



Greenville, S.C.

Friday morning started early for some as they began practicing for the fifth and final MESS of 1984. It was heavily overcast, quite chilly and the chances for rain were increasing. Many skaters had arrived Thursday night and many more poured in on Friday. The session grew as the day progressed. Some viewed the new Bones Brigade video as it was being shown underneath the ramp. Skating went into the late hours of the night and the Camelot Motel soon became the skater hangout. The night was a little too long for Brett Martin of Ohio. He had arrived in Greenville early in the morning and just happened to stumble upon a Pepsi demo ramp while looking around. Then the most... well, he broke his ankle. Jay Henry almost suffered a severe head injury when the occupants of our room decided to practice for the sticker slam (with my stickers mind you) and it got a little out of hand. The irony of the thing was that when Jay was swiftly lifting his head after grabbing a handful of stickers, a man was about to be shot in a movie on T.V. As Jay's head struck the T.V., blood was being shown splattering a wall in the movie. We all thought he was a goner and after the movie was over, we turned our attention to Jay. He survived.

Saturday morning looked much better than the previous day and we hoped it would stay that way. There was a big showing of skaters from Florida—Paul Schmitt, John Grigley, Cleo Coney, and Donny Myhre. Bill Danforth was back from California and now residing in Squidland, Ohio.

The ramp, situated on a vacant lot owned by John Brissie, was rather new and in good shape. It was 32-foot wide, 9½-foot tall, and had 10-feet of flat

bottom. Everyone seemed to be enjoying it and we practically had to kick a couple of the sponsored skaters off the ramp so the unsponsored could begin their practice session. Our good friends, John Brissie, Bill Danforth, and Jimmy Murphy, took on the highly disliked job of judging.

The field of thirteen skaters in the 2a was cut to six after each skater took two runs. This was performed rather swiftly since we were running late and the top six barely had time to catch their breath as they were forced to skate non-stop for 20 minutes. Coming out on top were a pair of Marks; Ackles first, followed by Brand. Taking third was Wade Gullidge, and in fourth was Frank Yoder. Joe Polevy, who was helping run the contest, competed right into fifth place. Rounding out the jam in sixth was Donny Cundiff. Mort Taber narrowly missed the cut by getting seventh.

The 3a division was ready and waiting as soon as 2a finished. This group of eighteen skaters would be whittled down to eight in order to compete in the 30 minute jam. Special mention for Robert Taylor and Jay Henry, who were #1 and #2 respectively in the overall points up to this contest. Robert, hurting from a knee slam, took ninth while Jay just might have hit his head a tad too hard and scrambled into tenth. John Hughes, from Atlanta, took eighth, but not until he pulled some cool layback airs to invert. Georgian, Russ Mullis, showed great lines and pulled into seventh. They called him Blaze for obvious reasons. Mr. Bluin had the tricks, but a few balls put him in sixth. Welcome back Jay Cabler, he fished his way into fifth. Atlanta Ramp Ranch owner, Tommy Kay, proved hair length doesn't matter and multiple grabbed airs while grabbing fourth also.



Top amateur of the day, John "Etroy" Grigley. Air across the channel.



Ray Underhill styles this Andrecht plant for third place.