

Major Awards for Hering Kustoms, Northfield, Minnesota.

I took a little road trip about a month ago to Northfield, MN to a Custom Paint shop called Hering Kustoms. I was asked to write a Press Release for them. They painted the bike that won Easy Riders Bike of the Year – 2006 and also the Rats Hole Show at Sturgis this past year too...The Rats Hole Show is World Wide – only about 6 of those per year – in the world! Now...that's impressive! So I drive in, and go to meet Don Hering (Prez.) and Judd Holmberg (Vice Prez). I walk thru the door and looked into the most beautiful blue eyes I've ever seen – on a Siberian Husky named Rosie. Then she shoves her long nose into my crotch. In a big way! Well, what could I do??? I just threw my hands up in the air and said "ok pooch...go ahead – just - check it out!" Well, talk about breaking the ice! Geezzzz!

Hering Kustoms has been around since 1974. They have won most of the shows they have entered in the 5 state area. In 2004 they won Best Appearing Car at Inidy. A 1957 Ferrari won Best Of Show in 1992 at the Ferrari Nationals. At one point he had as many as 6 employees, but Don was not happy being "manager". Now there are 3 full-time employees, and 1 part-time. He enjoys mainly working on high end Street Rods and Custom bikes, both building them and painting them. They are building a "House Bike" right now. Judd has been with Don for the past 16 years and Don said he has become one of the best fabricators and body man out there. There shop in South Central Minnesota, just a half an hour south of the metro area. He's overheard people talking about his work and saying – "He should be in Florida or California, some place like that – he could really be somethin' out there!" Well, I think he's Somethin' right here in rural MN where he calls home.

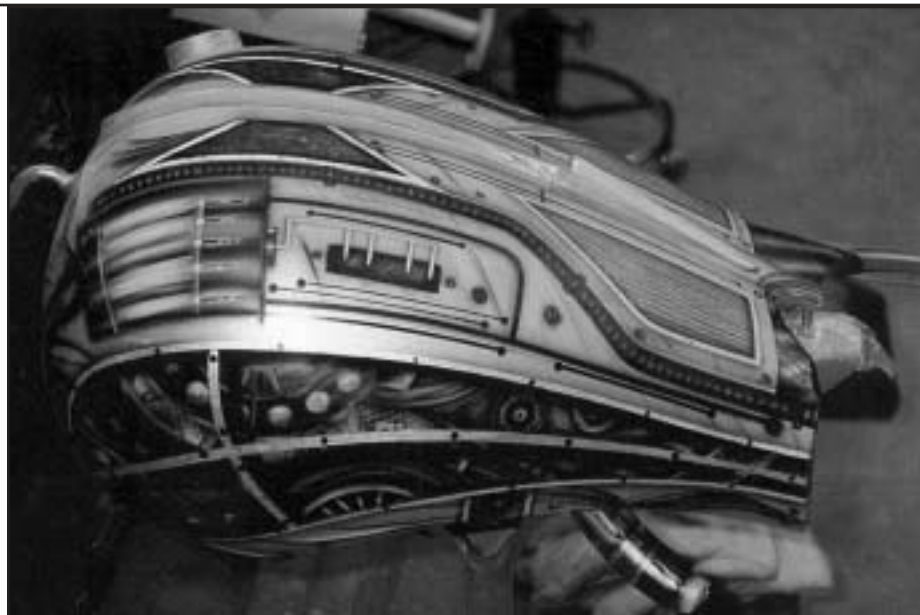
This year's awards were on a bike that was built by Jerry Burrow from Road Hawgs in Indiana. The paint job is so awesome!!! It was inspired from a photo of a skull of a robot or something like that – lots of circuitry looking parts to it. Very State of the Art looking. This year Jerry will be having Hering paint another bike of his and he will be entering that in the Million Dollar Bike Build-Off this spring at the Heritage Rally in Charleston, SC.



Don said to me "Anybody can call themselves a bike painter if they have paint and an air brush." So true...Don and Judd are prime examples of men that are real Masters of their trade. And it does take time to be really good at it. Don has painted a lot of vans back in the 70's – I remember "party vans" with super good stereo's in them,

driving around...you know...those were the days!

Scattered all around Dons work table were really good sketches...I asked him if I could use a couple of them to put in the column...he looks at me puzzled – "What...like these???" I said "Well, yes...you are very good!" I asked him if he sketches much, he said "Well, no not really, if I'm sketching, then I'm not working,



Winning bike's gas tank before candy red paint on top.

and what's the point - really." I said "Ummm...cuz they are really COOL!!!! You are a really good artist, not just anybody can sketch like this you know." Arggggg!!!! Anyway...I sent him an artists sketch pad and some really nice pencils for Christmas. I wonder if he's used them yet??

Most of you are aware of the Kennedy Project??? Kevin Bass, high school shop teacher, from Kennedy High School had his students build a bike. Last year there were two schools involved, and this is the third year that Hering Kustoms will be donating their time, supplies and painting for the bike for Kevin. What a great project for students! I need to read up on what's happening with this...because I know there is a lot of National interest in this project...check it out.

Hering Kustoms does work for Hamel Power, Extreme Custom Cycles, Doc's Chops in Pennsylvania, Shocks Harley - PA, Phill Borriello's Chopper Shop in Delaware, Road Hawgs, MC Iron Works, Divinchi Performance out of Texas, and more. I am really looking forward to working with them too...they are REAL. From beautiful downtown Silver Creek...Take Care, Laura the Potter

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