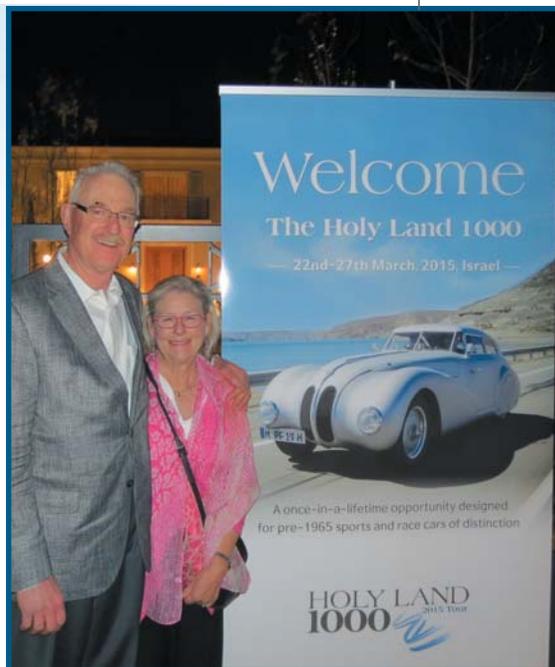




The Holy Land 1000 in a 356



Porsche



Something to make the Jerusalem natives smile: (from left) 1947 Stabilimenti Farina Bristol 400 dhc, OSCA MT4 TN, Jaguar XK 120 and our own Sonoma and Will Clark (GWG) with their Porsche 356 C Cabriolet.



Now one may ask,
 “What has that to do with the
 Gull Wing Group?”
 As it turns out – everything.

By Will Clark

My very dear friend and fellow GWG member, Amir Almagor, first approached me at the New Orleans GWG convention about a possible car rally in Israel. “Sounds very interesting,” I said, (but I won’t be participating).

Fast forward to Banff 2014. The Holy Land 1000 is official and Amir was in full swing as advocate and lobbyist. Being a hard sell there was no way I would ship my 300 SL to Israel, especially since I promised never to expose her to danger (our affair has been years in the making). My person had some reservations as well...

You remember my wife, Sonoma. She and Amir’s best girl, Shoshi, had a significantly different understanding of the event. Sonoma expressed a willingness to visit Israel, to which Shoshi replied, “Why not come? You must come.” Consequently Sonoma announced that she was going to Israel – with or without me. Period. What? Five seconds of self-examination resulted in a unanimous decision to join my spouse.

Every friend and even strangers thought we were crazy. Amir suggested we quit watching CNN. Trepidation was not to be packed in our cases. Israel. History. Religion. Politics. And cars.

This was our first official rally ever. Amir had promised something very special and he delivered. By the end of the journey we were convinced of our dignitary status of the first order in Israel. Amir’s cohort, Elad, hosted a gathering that was more akin to a HOLLYWOOD OSCA(R) party – food drink, entertainment, fabulous – but my favorite temptation was his stone clad garage full of jelly beans – that is what we called his brightly colored collection of small Italian race-about, and any other 4-wheeled bobble that would fit in one’s pocket.

The country of Israel was unlike anything we ever anticipated. On any given day at least two people approached us with the greeting “Welcome to Israel!” On every multi-lane highway horns blared and cameras clicked as we passed – or were passed. Upon our arrival

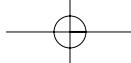


at designated destinations people lined the streets to bask in our glow. At the end of the Holy Land 1000 we imagined over 10,000 photo frames of our journey – all initiated by Israeli photographers. Celebrity indeed!

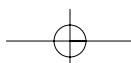
We love to travel, but other than wishing to gaze at an Egyptian pyramid or float down the Nile, had absolutely no desire to visit the Middle East, and had never given Israel a second thought. Now that we have met the people of the region and sipped of the culture and history, Israel holds a prominent place on our new “Bucket List.” And we always were under the impres-

From the top: The garage — with its rare OSCA spider. Our hosts, Shoshi and Amir Almagor (GWG) and their beautiful Roadster. The Clark's on the Tiberian coast. What millenium is this?





From the top: An historic gathering in Jerusalem. Patti Paulson and Pat Matthews in their 220 SE followed by Marcia and Ira Wagner in their 280 SL in the green desert of Israel. Béer Sheva, ancient cross-roads of trade and heart of the Negev; its modern city is a few miles away. A last public gathering before the Holy Land 1000 gala.



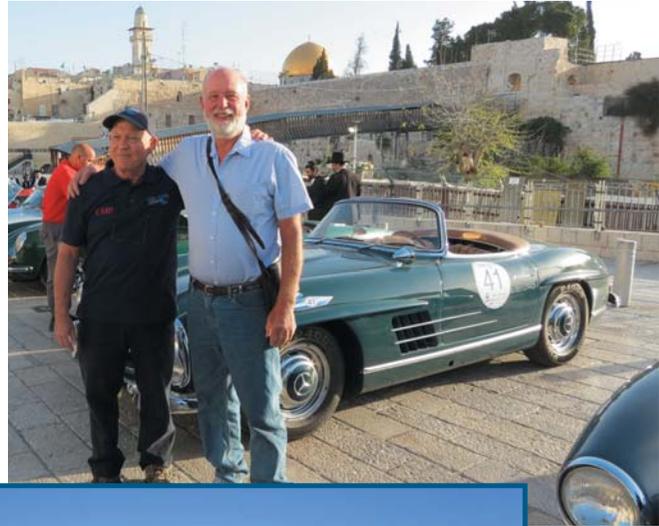
sion one made journeys to foreign places to cross them off this list!

At first glance this was the most expensive trip we have ever experienced – rally expenses, car shipment (west coast port slowdown/strike?, detour to New York by truck), insurance, supporting horological tour sponsors – and my wife’s penchant for local artifacts. I toyed with my calculator and after dividing by 3000 years of history determined the cost to be very reasonable.

For those unable to attend we only hope our experiences shine but a glimmer of light on a mystical journey through a land and her people.

Thank you to the Gull Wing Group for introducing us to Amir and his lovely bride, Shoshi. And thank you Sonoma for your courage and foresight.

Shalom.
Will Clark





Clockwise from upper left: Amir with Pat Matthews. In traffic with live-axle Corvette, Abarth 208A Boano Spider, an early OSCA MT4-AD2 and an E-type Jaguar. Below in line astern are a Porsche Carrera, BMW 507, M-B 230 SL, Arnolt Bristol, XK 150 Jag and the Clark 356 C. Shopping with the author. The old port at Jaffa. And the event route through history.

