

THE 4TH ANNUAL ARIZONA CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

PHOTOS: JOE SAGE OR AS NOTED

Threatening skies offered great viewing conditions and ultimately no rain at the 4th Annual Arizona Concours d'Elegance, much to the relief of Concours officials and the car owners who had brought such a splendid assembly of automobiles for the show. A strong crowd of spectators circulated through the inner lawns of the Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired Arizona Biltmore, a landmark hotel that opened in 1929.

Ninety cars were arrayed on the show field for the Arizona Concours d'Elegance, divided into 17 classes. The cars judged to be the best in each of those classes were

then rejudged, with four of those class winners emerging as finalists to determine the event's highest accolade—Best of Show.

BEST OF SHOW

1936 Bugatti Type 37 SC Atlantic coupe

One of the world's most famous automobiles, a 1936 Bugatti Type 57SC Atlantic, won Best of Show honors on Sunday.

The magnificent handbuilt car, with prominent front fenders and a narrow aluminum body uniquely joined by rivets running along its fenders and down its spine, is owned by Peter and Merle Mullin and Rob and Melani Walton. The car usually is housed at the Mullin Automotive Museum in Oxnard, California, but had been on loan to the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles, where it has been part of a special display.

Warner Hall, a senior docent from the Mullin Automotive Museum in Oxnard, California, where the car usually resides, was the Bugatti's caretaker at the con-

course. Could he possibly have been surprised when the judges' decision was announced? "Maybe a little," he said. "We didn't want to count on anything, especially in a field (of cars) this fabulous. This is such an amazing event, and there are some really amazing cars here."

The Atlantic had won the special class of Cars of Ettore and Jean Bugatti, which included eight spectacular examples of Bugatti artistry and performance, including three historic 1920s Grand Prix cars once raced by famous women drivers in Europe.

The other three finalists were:

◆ A 1937 Lagonda LG45 Rapide sport tourer, owned by the Stephens family of San Francisco and one of only 25 Rapides built.

◆ A 1955 Ferrari 250 Europa coupe with coachwork by Vignale, owned by Kevin Cogan of Louisville, Kentucky and the first Europa model produced by Ferrari, debuting at the Paris Auto Salon in 1953.

◆ A 1933 Marmon V16 convertible coupe, owned by Aaron and Valerie Weiss of San Marino, California, a large luxury vehicle and the last car produced by the Indianapolis automaker best-known for the Marmon Wasp that won the inaugural Indianapolis 500-mile race.

The famed 1936 Bugatti 57SC Atlantic (below left) lent by Mullin Automotive Museum and owned by Peter and Merle Mullin and Rob and Melanie Walton of Oxnard CA, won Best of Show. The 1933 Marmon V16 Convertible Coupe belonging to Aaron and Valerie Weiss of San Marino CA was runner-up after winning the American Classic Open Class.

Photos: Joe Sage (3)



Above: 1930 Bugatti Type 46 Petite Royale belonging to Richard Adams of La Jolla CA; 1929 Bugatti Type 43 Grand Sport lent by the Rocky Mountain Auto Collection of Bozeman MT; 1937 Cord 812 Phaeton belonging to Norman Noakes of Chandler AZ.

CLASS WINNERS

Antique Automobiles	1909 Renault AX
Pre-War European Sports/Racing	1938 Jaguar SS-100
Post-War America-Powered Sports Cars	1960 Chevrolet Corvette
Post-War American Racing Cars	1951 Cunningham C2
Post-War European Sports Cars/Early	1956 Lancia Aurelia B24S convertible
Post-War European Sports Cars/Late	1960 Ferrari 250 GT PF Cab Series 2
Post-War European Racing Cars	1955 Ferrari 500 Mondial
American Classic/Open	1933 Marmon V16 convertible coupe
Iconic Post-War American Cars	1953 Cadillac convertible
Iconic Post-War European Cars	1949 Delahaye 155M
Preservation Cars	1959 AC Ace Bristol roadster
Avante Garde	1931 Nash Model 887 touring sedan
Classic Era Lincolns	1926 Lincoln LeBaron sedan
Coachwork by Carrozzeria Vignale	1953 Ferrari 250 Europa coupe

KEEP RIGHT >>



Photo: Joe Sage

Photos: Joe Sage (2); Larry Edsall (2)



Above: 1931 Duesenberg Model J Tourster belonging to Joseph and Margie Cassini III of West Orange NJ; 1930 Cadillac V16 Model 452 Roadster belonging to Frederick Lax of Malibu CA. At right: Best of Show winner, the 1936 Bugatti 57SC Atlantic.

SPECIAL AWARDS

- Most Elegant Pre-War Car**1931 Duesenberg Model J Tourster
- Director's Choice**1951 Ferrari 212 MM
- Historic Vehicle Association Most Well-Preserved Vehicle**1949 MGTC
- Historic Vehicle Association National Automotive Heritage Award**1955 Ferrari 500 Mondial
- Hagerty Youth Judging Award**1959 Bocar XP-5
- Make-A-Wish Kids Choice**1936 Bugatti 57 SC Atlantic

On Monday, many cars from the Arizona Concours d'Elegance participated in a driving event, the Arizona Tour d'Elegance, with a free public display of the vehicles at the scenic South Canal Bridge in downtown Scottsdale.

The Arizona Concours d'Elegance is a not-for-profit corporation registered with the State of Arizona, with federal 501(c)(3) status. Net proceeds from the nationally recognized event, as well as generous donations from participants and spectators, benefit Make-A-Wish® Arizona, the founding chapter of the national organization that grants wishes for children facing life-threatening medical conditions.

The fifth annual Arizona Concours d'Elegance will be held on January 14, 2018. For complete details, visit www.arizonaconcours.com. ■



Photo: Joe Sage

Legends share their tales

Press association discussions include auction week preview, women in racing and race team owners / Photos by Randall Bohl

The Phoenix Automotive Press Association annually hosts a series of panel discussions in the Grand Ballroom of the Arizona Biltmore on Saturday, the day before the Arizona Concours d'Elegance.

This year's panels started at 9 am with a preview of the seven collector car auctions set to take place during the week. Expert collector car commentators John Carlson, Dave Kinney and Andy Stone, moderated by Larry Edsall, shared personal stories, thoughts on the state of the hobby/industry and insights into the coming auctions.

The second panel, at noon, focused on *Pioneer Women in Racing*. Arizona's Lyn St James, the first woman to win Rookie of the Year at the Indianapolis 500, moderated a discussion with veteran race driver Janet Guthrie, the first woman to compete in both the Indy 500 and the Daytona 500, and acclaimed author Miranda Seymour, whose book *Bugatti Queen* explores the life of Hellé Nice, famed French racing driver in the 1920s and '30s (which dovetailed nicely with the Bugatti Featured Class, set to be a key element of the Concours).

Outside on the lawns of the Biltmore, a display of famous women's race cars included three pre-

war Bugattis: a 1925 Bugatti Type 35 (belonging to Jan Voboril) driven by Elizabeth Juneck, one of the most renowned female racing drivers of the period; a 1927 Bugatti Type 37A (belonging to Andrew Larson) driven by Anne-Cecile Rose Itier, the most active female racing amateur in France from the late 1920s to the early '50s, including everything from Grand Prix racing to hill climbs and rallies, with a female record five times at Le Mans and seven at Monte Carlo; and a 1927 Bugatti Type 35 (belonging to William "Chip" Connor II) driven in the era by Hellé Nice herself, who owned and raced this car in the early 1930s at prestigious international circuits like Le Mans, Reims and Monza, her close association with Bugatti leading to her nickname "The Bugatti Queen."

The third panel discussion, starting at 2pm, was *Driven: The Passion Driving Race Team Owners*, with Lyn St James interviewing renowned motorsports team owner Bobby Rahal, three-time CART Indy racing champion and an Indianapolis 500 winner before teaming up with now retired late night talk show host David Letterman. Rahal Letterman Racing won the 2004 Indianapolis 500 with Phoenix-born driver Buddy Rice. ■

(Below) On display on the lawns of the Arizona Biltmore during the series of panel discussions were several Bugattis mentioned above, as well as a 1955 Maserati 250F (from the collection of Bill Pope) driven by Maria Teresa de Filippis, the first woman to have raced in Formula One, and 1967 Ferrari NART Spyder and 1960 OSCA Formula Junior (from the Collection of Lawrence Auriana) driven by Denise McCluggage, renowned race driver and journalist, the first automotive journalist inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame. // (At right, top to bottom) The auction preview panel of John Carlson, moderator Larry Edsall, Dave Kinney and Andy Stone. Pioneer Women in Racing, with Janet Guthrie, Miranda Seymour and moderator Lyn St James. Bobby Rahal. The Hellé Nice 1927 Bugatti Type 35.

