

TO: THREE GENTLEMEN AND A LADY

FROM: Gloria

This was my first attempt writing about cars - if I was incorrect in any way - please forgive me. I wrote it quickly so I would get it done immediately.

It was fun being on your block and seeing all the Admirers talk to you.

If you want to share my story - please do.

With high regard,

Gloria

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA
CONCOURS ON THE AVENUE
AUGUST 15, 2017

BMW's and
THREE GENTLEMEN AND A LADY

BY

GLORIA VALENTINO
August 16, 2017

This marks my 3rd year volunteering for the Carmel Foundation at the Concours. During training for the show, Doug Freedman gave a suggestion that peaked my interest and has made all the difference for me this year.

Doug suggested that rather than looking at the price of the car, talk to the owners and find out about the car, ask questions about it. He said "Every car has a story." And for me volunteering this year, the third, has been a charm.

The cars on my block were BMW's owned by 3 Gentlemen and a Lady. Armed with my questions, I boldly started conversations with them and they told me about the personalities of their cars.

The first gentleman I met was Chris Ohmes from Virginia. He owned a 1972 BMW and has been the owner for 3 years. The former owner had the car for 42 years in Texas. He referred to the color of his car as Crème Puff. The previous owner had it painted that color - looked like vanilla ice cream. Now I don't know anything about cars. Just get in, start the car and drive. Chris explained the BMW B PILLAR, which means there is no bar between front and back windows. Then he walked to the front of the car and explained - front is A - Middle Section is B - back section is C. I asked Chris why he bought his car. He said it was a dream. He studied the BMWs and met with other owners, met at forums and had hands on communication. He's owned the car since July 10, 2014. As I said, I met gentleman and Chris was the first and he made my first experience asking questions about cars a breeze.

The next gentleman I met Daniel Cooper and his wife, lovely lady Valerie. He had a 1972 Blue BMW which he found abandoned by an owner in a parking lot. He bought the car from the owner of the parking lot. Valerie, was so sweet and gave me information about the car. She also told me that their car was used by Jerry Seinfeld in his show, COMMEDIANS IN CARS GETTING COFFEE. She emailed me photo and article about the car, See attached. This car won best Classic for BMWs. I asked Varlerie if she ever thought she would be involved in this experience - classic cars - she said Daniel has given her an "appreciation" for older cars which she never had before. A Gentleman and A Lady, such a nice experience and I feel like we have started a friendship.

Now another gentleman to introduce you to is Wayne Killen from Virginia. He is the 4th owner of the 1973 BMW which he has had for ten years. Wayne is tall, over 6 feet, slender. I asked why he likes this car and his answer: I FIT IN IT, COMFORTABLY. He continued, I love the design, it's classic, lives up to reputation; is true to itself - which is how I want to be thought of. It is timeless, engine smooth. And he told me about the B Pillar as well. He referred to his car as the BMW BAVARIAN CRÈME, color of car blue = interior crème. Wayne continued to tell me how happy he was to be a part of the show. Last year there was a problem and he wasn't able to participate, so this year he is so excited to be here. I told you a GENTLEMAN!

Conversation - started our communication and all owners took the time to talk to me, an elderly lady who knows nothing about cars and answered all my questions without hesitation. They did the same with all the admirers who stopped to look at their cars. I told you the third year for me - a charm because of three gentlemen and a lady.

I do have something to say about another car that showed up on the block. The arrogant Jaguar owner (some say Jagwar or Jauwar or whatever) This car was not registered to participate. Didn't matter. He took it upon himself to move the fence and drive in and park his car next to Chris. No number on the street for a car. It was a fabulous looking car and everyone stopped to admire it and he talked to everyone. It was reported and Steve, the head of police came and he was asked to leave. Not one of the gentlemen on the block. Arrogant - I wonder what did he think that he had to be asked to move. Wasn't he embarrassed!

If you volunteer next year, do what Doug suggested and talk to the owners. They called me by name and I got hugs from my new Gentlemen and Lady friends. It was a wonderful experience and I learned something about BMWs that I wouldn't have known if it wasn't for them.

Questions I didn't ask, how much they paid for the car and what it's worth now - doesn't matter - for me their priceless and in my eyes they are winners because of their owners "Three Gentlemen and A Lady. And a big thank you to Doug for the great suggestion. It made my day so much more meaningful.