

## ABOUT THE NAME DARIEN

The Darien designs were finalized twenty six years ago but we needed to postpone their introduction for a year because of our capacity limitations that year. During the interval another company introduced a popular  $\frac{3}{4}$  length street-rider's leather jacket called the "Dakar". That now long-gone jacket had been named for a little-known place in Africa where the famous 'Paris-Dakar' event finished. We wanted a name for our new jacket which would emphasize its All-American origins and sound close enough to "Dakar" to invite comparison.

The Darien area in Eastern Panama encompasses about one hundred miles of all but impassable roadlessness. It's the incomplete section of the famous 'Pan American Highway' which was to be a trans-continental paved road from the very top of Alaska to the very bottom of South America.

Today's politics make it unlikely that this last missing section, known as the "Darien Gap", will ever be completed, but thirty years ago it challenged a few determined adventure motorcyclists.

First, in the 1960s, was Nebraska's R60 BMW mounted Danny Liska. He walked through this hostile and dangerous place, end-to-end, and shipped his bike around. Then in the '80s Norwegian round-the-world traveler Helge Pedersen loaded his R 80G/S BMW in a canoe and paddled it through. A few years later, so did Florida's Ed Culbertson, except he spent a bit more time hacking out a partly overland path for his R 80G/S.

Both Ed and Helge used and helped refine Darien jackets. So we chose the name Darien to to honor the early adventure riders who challenged the Pan-American Highway's Darien Gap.

Like that road and those riders, Darien jacket and pants are the authentic original.



Ted Simon



L to R: Greg Frazier, Chris Scott, Clement Salvadori, Helge Peterson

