

THE BOOK TOUR FROM HEAVEN & HELL:

June 18-20, Mosport: Burt travels up to Canada with friend/MG racer Scott Fohrman and his rig, shoots his mouth off at the Saturday night banquet to a big crowd of enthusiastic & friendly Canadian racers (in spite of a few not-too-subtle



references to how the Chicago Blackhawks had just won the Stanley Cup!) plus hawking a few books and doing a little color announcing on the PA. Burt also got to drive club president Walter Davies' cheeky little Ford Escort/BDA (the same type of car that launched actor Paul Newman's racing career) until it started pumping out a little too much oil, then switched to The Dark Side and co-drove to 2nd in class in event chairman Gord Ballantine's Porsche 944 in the enduro.



June 25-27, Mid Ohio: Burt signed books, did a little color announcing and raced Rick Fiske's improving Elva Courier, sharing it with preparation ace/6-time SCCA National Champ Kent Prather in the enduro and switching camps to drive the last half of the enduro in longtime friend/serial ride-mooch victim Dave Burton's Porsche 356 coupe.



July 9-10, Millers at Milwaukee: Burt hawks some books and gets re-acquainted with Lou Natenshoen's "junk-formula" mid-1930s, Ford V8-60-powered Indy racer (the one that tried to kill him when the steering arm snapped the last time he drove it!).



July 16-18, Kohler International Challenge at Road America: Soft-cover 'Sneak Preview' edition of the new book arrives (at the last minute, of course) and sales exceed all expectations! Burt also serves as a *concours* judge Friday night and manages to blow the motor in Rick Fiske's Elva Courier in comprehensive fashion on Saturday morning. Turns out to be arguably not his fault, as the shift light is coming on at 7400 rather than 6600rpm. Long-stroke British 4-bangers don't like that very much. Rick is very cool about the whole thing. Burt wonders what sort of meds he's taking? Car is improving, however, thanks to wrench & prep work from longtime friend and 6-time National Champ Kent Prather.



July 24-25, Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix. Book sales continue at a brisk pace, Burt helps out with potentially accurate car and driver information on the PA and great friend Sam Smith kindly offers Burt a drive in his beloved Alfa Giulietta, "Luigi," for the all-Italian race at the end of the day on Saturday. But the schedule runs long and the race gets cancelled. Worse yet, Burt gets a call from home advising him that a storm of truly biblical proportions has passed through the western Chicago suburbs, they have 4-1/2 feet of water and sewage in their 'finished' basement and that everything below grade level is ruined. "You might as well stay there and sell books," Carol tells him. "We can't do much of anything until the water goes down." Depression sets in. But there's a fantastic band at the racer/worker tent party that evening, entirely too much good food, beer and Crown Royal is provided and Burt dances his ass off with a couple corner workers. What the hell else are you going to do? Weather turns iffy on Sunday and Burt packs up and heads for home. Where he finds:



It should be mentioned here that Burt and Carol were planning to leave on a driving trip summer vacation/book-tour continuation to California the Wednesday after Pittsburgh. Carol was going to stay with son Adam and wife Tara in Studio City while Burt made a few more book tour stops on the weekends, but that plan was obviously not going to work any more. With help from a cleanup crew, they moved everything out of the basement (including the walls, appliances, artwork, ruined cameras and computer, untold research materials and memorabilia, wedding pictures, most of Carol's winter clothes and virtually all of their shoes, etc. etc.), mucked everything out, sprayed for mold and bacteria, dealt with the insurance company (much of that still unresolved/pending) and filled up 2-1/2 dumpsters with ruined stuff. Burt and Carol got the last of their possessions back inside the house literally 15 minutes before Burt had to hop into a cab to catch a plane for the west coast while Carol stayed home and tried to sort out what was left....



August 6-7, Eugene, OR: Burt sells a few books while serving as guest banquet speaker for Monte Shelton's Northwest Classic Rallye. Meets a lot of old Pac Northwest friends. Lots of neat cars & people. Many Alfa types. Burt rents crappy hotel bike & rides fabulous, scenic trail along Willamette river. Has fun. Feels guilty about poor Carol back at home with all that mess. Has more fun....



AUTOBOOKS-AEROBOOKS

August 10, Burbank, CA: Rescheduled book signing at Autobooks/Aerobooks in Burbank (was originally supposed to have been on the previous Saturday). Week-night turnout is predictably disappointing.

August 12-15: Book signing at Monterey Historics and Media work at Pebble Beach Concours includes great, quality-time road trip with son Adam. Book sales are fantastic. Carol is still stuck at home trying to organize all their stuff. Back to Studio City for one more night with Adam and Tara and then back to Chicago on 8/16 to spend a few days with Carol & clean up stuff at the office before....

August 20-22, Topeka, KS: Book stuff, PA work and ride-mooching event organizer Bill Rinke's *very* nice Lotus Super Seven. Burt has to start at the back of the pack in Friday morning's race because he missed Thursday qualifying & comes through to finish 6th. Throttle linkage comes apart at the start of Friday afternoon's race and he's lucky not to get collected! Beginning of struggle with carb problems. Starts at the back again Sat. AM and manages to finish 4th. Actually wins the Saturday afternoon race! Really. Honest. Leaves Sun. early afternoon in order to make:



August 23, Joliet, IL: Serves as driving instructor at Lotus/Lamborghini dealership track day at Autobahn Motorsports Country Club. Has fun. Sells a few books. Drives some neat cars. Thoughtlessly drives too hard and reduces a female Exige owner to tears. Oh, well....

September 3-5, Lime Rock, CT: The beginning of an epic, 200-mile-plus solo road trip with a van full of books, a carry bag full of racing gear and a few changes of underwear. No drive at Lime Rock, but Burt sells LOTS of books, helps out on the PA and serves as a concours judge on the Sunday. Kind of a joke if you've ever seen any of the cars from HIS garage.

September 7, Millville, NJ: Burt spends the day at the new New Jersey Motorsports Park facility as part of his ongoing "country club track" series for *Vintage Motorsport*.

September 8, Monticello, NY: More of the same as Burt bombs around the handsome and impressive Monticello Motor Club circuit in a Cadillac CTS-V and a Spec Miata. He's told that his times are impressive, but they want a good writeup, don't they? Sells some books, too.

September 9-12, Watkins Glen, NY: Ride mooch success with a weekend drive in Bill Branson's absolutely lovely Alfa Romeo Giulia. Car is great to drive, but Burt has to park it on Saturday when the oil pressure gets a little iffy. They're a lot easier to rebuild *before* you put a rod through the side of the block rather than after! Book sales are PHE-NOMENAL, particularly at the in-town festival on Friday night, where buyers are lined up for hours. Amazing.



September 23-26, Road America: Book signing all weekend at the SCCA Runoffs plus a guest speaker gig for the PCA (that's right, the *PORSCHE* Club) Milwaukee Region's 50th anniversary banquet at a fancy Milwaukee-area country club on Saturday night. Burt wears a tux and tries not to say too many rude things about Porsches. Nobody throws any overripe fruits or vegetables. The check clears....

October 1-3, Road Atlanta, Braselton, GA: Book signing with *Vintage Motorsport* magazine at Petit Le Mans. Burt donates a set of books for friend and Corvette team driver Johnny O'Connell's charity auction. Somebody pays over retail for them. Burt is amazed. Great race, too, as Corvette team scores its first-ever GT2 victory after leading Ferrari runs out of gas on the last lap!

October 15-16, Lakeland, FL: Burt skips ride-mooch opportunity at Road Atlanta to sign books next to Lynn St. James at Ford Heacock's marvelous Lake Mirror Concours and take part in a wonderful and well-attended Art Eastman memorial after the concours. Moving but uplifting stuff, as Art's friends and family looked at some of the things he produced and remembered him as he was.

More to come....