

MUFFLERS for BMW

R50, R60, R75 twins-Mufflers 69-72...\$169.50/pair + S/H
Twin 'R' Models-Mufflers 70-84.....\$169.50/pair + S/H
BMW-Rear Sets 70-84.....from \$295

Omar Café MC
952-224-9990 • omarcafe@aol.com
www.rearsets.info



GSM
GSM MOTORENT.COM

BIG BEND TX

Escape the Winter and Head South to Terlingua TX for Some Fantastic Dual Sport Riding!

3 day, 4 night pkgs.
Starting under \$700
including bike,
lodging and rental car.

CALL 865-448-6090
WWW.GSMMOTORENT.COM

SUBSCRIBE

It's not only for IBA members!



JUST \$20 PER YEAR

OR TRY A SINGLE COPY FOR **\$5.95** +\$2 S&H

From novice tourers to expert long-distance riders, all can benefit from the informative articles, technical features, editorials and product reviews in each issue of the

IRON BUTT

To order, go to the Iron Butt Association's web site:
www.ironbutt.com/ibmagazine



firstbike

Our First Bikes

Garry A. Nelson #62034

"OUR FIRST BIKES" IS A STRANGE TITLE for this "My First Bike" article, except that I am writing on behalf of myself and my identical twin brother, Barry. We have been riding motorcycles since 1967, when our first bikes were brand new 1967 Triumph T100Cs. We decided on 500cc Triumph dirt bikes because Jim Truitt, one of our best friends, rode a Trumper in the Western Pennsylvania woods, and we wanted to join him in the dirt.

It was our summer between high school and college, we were 17 years old and our family had just moved west to Oklahoma City, where we bought the bikes. We had three weeks to learn how to ride and return east to attend and play basketball for Pittsburgh's Duquesne University. Barry and I learned to ride by logging 1,000 break-in miles on the two-lane roads through Oklahoma's red dirt hills. We had to find a way to get our bikes back east.

the idea, but we decided to ride our first motorcycles to Pittsburgh after only 1,000 miles of practice. In retrospect, as a father, I would have never let my sons venture on that 1,159-mile two-wheeled journey. The trip was a great learning experience with our riding togs being Bell helmets, Levi jackets and leather hardware store gloves.

We levered on knobby tires, 54-tooth rear sprockets and took to the woods, motocross and hill climbing. That trilogy is a great way to become comfortable on a motorcycle. I decided to quit racing when I was on the straight on top of the local motocross track. I thought I was riding like a champ, when Jake Fischer, riding a 360 Greeves, passed me throwing stones while he was standing on the pegs. Shortly thereafter I became just a woods rider.

The between years found Barry riding an old Harley tank-shift police special and me fooling around with two WLA 45 cu.in.

surplus Harley-Davidsons. In the early '90s I sold the WLAs to finance the purchase of my first BMW, a 1983 R100RS. A few years later Barry bought a 1979 R100.

Barry and I soon decided to meet and have a nice BMW motorcycle adventure. We planned to rendezvous at Meriwether Lewis' grave in southern Tennessee, which was equidistant between our home in Plano, Texas, and

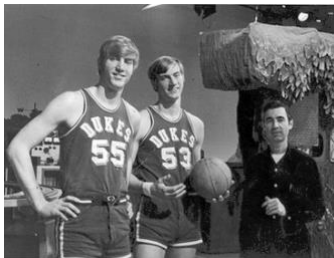


The railroads were of no help, we did not know about shipping and rental trucks were too expensive. Our parents were not fond of

Pittsburgh, Pa. Our Airhead BMWs were flawless on the trip, and we had a great two-wheeled reunion enjoying the great Smokey

Mountains blacktops and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

During our mountain trip we discussed the attributes of riding the older and very simple BMWs as opposed to the new K bike or Oilhead BMW motorcycles. Thinking back to this conversation, I remembered our senior year at Duquesne and our meeting with Fred Rogers.



Fred Rogers, of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, invited us to be guests on his show so he could illustrate the fact that while identical twins looked like the same person, they were actually two separate people with different personalities, beings and tastes. Little did I know how prescient Mr. Rogers was in 1971 by pointing out that twins are really two separate people who happen to share identical looks.

I am still very happy with my sweet BMW Airhead motorcycles,



while Barry has recently proved Mr. Rogers' theory correct. Barry is very happy with a newly purchased BMW R1150GS bike and has become disillusioned with his uncomplicated, perfect Airhead. He will probably put it on the market. ☹️

Do you have a "First Bike" or "First Ride" story to tell? Send it to Ron Davis, ronaldavis@tds.net. You can also mail it to Ron, E995 Nottleson Road, Scandinavia, WI 54977.



BIT PLAYERS

CruzTOOLS



Socket Bit Sets

- All sockets are 3/8" drive
- Easy to read size imprint
- Handy storage rail with handle
- Professional-grade with lifetime warranty

888-909-8665 www.cruztools.com

Jesse Luggage Systems www.jesseluggage.com For the world ahead...
623.878.7113

YOU CAN TAKE IT ALL WITH JESSE LUGGAGE!



★ **MADE IN THE USA** ★
AVAILABLE WORLDWIDE!

DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED FOR THOSE LOOKING FOR THE MOST DURABLE AND FUNCTIONAL PRODUCTS FOR THEIR ADVENTURE TOURING.

OVER 20 YEARS OF MAKING THE WORLD'S BEST MOTORCYCLE LUGGAGE!