



WE'RE ALL HERE BECAUSE WE'RE NOT ALL THERE



Norton Colorado

www.nortoncolorado.org

Newsletter

August/September 2019



David Sheesley's Atlas in the Evergreen Rotary Car Show.

Upcoming Events

See page 13 for the entire official 2019 events schedule.

September

- 9/6-8 (Friday-Sunday): Cotopaxi
- 9/15 (Sunday): English Conclave
- 9/28 (Saturday): Group Ride

October

- 10/13 (Sunday): Plains Ride (Scott & Julie Robinson)

Look for club emails for more details about these gatherings.

Colorado Vincent Adventure by Dave Hartner, Our Texas rider

Every summer for some years the Colorado AMCA has run a vintage bike ride, starting in Fort Collins and usually attracting 40 - 100 riders. It lasts only a few days, but Peter Allen, longtime Colorado resident and prominent LSVOC member, has organized an extension of the ride to explore the state in more depth. Too much of a good thing is just enough.

The plan this year was for the Vincent contingent to join the main ride in Empire, tag along with the herd for a while, then set off on our own. Three of us - Peter Allen, Jonathan Chaikin and Dave Hartner - set off from Evergreen on Saturday June 22. Dave was riding his mostly original Black Shadow, while Peter and Jonathan were on Rapides updated with Modern Conveniences such as working brakes.

Reaching Empire, the AMCA riders were conspicuous by their absence. We rode on, heading north to Saratoga Wyoming on CO125. Stopping at the Bear Trap tavern in Riverside, we learned that they served no coffee and that the main AMCA ride had been cancelled. A lack of hot coffee was an issue for the same reason the AMCA bailed out - it was bloody cold. Temperature held in the low forties, with a persistent drizzle. Peter had guaranteed good weather, claiming even Colorado high country would reach the 70s in late June - litigation is pending over this.

The cold rain had intimidated the AMCA riders - but Vincent riders are intrepid, not deterred by a bit of adversity, so we carried on. Note there is a fine line between being intrepid and being stupid.

In Saratoga, Peter and Jonathan stayed at the historic Wolf hotel. Dave couldn't get a reservation, so was at the "Sage and Sand Motel" - equally historic, having last been remodeled in the 1970s.

Sunday the temperature was still in the forties, but rain had subsided. We rode back through Riverside, then west on WY70 over Battle Pass, nearly 10000 feet up in the Sierra Madre mountains. Snowbanks lined the road. Breathtaking views were everywhere, we're told, but can't confirm - the pass was socked in with dense fog. We crawled along in second gear and made it through safely. On south via CO13 and US40, we stayed in Steamboat Springs - a delightful

Battle Pass, Wyoming



Yampa River
Steamboat Springs Colorado



mountain town with a ski-based economy, well stocked with lodging, restaurants and taverns. The Yampa River runs through town, and like all the rivers we encountered was at near record height, rushing along at impressive speed.

Monday the weather finally warmed, and we enjoyed a fine ride down CO131 through Oak Creek. This pretty little town was built to support coal mining, and we learned it's still active when a deafening siren announced a shift

change at the mine. We parked the Vincents in front of a huge mural depicting animals riding vintage bikes - perfect.

Staying in Rifle for the night, Steve Malley joined us on a modern (2004) BMW. Steve inherited a red Rapide from his father, and was fettling it for the trip - but as we know, this always takes three times as long as a reasonable estimate would allow.

Tuesday we explored the Grand Mesa via CO65 and CO92. This vast mesa is over 11000 feet high, and very green unlike the desert mesas farther southwest. The road presented outstanding vistas as it climbed to the top and then snaked back down. The route also skirts the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, 2700 feet deep but only 40 feet wide in places - an amazing sight. The route into Gunnison, where we had booked rooms, included a long stretch of sweeping curves along the Blue Mesa reservoir - great fun.

In Gunnison we met Dan and Anne Chase, in town for some trout fishing and Vincent riding. They joined us on their Black Shadow Wednesday for the ride south on CO114. This route twists through some beautiful mountains, then opens out into lower, drier ranching country.



Oak Creek, Colorado

It was here, 10 miles below Cochetopa pass, that Dave's Black Shadow died. It was tuned for Dallas, so not putting out its best power at 8000 feet. Still, it was motoring along nicely at 70 mph in third gear when it suddenly stopped, the engine locked up. Early investigation suggests a snapped front rod, but a teardown may reveal more.

Fortunately Dan and Anne had a trailer back in Gunnison, and volunteered to ride back for it and pick up Dave and bike. Their nomination for sainthood is currently pending at the Vatican. They're both skilled anglers, making it look easy to pull trout out of the mountain stream we stopped at (it's not).

Other mechanical issues were minor – Peter's breather was emitting alarming amounts of oil, but he caught it in a plastic bottle and recycled. Suspicion rests on chrome oil rings running on Nikasil bores – investigation is underway. Jonathan's Rapide had a headlight wiring glitch, and a couple of machines saw speedometers stuck at zero.

Back in Evergreen, everyone was glad to have taken the tour despite the chilly start. The Vincent was made for this sort of tour - good power and handling, and very comfortable (note to seat makers - thick padding works).



Black Canyon of the Gunnison

Colorado is possibly the best state in the union to ride in, endless miles of curving highways through forested mountain vistas and rugged rock outcroppings. And not a lot of traffic. Thanks go to Peter Allen for his initiative in organizing the ride, and fine work in selecting the route.



Dave, Steve, Peter, Dan & Jonathan



David Sheesley's Birthday Ride and Brunch

hosted by David Sheesley and Matt and Mariah Norman

Eighteen of us enjoyed an especially fine party at David Sheesley's place yesterday, after a great ride over Squaw Pass. The weather was excellent and there was not much traffic on the pass. In addition to the always-excellent and extensive spread of food and drink at David's, the Joe Bye Band provided music for us in honor of David's 70th birthday.



Rode a Norton

Jack Abeyta
Jerry Doe
Mike Fields
Jamie Jones
Scott Robinson
David Sheesley



Rode something lesser

Peter Allen -- Vincent
Eric Bergman -- Laverda
Debbie Johnson -- Suzuki
Bob Martin -- BMW
Matt Norman -- BMW
Mike Powell -- BMW
Jo Teague -- Honda
Lew Wackler -- BMW



Got there

Vicki Borden
John and Rene Hartman
Dennis Horgan
Michelle Jones
Susie Saarinen



Can't remember what I said to deserve "the finger", but I'm sure I deserved it.



Jim Comstock rode over 2600 miles round trip to the Norton National Rally in Michigan with Hannah, his 24 year old daughter. He has been riding to the rally every year for some time now. Hannah rides Jim's old FJ1100 and he rides his Norton.

This year mom and his youngest daughter drove an SUV with 3 dogs and a pop-up in tow.



Jim earned 3 awards at the rally. One for the toss field event, a much deserved male rider long distance plaque and a 2nd place award for his 850 Interstate.

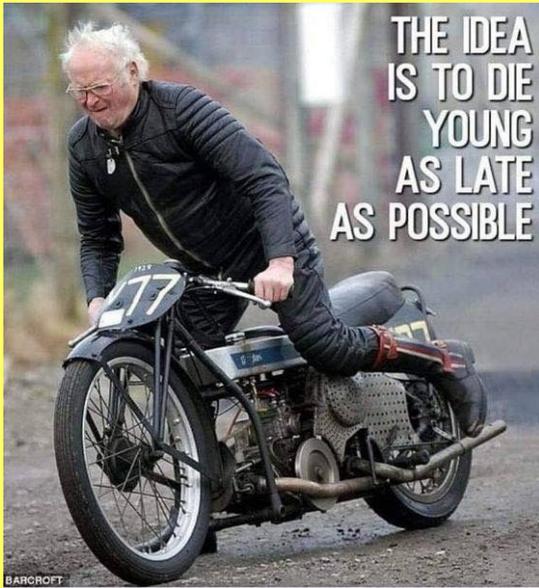


The Comstock Family campsite



The club newsletter earned this award as well. While I will be proud to display this in my office it's a good time to thank those of you who contribute to the newsletter. This past year there were about 25 of you who sent me something I could use to fill the 11 newsletters I produced.

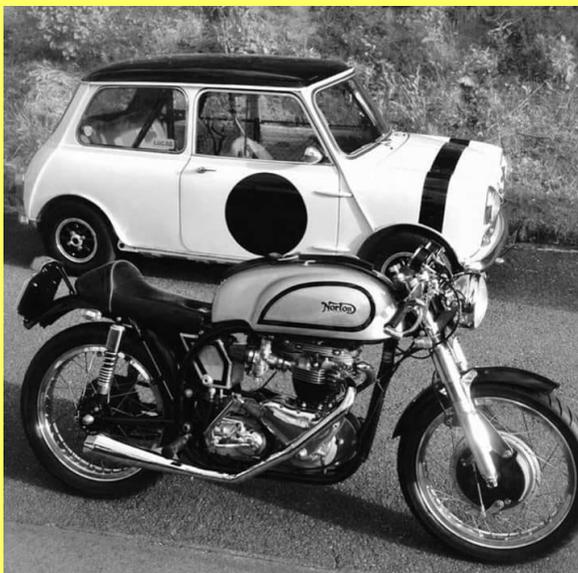
Alan Elstob , an old time Norton guy, and a friend of Bob Herman had some information about these two pictures previously published in the newsletter.



This chap is actually Henry Body who is alive and well and lives in a small village about 20 miles down the road from me in Bristol. I've met Henry who is a local celebrity in sprinting and vintage circles and his nephew is a good friend of mine with 5 pre war Norton's. Henry is an accomplished motorcycle engineer and won innumerable sprint races on his Douglas until he was forced to retire about 3 years ago as the rules precluded sprint racing beyond the age of 80.



This picture is actually of Bert Denley on a 1925 Model 18 Norton at Brooklands. Bert was recruited when Dan O'Donovan top Norton tuner at Brooklands was looking for a rider and noticed the local butchers delivery boy belting around. This was Bert who went on to win many records and was the first person to do 100 miles inside 1 hour on a '500'.



Team Obsolete collection

Just had a fun visit with Team Obsolete owner Rob in NY. Where else can you find 30 AJ5 7R's /G50 and another 30 factory racing MV's ? He still has his first bike, a Norton Commando .

Peter Allen

Click this link for more information: teamobsolete.com





Jamie and Michelle Jones' Wimpy Campout

After missing the last 2 Wimpy Campouts, Julie and I were able to make it again this year. We were glad we did. The Jones' are excellent hosts. There was enough food at dinner to feed a small army. Jamie's garage and his collection of machines is a beautiful sight. There was homemade ice cream for dessert and Jamie broke out a bottle of Jack Daniels to go with it which made the rounds. We sat up late telling stories and solving the problems of the world.

In the morning there was a huge spread for breakfast. The highlight was "zip lock bag omelets". These are quite interesting, you take 2 eggs and put them in a baggie along with any fixin's you would like. The bag is boiled for twelve minutes and you have your own individual omelet. Yum!!

I suggest adding this event to your must do list for next summer.

Rode a Norton
David Sheesley

Rode something lesser
Peter Allen -- Vincent
Eric Bergman -- Laverda
Kris Geller -- BMW
Robin Webster -- MotoGuzzi
Dave Webster -- Laverda

Got there
Jack and Peggy Abeyta
Karen Bailey
Jonathan Chaiken, Tamara Hale and Hazel
Debbie Johnson
Mark Liu and Gerry Molettieri
Bob Martin and Paula
Mike Powell
Scott and Julie Robinson
Susie Saarinen
Herb and Karen Varona



Jamie showing us how to make "zip lock baggie omelets."



Not content with only JACK Daniels for desert. JACK Abeyta had Hungry JACK syrup with breakfast. How do we behave in the presence of such greatness??

Vintage Show

I just got back from the Vintage Motorcycle Show at the Adams County Historical Society. This show is organized by Bob Kelly. It used to be at Heritage Square on the same day as the June BBQ. This year's venue was an excellent choice and well attended. Aside from the 50+ motorcycles to look at, the various museums were open to the public. There was even free ice cream!



Rode a Norton
Jerry Doe
Scott Robinson



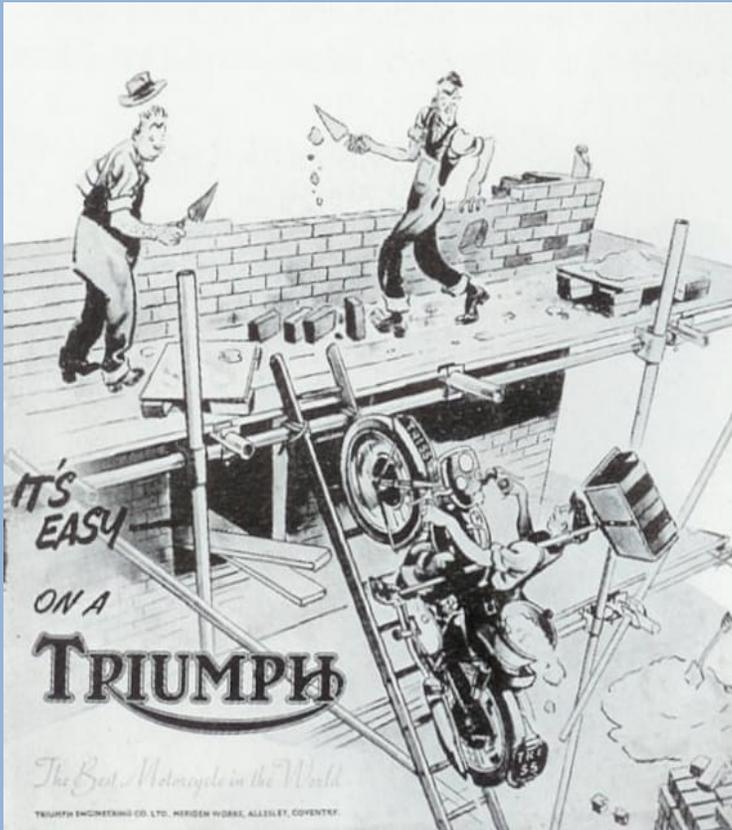
Got there
Eric Bergman
Ric and Joy
Landeira
Robin Webster



Rode something lesser
Pete Chronis -- BMW
Debbie Johnson -- Suzuki
Marc Lomax -- Nimbus
Mike Powell -- Triumph
Al Slarks -- BMW
Ron Weaver -- MotoGuzzi







This is from a friend of Bob Herman's, Alan Elstob.

After no end of fiddly little jobs etc. this morning became the big occasion. The first start.

Everything crossed and with a silent prayer to the Norton gods the CS1 fired up on about the 5th kick - great!

Sounded good with a real crackle from the silencer and no undue noises. It was effectively the machines 90th birthday and it has not been on the road for the last 50ish years.

Let the commissioning trials begin and in the meantime a pic for you attached of Mrs E being shy for a reason.



Motorcycle Stuff on the web:

50 minute BBC documentary on Peter Williams winning the 1973 Formula 750 race at the Isle of Man on the JPN Norton. They finally got the gearbox to last an entire race. Very entertaining.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-SOXVdlZ4>

One of the better on-board videos of a race. Great dicing between MacRae, Kenny Cummings and Dave Roper. He hit 129 mph on the banking. I think this is about how fast Jerry Doe was going the other day when his belt drive shredded itself.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3R5SomUq5Y>

As you can see many Lemons racers are demented. We're the gold #78 Datsun 280ZX near the beginning of this 11-minute video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqxxQk854hg&t=107s>

Here comes the future! No more "potato, potato..." What will my Harley friends do with their "loud pipes save lives t-shirts".

<https://jalopnik.com/the-electric-harley-davidson-livewire-is-a-shockingly-f-1836321059>

5 Reasons Why Dual Sport Motorcycles are the Best

<https://youtu.be/302YoBVsnwI>

For your viewing pleasure

<https://www.leatherbikini.com/>



For Sale : 1969 BSA Rocket 3

Rick Black has decided to put his Rocket 3 up for sale. It's partially restored, runs, but still needs some work. The price : Expensive.

Call Rick if you are interested.

720-885-6410

Editor's note: This is a BSA Rocket 3, but it is **not** Rick's.

For sale; 1946 chase truck

8,000 dollars.

[Greg Ray](mailto:montanagreg@midrivers.com) <montanagreg@midrivers.com>



Norton Colorado 2019 Event Schedule

Please check this out and feel free to contact Eric Bergman to suggest more ideas or to volunteer to host an event

February

2/2 (Saturday): Winter Banquet at the Rock Bottom Brewery, Denver

March

3/2 (Saturday): Group Ride, Parts Depot Work Party or Museum Visit, depending on weather

3/17 (Sunday): Pub Meeting: Streets of London

April

4/7 (Sunday): Tech Day @ Bob Martin's

4/20 (Saturday): Group Ride

May

5/5 (Sunday): Group Ride

5/19 (Sunday): OBR 17

June

6/2 (Sunday): BBQ @ Eric & Susie's

6/13-16 (Thur-Sun): Four Corners Rendezvous

July

7/7 (Sunday): Mt Evans Ride & Brunch @ David Sheesley's

7/20-21 (Saturday - Sunday) : Century Ride

August

8/3-4 (Saturday-Sunday): Wimpy Campout @ Jamie & Michelle Jones'

8/18 (Sunday): Group Ride

September

9/6-8 (Friday-Sunday): Cotopaxi

9/15 (Sunday): English Conclave

9/28 (Saturday): Group Ride

October

10/13 (Sunday): Plains Ride (Scott & Julie Robinson)

10/27 (Sunday): Tech Day at MotoWorks Denver

November

TBA (Saturday): DU Hockey Night (host Scott Robinson)

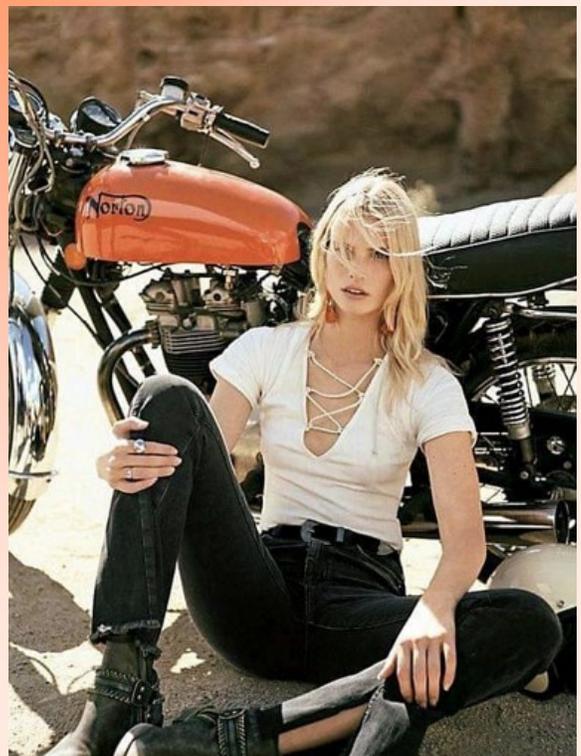
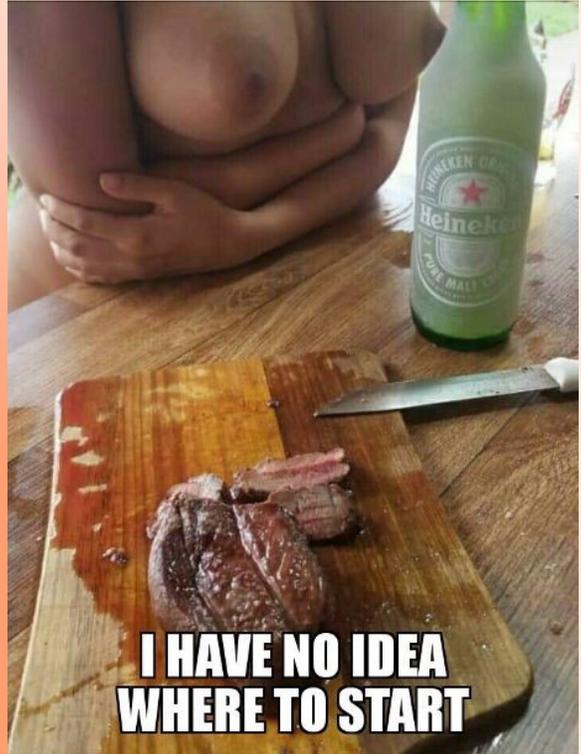
December

12/1 (Sunday): Pub Meeting

January 2020

1/1 (Wednesday): New Year's Day Ride

1/12 (Sunday): Pub Meeting



Membership

Membership in Norton Colorado is open to anyone, regardless of whether they own a Norton, or any motorcycle whatsoever.

Dues are \$20/ year individual, \$22 for a couple or family unit, payable to "Norton Colorado" and sent to the Treasurer, whose contact information is listed on the last page of this newsletter.

The official club membership list is posted on the club website. Please let Eric know if there is an error.

The membership year begins with the Winter Banquet in February. New members who join after August 1 are credited with membership for the following year.

Club Events

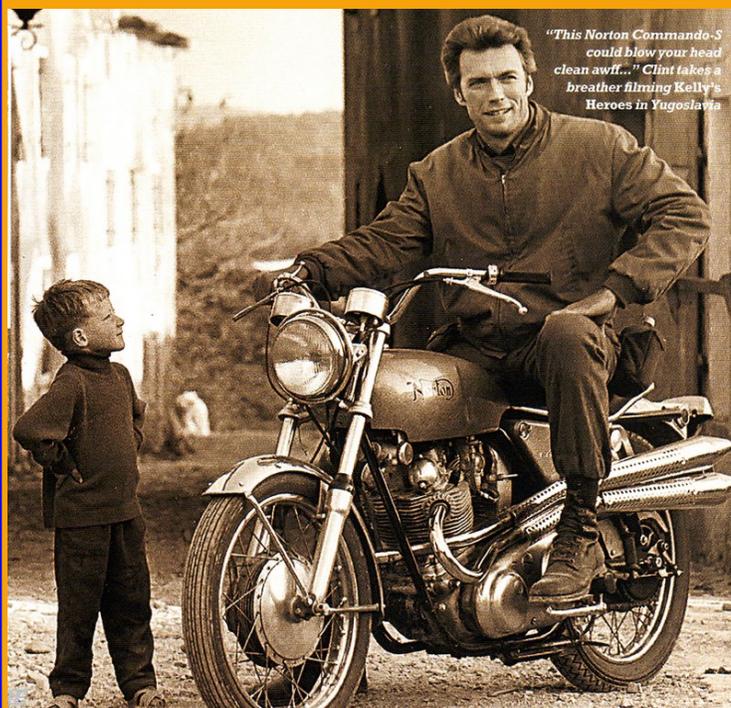
Many events have been scheduled for the 2019 season, usually about 2 per month. Participation in these events will be counted for the President's Award. Events may be added, dropped, or re-scheduled through the year. The schedule can be found in this newsletter or check the schedule on the club website:

<http://www.nortoncolorado.org/meetings.html>

Prez Points Standings Top 10 (2019):

points, events, solo rides

Scott Robinson	49	10	7
David Sheesley	40	8	8
Jack Abeyta	37	9	0
Ron Weaver	34	8	0
Jamie Jones	32	8	0
Eric Bergman	23	12	0
Jerry Doe	22	6	0
Mike Fields	22	6	2
Kris Geller	21	8	0
Debby Johnson	19	6	6



There seems to be a friendly competition going for this year's President's Trophy. So far it seems to be up for grabs. Keep riding and we'll see how it all turns out in February 2020.

Current Occupants

Officers

President

Arnie Beckman (303) 733-4239
arniebeckmanp11@gmail.com

Secretary

Eric Bergman (303) 278-7445
onenorton@gmail.com

Treasurer

Charley Gremmels
1832 Forest Ave., Durango, CO 81301
970-946-1302
NoNortons@gmail.com

Staff

Road Captain

Jack Abeyta (303) 426-0594
abeytaa@aol.com

Newsletter Editor

Scott Robinson (303) 287-6580
mister.r@comcast.net

Secretary of Commerce

(My new job title reflects my role in the Parts
Depot as well as Swag slut)
Bob Ohman (303) 570-9333
reohman@att.net

Webmaster

David Sheesley (720) 277-6563
dks@davidksheesley.com

Technical Advisor

Jim Comstock (719) 646-2610
comnoz2@juno.com

Credits: Thanks to Peter Allen, Arnie Beckman, Eric Bergman, Jim Comstock, Pete Chronis, Alan Elstob, Peter Geise, Dave Hartner, Bob Herman, Dennis Horgan, Debbie Johnson, Bob Martin, Dennis Oberwetter, David Sheesley and Jo Teague for their contributions to this newsletter.

I also want to say thanks to others who sent me things I will use in future editions.

Norton Colorado

1900 19th Street

Golden, CO 80401

