

"Indian Jim's" first D-I-Y restoration turns out perfect

By John Gunnell

"Indian" Jim Anderson was hanging out with Larry Wood in his shop near Daytona Beach, Fla., when Wood got a call about a '47 Indian Chief for sale. It was coming to the Antique Motorcycle Club of America meet in Eustis, Fla. This was in late February of 2008.

Wood said he wasn't interested in the Indian. Anderson was. When the Chief was trailered to the meet, the owner looked Anderson up. Jim went to the man's trailer and saw a unrestored, running, original '47 Indian Chief. He bought it before it was taken out of the trailer.

"I rolled it out and showed it to Dick Ollhoff, the owner of Yellow Spear Restorations in Tomahawk, Wis.," Anderson recalled. Ollhoff — who also happened to be attending the meet — told Anderson that he had bought a show winner just as it sat.

Ollhoff had done a number of Indian restorations for Anderson over the years. He is now retired, except for restoring and reselling bikes for himself. But, he invited Anderson — who lives in Arizona — to restore the Indian in his shop anytime he was able to come to Wisconsin and spend some time here.

"Up to then, the only thing I had done on my past restorations was write a check," Anderson admitted. Since he had recently switched to full-time living in a recreational vehicle (RV), Anderson decided to drive his RV to Tomahawk in the summer of 2008. Once there, he worked on his own bike under Dick Ollhoff's supervision.



"It worked out great!" Anderson said. "Over three months, I tore the old Chief down to its bare frame and brought it back up to the beautiful piece it is today. I also gained a new respect for the work that restorers do and the time and commitment it takes to restore an old motorcycle."

Anderson worked on it full time for the entire three months. "I only had one bike to do. Most professional restorers work on more than one at a time," Anderson pointed out. "We got new fuel tanks, rather than rewelding the existing ones."

Anderson reused the original fenders, frame, fork and engine. The bottom end of the engine was so "tight" that it was reused as is. However, it

was the only major power plant component that wasn't rebuilt.

A new overdrive transmission was installed, as was a modern generator. Anderson also added an electronic distributor. All upgraded parts came from Mike Tomas, the New Zealander who owns Kiwi Indian Motorcycle Co. (www.kiwiindian.com), based in California.

Other new components used on the Indian Chief included crash bars, a police style windshield, wheels and floorboards. A set of new saddlebags and a new seat were ordered from Sharon's Leather.

"What I ended up with was what I always wanted to have, an original-looking Indian Chief that was reliable and could cruise all day at 70+ mph," says Anderson. Any comment or questions e-mail Gunner at gunnellj@tds.net

New Owners!
New Milwaukee Location!

LEATHER
Headquarters

Your One Stop Leather Shop

Jackets - Vests - Chaps - Gloves
Accessories - Helmets - Saddlebags
We Do Patches & Stitching

(414) 727-5898
4230 W. Loomis Rd.
Greenfield, WI 53221
Just off I-894 Loomis Exit

Mon-Fri 10A-8P, Sat 9A-6P, Sun 11A-5P
Former "Real Leather" Location

AUTO, TRUCK & MOTORCYCLE INJURIES
CALL US TODAY:
1-800-662-5432 or 715-359-3188

NO FEES UNLESS WE SUCCEED
 HOME & HOSPITAL VISITS AVAILABLE
 FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION
www.flustylaw.com

Flusty & Kennedy, S.C.
A LIMITED LIABILITY SERVICE CORPORATION
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Michael K. Dirks | Jerome P. Flusty | Bradley A. Kennedy* | Jessica J. Flusty

1155 Grand Avenue P.O. Box 588 Schofield, WI

EXPERIENCE, DEDICATION AND RESULTS

*Certified Civil Trial Lawyer By The National Board Of Trial Advocacy