

BLACKHAWK MUSEUM NEWS

— SPRING 2006 —

...A TRILOGY OF B.A.T.s, PRANCING HORSES... & SOME LEAPING CATS

Not a menagerie... just a diverse pallet of aerodynamics, horsepower and style... *blended with a lot of character!*

Late last year the Museum received *THE* three Alfa Romeo B.A.T.s for exhibition; I emphasize *THE* because in spite of the cars' designations... B.A.T. 5, B.A.T. 7, and B.A.T. 9... there were *ONLY* three full-scale cars ever created that could be driven.



Photo by Blackhawk Museum Docent Dick Griffiths

Alfa Romeo celebrated its 95-year anniversary at the 2005 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance with *one of the most significant displays of Alfa Romeos ever assembled, anywhere.*

Sixty-two Alfas in eight Classes were on the lawn of The Lodge, and viewing *THE* three aerodynamic Alfa Romeo B.A.T. (Berlinetta Aerodinamica Technica) concept cars sitting side-by-side was applauded by all.

These three cars were part of a *design exercise* to create a car that *cheated the wind*. The cars were designed and created by Franco Scaglione and Nuccio Bertone, and B.A.T. 5—the dark gray car closest to the camera—was the 5th design exercise but the 1st full-sized car in the series; it was presented to the public in 1953 at the Turin Motor Show.

B.A.T. 9—the silver car farthest from the camera—is the 9th design exercise, and the 3rd and final full-sized car in this study, and is considered the least radical design; it appeared at the Turin Show in 1955.

B.A.T. 7—the 7th design exercise—the aqua car mid-frame, above and full-frame, below, is by far the most radical design. It is the 2nd full-sized car and debuted at Turin in 1954. It is the only right-hand drive of the three.

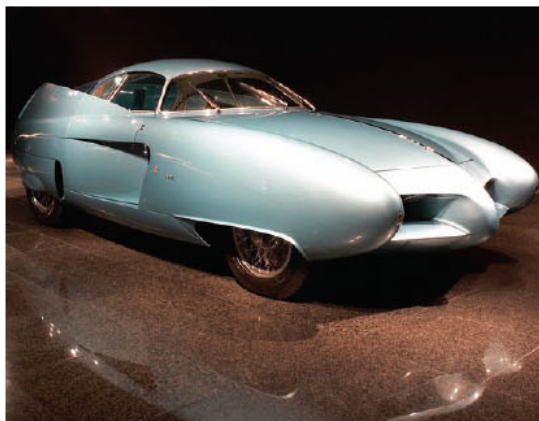


Photo by Blackhawk Museum Docent Dick Griffiths

Museum member Jeri Shaff and her late husband, Ken, owned B.A.T. 7 from "about 1957 to 1962" and drove the car throughout the Bay Area; "we showed the car at Pebble Beach before I got pregnant" and the car and Jeri were featured in a magazine ad for paper towels.

The B.A.T.s were based on the Alfa's 1900 Sprint chassis and dual-overhead-cam 1900 engine.

In January the Museum received three mid-1950s Ferrari road-racing cars... each with unique mechanicals and very distinct coachwork.

This issue's cover car was owned in 1953 by World Driving Champion Phil Hill when he raced it as a privateer (without factory sponsorship) to win the Pebble Beach Road Race in Del Monte Forest (b+w photo.)



Photo by Julian Graham, courtesy of the Blackhawk Museum Automotive Research Library

Between 1950 and 1956 European-style road races were organized and run throughout the United States on street and road courses, and air strips, in response to the post-war interest in, and influx of, British, German and Italian sports cars.