

Memphis Euro Auto Fest
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The Memphis Euro Auto Fest on October 2 was again a spectacular show with a collection of British, German, Italian and other European cars. It is hard to miss when the show is the centerpiece on the lush grounds of the Youth Villages Bartlett Campus. I talked with Aaron Keegan, Youth Villages Event Coordinator. Aaron said, "This private, nonprofit organization helps emotionally and behaviorally troubled children and their families live successfully." I understand the success rate with a two-year release period is over 80%. Congratulations the counselors at Youth Villages for a job well done!

I meandered around the show field and found several interesting cars and stories, such as the replica 1956 Porsche 550 Spyder. Truly, this is a dry weather car as the weather gear is non-existent. James Dean, the 1950s actor, died in a Porsche 550 Spyder.

Chuck and Janel Demick with a 1966 MG B included a definition of Binabox, the car name.

Binabox b ' en uh boks

Proper noun

Affectionate nickname for our 1966 MG B.

A 1966 MG B with nothing bolted together, in several boxes, thus "B" in a box.

Linda Dawson told me about the acquisition of her 1974 Triumph TR6. Looking for a change of pace after her father died, she made an offer when the neighbor put the TR6 up for sale. Well, it broke down twice on the test drive but that did not stop her – she bought the car. James is the chauffeur, mechanic and husband of 44 years – all in one and quite a bargain!

In the very last row of the European cars was the only Swede on the show field, Chris Kresser's 1965 Volvo PV 544. Later in the day, Porter Dawson, grandson of Linda Dawson, climbed into the driver's seat to check out the Volvo for future reference.

What is the signature item at the Memphis car show? – It is the AutoZone products! Charles Vestweber from AutoZone was on hand. He commented, "The car enthusiasts and the charitable contribution to Youth Villages make this a great event." The participants love AutoZone.

The 2010 featured marque was Mercedes-Benz. There were quite a few on hand. I particularly marveled at the history of the 1960 Mercedes Benz 190 B Sedan of Lynn Jones. Actually, the Lebanon license plate caught my attention. This car was shipped to the United States from Rotterdam. Jones bought the car in Lebanon while teaching in Beirut. He told me, "Beirut was at its height in 1974,

but in 1975, the civil war engulfed the country. Finally, in 1976 he decided it was time to depart. The convoy of cars traveled for twelve hours to Damascus. This trip would normally be two hours, but the exiting traffic was monumental. At one point, the convoy went right through the goat pasture.” Thanks for the tale, Lynn. Certainly, he was living on the edge at that time.

I found 20-month old Gwyneth Layton enjoying a child’s car. The 1957 Isetta Coupe owned by Dennis Kiefer is just the right size.

The 1960 Rolls Royce Silver Cloud II comes complete with a picnic basket, champagne and grey poupon mustard. In the same class was the silver and dark blue 1949 Bentley MK VI. Jerry Bellmeier told me the car sold for 4000 British Pounds Sterling back in 1949, approximately \$20,000. This model was built between 1947 and 1951. The self-oiling pedal in the cab of the car is quite unusual. Bentley was making the life of the mechanic easier. This car was a basket case when purchased by Jerry; however, after ten years of restoration, this Saloon is a real beauty.

Pat Williams was ready to speed off on his Vincent motorcycle as I approached him. He has had the 1950 Vincent bike for two years after chasing it for two years. The widow who owned the bike was intent on keeping it as a reminder of her late husband. She already sold the other 24 bikes from the basement. Finally, Pat secured the title. There were only 1500 bikes of this type produced. At the time, they were the fastest production motorcycle with speeds up to 130 mph and better.

Bill Cravens showed his 1972 Triumph TR6. He was passing out the cutest little oil change stickers he created at his print shop, The Printer.

Kudos to the Memphis team for creating a fine afternoon of car gazing. See you next year.