

Mid-November. An unseasonably warm day is on tap for this coming Friday. Plans are made. The die is cast.

My new job's required attire is business casual, but on Friday's, for a \$1, we can wear jeans. Perfect. Add my riding boots and a comfy t and I'm all set.

Lunch time Friday rolls around and I get a text. "I'm here."

I punch out, grab my keys and make for the parking lot. There they are - my knight in black leather and his trusty iron horse. I unlock my cage and get the leather out. It's warm for mid-November, but not THAT warm. Leather on, hair pulled back, skull cap on. We mount up and head out. "Where to?" he asks.

"I don't care. Just go 30 minutes in one direction, turn around and head back." He chuckles and nods in agreement as he gives her a little gas and we are on our way. As always, the cares and stresses of the day are lifted from my shoulders, blown off into the wind like a blanket of thick dust, I literally 'feel' it lifed off of me.

He quickly gets us out of the downtown traffic and out on a rural road. Not much left as far as color - the leaves peaked weeks ago around here. But, it's beautiful, nonetheless.

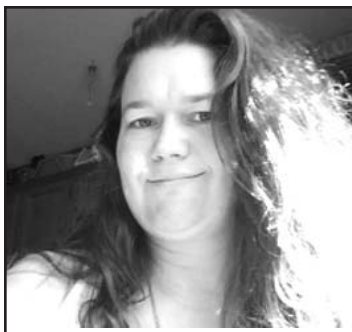
Some twists and turns, a few miles down by the water's edge. I could do this all day. I lean up on my driver and give him a squeeze. He turns his head for a sec to look at me. "thank you" I tell him over the roar of the engine. He smiles and nods.

Thankfully it seems like hours since we left my work. I have that sense of peace in me that I get after a day's ride. I like that.

I notice we are getting back into the city. Bummer. But, a short ride is better than no ride!

Back into the parking lot and dismount. I unlock the cage and start peeling off the leather. "H" watches as I transform from biker babe back into 9-5 Sally. I run a brush through my hair and check my teeth for bugs (ha ha) and I turn to head into the building, bidding my knight and his steed farewell. Just as I get to the door I hear that engine come to life once again. I sigh, wishing I was still decorating that rear fender until the sun sets.

Still, I must admit.....Best. Lunch hour. Ever.



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KNUCKLEHEAD MOTOR WORKS

Mike Lichner

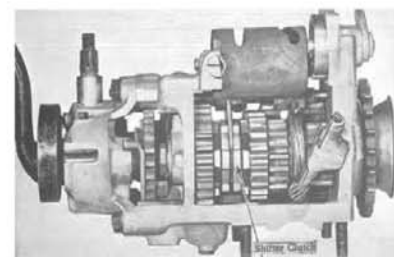
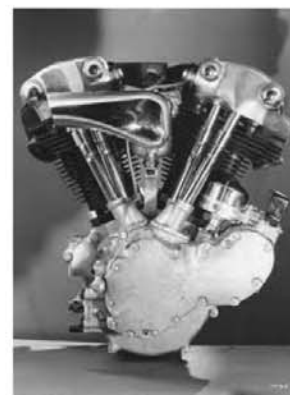
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