

the
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LUBBOCK
CUSTOM
MOTORCYCLES

The Indian Out West



INSIDE:

In the Wind
SHOVELHEAD
DELIGHT

Ducati
Multistrada 1300

Texas Independence
Day Rally

Harley-Davidson Motorcycle
Show

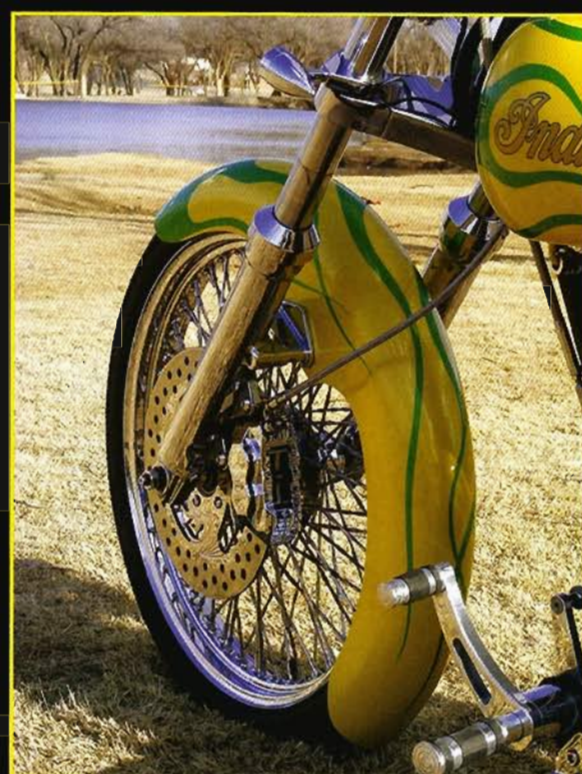
FALLEN HEROES MEMORIAL
RIDE & COOK OFF

SPORTSWEAR
FROM THE CENTER

hadn't been to Lubbock in years and maybe didn't see the biggest part of town, but I was really surprised when I ran across Juan Gandara Jr. owner of Lubbock Custom Motorcycles and then to see the work he was turning out really made me stand up and pay attention. Juan Jr was born and raised in Ysleta the lower valley of El Paso Texas. "The Sun City." As a child he was into cars and motorcycles. Juan recalled, "One memory I remember clearly to this day. I would always play in my Grandma Mom's backyard. About every other day I would see a chopper pass by on the street behind my Grandma's house. I would stand on the chain link fence ready to see the bike cruise by. I could hear it coming from a mile away. This chopper was painted a bright orange with a tall sissy bar. Chrome spoke wheels. But the main thing that stood out the most is the Springer front end. It was real long chrome Springer with twisted top legs on it. I could see the sun gleaming off the legs. Old School Man! After seeing how cool that looked. I was hooked."



Juan grew up being taken to work every weekend by his father Juan Gandara Sr., so he was able to hang out with him and watch him as he painted regular cars, boats and hot rods as Juan was growing up. His dad has been painting since he was eighteen years old which adds up to about 33 years of painting. He has painted for Peterbilt and Porsche as well as many more. Juan was always amazed how his Dad's paint jobs came out after he was done with them. Even though he did not have a paint shop at his house, "He would paint the cars on the concrete we had in our back yard. And putting out show winning paint jobs. He used to put me to work sanding cars while I was still pretty young. I think it has paid off seeing my Dad work so hard. As I always try my best in everything I do. One hundred percent or nothing. I still continue to learn from my Dad everyday we work together." Even with the memory of that first chopper he saw and all of this time working with his Dad Juan would not get his first Harley till he was twenty years old. It was so frustrating for Juan wanting a bike and just not being able to afford it.



While living in Mt. Pleasant Texas he met John Shelby. A master builder with fifty five years in the motorcycle business. He opened a small shop just outside of town called Mt Pleasant Custom Motorcycles, "I had my 75

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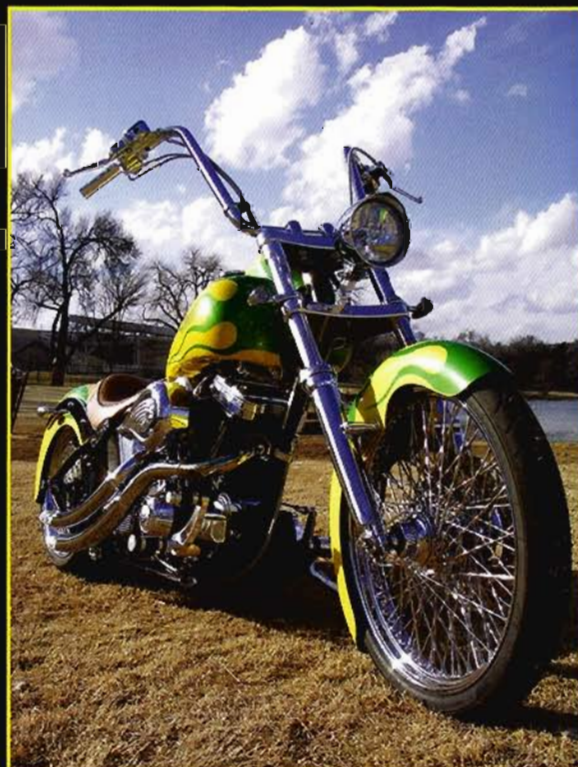
down at Crazy Horse Custom Cycle do all of our lower end work for us. And pretty much everything else we take care of ourselves. Dennis is our machinist, I come to him with my design or idea and show him what I need and he knocks it right out. He has many years of experience as a machinist making me custom billet brackets or any other specialty parts. We also do all the kinds of work - electrical work, wide tire kits, ape hangers, cab kits, ignition systems to exhaust systems for fuel injection bikes with my right hand man Don. Don is my mechanic. He has been working with me for just over three years now. Shelby still gets my phone calls when I'm stuck on a problem though. He helps me trouble shoot it over the phone. In his fifty five and some years he has pretty much seen it all. I feel we have a very good team here."



Juan's plan for continued success is to give his customers what they are looking for in a shop, honesty, good quality work that they stand behind, "We always work with our customer's one on one. We are here because we love what we are doing and not because we have to but because that's the best way to have the end results is what the customer wants."

Now this Indian really caught my eye, a great style and old school look, "our customer Mike with this Indian has won second place Softail at the ROT Rally 08. Wally with his white Softail customs we built for him has won first place, best of show, and best paint in the Blue Ribbon Rally 08 here in Lubbock. My 75 Ironhead won second place Sportster in the ROT Rally 07. We plan this year to make some big shows with Brady's 01 Ultra Classic and Cam's 01 Softail."

Juan not only has a great staff but this is a family business with his Dad and beautiful wife Enjoli, his little girl Amber is twelve and his son Sebastian is nine years old, "Enjoli has been a very supportive wife and has been with me for 11 years now. She takes care of all of our shop paper work. That takes a big load off my shoulders. My son is already calling my 75 Ironhead his motorcycle.. When we are at a rally or have an event at my shop. The whole family comes out. My customers also bring their kids out to our events. Everyone is welcomed." Keep your eye open for Juan at ROT and other bike shows around Texas. I am sure you, as I did, will see the talent in his work. **CMH**



Ironhead which was my first bike and I still ride it to this day. I would go by and hang out at his shop everyday. Little by little I starting helping Shelby with small things around the shop like cleaning the shop, washing the bikes. Man! I was just so happy to be around and helping work on this Harley's." Just before moving away Shelby told Juan, "after so many years working on Harley's. He had only seen or worked with about four or so people that had the passion, ability and the want to work on bikes. He felt I had a talent and said that it would be shame if I didn't continue to work on bikes."

In February of 04' Juan moved to Lubbock and opened Lubbock Custom Motorcycles, "One thing that drove me even harder to make my shop succeed is everyone didn't believe in what I was doing. When I spoke with potential customers, being new to the area you could sense and see it in their reactions that I was going to be here and gone after a few months. But six years later we are doing pretty good and still enjoying what we are doing. We try our best to make sure all our projects come out as the customer wants and exceed it. When a customer comes in they usually already have an idea and I try to take it to the next level. It is an awesome feeling that our customers are so proud of their bikes when we finish their project. I think all the small things on a bike go a long way. I would rather spend more time or redo a part over and over till it is right verses installing a part and having second thoughts." One thing about Juan as some of the others the desire to take it to the limit and to hit the exact mark the customer envisions in his mind for his soon to be scooter is his passion.



It's not the biggest shop but I can tell you I have seen some of the hottest bikes come out of small shops, the ones with just a couple guys working it. Not a lot of over head and the whole thing is to make the customer happy, a real feeling of connecting with your builder or service people. Lubbock Custom Motorcycles' shop is doing customizing, repairing, as well as being a servicing shop, "While also building custom bikes, they are an all around shop. A one stop shop for all your Harley and American custom needs. My Dad Juan Sr. does all our body work to the final polishing. Joe does our murals from Mean Street Graphics. Wicked Cactus Leather covers all of our seats from hand tooling, 3-D designs to Exotic Skins. His seats always match our paint jobs and the bike. It gives the bike an awesome over all look. Our friends