

Summer job keeps FIN MAN protégé busy seven days a week getting sweet corn to area *Dierbergs* stores.



★★★★★

On a recent morning, with the heat index approaching 110°, Pablo (center) and team members Perfecto and Alex head in from the field to deliver the first load of bi-color corn to the packers waiting back at the packing shed. Within hours, it would be on a truck headed for Dierbergs.

Madison County, IL— That sweet, tender ear of corn-on-the-cob you had with your hamburger at your last weekend barbecue, may have been hand picked by Pablo— or one of his crew. John Relleke, of Relleke Farms in Granite City, has placed a heavy responsibility on this sixteen-year old, assigning him as team leader of the bicolored corn for the summer season. Arriving at work at the crack of dawn, seven days a week, Pablo fires up a tractor and, with his team of eight men ranging in age from the mid twenties up to sixty plus, heads out to the fields.

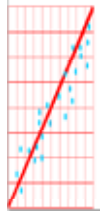
It may be all fun and games

on the car show circuit, or the rock shows at Pops and Verizon Wireless Amphitheater, but the rest of the time it's down to business for Pablo and his crew, shown here bringing in a load of bicolored sweet corn to be packed and shipped that afternoon, to Dierbergs Markets.

The Rellekes report that Pablo has been doing an amazing job for them, showing a model work ethic and leadership beyond what they would ever have expected from a 16-year old. "We've been short handed this year" says John Relleke, "and frankly, I don't know what we'd do without him."

Continued on following page...

Take A Kid To A Car Show closing in on 100,000 impressions with some of the season's biggest shows still ahead!



Show World Promotions' Memorial Day Car Show, at Fast Lane Classic Cars in St. Charles, drew an estimated 6,000 visitors and participants.

St. Louis— The FIN MAN™ and his grandson, protégé and best friend Pablo, have been shaking a lot of hands and talking to a lot of *Old Car Column* readers over the summer months. Based on estimates by show and venue officials, the number of people who have encountered the duo at various events, starting with the HCCM Easter Concours Car Show in Forest Park on Easter

— continued on page 5

The direct use of natural gas - in furnaces, hot water heaters, clothes dryers and kitchen stoves can reduce the nation's carbon footprint... not twenty years from now but today! When you use high-efficiency natural gas appliances, you reduce your carbon footprint by 65%



Proud sponsors of *The FIN MAN* and *Pablo's Take A Kid To A Car Show*

Continued from previous page...



Once at the field location, Pablo turns the tractor driving over to Perfecto and gets up front in the rows, setting the pace for the other members of the team of pickers. Pablo says, "By the time we get done with the first load, our shirts and pants are soaking wet and you can take off your boots and pour the water out of 'em"! I can attest to that statement as I experienced it first-hand the day I took these photos.



As a side note, I rode on the 1855 Oliver, shown in the photo above, with Pablo on the day I took these pictures. Relleke's other tractors are Internationals and this was the only Oliver in the fleet. It was Pablo's favorite tractor, but it was the last day the weary Oliver would lumber through the fields of Relleke Farms. On its last trip back to the shed that day, the Oliver, gasping its last breath, threw a rod and had to be towed home. It's been sitting motionless ever since and John will probably end up selling it for scrap. -Bruce Kunz



Putting smiles on faces of kids area wide...

Wherever The FIN MAN and Pablo set up their Take A Kid To A Car Show booth, the response is overwhelming. The program was created years ago by SEMA, the Specialty Equipment Market Association, a large trade organization out of California whose members include all sorts of aftermarket auto accessory manufacturers. The idea behind the program is to foster interest in the preservation and restoration of vintage automobiles at an early age, in order that the hobby of collectible automobiles and trucks will flourish for generations to come.



Peyton Bechtold of Bethalto, Illinois proudly displays his rendition of a Ford Mustang at the Ranken Technical College Car Show.

Readers continue to heap praise on the Old Car Column...

I get e-mails every day (and occasional 'snail mail' letters) from readers who express their love of old cars and The Old Car Column in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Many relate their own personal experience with the subject car of the week. Here are some of their comments:

Dave Gipson– "You sure know how to bring us back to those good old memories."

Eugene Stumpf– "I love your articles in the paper and can't wait for every Monday morning to see your new story concerning another automobile."

Dean Bittick– "Thank YOU for the great story on the Speedster..... My phone started ringing this morning !!!!!!"

Phyllis Robinson– "Love your column!"



Volume IX, Issue 02 - 1948-1952 Ford F-1 Pickup, January 11, 2010

THE OLD CAR COLUMN

MISCELLANEOUS RAMBLINGS, MUSINGS
AND OTHER AUTOMOTIVE CLATTER
by Automotive Journalist - Bruce Kunz



1948 F-1 Was All New and Thoroughly Modern!

Ford F-1 Trivia Question of the Week: What was the first model year for the Ford F-150? (Answer at end of story.)

Yes Pablo... before there was a Ford F-150, there was a F-100... and before that there was a F-1, known as the 'Ford Bonus-Built'. Ford's truck lineup for 1950, including pickups, cab overs, conventional tractors, dumps, vans, etc. totaled over 175 models.

It may not be possible for the Gen-Xers and later to remember back

when F-1s rolled the back country roads, but The FIN MAN remembers. I was just a young lad of course, but I do remember the unique styling of Ford's venerable pickups of the early fifties. I don't know what other car and truck spotters called the twin air intakes on the hood of the F-1s, but this very recognizable feature reminded me of 'nostrils'. The trademark styling cue, most likely borrowed from the aircraft industry, was unique to Ford's little work horse.

A new for '48, one piece windshield and headlights integrated into the front fenders were styling features which gave the new Ford pickup a more contemporary look.

One look at a 2010 F-150 and you can see just how far pickup trucks have advanced

in the past few decades. Today's F-150 offers a plethora of performance, convenience and comfort options which would have been inconceivable back 'in the day'. When prospective buyers walked into their local Ford dealer to order a F-1, options were few. The base power plant was a 3.7 liter (226 cubic inches for us old school folks) straight six which produced a meager 95 horsepower. The optional,



(and barely larger at 3.9 liters) flat head V-8, just managed to break the triple digit barrier at 100 horses. F-1 buyers

had to know how to drive a stick, because there was no such thing as an automatic tranny on the options list.

A quick glance at the web turned up a handful of F-1s for sale, ranging from a rusty but solid example being offered for four grand, to a very nicely restored specimen with an asking price of \$25,000.00. Original buyers paid barely over a thousand dollars for theirs.

Trivia Answer: The 'F-1' was the first generation of what are still referred to as the 'F-series' pickups. The second generation F-100 was introduced in 1953 and the F-150 arrived for model year 1975 as the 'heavy' half ton. It ran concurrently with the F-100 until the end of model year 1983 when the F-100 was discontinued with the F-150 taking its place as the entry level half ton.

The FIN MAN and Pablo to present the TKCS program at two large shows coming up this month.

Frontenac, MO - Sunday, August 15th. Not only will the 'men dressed in black' be hosting their local *Take A Kid To A Car Show* booth, but the pair have been asked to take part in judging the *1st Annual Moolah Temple All American Car Show* to benefit *Shriners Hospital for Children*. Anyone who knows The FIN MAN and Pablo knows that they are ardent supporters of American-brand automobiles and the people who build them. Bruce Kunz said in a recent interview, "Pablo and I are honored to have been invited to take part in the car show by serving as judges." On a recent Sunday afternoon, Kunz and his protege took part in a judging class at Pete Nathan's house. Nathan owns a 1935 Buick 60 Series street rod and is a long time member of the Gateway Chapter, Buick Club of America.

Edwardsville, IL - Sunday, August 22nd. The St. Louis, Midwest area *Take A Kid To A Car Show* booth will be set up at the *19th Annual D.A.R.E. Benefit Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show* held on Sunday, August 22nd at the Edwardsville Senior High School in Edwardsville, Illinois. This large, family-oriented show, organized by the Edwardsville Police D.A.R.E. division, has been a favorite of The FIN MAN and Pablo for the last three years in which they have attended as spectators only. This year they plan to have their TKCS booth set up so that kids can stop by and enjoy coloring on the car pages that the pair hand out. They are also planning to add a new feature to their display... a Wii game station for the kids who are past the Crayola years.

Be sure to visit The FIN MAN and Pablo™ at one or both of these great car shows August 15th and 22nd.



Pablo checks out some of the great fins on display at last year's D.A.R.E. show in Edwardsville, IL. (Okay, actually, he's texting in this photo!)

Bugs at Beale! ...but don't call the exterminator!



Left to right: Bruce Kunz, a.k.a. The FIN MAN™; blues guitarist, singer, songwriter Bugs Henderson and FIN MAN protege Pablo Rodriguez.

Story by Bruce Kunz- It was my turn. Pablo and I had negotiated an agreement... for every heavy metal event I take him to, he has to attend a blues show with me. Saturday night it was my turn, so we headed to Beale on Broadway, our favorite spot for live blues entertainment. We had been to Beale a couple of months back and read on the calendar that Bugs Henderson was appearing on the 31st of July. I own a half dozen or so CDs from this accomplished Texas blues musician which I bought nearly twenty years ago. You know how it is... you discover an artist you like, start buying their albums until you get your fill, then move on to newly discovered talent. The albums you bought become old news and sit, collecting dust on the shelf. Such was the case with my Bugs collection. But when I saw his name on Beale's calendar, I knew I had to introduce Pablo to this amazing blues musician.

Bugs delivered! Compared to his cover photos from albums produced a decade or more ago, the photo above shows a man who looks like decades of traveling the world, playing music have taken their toll. Face it. The man looks tired. But his appearance in the photo above belies the real Bugs Henderson who comes alive when he walks on stage and picks up his guitar.



It was standing room only at Beale on Broadway Saturday night as Texas blues guitar legend Bugs Henderson and the Shuffle Kings played on the patio. We had front row seats, and as you can see, Pablo is enjoying the show.



Never heard of Bugs? He's a career musician who has played with the likes of B.B. King, Freddie King, Eric Clapton, Ted Nugent, Roy Buchanan and others. One of his guitars hangs in the Hard Rock Cafe in Dallas. Guitar Player Magazine says, "Bugs Henderson should be declared a national treasure."



St. Louis' own, Rondo's Blues Deluxe did an outstanding job of warm up before Bugs came on the stage.



100,000 impressions

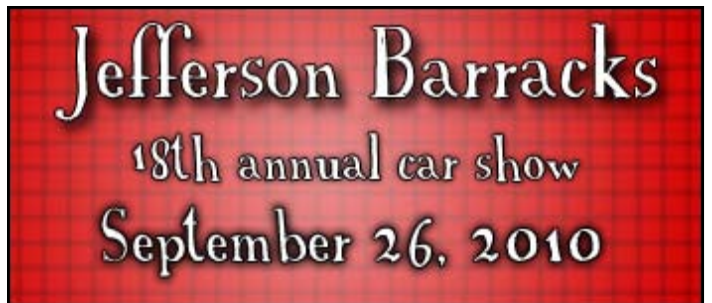
Continued from page 1—

Sunday, may top 100,000 by the time the season is over in October. “We had no idea, when we started this thing, that it was going to get this big” said Bruce Kunz, a.k.a. “The FIN MAN™”, during a recent interview. “It’s taken on a life of its own” he quipped. “We started this more or less on a whim, and it just took off like a Rocket 88 on nitrous!” said the columnist who has been writing The Old Car Column for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for the past seven years. The popularity of the weekly column, which is written in a friendly, homespun style, has kept the readers coming back week after week, month after month, for the past seven years, through some of the most turbulent times in the newspaper industry. “I think we’ll be around for another seven... God willing and the creek don’t rise” said the friend of car hobbyists and connoisseurs area-wide. “I’m looking into launching a syndication program this fall, so I can take my stories to more old car lovers in other markets” said Kunz.



Nick Overstreet—

classics • musclecars • hotrods • streetmachines



Show World Promotions, bringing premiere car shows to the metro St. Louis area for more than thirty years!

Show World Promotions invites you to get out this summer and join in the excitement that can be found at our car shows.

For show schedules and more information visit www.showworld.net

To advertise in THE FIN MAN FRONT PAGE

call Bruce Kunz at 314-954-0200

or e-mail him at the_fin_man@msn.com

Advertising Rates

Quarter Page	300.00
Eighth Page	185.00
Sixteenth Page	75.00

Call 314-954-0200 for details