

Auctioneer Michael Murray, featured in a recent article of Street Rodder - August 2005 Edition.

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The Pin Strippers JAMBOREE

They call it... DETROIT

EXTRA! EXTRA!
 OVER HALF-A-HUNNERT SWORD-WIELDING
 1-SHOT JUNKIES INVADE MOTOR CITY!

BY JERRY WEESNER
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY THE AUTHOR & BRIAN BRENNAN

So, just exactly how would you react to such front-page news were you a Motown resident? Thought so! Well, you can rest easy, as sensationalist headlines aren't always as they appear. So unload the of scatter gun and let momma and the kids outta' the cellar, 'cause the threat level has receded to a cooler shade of paranoia. The knowledge that 1-Shot isn't actually a drug (Oh yeah? - Ed.), but rather a traditional lettering enamel, and the swords in question aren't edged weapons at all, but Mack pinstripping brushes, aka *sword strippers*, should drop the old blood pressure a notch or two.

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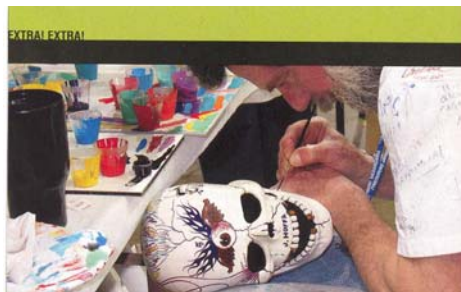
Co-producer of the Pin Strippers' Jamboree, Keith Knecht (left) holds another fine example of the pinstrippers' art as Michael works the crowd. Items went for from a few bucks to hundreds, so everyone who wanted something, and to contribute to a great cause, went home happy.



Yosemite Sam Radoff (left), the driving force behind the Pin Strippers' Jamboree and the attendant auction for Rainbow Connection Charity, holds up my "Mr. Leadpower" panel for bid. As my friend Bill Hines was Autorama's featured builder this year, I felt a take-out of the famed "stogie-smokin'" bird to be an appropriate caricature. Hey, not bad for a rusty ol' strip'er, and it brought \$100 for charity too—thanks Fritz!



The pinstripping area was a hub of activity for three full days. Many brought their own "kits," but sponsors provided the necessities, such as 1-Shot lettering enamel, thinner, and Mack striping brushes as well.



Alas, poor Whatsizname, I knew him well! Most everyone took a crack (pun intended) at this guy. No one seems to know just exactly why skulls are such a popular image, but when in Detroit ...

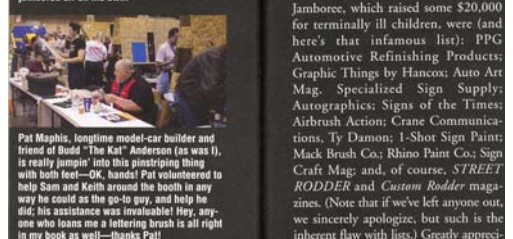


jamb in the sky. But do not mourn, he's in good company. . . "Hey dad, pass me that can of Process Blue, will ya?" Heaven can never have enough decorative striping, you know!

Sam and Keith had plenty of volunteer help in putting on the Jamboree, from professional auctioneer Michael Murray (who, by the way, is also a pinstripper of no small renown in his own right), to the 85-plus strippers and graphic artists who participated. And let's not forget those companies whose support, both financially and material-wise, made the event an even bigger success than its inaugural year. Multiple sponsorship is a blessing to promoters, but not necessarily so to magazine types who must draft somewhat laborious lists, making sure



Workin' both ends of the room, our multi-talented auctioneer not only pinstripped panels, but got a good price for them, too, when the clock struck auction time. You could say that Michael was kind of a one-man pinstripping jamboree all on his own.



Pat Maphis, longtime model-car builder and friend of Bud's "The Kat" Anderson (as was I), is really jumpin' into his pinstripping thing with both feet—OK, hands! Pat volunteered to help Sam and Keith around the booth in any way he could as the go-to guy, and help the doc; his assistance was invaluable! Hey, anyone who loans me a lettering brush is all right in my book as well—thanks Pat!

that everyone involved is included. Nonetheless, in today's world, putting on a show just isn't quite as simple as it once was when, say, Mickey Rooney was a tad. As in: "I'll get my uncle's barn and you gals make the costumes, and ..." Well, OK, wrong kind of show, but you get the general idea. Not only is the world of showbiz no longer perceived in tones of black and white, it's now colorized and has become very expensive as well. This is especially true when you're renting such a prestigious venue as Detroit's Cobo Center—both upstairs and down, I might add. For this you need a couple of angels sittin' on your shoulder dollin' out the greenbacks in heapin' handfuls. Fortunately,

Deadbeats members gathered from several states, pitching in painting panels to help raise money for charity. This is their second year to attend, and now a mandatory requirement for club membership—way to go guys!