

BETTER MINI HOMES AND GARAGES

The garage doors were open as I walked up the drive. I entered the open doorway and exchanged pleasantries with the person inside. I then picked up a hammer and started to pound on the top of the Mini setting in the middle of the floor as the owner watched with rapt interest.

True all true. But as they say there is more to the story.

First I must remind my self that I must remember that saying, "That's no problem. Its really quite easy", can and will cause me work that I hadn't really been planning on when I started out the day looking for the that first cup of coffee. However some "well I got my self that" deals are more rewording than others. Like working on Minis is much more rewarding than digging up the front lawn or putting a new roof on the family home, (maybe a new roof on the car garage is ok). But I should really remember what I was told when I was a



small boy. Speak only when spoken to and keep my hands in my pockets. Or as the modern mothers say, "shut up and don't touch".

Darryl was wandering around Mini Mania's spring swap meet doing the same thing that all of the rest of us were doing, what ever that was. When he and I met we up-dated each other on our mini stories. Darryl's best story was how he was getting his mini ready for the Mini Meet West this year. He wanted it done in time for the drive up the coast, and did know anyone who could do the body work for him? Well I did and he was wandering around the swap meet and I introduced them. However the timing was so that no deal could be done. Darryl and I discussed his body work in more detail. We then went up to Darryl's garage and checked out his Mini. I looked over the mini and asked him why he didn't do the parts that he wanted to farm out. Darryl said that he didn't really feel he could get all the small dents out, and I said.

"THAT'S NO PROBLEM. IT'S REALLY QUITE EASY"

Well I'm no body man but picking up a hammer and hitting a mini that is standing still isn't much of a challenge, and what have I got to loose, after all it's NOT MY MINI. Darryl convinced me that I was the one to show him the trick to removing the small dents in his fully striped mini body. So I showed up at his door one evening with hammer in hand and we had a go at it. I got to unabashedly bash some other persons mini, eat pizza, guzzle sodas (can't say, suck down coke, anymore) tell tall mini tails and check out Darryl's new garage. The new garage is coming along quite well Darryl says it is still being improved.

So far it has all the right tools and air compressors, benches, signs and pictures on the wall and a good set of reference books. Darryl also seems to have the right approach to doing a job. That is, buy a hole bunch of tools and see if any will do the job. My daddy use to say "It's a poor man that blames his tools". But today I think that one can blame the "tools for making the man poor", or at lease in my case I sometimes think that.

Anyway the garage is one of those new two door-three car affairs that the new houses come attach to, much better than my small one door two car deal. Darryl showed off his special Maytag parts washer, you'll have to ask him about this one, and we set to work beating on the mini and ordering pizza. The pizza and Darryl's wife arrive at the same time. The lovely Mrs C. joined us for the impromptu workshop pizza party but when the pizza was gone she politely turned down my offer to give here first choice of any of the hammers and disappeared into that part of the house that mini and mini parts are not allowed (our friend John's house not withstanding).

Well I left Darryl and his mini with another of his preciously short days totally gone and little accomplished, hopefully though I have shared something that will help him and speed him along, he has a lot to do before this car can toot its horn and leave for MINI MEET WEST.

I know! Lets all get a case of beer and our hammers and meet and Darryl's house and help him out. If we drink enough beers maybe we can even get it wired.

Frank Cunningham: April 1995

(Teri)

(CAPTION FOR PHOTO #1;)

Darryl, having taken up pole vaulting has set about modifying his mini to accommodate his personal 40 foot long Olympic grade carbon wrapped honeycomb titanium pole-vaulting pole.(pat. pending)