



WHEELSPINNER

The independent journal of the Austin Healey
Club of America's modified section
Issue No. 1, 2016



Bikers: Dangerous radicals or just good 'ole boys letting off some steam?



EDITOR'S DESK



Ok, gang. We got to get organized! Conclave is coming up fast. You can't miss the dyno pulls, the drag racing and the partying! Last call, whose coming? We need to plan our own welcome table, happy hour, dinner table, tent with a banner, drive-in movie, etc. I need input from Ohio Nasty Boys, especially those who are involved with putting on the show. We don't want to just shlep around! We need to stick together. Nasty Boys t-shirts (we want to fly "our colors"). I'll make up some using the above image of Superstition 13. Who wants one? Probably things are going to break (they sure did years ago at the Roadster Factory Drag Race). So I'll have my truck and trailer ready. Please share your thoughts.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I see Austin Healeys are now climbing in value, harder to find I guess. Yep, owned my '59 since 1970, original stock, lots of years and long story. I see that '54 modified Gurney/Westlake Paxton blower, Chicago unit went for 100K? Is that true? Watched that for years. Thought about selling mine for about a second or two, nope, I will be buried in it. Short story I hope: 302 new nickle block, stroked to 331, FI, 3k converter, all the nice goodies in the motor, Dyno tuned, nearly 500 to rear wheels, scary a bit, top speed supposedly about 180, 0-60 2.84 seconds, this I know. Don't want to sell yet, 5k miles on the motor so far.

- Dennis Fesmire - dfesmire@gmail.com

Dennis, how on earth did you get 500 rear wheel horsepower and 2.84 seconds from a Ford small block with these skinny tires? Don't you sell such a cool car! See you at Conclave
- Russ



Hey Russ,

Great work on the Wheelspinner...I do enjoy it. - leo - lruf@columbus.rr.com

Hi Leo! Is the Bug Eye functional? Nice BJ8 dash. Is that nitrous equipped? See you at Conclave! - Russ



Hello Russ

Finally.....after 9 years and CAN \$148,000 spent, my car was completed in September.

I attach some images and a spec sheet. Why 9 years? Well, everything but the engine was built by one man in his small shop. Terry is a retired race car driver and race car builder. In his original professional career he made surgical tools and prosthetic products. He worked steadily at his own pace and restored a friend's MGA in-between. I figured you cannot push an artist. The headers took him a month, he made them first out of PVC pipe to have a template. The trafficator took 3 days, it has modern guts as we can no longer run wires through the steering column. The modification of the windscreen pillars took 2 days. The bodywork took forever, metal bashing supersedes excessive filler. He even made the protrusions for the rear reflectors identical left-right, the factory tool was not symmetrical. The single stage, multi layer urethane paint job reveals no ripples or any other imperfection. It goes without saying that body gaps are much better than original.

At the end, what is the coolest thing? The car sounds like an original Healey thanks to the exhaust system configuration.

Driving is whatever you want: Cruise leisurely at 1,800 RPM in 5th or go fast, which is actually not frightening. She drives very controlled like a race car. I may have to sell this car.

Cheers, Stefan - stefan@intrigueme.ca

Hi Stefan! Would you please send us a Tech Feature on the trafficator conversion and the chopped windshield? Yours is a very beautiful car. I love the no bumpers look, the chopped and laid back windshield and the Lemans gas cap. - Rev. Rust





Is that motor really painted Healey green?!

I dig the “clocked” tach (next page).

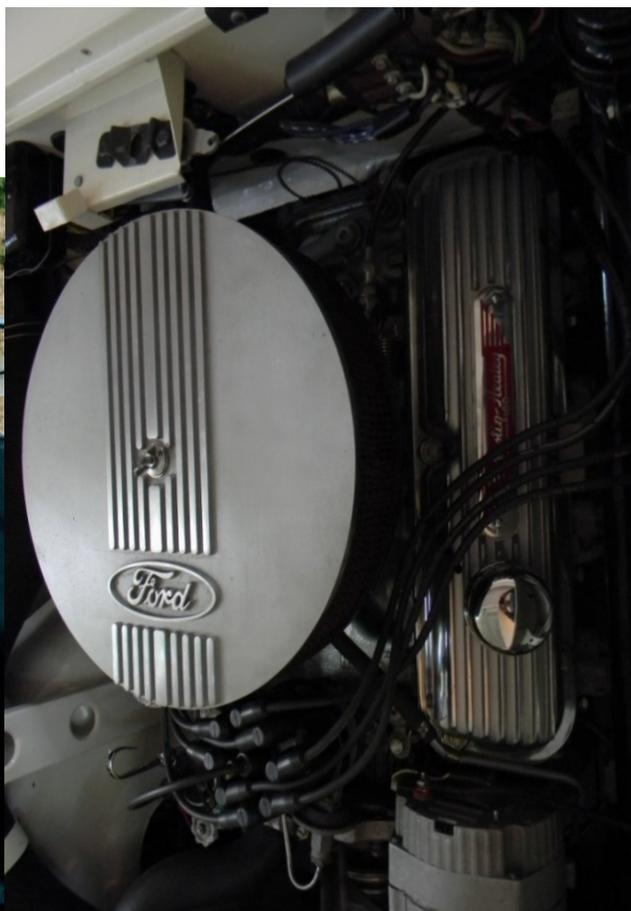
What is that grill work under the right headlight?

It breaks my heart to think that someday a restoration nut may try to return this car to stock!



Be careful Russ, I'm also a "Restoration Nut". Concours Committee since forever.
- Kent - hklacy@verizon.net

I forgive you, Kent! See you at Concours. What a beautiful sleeper.- Russ



Russ, can I join the Nasty Boy list? I am putting the finishing touches on my '59 100-6 with a corvette LS1 350 aluminum block. The car looks stock from the outside.
- Chrisdrscholz@visioncenterpc.com



Chris, you sure can!
Beautiful car! It is good to see Nasty Boys still chopping them up! You look like you know what you are doing, unlike me! - Russ

Hi Russ,

I have no plans to be at the 2016 Conclave ... but I guess that is no surprise. I thought that I would send you this mail to let you know that I am still out there in the land of the living, but due to my failing health I am not using my Nasty Boy that much ... in fact I am only really driving my SUV daily driver. My brother-in-law (Jason Yates) uses it more than I do!

I appreciate what you are doing for the registry to take things forward after the sad loss of Leroy & Sue last year. Maybe we will get the chance to meet one day if either of us cross the 'pond' for a vacation.

Yo, Charles, really good looking ride. Real clean. I hope your health improves. - Russ

My best wishes for 2016 & keep up the good work,
Charles - c.matthews@talktalk.net



FOR SALE



AUSTIN-HEALEY
continued

Austin-Healey 1959 100-6, original copy of title, sold new in Paris, factory hardtop and soft top, purchased from engineer that did excellent job installing a high-performance 289 and four-speed 40 years ago, drives fantastic! \$22,500. 505-660-7777, NM; online: www.hmn.com/1797271 !bidg & tot .0008 .8-001

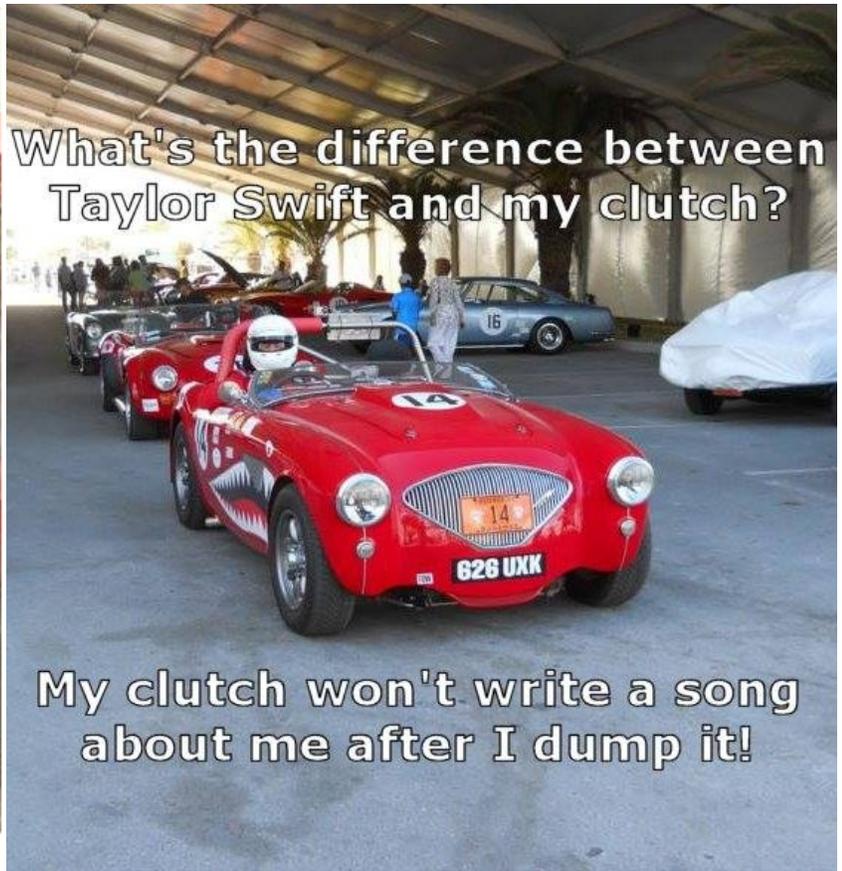
Looking for best offer. - Eugene Smith
- healatron@yahoo.com

Let me play you



the song of my people!

What's the difference between Taylor Swift and my clutch?



My clutch won't write a song about me after I dump it!

Russ Keep: Unbelievable! Where on earth did you get a intake manifold like that? You sure you got enough tire on the back there?

Kevin Mole: It's a Webcon X-Ram manifold running 4 x 48DCOE Webers. Currently 481 bhp but good for 600 bhp and no, it's not enough tyre but I didn't want to tub the back end or go for less modest fender flares. Not great as a drag car due to tyres but awesome as a fast circuit car as long as I don't boot it too hard out of chicanes. Then you see the rear end overtaking the front. After having three types of four-barrel carbs I went to one choke per cylinder and she pulls smoothly from 20mph in fifth should one want to do that. Generally overcarb'd for the road but you only live once.

Russ Keep: Wow. It clears the hood and you're running air cleaners. Was it hard to tune? How much vacuum do you have at idle?

Kevin Mole: The carbs came just about right from the box. Only had to go up one size of main jet. They need balancing every six months. There's enough vacuum but I've never measured it. When it's cold and with no enrichment we get the inevitable 'koffsenbangenspitzenfartsen' from the carbs. She's run a 1/4 mile @ 12.1 and 122 mph terminal on those road tires. Slow off the line due wheel spin but once she pick up her skirts she really flies.

Russ Keep: Sounds like you'd be deep into the 11s with 10" rims and slicks used just for drag racing. Go ahead and tub it, man!

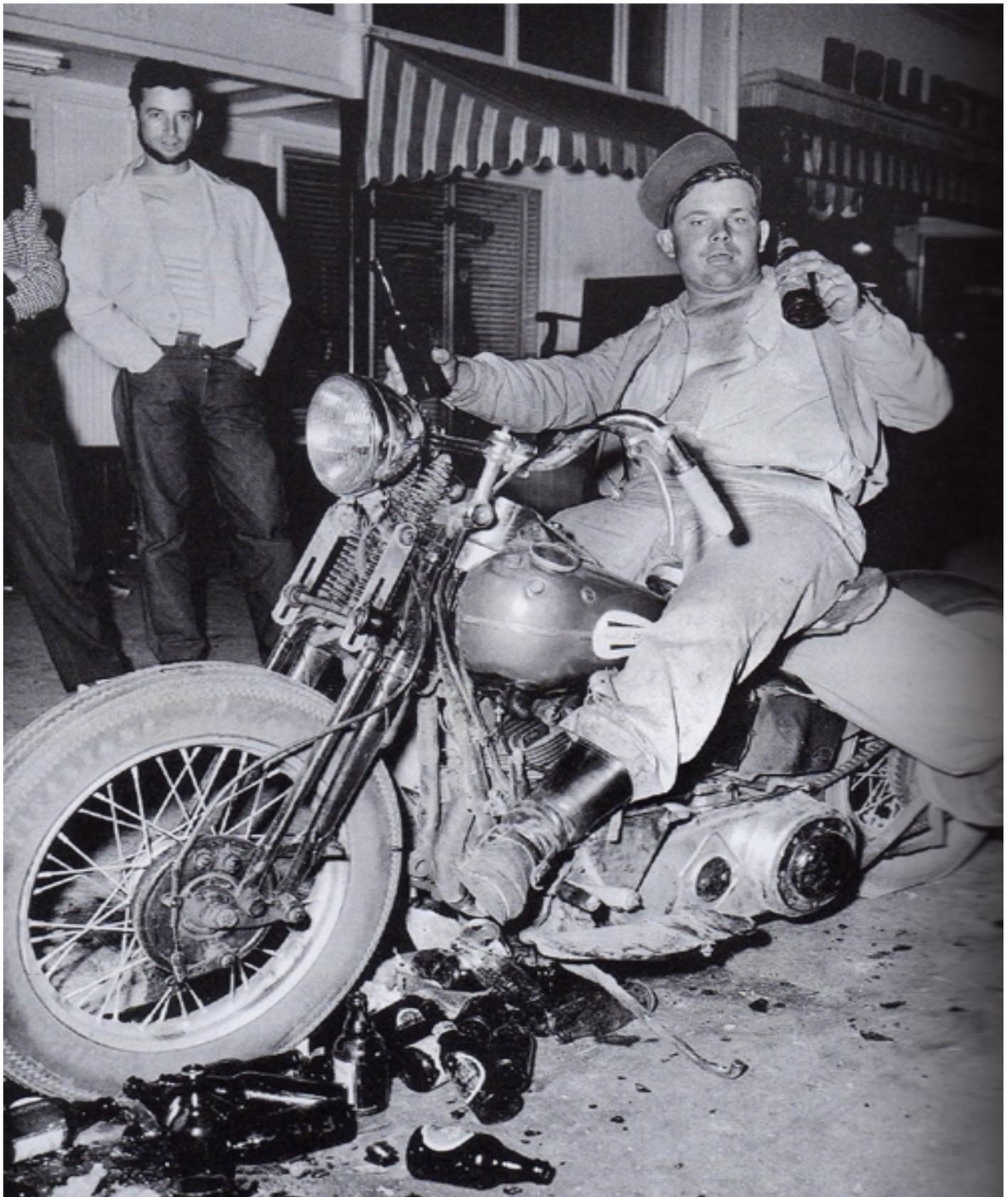
Most of us Nasty Boys grew up watching hot rod and biker drive-in movies. The absolute all time best was *The Wild One* with Marlon Brando, 1953. This is the movie that invented biker movies, if not inventing the 1950's! Hot rod movies (*Rebel Without a Cause*, *T-Bird Gang*, *Hot Rods to Hell*, *Drag Strip Riot*, *Drag Strip Girl*) came along at the same time and are really biker movies on 4 wheels instead of 2. Same leather jackets, booze and misogyny with actors in their late 20's or early 30's playing teenagers out of control. It has probably been awhile since you saw *The Wild One*, so here is a recap of the movie's highlights. Spoiler Alert: We may be watching this at Conclave!



“This is a shocking story. It could never take place in most American towns - but it did in this one. It is a public challenge not to let it happen again” - *The Wild One's* Prologue.

To prepare for his role, Brando spent time with real life biker gangs to absorb their mannerisms, dress and speech. He even chose his own wardrobe which he wore to and from the studio.

Originally titled *Hot Blood* and released on December 30, 1953, the film poster stated “Hot Feelings Hit Terrifying Heights in a Story That Really Boils Over!” *The Wild One* was banned in England until 1968 and only then released as “X Rated.”



RIPPED FROM THE HEADLINES!

The REAL Wild Ones. The July 4th weekend, 1947. Hollister, California motorcycle riot. Dig the bedroll and two fistfuls of drinking!

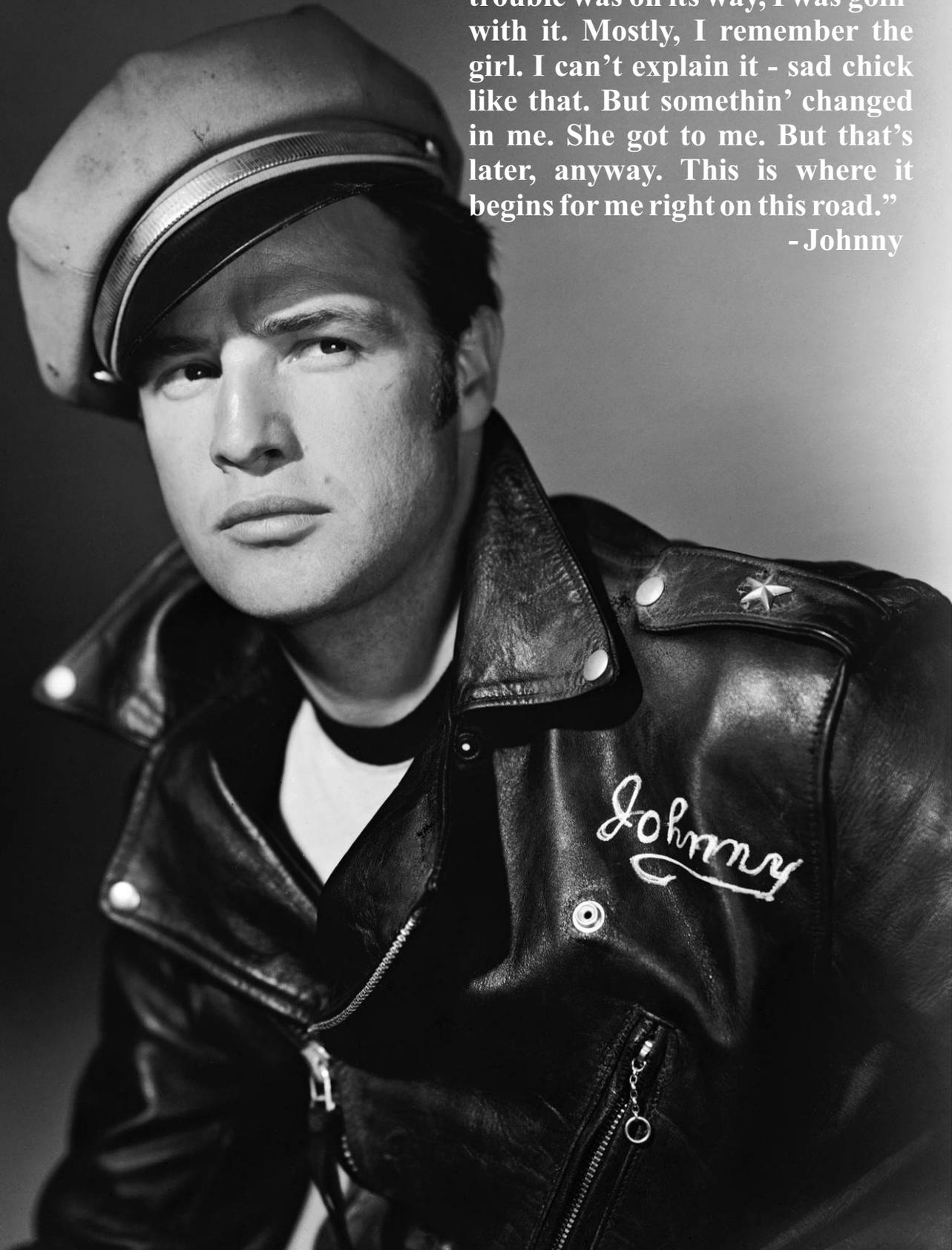
Life Magazine captured the mood when it photographed one burly biker, Eddie Davenport, perched on his Harley Davidson amid a hellscape of garbage and beer bottles. "A hog reclining on a hog."



The Cast: Marlon Brando as Johnny Strabler and his 1952 Triumph 650 Thunderbird
“After awhile you got to have fun. And if someone gets hurt - that’s just tough!”

“It begins here for me on this road. How the whole mess happened, I don’t know. But I know it couldn’t happen again in a million years. Maybe I could have stopped it early. But once the trouble was on its way, I was goin’ with it. Mostly, I remember the girl. I can’t explain it - sad chick like that. But somethin’ changed in me. She got to me. But that’s later, anyway. This is where it begins for me right on this road.”

- Johnny





The Cast: Mary Murphy as Kathie Bleeker (a small town repressed sad sack)- “My father was going to take me on a fishing trip to Canada once ...we didn’t go.”
“Subverted underneath its cautionary tale simmered an infectious blast of souped up romanticism and erotic sado-masochism. Face it: these film makers *knew* their picture was a turn on.” - Kim Morgan, *Sunset Gun*



The Cast: Lee Marvin as Chino

“Lee Marvin injects a welcome shot of battery acid as the leader of a rival bike gang” - Richard T. Jameson - Amazon.com

“And in a second wolf-pack leader, whom Lee Marvin gruesomely portrays as a glandular “psycho” or dope-fiend or something fantastically mad, there is briefly injected into this picture a glimpse of utter monstrosity, loose and enjoying the privilege of hectoring others in a fair society.” - New York Times Movie Review 12/13/53.

Lee Marvin was a US Marine sniper who served from 1942-1945, earning a Purple Heart. Chino was loosely based on Wino-Willy Forkner of the Booze Fighters Motorcycle Club who clashed in the 1947 motorcycle riot in Hollister. Lee is shown here in a press photo astride a Harley Springer. In the movie he rode a 1950 Hydraglide Panhead. Marvin displays his distinctive striped shirt. Chino is the real Wild One compared to the squeaky clean Johnny.

According to Hunter S. Thompson, author of Hell’s Angels, San Francisco Hell’s Angel chapter President Frank Sadilek bought the shirt from Columbia Studios and wore it until it turned to rags.

If Brando is a prowling jungle cat, Marvin is the laughing hyena. “It’s the king v. The clown.” - Jamie Rich, DVD Talk



The Cast: Britches

Britches: We really got ourselves hung on the Christmas tree, didn't we? Boy, was I green. Was I really green! I thought I was really livin' it up. I had me a guy and we were really gonna go. But we had a lot of yucks, anyway, didn't we, Johnny? Well say it, can't ya say anything? Please, Johnny, I won't get on your back. I wouldn't do that. But we had a lot of yaks, anyway, didn't we?

Johnny: (coldly) What do you want me to do, send you some flowers?





Supporting Cast: The Black Rebels Motorcycle Club

“The subject of its examination is a swarm of youthful motorcyclists who ride through the country in wolf-pack fashion and terrorize the people of one small town. Given to jive or bebop lingo and the grotesque costumes and attitudes of the “crazy” cognoscenti, these “wild ones” resent discipline and show an aggressive contempt for common decency and the police. Reckless and vandalistic, they live for sensations, nothing more - save perhaps the supreme sensation of defying the normal world.” - New York Times, 1953. Note the BRMC uniform, black leather jackets, with their names or nicknames neatly stitched on their left chests and blue jeans with engineer boots.



Supporting Cast: The Beetles

“A ugly debauched and frightening view of a small but peculiarly significant - and menacing element of modern youth.” - New York Times, 1953

Note their less uniform, odd ball attire.



The Plot: The movie opens with a playful Johnny and his Black Rebels Motorcycle Club engaging in an impromptu drag race. A humorless square tries to ruin their harmless fun. “Mouse” steals the 2nd place trophy (the 1st place trophy was 2 feet high!) and gives it to Johnny who later straps it to his speedo.



The Wild One and his Black Rebels take off to the nearby town of Wrightsville, to the town’s only tavern.

**But not
before
striking a
pose.
“Grubby
Glamor
(you have
to know
what to
wear to the
revolution)”
- Kim
Morgan,
Sunset Gun**

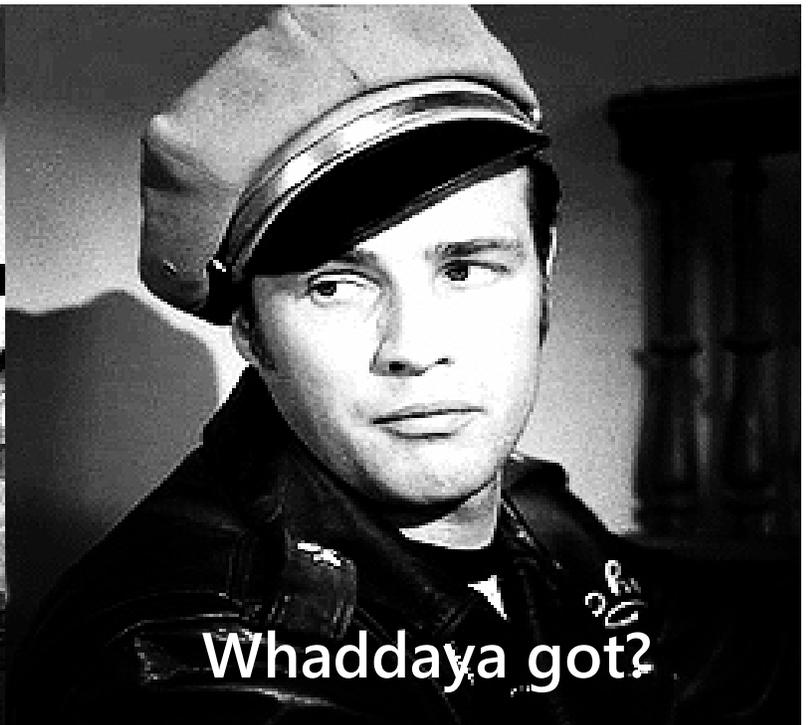




“Better put some more beer on ice!”



Outside, the BRMC members engage in some wholesome fun and games. Dig the Flathead Indian with a '36 Ford spare tire cover re-purposed as a rear fender and the sleeping bag.





Johnny shows us how to really talk to women!

Johnny: Well, on the weekends, we go out and have a ball.

Kathie: And what do you do? I mean, do you just ride around? Or do you go on some sort of picnic or something?

Johnny: A picnic? Man, you are *too* square. I'll have to straighten you out. Now, listen, you don't go any one special place. That's cornball style. You just go, (he snaps his fingers). A bunch gets together after all week it builds up, you just ...the idea is to have a ball. Now if you gonna stay cool, you got to wail. You got to put somethin' down. You got to make some jive. Don't you know what I'm talkin' about?



Johnny: What are you some girl who makes sandwiches or something? You think you're too good for me. Nobody's too good for me! Anybody thinks they're too good for me, I make sure I knock 'em over sometime. Right now, I could slap you around to show you how good you are and tomorrow, I'm someplace else and I don't even know you or nothing.

Kathie: You know what I used to think about? I used to think about it a lot after my mother died. That somebody would come here and stop at Uncle Frank's place, and buy a cup of coffee or something, and he'd like me right away and take me with him.

Johnny: Where did you want this guy to take you - this guy who had a cup of coffee?

Kathie: I don't know. Wherever he was going, I guess. I'm shaky. I wish I was going someplace. I wish you were going someplace. We could go together.

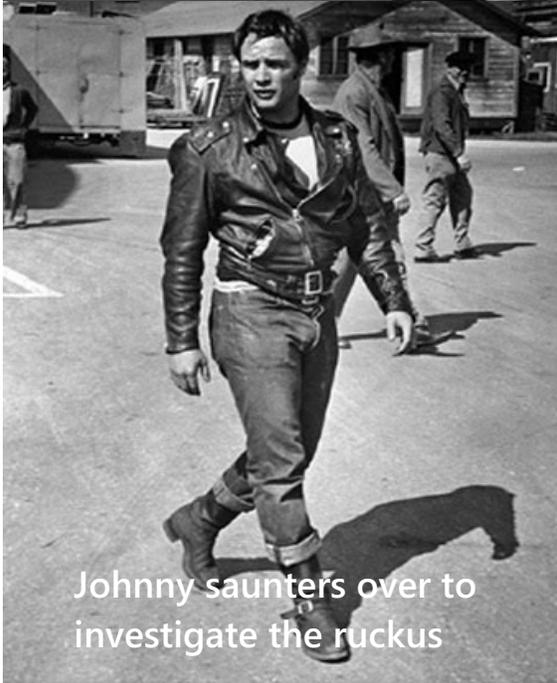
Kathie: You were going to give me that statue. Will you give it to me now?

Johnny: Why?

Kathie: I don't know. I just wondered if you still wanted to give it to me, that's all. It's crazy.



Just as the Wild One and the Black Rebels are beginning to depart, an outlaw bike gang arrives, led by a crazy, vulgar biker named Chino (Lee Marvin) - a former member of Johnny's gang who broke away and formed his own rival gang - the Beetles. Note the biker on the right is giving the town's people the finger but it was blurred by the censors. Check out the other rider!



Johnny saunters over to investigate the ruckus



The dirty, ape-like, loud-mouthed, cigar-smoking, stubbly-faced Chino taunts his ex-leader by stealing the trophy off Johnny's bike (and putting it on his own bike's handlebars) and issuing crude insults;

"I love you Johnny. I've been looking for ya in every ditch from Fresno to here, hopin' you was dead."

"Aw, don't take that away from Chino. It's so beautiful. Chino needs it. Makes Chino feel like a big strong man. Chino wants to be a big racetrack hero with all these girls. Pow, huh! Look, I didn't win it Johnny. I just gleeped it. But I gleeped it off a guy that didn't win it either. Look, Johnny, you want one? How about you go gleep one someplace yourself, huh?"



A heated discussion arises over the ownership of the purloined prize. Notice the attire of the two gangs, the more eclectic clothing of the Beetles, who also tend to favor striped down or “bobbed” Harleys over British bikes.



Johnny shoves Chino off his Harley. Dig what appears to be a German Army belt and buckle. Note California registration card on the right fork.



Chino hands the trophy to Kathie and dramatically describes what will happen to her hero next....

“This lovely young lady over here shall hold this beautiful object signifying absolutely nothing. Now watch closely, see how the timid maiden of the hill clutches the gold to her breast and see how she fights back a tear, while her hero bleeds to death in the street.”



Chino temporarily turns the tables on Johnny



**Chino is lead off to jail
yelling "oh the shame,
the shame!"**





“I don’t like cops” - Johnny



**Johnny rescues Kathie from
his own BRMC gang!**



TITILLATED!

And he carries her off so that they can be alone

Kathie: I'm sorry. I - I can't fight back. Too tired. It would be better, wouldn't it? Then you could hit me.

Johnny (berating her attitude toward him): You think you're too good for me. Nobody's too good for me. Anybody thinks they're too good for me, I make sure I knock 'em over sometime. Right now, I can't slap you around to show you how good you are. And tomorrow, I'm someplace else and I don't even know you or nothing.

Kathie: Do you want to?

Johnny: I wouldn't waste my time with a square like you. What do I want to knock myself out for? I'm gonna take you back and dump you. Come on, where're you going?

Kathie (desiring him, she softly replies): Johnny. (She touches his arm.)

Johnny: Quit that.

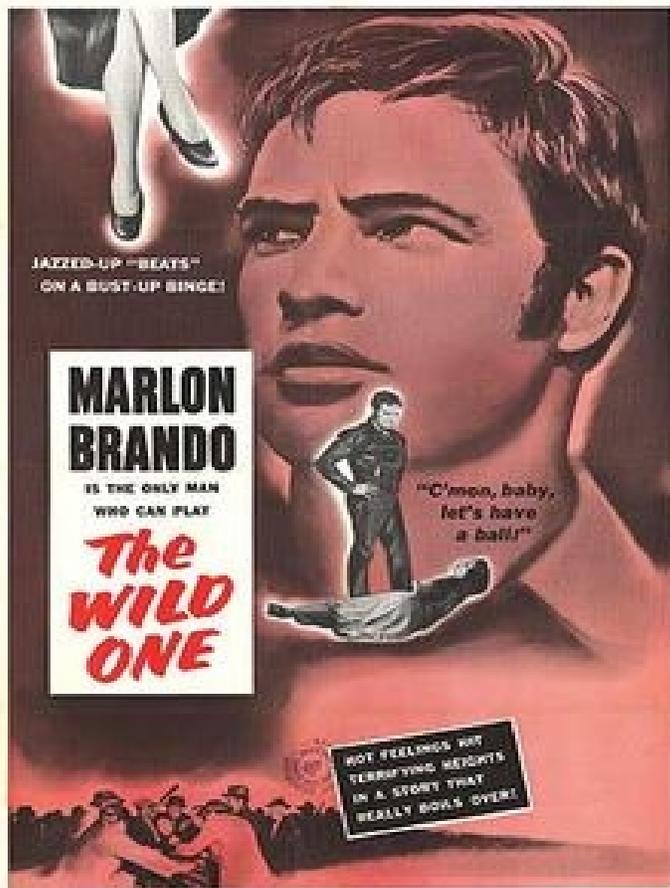
Kathie: It's crazy, isn't it? You're afraid of me. I don't know why, but I'm not afraid of you. You're afraid of me.

Johnny (disbelieving): I'm afraid of you? Are you cracked? Come on, get on.

Kathie (walking closer toward him): I wanted to touch you. I wanted to try anyway.

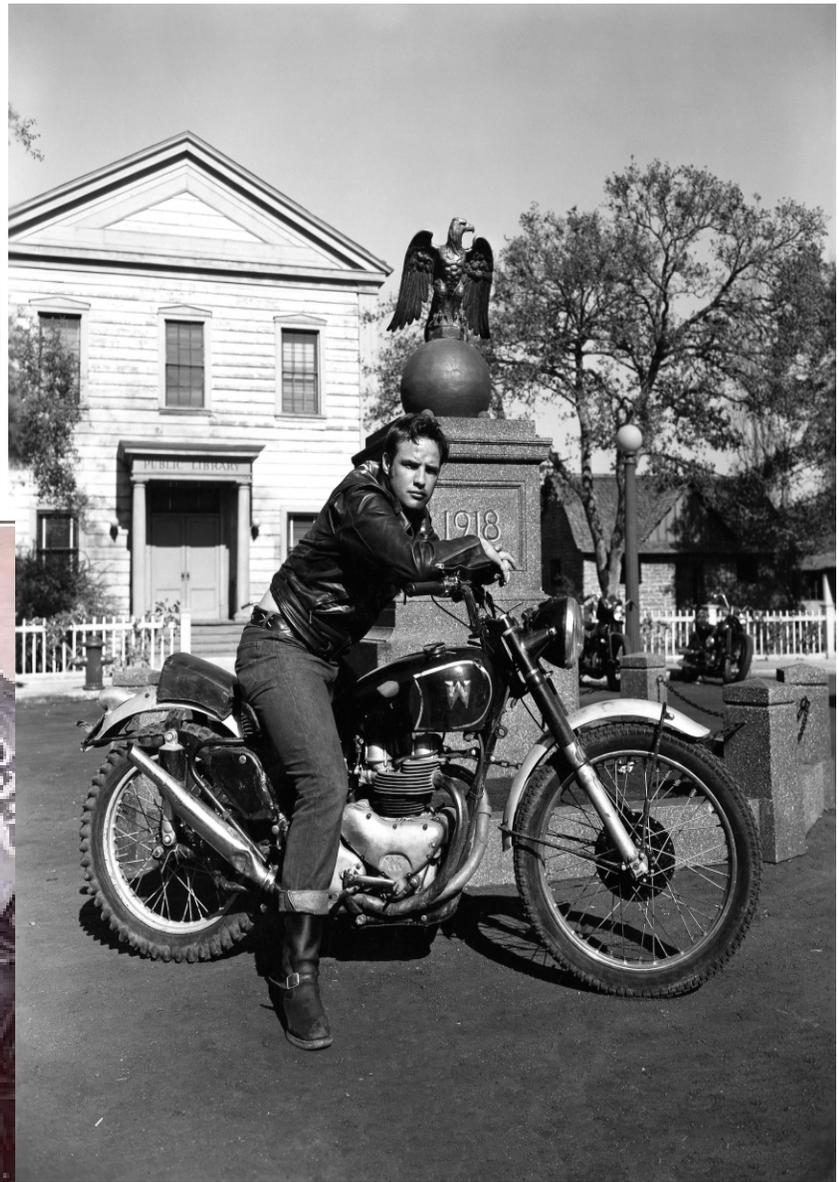
Johnny: Try what?

Kathie: I don't know. I wanted to make it the way I always thought it would be sometime - with somebody. The way I always thought it might be. You're still fighting, aren't you? You're always fighting. Why do you hate everybody?



A popular still shot shows an off set Marlon Brando astride a Matchless twin cylinder. Its “M” logo gas tank badge is upside down. This was stunt rider Wally Albright’s bike.

Brando looks a lot tougher than his later imitators.



Brando almost single handedly created the biker look of the 1950s and early 1960s. Dig the black leather jacket, jeans and sideburns. Here, two Hell’s Angels are busted by The Man. Note the small winged skull. President Sunny Barger later invoked the much larger and more dramatic insignia called the “larger Barger.” The cut-offs or “cuts” were designed to be stowed quickly when “flying the colors” was not advisable. Note the upside down Los Angeles Sheriff Department patch and swastika.

THE WANNABEES



Left: James Dean - “I was riding a motorcycle long before I heard of Mr. Brando.” It sure doesn’t look like it!

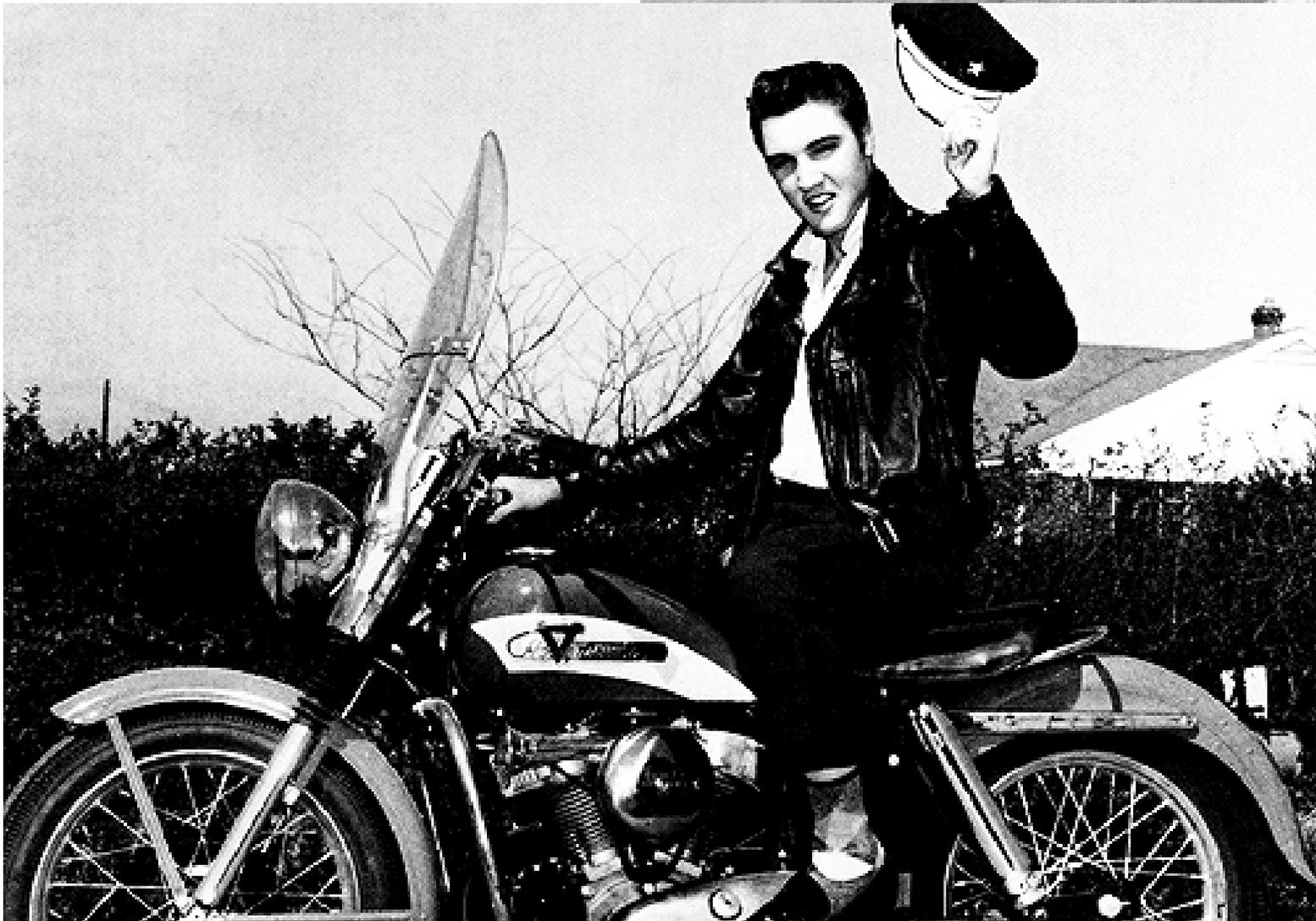
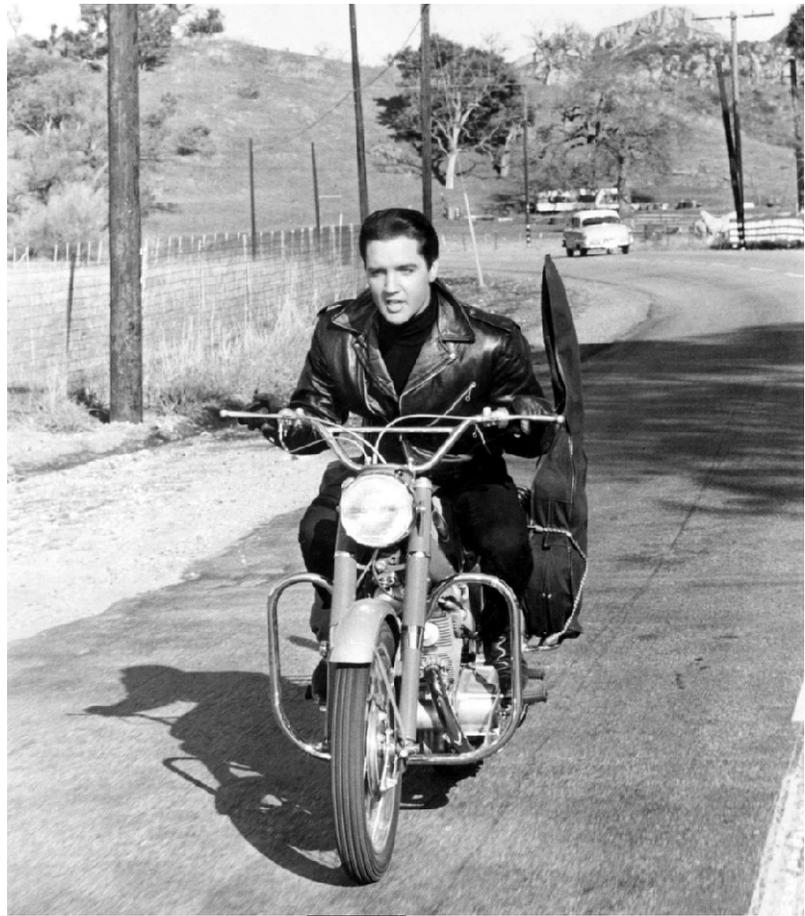
Below: Brando publically ridiculed Dean, accusing him of “wearing my last year’s wardrobe and using my last year’s talent...”

Dean responded “People were telling me I behaved like Brando before I knew who Brando was. I am neither disturbed by the comparison, nor flattered by it. I have my own personal rebellions and I don't have to rely on Brando's.”



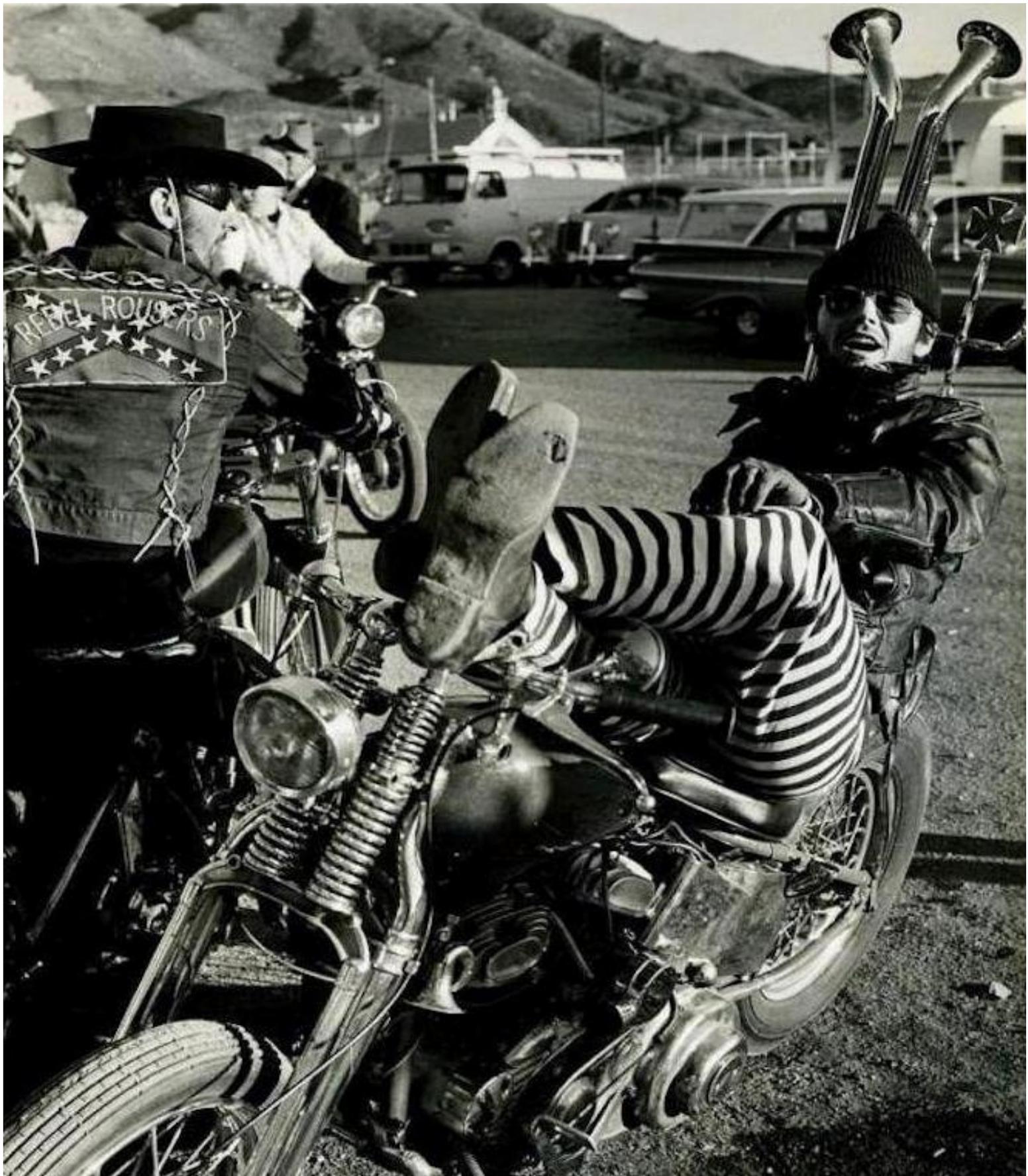
Right: Stay Away Joe, 1968. Elvis plays an American Indian riding a Honda with guitar in tow. I swear I am not making this up!

Below: Johnny would never wear argyle socks or penny pushers. Note the very early iron head Sportster, Harley Davidson's answer to the British motorcycle invasion.





You gotta be tough to carry off a striped pair of pants, real tough! Jack Nicholson in Rebel Rousers. Dig the wild sissy bar and exhaust pipes borrowed from a trombone! Rebel Rousers was shot in 1967 but was not released until 1970 after Easy Rider had proved there was still a market for biker movies. Nicholson wears a pair of prison trousers as a character called “Bunny”!



Check out the hand shifter and foot clutch. Fellow “method actor” Jack Nicholson credited Marlon Brando for “teaching us all how it was done.” Dig the hole in his boot. Now that is method acting for you! Nicholson’s cohort looks like Zoro flying confederate colors. Jack’s costume looks like he’d fit right in with Lee’s Beatles!



Jack Nicholson rides again, this time as a passenger in *Easy Rider*, 1969 with Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper. Remember when bikers actually carried sleeping bags or even blankets tied to their sissy bars, for camping out in the woods along the road? If you do, you're old too! Peter

Fonda "Captain America" was pretty wussie compared to Brando but his bike was a lot flashier. No front brake, fork extension, radical rake, chromed frame and giant sissy bar. Billy's bike is no slouch, either, but more conservative.





Mr. Tambourine Man, Bob Dylan fell off his Triumph on July 29, 1966.



“You meet
the nicest
people on
a Honda.”

THE END