

# Remembrances

*Dave Bucher looks back at some little gems of experience from his 45 years of riding and writing.*



I thought it would be warm down there in March. That was a miscalculation. But we still had a pretty good time of it during our daylight rides. On one of the nights he suggested we take a car and head to Welsh, Louisiana, to Frey's Crawfish House to meet up with a couple of his buddies. This place was a famed local treasure, though it wasn't much to look at on the inside. Just plastic tablecloths, army-surplus green paint and heaping mounds of freshly boiled crawfish on trays, accompanied by plenty of cans of Old Milwaukee.

## Cajun Cuisine

One of the advantages, perhaps the only one, of my long years of self-employment was the ability to pickup whenever I wanted and go off for a week or two on a motorcycling adventure. During the '80s, *Rider Magazine* indulged this wanderlust by accepting just about every crazy, theme-article proposal I presented them. So it was that I headed off to western Louisiana to meet up with a motorcyclist I'd met on another trip. We were gonna ride and sample some Cajun cuisine.

Usually gregarious in situations like this, I was intimidated by the staccato patois of the group. In an effort to fit in, I picked up one of the crawdads and held it up, asking the guy next to me one of the stupidest questions ever: "How long do these things live?" The table got silent and looked to him as he formed a reply. "Well, I reckon till some old coonass ketches 'em." Coonass being a sometime perjorative, sometime complimentary term for a person of Cajun persuasion.

I guess his use was complimentary, and I took the remark in the way it was intended...as a friendly goof on me. The group had a hearty laugh at my expense, and that was the icebreaker. I was able to give as good as I got for the rest of what turned out to be a highly enjoyable evening.

## Convention Center Ruling

### Philadelphia, PA

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruled against the Carpenters Local 8 and Teamsters Local 107, the two unions barred from work at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. The decision, issued by the Philadelphia regional office of the NLRB, dismissed the unions' charge that the Convention Center was being unfair and that "further proceedings are unwarranted."

The decision also said the unions provided evidence, but it made no judgments on the validity of the evidence or whether it agreed with it. Furthermore, it said that since the Convention Center Authority is a "political subdivision" of Pennsylvania, it is therefore not under the jurisdiction of the NLRB. The unions were shut out of the Convention Center after failing to sign a new customer satisfaction agreement by a May 5 deadline. The unions argued that they had until May 10 before they refused to sign the agreement. The customer

satisfaction agreement was an answer to the antiquated work rules at the Convention Center that placed the city at a competitive disadvantage due to the restraints it placed on its exhibitors. The center sought the cooperation and signature of its six union members. Only four signed the agreement. "The authority made it abundantly clear that its goal was to make the center more competitive and to attract new customers and drive the region's hospitality industry," an official said. "Since changing the work rules two new major conventions signed, bringing 14,000 attendees, \$35 million in economic impact and 30,000 union man hours at the center," he said.

The unions have the right to appeal the decision to the general counsel of the NLRB, through its Office of Appeals. The unions are encouraged to submit a complete statement of the facts and reasons why they believe the decision was "incorrect." The appeal is due July 28.