

## Kustom Corner

People ask me if I miss living in Alabama, I usually reply not really, except for the fourth month of freezing. It's here again, make room for the bikes in the garage and get the snow blowers and the plows ready for war! Sorry I missed last month's issue, (not that anyone noticed) but I did.

It's been a crazy summer of travel, music, and show's for me, promoting PROSSER PAINT, meeting folks and hunting for the next project. If all the folks I talked to this summer call for job's I'm not sure how I'll get it all done. I'd like to thank Preacher and FRP for giving me a venue to write, I'd like to thank Lucy Lou at Kutter Harley for all she has done for me this summer getting the word out about Prosser Paint. I would also like to thank all of you who had work done through the summer.



In this article I'd like to talk about the legendary pin striper Kenneth Howard aka (VON DUTCH) some say he invented pin striping and that is not really true. Pin striping could be found on roman chariots, safes, and furniture long before cars we're rolling around. Henry Ford had striper's striping his cars in the twenty's, this is where many of the names of the brushes came from, like the broad liner, or the fine liner. Guy's we're pulling stripes of different sizes on those cars. Von Dutch did bring pin striping to the main stream along with some other striper's. His dad was a sign painter and he grew up around brush painting. He was one of the guy's who started abstract striping designs that took off like wild fire in the custom car industry in the 50's. There are many legends about him and his extreme eccentric way's of life. They say there was a time in the late 50's when dealerships on the west coast offered an option on new cars called getting it "Dutched". He became so famous and in demand that people brought cars from all over the country to have him stripe them. The thing a lot of people don't know is that he didn't like people, and he never liked his fame. He was quoted as saying, "I have never been interested in people, only the things they make". Most people don't know that his real trade was machining, he was a master machinist. He made several guns, knives and built his own tools to make tools. He also built several movie cars and cars for the stars.

Some of his small pocket knives recently sold for thousands of dollars at auction. His original pin stripe box (which was his father's box) sold at auction for over \$300,000. He said in an interview with Big Daddy Ed Roth, "I tried to get them to stay away by charging more and more and the more I charged the more they came.

His fame was established in just a few years and the pressure overwhelmed him to the point that he packed his shop up into his bus and disappeared for years. He just left.

Von Dutch was a genius but he also dealt with life's vices that a lot of highly intelligent artist deal with. His logo (the flying eyeball) is the most famous custom culture logo ever. I believe it's Egyptian and means "The eye in the sky see's everything."

Some say if you took your car to him he would sometimes require hours of beer drinking before he would stripe your car. There is a story of him painting a high ranking Hell's Angle's bike, and one night in his shop it became possessed and started chasing him trying to kill him in his shop, so when the H. A. came to pick up his bike, Von Dutch had chopped the bike up into small pieces! They say the Hell's Angle's actually put a hit out on his life for it! You never told him what color you wanted or ideas you had or he would simply instruct you to leave. Some one told him "I want red and nothing else". So Dutch painted the whole car red, window's, trim and tires everything! There are several books with legends and tales of Von Dutch out there and the stories alone are worth the purchase. I talked to an old time painter in Northern California named St. John Morton (you can find him on the internet) and he has the original copy from Big Daddy Ed Roth who ran the camera and it's an hour or so long interview with Dutch in his shop, it's a really cool video. He was a futurist, a genius and innovator that never got the recognition he deserved until the fall of his life. He is an inspiration for anyone who is a striper or wants to, and they say he could pull a line down a car like no one else. I have been researching Von Dutch for years now and it is always very interesting to see the history of some people and things, it's true, Von Dutch is not an expensive clothing line. I have heard that when he died in the late 90's his sister who he hadn't spoke with for 20 or 30 years sold his name to the clothing folks?

Now please,

All these things I speak of come from my information found on the internet, people that knew him and just simply stories I've heard. What is fact or fiction we are not sure, so please take it for what it's worth. Fact is he made a mark in the custom bike and car world that is iconic. He is a legend and is the most famous and recognizable figure in the custom culture. I recently saw a flying eyeball on a new Miller welding helmet and asked the guy if he knew what that was, he didn't, "I just thought it was cool", and I replied you have no idea how cool.

Remember it is time to reserve a spot for your stripe job or that full blown paint job you've been wanting. We are scheduling right now for the next few month's..

See our work at [WWW.PROSSERPAINT.COM](http://WWW.PROSSERPAINT.COM) and feel free to call or e-mail to discuss your project. [mark@prosserpaint.com](mailto:mark@prosserpaint.com)-205-329-0664

## '08 Federation Winter Rendevous

Last years Federation Winter Rendevous hosted a smaller than usual group, but it was still a great time. After dinner the general meeting was started. We had guest speakers like "Chubby" from Abate, Dave Zien (Former Senator), Dan Van Lind (Abate) and an award was given to Senator Scott Fitzgerald.

This years event will include a Minnesota Lawyer from Street Legal MC Steve Cobb. He will explain how to talk to a police officer and what the law doesn't want you to know as a motorcyclist

If you ride with a group and would like to see what the Federation of Motorcycle Clubs is about, check out [www.wisconsinmc.com](http://www.wisconsinmc.com) or attend the next Rendevous Jan 17th in Plover at the Elizabeth Inn.



Senator Fitzgerald address's the group



Dan speaking

## Free Riders Press Pre Swap Party

December 6th, 2008

at the Ramada Hotel (Salon I)

Stevens Point, WI

Cherokee Rose Band 8-12

[www.cherokeeroseband.net](http://www.cherokeeroseband.net)

Smoking Not permitted in Hall. Alcohol Available

Pizza  
Hot Appetizers  
Ice Cold Drinks  
Video Games  
Pool  
Darts

**1-2-3 Mondays**  
Hwy 44 Exit  
358 W. South Park Ave. Oshkosh, WI  
920-233-7275

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