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A Fun Day At Work

OK, I admit I have done the same work for more than 30 years. Being a "photojournalist" (through the years the terms "cameraman," "photographer" and "videographer" have also applied) is a lot like doing any other job -- a lot of average days, a few rotten days, and a few fun days.

My "fun" list includes going to the unveiling of a custom Harley Davidson motorcycle built by Orange County Choppers, the guy featured in the American Chopper cable TV show. You can see the WCCO News story by [clicking here](#).

As you can see, the bike is made to look like a 1957 Chevy, just like the one in this photo, taken at a recent Back to the Fifties car show at the Minnesota State Fair grounds.



In the process of doing the story for TV, I had a chance to interview Paul Teutul senior, [the guy who started OCC](#).

Behind the gruff exterior (body-builder arms, massive tattoos, and ever-present shades), Paul strikes me as an entrepreneur who is smiling all the way to the bank. His shop has built custom bikes for everybody who is anybody, the TV show is going into syndication with more than 120 episodes, and now he is going into the restaurant business.

The '57 Chevy bike Paul (and son Mikey) brought to Minnesota is destined to go to all the grand openings of the new Orange County Choppers America's Roadhouse restaurants. The bike was commissioned by Steve Schussler, the Minnesota guy who is a creative force behind the new "Roadhouses". Steve is the guy who gave us the Rainforest Café and many other theme restaurants.

Here is a short back story: When I met Paul Teutul, I told him I was a member of the Minnesota Street Rod Association. Without thinking, he said, "All right. Street Rods. I've got a couple of them." A couple? Most people work hard to afford ONE pre-WWII car or truck that is completely rebuilt with modern engine, transmission, steering and brakes ... and often incorporating custom paint, wheels, interior and a killer stereo.

If Paul is short on anything, it may be time... being in the bike-building, TV and now restaurant businesses. But he was willing to share some extra time while he was in Minnesota: he posed for a picture with anyone who made a \$500 donation to [Smile Network International](#).