

AZ Rider **Dirty Dozen MC - A Part of Arizona History**⁹

For those of you more new-era motorcyclists... you may be unaware of AriZona's more colorful history of the biker community... reaching back into the 60's. In 1964, in the 'hood' of South Scottsdale ... no RUB territory here... a handful of guys created the Dirty Dozen Motorcycle Club ... Arizona's first 'outlaw' MC.

According to DDMC member Slick, known to some as Paul Dubois, the Dirty Dozen MC is the only 'outlaw' MC to maintain its position as the #1 Club in an entire state in the US; having held that distinction for the 33 years prior to the patch over.

Although law enforcement prefers to promote a more nefarious definition, according to *Dictionary.com* an Outlaw is "a person who refuses to be governed by the established rules or practices of any group; a rebel; a nonconformist". *Miriam-Webster* concurs with their definition "one that is unconventional or rebellious". While the word 'outlaw' can also pertain to illegal activity, there is nothing illegal about being a non-conformist, unconventional, or rebellious; as much as some in so-called 'proper' society would have us think otherwise.

When the patching-over to the Hell's Angels MC took place in 1997 there were men who, for a variety of reasons, did not make the change. For those of us who were there to see it happen; it truly was the end of an era within the Arizona biker community.

Now, Slick is making it his mission to incorporate the Dirty Dozen MC into AriZona's Official History Book. He's had this project in his mind and heart for the past 20 years. And he's making successful steps toward this goal.

When we learned that there was a Museum exhibit regarding the history of the Dozen, we were curious and intrigued ~ looking forward to seeing what would be presented.

The exhibit, entitled simply "The Dirty Dozen" was displayed at the Gilbert Historical Museum on Gilbert Road; from December 16, 2017 to February 10, 2018. It was a collection of photos, mementos, and artifacts telling stories of men who rode hard and played hard. There was a good selection of great pics. They brought warm memories to those who remember. Our gut reaction when we saw it? "Isn't this one *hell* of a *fine* thing!?"

The photos themselves were taken by Neil Miller, a photographer who was embedded with the Club in the years from 1975 until 1977. During those three years he captured hundreds {perhaps thousands} of

images. Neil was introduced to the DDMC by Jerry Foster; one of a few honorary members of the Club. {As such, Jerry wore a Phoenix rocker, rather than an Arizona rocker.} Jerry was the helicopter pilot for Phoenix TV Channel 10 in the 1970s and arranged aerial access for some of the photographs taken by Neil.

When asked what inspired him to do this, Slick explained that he wants to protect the history. We spoke during a gallery reception & he nodded toward his fellow greybeards, "Look around. We're dying. They don't make us anymore." He expressed his goal of preserving the Dice's heritage, for all generations to come, to Neil. Getting these images seen is part of that process.

The reception that we attended on January 13, 2018 was filled with people from the past, an 'old home week' so to speak. The barbeque, hosted by the Museum, allowed time to reconnect and reminisce. There were lots of handshakes and hugs. Passage of time makes its changes to us all. There were a lot of "you look familiar" type comments. This exhibit gave people a reason to get together who perhaps might not otherwise. It was good to see!

There were several generations present at the Gallery while we were there. In the exhibition room it was heartwarming to observe a mother showing photos to her child... "This is your Grandpa."

The 'Art of the Ride' exhibit at Sky Harbor Museum, which we told you about in our January 2018 issue, includes a selection of Neil's photos of the DD. That exhibit runs until May 28, 2018. It's located at Terminal 4, on Level 3, in The Gallery ... right near Security. Slick smiled, "Go figure that!"

So, how did the presentation end up at the Gilbert Museum? Neil Miller knows Alan Fitzgerald, Executive Director of Art Intersection, which works with the Gilbert Historical Society. Art Intersection has a gallery at the Gilbert Museum which is dedicated to Arizona-related historical displays. In conversation, Alan clarified that while he and Neil are friends, the quality of the work was his deciding factor; describing it as "powerful and interesting". Alan also shared that there was some 'pushback' from LEOs in regard to the exhibit. Pushback about a 33-year old Club that is 20 years retired??? UNF'KINBELIEVABLE!

Slick has even caught the attention of AZ's State Historian, Marshall Trimble; who reportedly also acknowledges that the Dirty Dozen MC qualifies as a genuine element of AriZona History. How about that!

Having the opportunity to consult with Marshall

Trimble, Slick is going through the steps to have his Club added to the Historical Record of Arizona. The Arizona Capitol Museum, housed at the Capitol in Phoenix is described by Slick as "the Smithsonian of Arizona". It's where people, places, events, and eras are remembered via artifacts, journals, photos, reproductions, & the like.

Slick's premise is valid if you think about it. Out here in the 'wild wild west'... back in the 1800's the outlaws rode horses. Fast-forward to the 1900's and outlaws rode iron horses instead.

Visitors to the Arizona Capitol Museum learn about the cultural, political, and social history of Arizona. People of historical significance are remembered here... names such as Goldwater, DeConcini, the Earps, Johnny Ringo, and Jacob Waltz. Events & timelines archived include pre-Territorial Days, the Salt River Flood of 1891 and our Statehood in 1912; eras of the cowboys, Indians, miners, Spaniards, explorers, and more are protected here. It seems appropriate for this segment of Arizona's history ~ *Dozen history* ~ to be preserved here as well. "Dozen Forever ~ Forever Dozen".

He is also in discussion at this time with *Arizona Highways Magazine*, to create an issue dedicated to the Club. We will let you know when that edition is on the racks.

This exhibit is important. It captures & reflects a roll of the Dice ~ like 'lightning in a bottle' ... a time that, now gone, will never be seen again. It's very worthwhile to check out if the opportunity arises again. And hopefully it will. Now that it has closed at the Gilbert Museum, Slick & Neil are in discussions with locations in Old Glendale and in Tucson to show the display.

In the meantime, the <http://dirtydozenmc.com/> website has even more photos, videos, and memories in its collection. This is where you can also watch for announcements of new gallery showings.

Slick shared this closing message on behalf of the Dirty Dozen MC, "Thank you to all the motorcyclists & other people of Arizona through the decades, for their support of the Dozen 'back in the day'."

It's outstanding that someone has taken the time and effort required for an undertaking such as this. But, at the same time it is somewhat poignant to think that the 'Glory Days' of motorcycling have taken that curve in the road that leads to the exhibition halls of museums.

Bruce & Betsy aka Meltdown & Fallout

