

# Noisy Two-Wheelers Irritate Village Elders

The Hondas are invading.

And these days village elders, appreciating and longing for the quiet serenity of the old days, are tearing their hair about something new.

In Barrow, Kotzebue, Nome, Bethel, Unalakleet and smaller villages—like tiny Kaktovik on Barter Island—it's not the traditional folkways, dogteams and fishwheels that wind up photographed on tourist film.

Instead it's groups of laughing young men (and some girls, too) roaring away in a cloud of dust on a two-wheeled cycle that's usually minus a muffler.

At last modern civilization's luxury machines have penetrated the wilderness.

Many older villagers are having misgivings about the "benefits" of the so-called civilization, especially the no-muffler part.

Out in Nome a crackdown is starting. Although Nome may be more metropolitan than many rural towns, the community may be setting the example with anti-noise rules that villages may follow in the future.

Nome's Police Chief James Carter will soon start giving tickets to unmuffled cyclists, "unless they comply with city ordinances," he said.

Meanwhile, the invasion continues.

Although the cycles aren't quite as adept at climbing snowdrifts as dogs were, they're quite usable around town in almost any kind of weather.

It's a common sight at Barrow now to see village men, bundled in parkas, riding their Hondas to work at the Vinnell Camp a few miles north of the village.

In other places, Mama is having fits when youngster brings his Honda inside an already-crowded village home because it's too cold to work on it outside.

A few years ago "iron dog" snow-go's began outmoding the dogteam for trail use. Now the motorbike is having its wave of popularity.

What next — whale-copters?