

least for my type of riding. The Sims Snake is fairly narrow and tall and it's really fast. That's the kind of wheel I prefer.

It seems the reason the current trend toward wide boards came out of Dogtown was because they were the right people in the right place at the right time. Gunner Hugo was off riding them in the outskirts of San Diego County and you were off in Oxnard on the outskirts of L.A. County. Neither of you were near a population center or competing in contests then. So it took somebody else to introduce it. It took somebody like Alva.

Yeah, pretty much. I'd see him pull up to a contest with it and I'd just go "Wow, I used to ride boards like that." You know I used to go to contests with really wide, round boards and I used to get harrassed all the time. Like, "Look at that board. What kind of board is that?" And I'd take my board to a manufacturer and they'd just say, "No way, that won't sell." So I'd have to make it a little bit narrower. Well, Alva and the rest of those guys, like Jim Meir, Wesley Humpston, and I used to ride pools and skateparks together and my boards were always really wide. I guess it took someone like Alva to get other people to accept it because he's got such a big name. When he showed up with that everyone else went, "Wow," and the next thing you know every board out on the market is wide.

Lately, it seems you've been keeping a low profile. Do you enter contests anymore?

On groupies:

“I don't need the variety pack to keep me happy.”

Occasionally I enter a contest. I'm not too much into competing against other people, you know. I go skateboarding with friends and have a good time because that's what life is all about. I mostly just stay in my home grounds but I occasionally travel. Like, just a few weeks ago I went to Utah and went Skiboarding. I occasionally travel to San Diego or Santa Monica or Santa Barbara and ride parks but, I don't like spending too much time in other places. I'm happy where I am.

Which are your favorite spots? What type of terrain do you prefer?

I like Oxnard [The Endless Wave]. I ride the place pretty much. I like the pool; it's not super, but it's great for having a good time. And Marina Skatepark is pretty good. I've only been there a few times but it's a really fun park. Goleta Skatepark in Santa Barbara is a pretty good park. And Skatercross, except for its location, is a really good place to ride. It's like riding a wave. You make a turn off one wall and you hit the other wall. It's a "snake pit," you know. Snake pits are a lotta fun.

Are you pretty much exclusively a skateboarder now? Or at least

professionally, in that that's what you do for a living?

Yeah, that's the way I'm making a living.

But you're also getting involved in promoting the Skiboard.

Yes, I ride them. Bob Weber introduced the Skiboard to me.

When was that?

A couple of years ago. Bob's the guy who made them. You know, he designed them. And I've been riding Skiboards now for 2 years and it's just incredible. You can actually carve turns and it's just like surfing or skating. In Utah we went riding with a couple of boys from Winterstick, and we found this place that was like a snake pit and you could actually carve down this hill and bounce off this wall, come up the other wall and ricochet. It was definitely a lot of fun.

Who do you give credit to for the present development of the Skiboard and similar vehicles?

Well, Dimitrije Milovich. He's been riding and experimenting with them since about 1969 and he's put a lot of time into them; into the basic design and in riding them in the Utah area. But he's only made about 150 of them to date. It's going to be a whole new sport as soon as it takes off, as soon as it gets accepted. You know, a lot of the ski areas now don't allow them on the lifts; so what you have to do is hike up the mountain or take turns driving a car up and drop off friends and go down.

Do you ski also?

Yeah, a little bit. I just started skiing within the last few years. Skiing's fun.

How did it come about that you and Sims became involved with the Skiboard?

Well, Bob Weber has been working on it since about 1972.

As an off-shoot of the Winterstick?

I'm not even sure if he's ever seen the Winterstick. Like, the Skiboard's made out of a whole different material. It's P-tex. Bob introduced the board to Sims two years ago and I tried them out and they worked and from there I just modified and made them more functional.

Are bindings essential on this type of vehicle?



Coper slide, Marina.

Oh yes, if you don't have bindings, your feet just slide all over. I'm making some new bindings that hold your feet on there really well. You can do more aerials and helicopters and ride more radical and vertical terrain.

Does the Winterstick use bindings?

Yes, the Winterstick uses bindings, too. It's just one elastic strap that goes over your foot. I'm working on something that's a little bit more involved than that.

What is it like? Velcro suspenders?

No, at first Velcro would be okay but after it got wet in the snow, it would freeze and it wouldn't work anymore. I'm working on something more like a really thick bongie cord. It seems to hold your foot in there pretty well.

I understand you were trying different fins [SKEGS]. How do the fins differ and how do they affect performance?

Well, I've experimented but I haven't stayed up in the mountains for months

at a time, so I can't really feel the difference. I can feel the difference but not to the point where I can just say, "This is happening or this is not happening." I've tried single fins and two fins and three fins and moving the fins up and down the whole board. I've tried a lot of different variations and, you know, some things work better than others; but even without a fin, it works in powder. It works excellent in powder.

Why do skiers get upset?

Well, all they've ever seen are those two skis and standing parallel. A lot of those people have never been to the ocean or surfed or don't understand surfing. They see something like

Well, he intends to modify it and promote it. Chuck Foote is working on some new designs, with concave and convex and grooves and all kinds of contours. New fin designs and bindings, too. He's going to come up with something really interesting that's going to be really functional.

So what else is Sims up to? He has been kind of an eclectic character. He was very prominent and very vocal at one time. Now he's settled back and making money?

Yeah. That's pretty much his life. Traveling and making money. He doesn't do too much skateboarding; he does a lot of surfing and sailing, I guess.



G-turn, Nowhere Land.

On drugs:

“I don't have to be high to skateboard or surf.”

Skiboarding and they can't accept it because they're used to seeing the conventional and anything new automatically "doesn't work" and it's not accepted.

Is that the reason they're not allowed on the runs?

Well, it's also because of their insurance, which doesn't allow so-called "snow vehicles" on the mountain. But more places are starting to let them go up on the slopes.

What is Sims intending to do with the Skiboard?

How long have you been with Sims?

Well, I've been riding for Sims since about 1974. I was competing in all the old contests, like Steve's South Bay and Orange County. We were on the Skateboard Magazine team; Jim Mahoney and the rest of the crew. When that magazine went down, Sims started making his own boards and making his own wheels and I went to Sims and cut out my own boards and started riding his wheels. Since then I've been riding for him, promoting his products and giving him new ideas.

Other than the eight wheeler and the Skiboard, what other types of design work have you been involved in?

I've designed a lot of neat skateboards. Like, all the skateboards I ride, I designed myself. I designed my own freestyle board, my bank board, my pool board — I have boards for almost anything. Having a variety of boards like that keeps me enthused in the sport. Again, if I only had one skateboard and rode the same

skateboard everyday, I'd be so bored I wouldn't even want to be involved in the sport. But having a complete variety of skateboards keeps me stoked and I can take the skateboard to the full extent. I'm also working on using graphite to make the board lighter and stronger. I'll probably have a graphite model in the future.

Just how close is your skateboarding to your surfing?

Well, some of the maneuvers are similar, like off the lips, carving turns and cut-backs. I just kind of try to relate my surfing. Other skateboarders do the same thing; because there's not always waves and when there aren't waves,

were, like, the original crew: Stacey Peralta, Gordie Lieneman, Jerry Valdez and a few of the other boys. We got it totally going.

Do you feel the program was a success?

It's a good idea. It really promotes the sport. Go to elementary and junior high schools and even colleges all over Southern California, and the kids get out of class and see some guys skateboarding and have a laugh and get a free Pepsi on top of that. If I was in school and a skateboard team came, I'd just be freaking out. That's the best thing that can happen to them.

it. I'd just wake up in the morning and it would be a really beautiful day with five foot waves and I'd have to go to school but I'd rather be surfing. I think I've learned more being out of school than what I would have learned when I was in school. Just from experience.

You've had a lot of opportunity to travel. Where have you been?

I've traveled to Hawaii, Canada, all over the East Coast, Utah, Colorado, Mexico — that's about it.

What differences have you noticed in the skating in different areas?

Well, some of the most stylish skateboarders are in Hawaii, because



Into home break.

skateboarding's the next best thing.

How long have you been surfing?

About 7 years.

What do you ride?

I ride a 6'6" Bonzer swallow tail by the Cambell brothers. And it rides like something in between a Rocket fish and a Bonzer. It's a really good board. I just have one and it can handle just about any waves in California.

You've done a lot of Pepsi demos.

How long have you been on the Pepsi team?

For about two or three years. We

Is the program still going on?

Yeah, we're still giving demonstrations. Not as many as we used to but we're still occasionally going to schools and giving safety demonstrations.

How do you feel about school? How far did you go on your formal education?

Third grade.

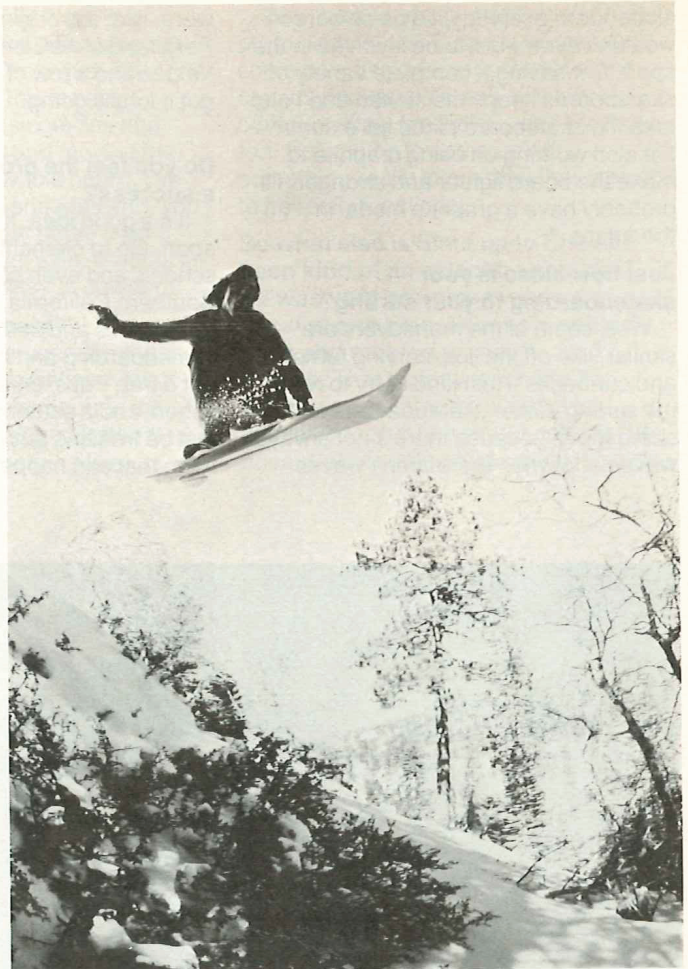
Really?

No, I'm just kidding. I graduated from high school and I went to college for about five weeks and I couldn't handle

their roots come from surfing. I've seen little kids in Hawaii, just five years old, that were just ripping and I couldn't believe it. I think as soon as they get a skatepark over there it's going to be incredible. But there are good skaters everywhere. In Canada, the East Coast, Colorado. Like, skateboarders in Canada a couple of years ago were way behind but now they're right up there almost with California. Almost up there with some of the top skaters . . . You know, the pioneers, Alva, Peralta, Adams and Darren Ho, have toured around and left their mark.



Skate, surf and snow man – Lonnie Toft.



Bound for flight.

Do you feel that skateboarders are a different type of people? Or are they just like everybody else?

They're pretty much just like everyone else. They just sometimes get a little bit carried away.

Especially the pros?

Yes, like professional basketball players or football players; they're pretty much the same thing. Skateboarders are not that different from anybody else.

The only difference is that they're achieving some measure of success in their peers' eyes at an early age. And in some cases it may be harder to deal with it.

Yes. Definitely. There's not too many little kids six years old that are rock stars.

A lot of the skateboarders are into the rowdy star scene and the groupies. How about you?

They can have the groupies. I'm happy at home. I'm in love with a beautiful long blonde haired woman and I don't need the variety pack to keep me happy. I like the simple life. Just a few friends, surfing a little and skateboarding. Occasionally traveling.

On eight wheelers:

“If I ride something different once in a while, I can keep myself enthused with the sport.”

I understand you had an eventful trip to Texas, and some of the skaters got carried away . . .

Yeah. We were going to Texas with a whole crew of skateboarders and they were all having a full food fight and totally getting into it and so the airline pilot threatened to take us back to Tucson and have us arrested for breaking some federal regulation or something. Causing trouble on the plane.

Whatever happened?

Well, we got off the plane and

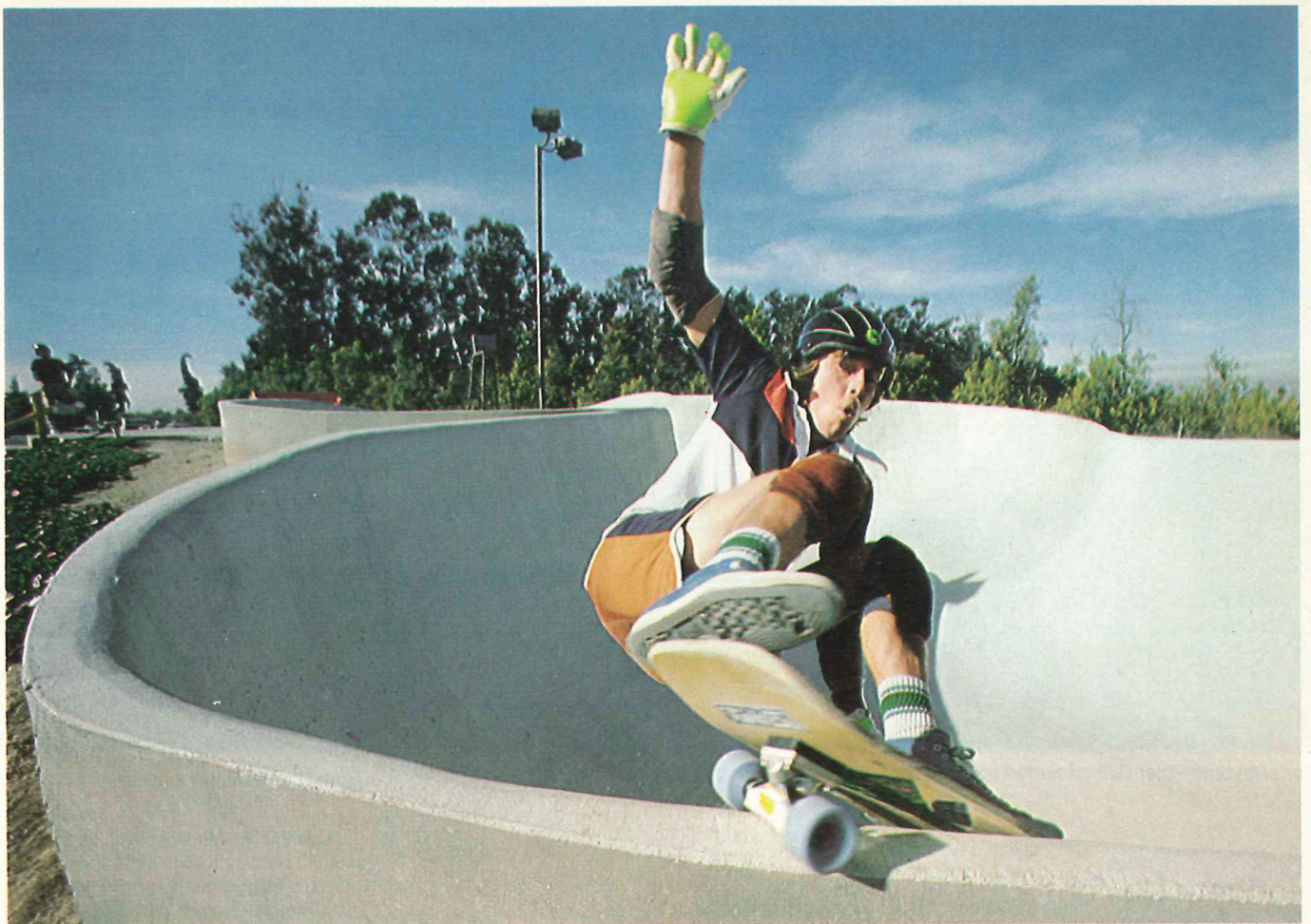
everyone at the airport knew what had happened and the pilot had called up the airport and told them he wasn't going to fly us back if we took the same plane. But I'm not into terrorizing and radicalism and nazis and going into hotels and kicking down walls and pulling at waitresses dresses. I'll let everyone else do that. I have better things to do.

How do you feel about drugs? I don't know if this will be edited out, but what are your thoughts?

I don't know. I don't have to be high to skateboard or surf. I can have fun just beng normal, you know. But as far as acid and the rest of that stuff goes, I'm not into it.

Earlier you talked about your favorite terrain. What would be your ultimate park?

The ultimate park? I don't know. Maybe twelve-foot bowls, perfectly round, no transition flaws and no little bumps. Coping that doesn't stick out too far. I like snake pits too; like, a wall here and it throws you off into a wall there and it has another wall that throws you into another. It's just one big long run of vertical walls.



Snake attack, Oxnard.

Have you ever stopped and considered why you skate?

Well, I don't like playing basketball or football or any of the other conventional sports. I'm more into water skiing and surfing and skateboarding and snow skiing. You know, those are sports that you do alone and you're not competing. Well, you're kind of competing but you're not physically knocking someone over.

I understand you're into Mellow Cat?

Yeah, those Mellow Cat comics are pretty interesting.

I have the feeling that some kids are offended because they think that skateboarding is too sacred to be laughed at. But maybe life has to be laughed at.

Yeah, if you take it too seriously then you get depressed and start running into all kinds of problems. But if you laugh at it and forget about it, then you're a lot better off.

Is that your philosophy of life?

My philosophy of life is to be creative and have a good time. I also believe in karma; it all comes back to you.

On roudyism:

“I'm not into terrorizing or radicalism and nazis and going into hotels and kicking down walls and pulling at waitresses' dresses . . . I have better things to do.”

What do you intend to be doing five years from now?

Five years from now? Well, I really can't tell you. I could be doing all kinds of things. It's likely I'll be doing what I'm doing now. But if not, I'll be surfing and pounding nails.

Pounding nails . . . a carpenter?

Yeah, carpentry work. My dad was a carpenter.

Is there a viable future for the professional skateboarder?

There's a future. You can learn about

the business and learn to promote products and improve design and develop your own products. It's just like any other business, except that you're dealing with skateboards.

What do you see in the future for skateboarding?

Well, the skateboard is going to be catching up with ski equipment. It's not slowing down too much; it's always advancing. I mean, if I go somewhere for a week or so, when I come back there's always some new product out; a new wheel or a new skateboard or a new truck or something. I think there's always going to be a need for skateboarding. Almost every kid wants to skateboard. And I think, in the future, the equipment is going to get better and safer. Skateparks are just going to get better and better and it's going to be a true sport like any other sport; like skiing or surfing. 🌀