

All Things Considered

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investors who believed in the former Titan Motorcycle Company, and bought its stock, you weren't the only one who suffered. Don Proudfoot, the former owner of the troubled company, who purchased the assets after its first failure, was found shot to death in December in his Phoenix home. Proudfoot, fifty-four, filed for bankruptcy in 2007 and in August of that year tried to sell his company to Arizona Motorcycle Works, a company owned by his girlfriend, Hope Smith.

Titan's bank objected, claiming it had first rights to any assets. Proudfoot's life was further complicated by an arrest last year at Bike Week in Daytona for allegedly altering the numbers on several bikes he was trying to sell. He pleaded not guilty at his arraignment last August and was scheduled to go to trial December 17, two days after he was shot.

H-D DEMO SWEEPSTAKES WINNER

Richard Stiles, Jr., of Beulah, Wyoming, was named the grand prize winner of the Harley-Davidson Demo Ride sweepstakes. Stiles, a lifetime HOG member and a member of the Black Hills HOG chapter, chose a 2009 Electra Glide Ultra Classic in flame blue pearl. Harley demo riders in 2008 were automatically entered into the sweepstakes after taking a demo ride and redeeming a \$10 gift certificate at their local H-D dealership.

BILLY LANE SAGA

According to news reports last month, celebrity motorcycle builder Billy Lane is facing more felony charges. According to court records, the thirty-eight-year-old Floridian was charged two years ago with one count of DUI manslaughter in connection with a Labor Day crash, which killed Sebastian Inlet



Billy Lane at a Pennsylvania show.
—KMP file photo by Dave Bucher.

park ranger Gerald Morelock. Now the Brevard County state attorney's office has added an alternative charge of vehicular manslaughter. Prosecutors said Lane's blood alcohol level was twice the legal limit at the time of his arrest. The case may go to trial sometime this year.

HOLMGREN GETS A HOG

Sort of like Horton hears a Who, Seattle Seahawks NFL coach Mike Holmgren received a surprise farewell gift from the team—a cherry red Harley-

Davidson Road King. An experienced rider, Holmgren and the team then went on to lose his final game against the Arizona Cardinals. Then it was off to Phoenix, where he has a home, for some relaxation and warmer weather. After that, chances are Mike and Kathy Holmgren won't be spending all of their time in the Seattle area. They'll go to their cabin near the California coast during the summer. He probably has a Harley at every house he owns.

ATV SWEEPSTAKES WINNER

To kick off its fall membership drive, the All-Terrain Vehicle Association (ATVA) conducted the World's Greatest ATV Sweepstakes to award one lucky winner \$10,000 to spend on ATVs, gear and accessories. Eric Kaukinen, of Horseheads, New York, was selected the winner December 23 in a random drawing. There was no purchase necessary to win. The drawing was conducted by legal firm Plante & Moran.

The ATVA and its members advocate responsible ATV use on public and private lands, work with local, state and federal government officials and elected representatives to ensure that ATV rider interests are represented, and showcase the enjoyment and utility of ATVs on behalf of millions of ATV riders.

Visit www.atvaonline.com or call (866) 288-2564 for more information.

ACE DRAWINGS IN DUMPSTER

A significant set of 1919 Ace motorcycle drawings were recently found in a trash bin. William Henderson, who is still considered one of America's most creative motorcycle designers, sold his company to German immigrant Ignatius Schwinn. The Henderson had a reputation as being America's most luxurious, elegant and expensive four-cylinder motorcycle. Schwinn felt he had taken ownership of the "best of the best" and added it to his Excelsior line. Despite signing a noncompete clause, Henderson was unhappy and soon began plans for a finer and even more elegant replacement: the Ace.

Henderson would call it "The Ace Four: the finest thing on two wheels." He began drawing the plans for his new bike and searching for investors to help finance a new factory. Money would eventually run out, and while searching for the finances needed to complete his machine, production was moved, and even discontinued a couple of times.

One cold day, December 11, 1922, Henderson was test riding his new Ace and was struck by a car and killed. Within weeks his assistant, Arthur Lemon, completed the final drawings, and then sold the rights to Indian Motorcycle Company. Indian produced the bike as the Ace, then Indian Ace, and finally as their own brand, the Indian Four. During the 1930s, it went on to become America's only luxury motorcycle.

The original drawings, numbering approximately 400 pieces, disappeared from view. Lost in the files of the massive Indian company, the Henderson Ace drawings were assumed to have been destroyed in 1953, when Indian went out of business. The present day owner, Bill Melvin, who purchased the assets of the now defunct Indian Motorcycle Company, of Gilroy, California (makers

of the old S&S Indians), found the drawings as they were being placed in a dumpster and destined for a land fill. They had sat under layers of dust in a warehouse for years.

The drawings are each signed and dated by William Henderson and Arthur Lemon. They were executed on a cloth material and are in beautiful condition, and still rest in the old envelopes from the Indian factory.

The drawings were slated to be sold January 10 at the Mid-America Auction in Las Vegas but the reserve was not met. Calls to Bill Melvin for comment were not immediately answered.

AN AMERICAN LAND DEAL

The owner of the land in Shanksville where United Airlines Flight 93 crashed September 11, 2001, reached an agreement last month to sell the property, clearing the way for development of a memorial. The National Park Service

spiriting pictures of pretty birds and boats, DeVille created his own line of posters called Biker's Business Posters. His venture breaks the stiff corporate setting, by providing a series of inspirational motorcycle posters to express the way businessmen and women and bikers think.

"These motorcycle posters are designed to give you that 'biker' feel, whether you're behind a desk or in a boardroom. Because, like the millions of business bikers out there, we'd rather ride our motorcycles and think about business instead of sitting at our desk thinking about riding," said DeVille.

DeVille knows both business and bikes. He's been a motorcycle owner for more than thirty years. He offers CEO coaching, business retreats on motorcycles, consulting, and leadership workshops through his Biker's Guide to Business. This summer he will release *The Biker's Guide to Business*, a book



Motivational posters—biker style, available from Biker's Business Posters.

(NPS), Families of Flight 93 and land owner Svonavec, Inc., announced the deal for the 274 acres in Shanksville in a joint statement. The agreement gives the NPS access to the land, including the crash site, and allows for the planning and construction of the memorial. The parties agreed to allow a court to determine the value of the land. The agreement ends a three-year process of trying to move forward to establish the permanent memorial to the heroes and victims of Flight 93. The Svonavec family, according to news reports, was looking for the best price for the land. The goal now is to have a memorial to dedicate on September 11, 2011.

As a matter of perspective, the Ground Zero pit in Manhattan has been built up thirty feet since the site was fully cleared in 2002. According to *Harper's Magazine*, there have been four 980-foot-plus "super tall" towers built in the Arab world in the seven years since September 11, 2001.

BIKER BUSINESS POSTERS

As a coach and avid motorcyclist, Dwain DeVille was searching for some motivational posters that captured the spirit and attitude he has for both bikes and business. Tired of looking at unin-

aimed at helping business leaders achieve success in both business and in life. The book will be published by John Wiley and Sons and is due out in August.

DeVille's posters are available for \$19.97 plus shipping. Check them out at www.bikerbusinessposters.com.

SMOKY MOUNTAINS TOUR

Edelweiss Motorcycle Tours is organizing a Scouting Smoky Mountains tour for sometime this summer. Riders are invited to discover some of the most beautiful motorcycle roads in the East. This nine-day tour will travel throughout North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, and Georgia. Participants will enjoy sweepers over the Blue Ridge and Smoky Mountains, which reach their peak at the Tail of the Dragon at Deals Gap and its 318 curves in eleven miles. For details visit www.edelweissbike.com or e-mail worldtours@edelweissbike.com.

TEXTING WHILE DRIVING BANNED

Texting while driving is now illegal in California, as it already is in six other states and the District of Columbia. In addition, seventeen states have laws banning "novice drivers" (usually those under a certain age or with less than a

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