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## The Search

Jaysee stepped over the pile of parts and realized that this was not what he was looking for. Years had passed while he scrounged around the salvage yards and swap meets, looking for just the right machine. He had almost given in to the temptation to compromise many times through the years, but had always managed to stay true to his dream.



Kenosha, WI 53140 www.firehouseperformance.com Jaysee had long ago found that what he wanted was going to be hard - if not impossible - to find.

A 1946 Knucklehead. That was it! Nothing else would do. This was the same model of bike that his dad, newly discharged from the Marine Corps, had purchased new and ridden for years following WWII. Oh, there are many '46 Knuckleheads around, but they were either already someone else's restoration to one degree or another, or they were infected with parts and accessories from other bikes or model years. Jaysee's heart was set on an absolute original with no alterations. He didn't care if the thing ran or not, as long as the engine was the one that came installed in the frame. The wiring would probably be shot, but it had to be the original wiring connecting the original components. He knew that there had to be some still out there that were worth saving

because his dad had told him so. He would keep looking, and not settle for less than the real thing.

After what seemed like a lifetime of frustration, Jaysee came across one of those down home swap meets in a small Midwestern town. You go in because, well, you're there, and they're there, and, . . . who knows what you'll find. Anyway, as Jaysee sauntered down the aisle between myriad used parts from every make and model you can imagine, he came upon a huge cardboard box filled with Knucklehead parts. As he quickly scanned the contents, his heart began to race because of the possibilities he saw within the cardboard. He searched the area for the vendor, and found out that there was a frame, and a motor, for the parts he had discovered. According to this guy, all the parts came from a single 1946 Harley Davidson Knucklehead. Close inspection soon followed, revealing that this was, indeed, an all original '46 HD Knucklehead . . . . basket case!

Jaysee bought it! It took everything he had, but he closed the deal that day, loaded the parts in his pick-up truck and headed home. The next months were a frenzy of non-stop labor - a labor of love - for Jaysee. He literally put his life into making this Knucklehead new again. There was no detail too small, no overhaul too large for him. His goal was perfection - to produce what Harley had intended when they built it originally in 1946, the best motorcycle in the world.

After the better part of three years, Jaysee's work was finished. The bike was complete. He had poured himself into this project, and it had become a part of him. Anyone who has ever wrenched his own bike knows what I am talking about. The riding experience is enhanced by the intimacy of knowing your steed, inside and out! From now on, Jaycee and his Knucklehead would be joined at the hip. Inseparable. Identified with each other. "See that bike over there? That's Jaysee's." They started calling Jaysee "Knucklehead." Some things were destined.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a NEW creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become NEW." Jesus Christ came into this world to search for those who were lost, that he might restore them to life. He specializes in "basket cases" who can find help nowhere else. Maybe he came looking for you, knucklehead!

What do you think? Write or call: Pastor Sam Downey P.O. Box 557 Adams, WI 53910 608-547-8198 fbcaf@netscape.net

