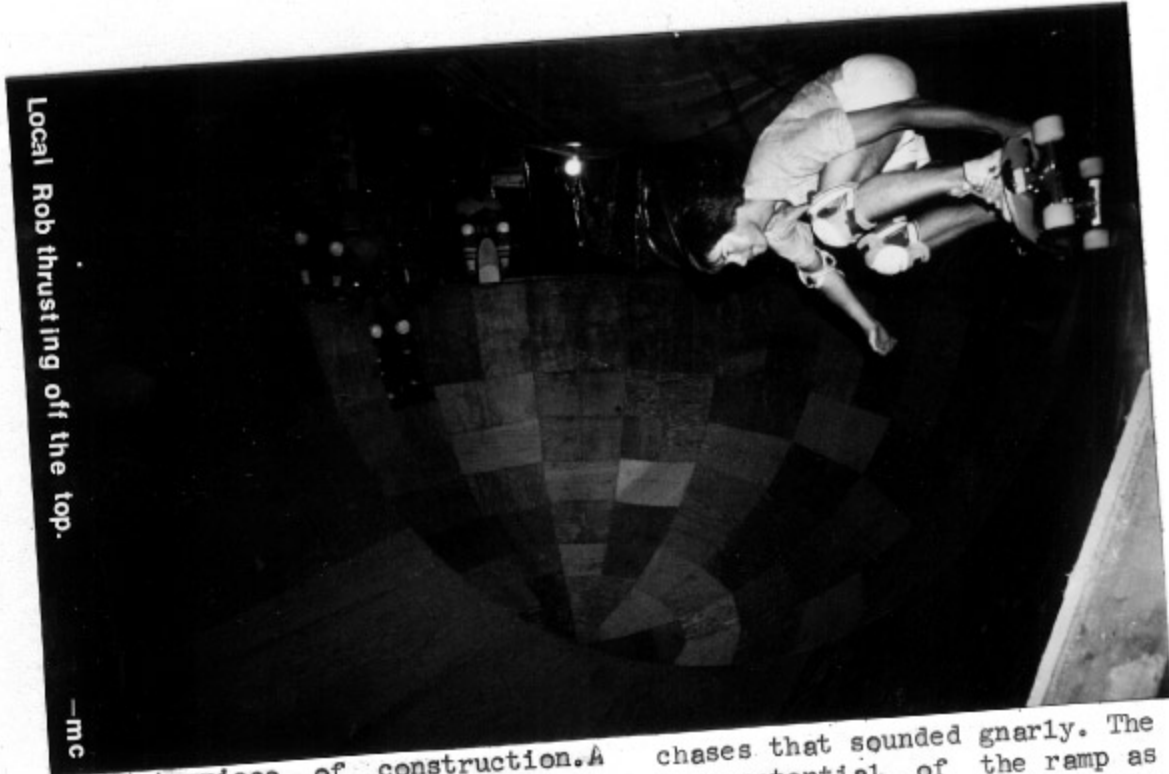
masterpiece of construction. A single layer of 3/8" plywood is all that is used for the riding surface. All of the support comes from the frame tied together with a single layer of plywood. There are occasional blow-outs but they are gradual and obvious usually. The broken panels are easily replaced.

TEACHING AN OLD RAMP NEW TRICKS

For over two years the ramp had an easy life. With the exception of one or two of the locals, Noone who frequented the ramp really had any knowledge of power skating. The surfing locals were more attuned to surf-oriented manouvers such as long drawn out carves and off-the-lip kickturns. They also got into taking long rides and some "four man in the bowl"

chases that sounded gnarly. The true potential of the ramp as a vertical spot went largely unexplored except for the efforts of a local named Rob who threw an occasional aerial across a channel or off the side of the half pipe into one of the bowls. The majority of the skating was done well below the lip; well drawn but mellow carve lines.

Bill Long took Jay Williamson to the bowl in early 1982. Jay didn't think much of the no coping- somewhat kinked bowl but then Jay hadn't ever ridden a bowl before. Eventually Rob drifted into Cal Skate in Portland and offered photographic evidence of the bowl's true nature. It was obvious from the picture that someone was talking "wooden pool". The following week, with Bill Long again



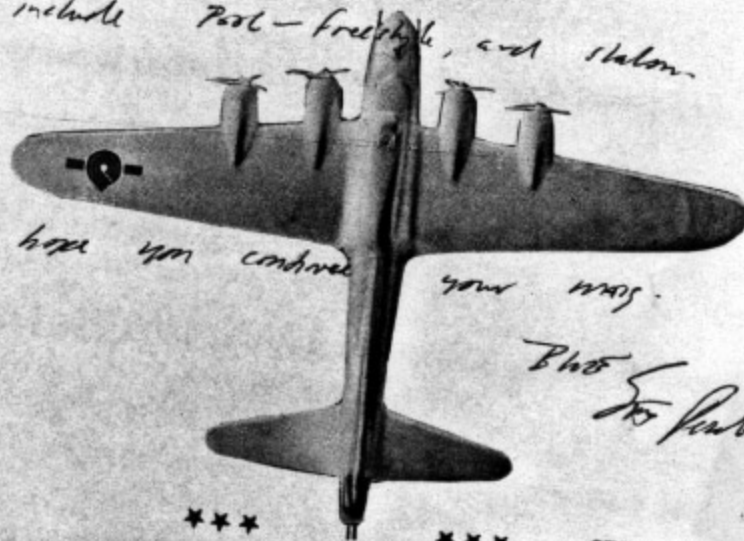
letters

WE ONLY GOT ONE THIS TIME...

POWELL PERALTA
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may 18 -

MANK - Thanks for the issue of Bodyslam.
It's really good, the interview was
hot. Tim stated you guys are doing
it. Skating is definitely on the rise
up here. A new Pro-am series is
starting up next week which will
include Park - freestyle, and slalom. I



hope you continue your ways.

Bliss
Stacy Peralta

STACY PERALTA

WRITE!

acting as guide, MC, Chris Gunderson and Jay cruised the 30 or so miles to the ramp. The Bowl was awesome. It looked better than we had hoped. After watching the owner's lines for a while, the Portland crew adapted quickly to the alien terrain. Soon two wheel carves were being done in both bowls

frontside and backside. Better sessions followed with high canyon jumps, figure-eight carves at speed, and bionic pipe fly-outs being pulled off consistently. The ramp had never been skated so hard; the locals didn't know what to think. Tim commented one day, "You guys must be skate purists, I always think about surfing when I skate." Tim and his friends continued to skate on their regular night each week in private. BODYSLAM was not able to shoot these sessions, due at first to what can only be called your basic surfer xenophobia "this is my wave baby, don't cut me off," and later to some bad timing. Tim moved away this week and it seems unlikely that the bowl will be skated again. Hopefully the pictures will give you an idea of the intensity of the sessions possible in terrain like this, and maybe give somebody the idea, that they might like to build something just as outrageous.

-BS-

bill long

chris gunderson

-cd

skate misconception no. 1



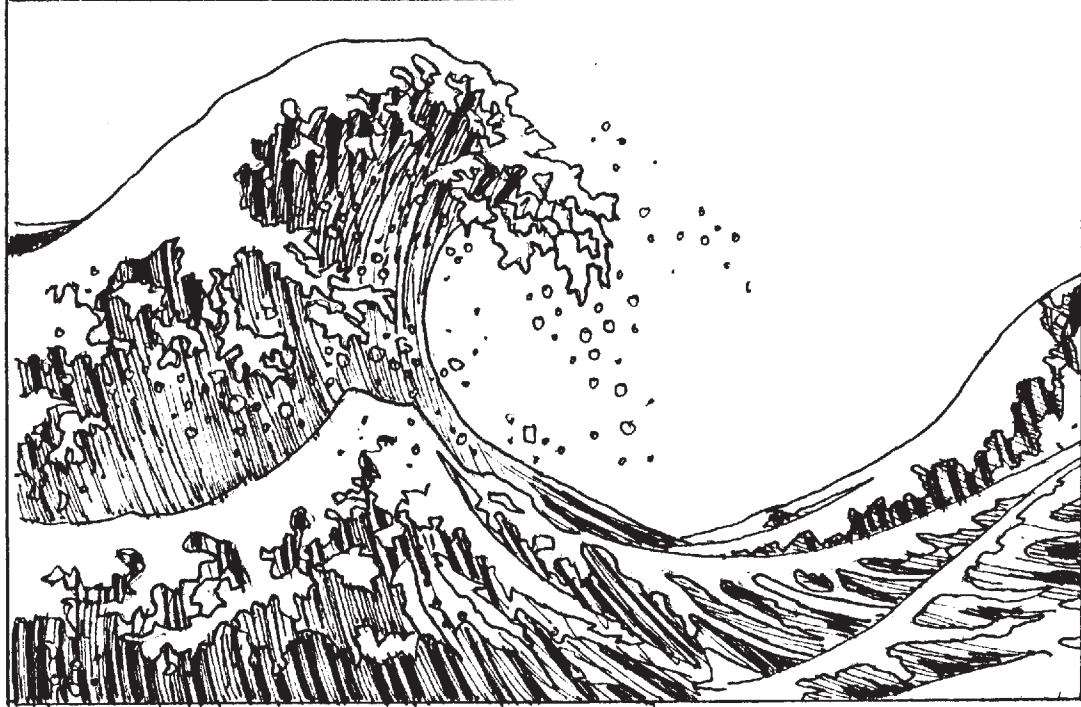
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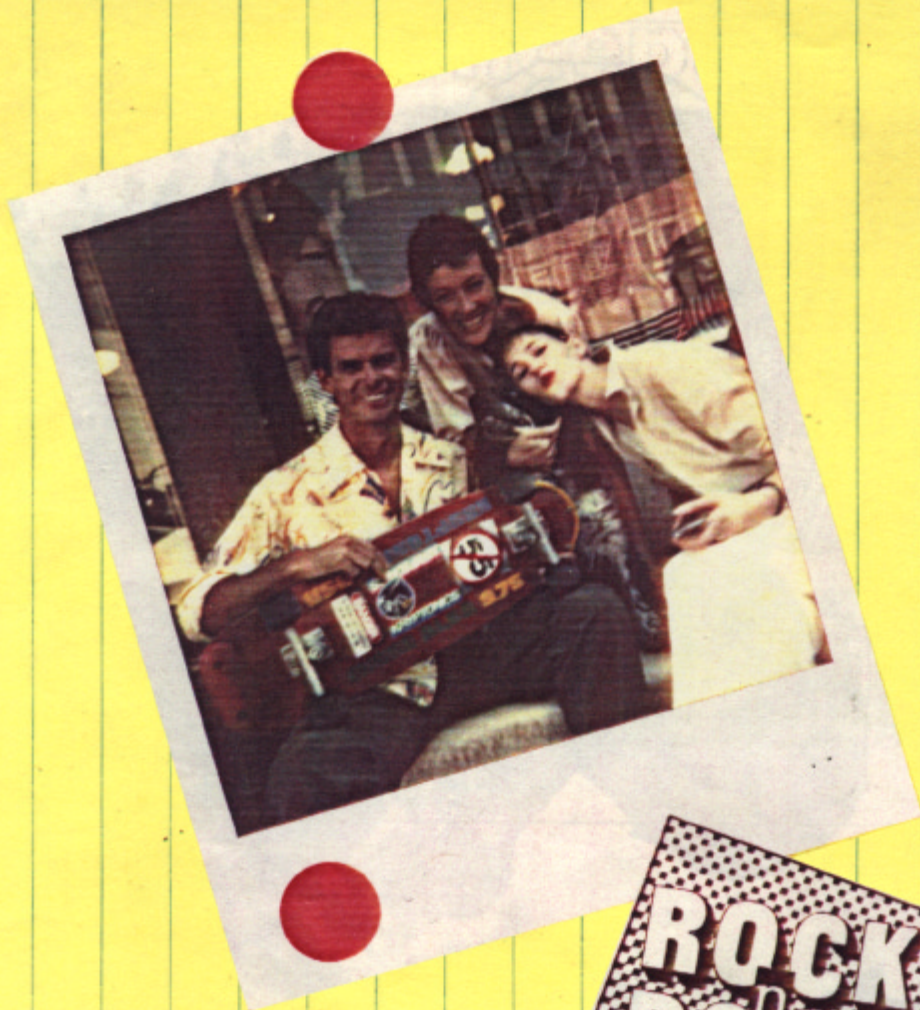
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