

KREATER

By Konstantine Zakzanis

IN THE BEGINNING... THERE WAS KREATER

So here I am in black and white print ready to share with you, the reader, hell raising motorcycle stories from the Great White North. Yes Canada (and beyond, when and where I can). On this occasion, I will offer a glimpse into the motorcycle scene around me, from coast to coast to coast to coast. It has been a debate in my mind as to where I should start, but as with any good book that one would find in the drawers of a roadside motel room after a long day of hard drinking, riding and wrenching, and of course, wenching, that place would be, "In the beginning...". And for me, whilst I could argue that the beginning for me had something to do with a 69' BSA I rode to death followed by a Honda Nighthawk and a 69' Shovel once I could afford it, I am more of the opinion that my introduction to custom motorcycles and the Canadian Bike Scene started with my first experience with a ground up custom build by a Canadian builder and it is here that I will call "The Beginning."

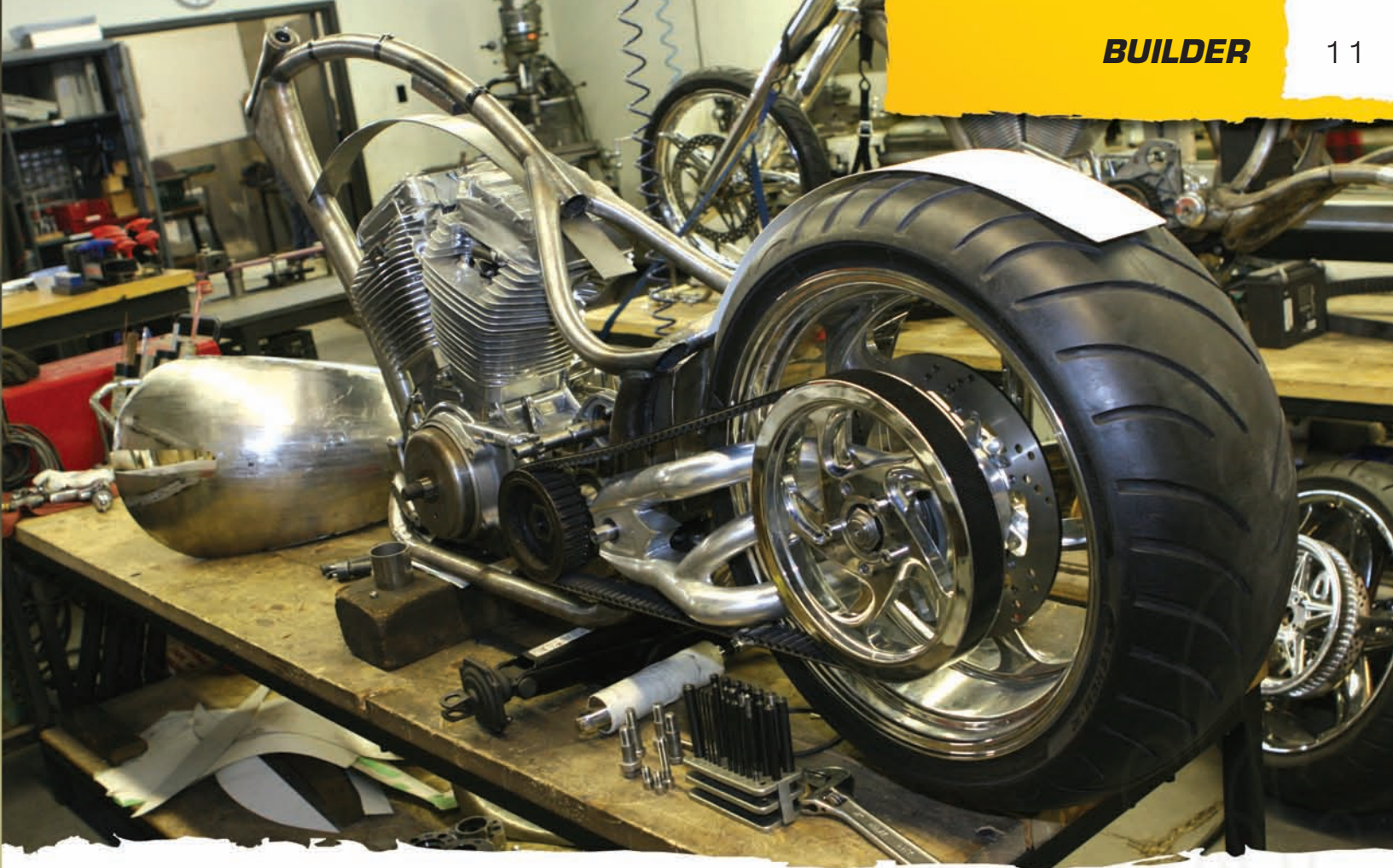
Because I am enamored with academia as some of you who might know me would attest, I want to start with a definition from the official Oxford English Dictionary. The word is,

CRE - A - TOR:

1. ONE THAT CREATES: THE CREATOR OF A BAD-ASS CUSTOM MOTORCYCLES; A BORN CREATOR OF TROUBLE.

Of course, whilst the good people at Oxford may be uneasy about how I slightly revised the example word usage, I trust they will agree that the term was appropriately taken as the name of a custom motorcycle shop that can actually live up to this definition- KREATER. And it is KREATER that built my first custom motorcycle and with whom my passion for this industry jointly flourishes. Indeed they built my first custom ride, appropriately named Lady Luck, that has spent its time on the road rather than on a hoist, and trust me, that is where you want to be when you venture into the world of custom motorcycles.





Let me start by telling you about its founder, George Tchor.

At the young age of 9, George Tchor first started playing with Motocross bikes; everything from changing tires to rebuilding engines. By the age of 15 he bought his first street bike, an "RZ 500". Out of the crate was not good enough for George, so out came the wrenches. After all was said and done, the 500 had 180 in the rear, reinforced frame and 140 hp at the flywheel. And hereafter, a driver's license and the need for speed drove his passion for what he does today. George started working in speed shops at an early age, but what had an impact most on what he does today is his experience at "MACK" (truck shop). He was hired at the age of 17 and immediately was put under the supervision of eight mechanics in a shop of 135. He lived and breathed trucks, anything from stretching chassis to running tandem dyno's, to building quad turbo 1600 hp tank motors and balancing multi shaft drive lines. There was nothing they couldn't do, but as with most of us, there comes a time in our lives when our passions take over and we

listen to them. George went to a Canadian University to study mechanical engineering and to pay his bills he started tooling on his friends rides. His knowledge garnered at MACK and his education allowed him to "CREATE" anything his friends wanted him to create and as such, after having half a dozen bikes on the go at any given time, George awoke to that idea that he should start a business with his close friend Quintin who has since moved on but remains part of the history. Thus the birth of "KREATER".





Within a few years George needed a retail location and moved into a 6000 sq. ft. shop on the skirts of Toronto and from a small crew of three close friends, hard work and endless creativity has evolved into a full blown shop of 14 mechanics, welders and fabricators and most recently, a West Coast Franchise in Kelowna, British Columbia operated by George and Jeff Vanderzalm. To my knowledge, there exists no other custom bike shop in Canada that can boast coast-to-coast franchise representation and it is a credit to the bikes that they build.



And let me add that the bikes that come out of Kreater are second to none. And without sounding like a pompous ass, if anyone should know, I should know. Trust me. I have been on rides with some of the most famous custom motorcycle builders on this planet across the badlands of the USA and Canada and it was my bike that was built at Kreater that lasted the 1000 plus mile journeys without incident. A credit to the craftsmanship of a Kreater motorcycle and to those that work at the shop who make it all happen. Hell, riding up here in Canada can be hard on

your bike in light of the salts and cold, and from a personal standpoint, it has been ever cool to have a facility such as Kreater to maintain my personal collection of motorcycles so that I can keep my ass riding. If this was not enough, it has become a place where want-to-be grease monkeys such as myself can not only get their bikes built and serviced, but participate fully in a ground-up build by learning to spin metal, weld and fabricate, tune and wrench—something I myself am doing now and will share with the readers along the way.

With this kind of reputation, I can understand why George and his crew are as sought after for both maintenance and



custom work as they are and it comes as no surprise to me that they have had many a client approach them requesting full blown custom builds. Indeed, one Kreater client in past asked for the "the ultimate chopper" ever made, regardless of cost something I am sure every builder would want to hear, but a challenge that few could live up to. Of course, George, along with the guys at Kreater including Tom McDonald, Joe Caetano, Ernie Acuna, Rick Marovas, Adam Szlachta, Adrean Majdan, and the newest addition to the family, Paul Ligon and Carolina De Acetis , did not disappoint and from here, similar requests have come year after year after year after year. You get the point. And if you don't, lay your eyes on some of the bikes that have come out of this shop in the pictures herein, which have been featured on the cover of international magazines such as The Robb Report.





With these types of builds, in early 2006, Kreater took over another 4000 sq. ft. totaling 10,000 sq. ft. so that they could also start producing hot rods—but that is another story for another magazine.

For more information about Kreater Custom Motorcycles, go to: www.kreater.com

