

back to Ann Arbor, arriving Saturday night. There was a driving blizzard off Lake Erie that was blowing snow horizontally through the car (I was driving with motorcycle leathers, a helmet and goggles because of the lack of windows The Corto Gara had no side windows in the driver's or passenger's doors so the snow blew right through -- but that made it easy to drive with your head out the window. ) and the windshield wipers broke free from the bodywork because they were never intended to actually clear the windshield of snow. I finished the trip with my head out the window when I couldn't clear the windshield by hand.

My wife never accepted the car as our family car so I financed my first new car late in '66 and stored the car in my Mom's garage in Flint, MI for the winter of 66-67. In the fall of 67, I took it up to the property near Traverse City, MI that my wife and I had purchased (and we call home now); another delightful drive in a snowstorm, followed by a few rallies in Northern Michigan. Then I built a storage building around the Alfa so it would be safe until I could restore it.

In about 1981 or early 82, Martin Swig learned of the car and flew from a business meeting in Chicago up to Traverse City to see it. After 2 years of grinding on me, I finally agreed to sell it ('83 is probably right) because our first child was in the U of Mich and I was between careers so I needed tuition money for her. His picking up the car and my removing walls from the building to "free" it is a whole different story.

Interesting too, that after 17 years the Corto Gara returned to Michigan, a scant 100 miles or so from Traverse City, which is home also for Gary Kaberle (ex owner of BAT 9e). When that was mentioned to Wally he said he knew Gary as "a customer of my office supply business in Traverse City". Small world!

## Ultimate flashback - - A feast\* fit for a BAT

From *Car Life*, July 1955



Photo by Bill Bucklach  
\* Al Williams' Alfa Romeo B.A.T., leads an Austin-Healey through Turn One of Palm Springs. The car aroused intense interest among the spectators, but its performance in the race was disappointing—not unusual for a new car making its first start.

BAT 7 being exercised 1955

"At the same event Ray Sinatra (Frank's cousin) flipped his Cad. powered Kaiser Darrin."

Do any readers have a copy ??

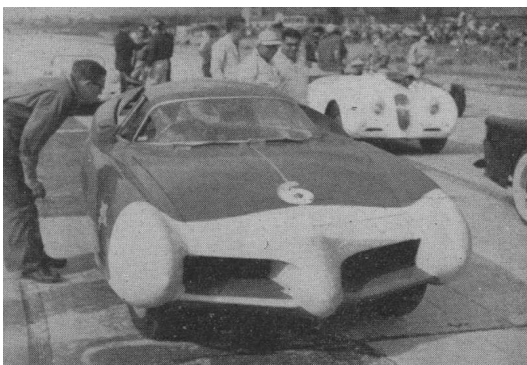
AND from *Hot Rod*, June 55



Highlight of the recent Palm Springs, California sports car race was Al Williams' Alfa Romeo B.A.T. VII, considered the ultimate in aerodynamic design. Curved fins tuck airstream back in place behind car to fill the void, prevent turbulence.

An Italian magazine of December 1955 had two pages covering an SCCA event which also featured the BAT 7 but did not say where and when but listed a wonderful selection of participating drivers. Victory went to a young Phil Hill, followed by Ritchie Ginther, Ernie and Jack McAfee, Pete Lovely, Ken Miles, Johnny and Josie von Neumann, Lance Reventlow. The owner was then shown as McLaughlin.

Can Ken Shaff supply additional recollections?



McLaughlin's?

And finally, *Car Life*, July 1955 again



Katherine Ward stands alongside her gleaming 1955 Alfa Romeo, winner of the blue ribbon in class for European passenger cars costing more than \$5,000.

## RIP

The passing of **Pat Braden**, 68, in August 2002 still fills one with sadness. His cheery contributions to vintage Alfa lore will be truly missed but his memory lingers on. A legacy is his 1900 SSZ \*02016\*, in Don Keith's garage. Pat was born with autos in his blood in Flint MI. After his BA and MA, he became an accomplished author, publishing seven books and many articles primarily on Alfa Romeo. To the chagrin of his in-laws, Pat used his dowry not to purchase a home, neither furniture, but rather an Alfa Romeo! He was a founder member of the AROC. At his death he owned forty cars and motorcycles and innumerable cameras and clocks. An educational fund has been established for his two younger children Kay 19 and Patty 10 of the five that survived him. Checks payable to his widow Cheryl Braden, can be sent, addressed to

Eileen Eimerman  
c/o Hyundai Motor Co of America  
10550 Talbert Ave.  
Fountain Valley CA 92728-0850

## RITS

New gazettes received from the *Registro Internazionale Touring Superleggera* since we last "spoke" are:

- # 14                   Lamborghini 350GT
- #15                   Isotta Fraschini
- #16                   AR 6C1500-1750
- # Speciale         Feruccio Lamborghini
- #17                   Flying Star
- #18                   Fiat 1500 6 cylinder

Copies are available upon request

## Last but not least

There has been a muttering in our midst for some years now about having an East Coast gathering of the faithful. Realizing that 2003 is the start of the second decennial of our 1992 St. Louis meeting, this has now evolved into a call to all true believers (and even the only slightly so) to foregather on September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in **Chester County, PA**, near Philadelphia for a national meeting. The venue will be the **Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance**, organized by Mike Tillson, Chairman, who writes "It would be our pleasure to have the Alfa 1900's represented at our event". Alfa Romeo will be the featured marque at this event and we expect some VERY significant Alfas to be there.

We have been allotted 9 spaces in the hope and expectation that we can fill those with a representative variety of 1900's plus many more in additional "corral" space. On the Saturday there will be a rally through Chester County hunt country, no, not on horseback but behind the wheel.

Peter Marshall has indicated his willingness to attend. In fact, Peter was one of the mutterers referred to above. We will of course have Henry Wessells there, in his home territory, to escort us in and out of trouble.

**It is now our pleasure to invite all 1900 owners and to ask that you contact us soonest about your interest and your intentions.**

BUON VIAGGIO



Ghia 1900 L – what a view and RHD too

The Mostly 1900 Irregular Newsletter  
302 Brown Thrush Rd  
Savannah GA 31419-6091