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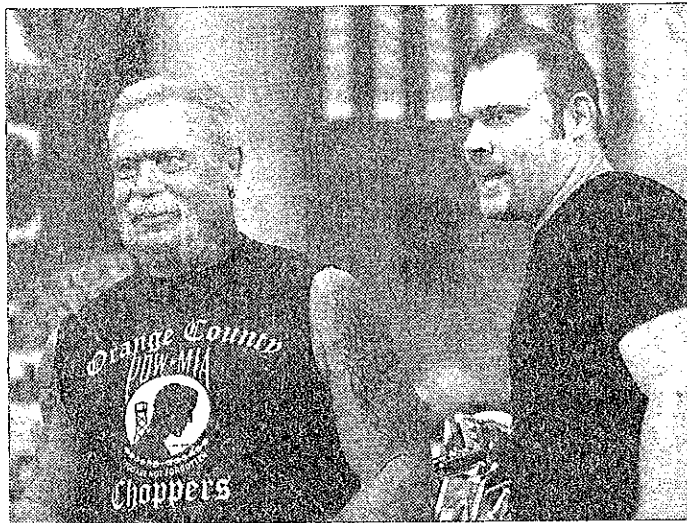
A motorcycle that looks like a '57 Chev? You gotta see this one

**c.j. the dish**

Those guys from TLC's "American Chopper" went overboard — Steve Schussler's favorite place — to immortalize the Twin Cities-based restaurant creator's 1957 Chevy as a motorcycle.

Milkey and Paul Teutul Sr. flew in Monday from their New York-based Orange County Choppers, the inspiration for the hit TLC show, to unveil Schussler's bike in St. Louis Park. The unveiling will be featured in an upcoming show. They know Schussler because he's working on a deal to open "Orange County Choppers: America's Roadhouse" joints around the country.

The detailing that went into the creation of this bike sounds like the usual stuff from Mike, Paul Jr. and Paul Sr. But Paul Sr. said the workmanship that went into Schussler's bike exceeded anything "OCC" has produced in 120 shows. Schussler's bike will be dis-



WILLIAM THOMAS CAIN • Getty Images file

MEN AND THEIR MACHINES: Paul Teutul Sr. and his son, Paul Jr., in a September photo, were in St. Louis Park to show off their latest creation. See all the action at startribune.com/video.

played at promotional events and restaurants.

"The trunk actually works, like a regular trunk on a car," Paul Sr. said, lifting the trunk and announcing: "Trunk works. There's not a spare in there. Look at the hubcaps; they are Chevy hubcaps. There's not too much missing on this bike."

"That car does nothing compared to this bike," Paul Sr. continued, gesturing to Schussler's '57 Chevy convertible, which was also onstage.

Schussler, who's having a big couple weeks as he's about to open a 30,000-square-foot \$30 million T-Rex restaurant in Orlando, Fla., made the unveiling a fundraiser for Smile Network International. An estimated \$10,000 was raised to provide facial surgery for kids in developing countries. And

most of that money was raised from people who just wanted to take a photo with the Teutuls.

Folks at the event chattered about how Paul Sr. seemed more pudgy cat than puma, the more entertaining part of his personae on the reality show.

Between the tats, earring, guns and fierce fu-manchu, Paul Sr. cuts a frightening figure. But he was such a soft-spoken guy that he could barely be heard over the crowd during some interviews.

"I'm really a nice guy, you know," Paul Sr. said. "Just certain things rile me. When I get to that point, I'm probably not so much of a nice guy. Basically, I'm a good-natured person." When he grows disagreeable on the show, "Usually I don't provoke it, but you don't see that part. Maybe I do provoke it once in a while," he said with smile.

In keeping with Schussler's over-the-top style, the Teutuls departed the unveiling with a motorcycle caravan sending them on their way, as you can see at startribune.com/video.