

goes long for 2006... see page 24

Harley-Davidson and American Motorcycle News

SEP '06

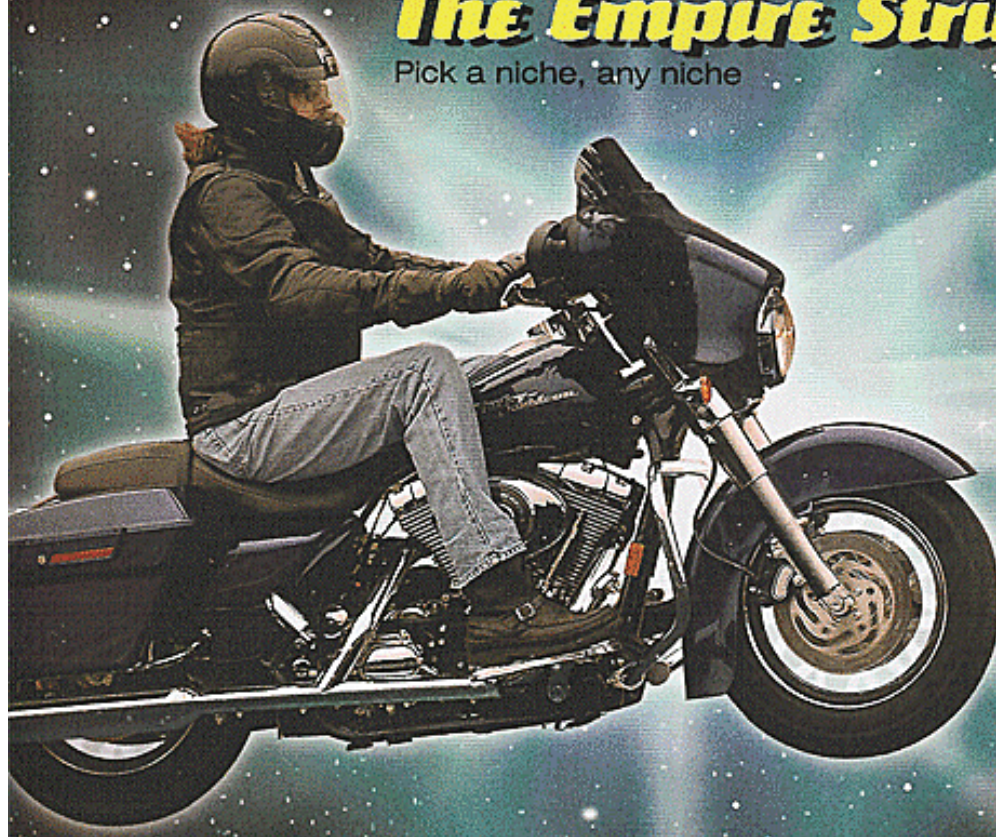
THUNDER PRESS

riding with you since 1992™

HARLEY-DAVIDSON 2006 MODEL YEAR PRESS LAUNCH

The Empire Strikes Back

Pick a niche, any niche



by Terry Roorda

DENVER, COLORADO, JULY 26—what Bill Davidson referred to as “probably the single biggest launch we’ve had in our history,” The Motor Company swaggered into Denver flexing their design and development muscles and bringing forth no fewer than seven new models for 2006, and that’s only half the story. The other half of the story is told in the jaw-dropping number of significant and sometimes fundamental engineering and ergonomic changes made across the lineup, especially in the Dyna platform, which now boasts six-speed transmissions and standard fuel injection on all models.

On the surface this was indeed an impressively ambitious press launch

See “2006 Harleys,” page 15, column

2005

Moveable Feast

riding the grand South Dakota buffet

STURGIS, AUGUST 6–14—“Where the hell am I and who told everyone else to be here?” I thought, as I rolled down the exit off I-90 and at once was immersed in a herd whose numbers had heretofore only been seen when the bison roamed these parts in the 1800s. Where was the sleepy little South Dakota

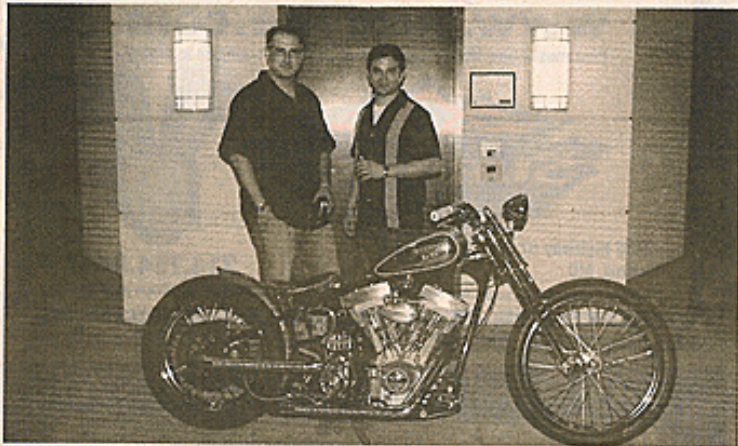
See “Sturgis Rally,” page 34, column



SCREENING "CHOPPERTOWN"

Sinners unadulterated

Documentary shows the new old school



by Wendy Perry

CULVER CITY, CALIF., JULY 9— It's been too long since we've seen anything like "Easy Rider" and "On Any Sunday." The world is ready for a solid bike film. These are the sentiments of Scott Di Lalla, and Zack Coffman is wholly in agreement. Di Lalla and Coffman are filmmakers responsible for what could be the solution to this. "Choppertown: the Sinners" is a documentary, but don't let that description discourage interest. It is a film about real people, sharing a

brotherhood as they ride and build motorcycles in a more real circumstance than any previously presented in the current television atmosphere.

The film is not an attempt to resurrect the spirits of Captain America and Billy, and it is not a feel-good film to rival "On Any Sunday." But just as those films managed to capture the essence of two different cultural phenomena, "Choppertown: the Sinners" presents a brief glimpse into another very real cultural phenomenon that has managed to survive more than half a

century in an underground state, but is enjoying the light of day with the energy of the youth who celebrate it.

The Sinners are a very tight group of guys who share a love of old school cars, bikes and lifestyle idiosyncrasies, although none of them are old enough to have experienced firsthand the '50s and '60s. Their society is loosely knit, as they live in various locations in Southern and Northern

California, but their loyalty revolves around a large, loveable and autocratic leader by the name of Rico Fordrey. The film introduces Rico and Kutty, another Sinner, as they meet at Rico's shop to discuss the feasibility of building Kutty a bike starting with an old frame that he produces from the trunk of his '54 Chevy. The story builds from there as other Sinners gather, stocking the shop refrigerator with beer as they arrive.



California, but their loyalty revolves around a large, loveable and autocratic leader by the name of Rico Fordrey.

Enthusiasm for the project builds, and sojourns to the shops of other Sinners help complete the bike. A radical set of pipes is produced with the help of a friend in Orange, California, and a custom gas tank is fabricated by Cole Foster right out of his Salinas Boys shop. (Cole is the head of the NorCal Sinners club called the Nomads.) The adventures include a

remarkable performance by Jason Jessee, another NorCal Sinner, with a flamboyant personality that must have served him well in a former life as a superstar of pro skateboarding. He is the actual donor of the gas tank, randomly producing it from a hodgepodge of interesting junk at his defunct skating and chopper museum/ shop, Automodown, before Cole Foster is able to work his magic on it.

With the infectiousness of the brotherhood shared by the Sinners as they interact in the production of Kutty's bike, it is good to remember that they are not a club, and as Rico aptly put it, "We're just a bunch of guys wearing the same shirts."

Much of the compelling music for the film involves two of the members of the Sinners. A founding member, James Intveld, who is a member of the Rockabilly Hall of Fame, is a composer, singer and actor who tours throughout the U.S., Europe and Japan, and four of his original works are included. Kutty Noteboom, besides being the major protagonist, is also the lead guitarist in the rockabilly-punk band The White-walls, several of whose songs are also featured.

To have been present at the first screening of "Choppertown: the Sinners," was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, considering that the Sinners themselves were seeing the film for the first time. Zack Coffman and Scott Di Lalla spoke to the audience at the INCE Theater at Culver Studios before the film was shown to thank the appropriate folks. They also briefed the attendees as to the initial reticence of the members of the Sinners as they all worked through the acceptance of the filming and the presence of the cameras. These aren't actors and the scenes are often raw in emotion. The emotions of these same regular guys broke through in shouts and cheers in the auditorium as their scenes were played out and ultimately when the bike fires and Kutty joins the pack on the road.

Don't miss the DVD release, planned for August. Check the website for more information: www.choppertown.net. ♦

