

CLBCOM 6
November 1990



SQUIRE SS-100 CLUB

11-20-90, Well folks, I have some sad news, at least I think so. After all the months of research and letter writing we were able to establish the fact that our Squire's were made in Italy by Intermeccanica and after many false starts we located their new plant in Victoria, B.C. I had written a letter requesting information on our cars and it was just returned stamped "No longer at this address-No forwarding address" I picked up the phone and called the number we had and it has been disconnected. DRAT!!! I still have an acquaintance in Victoria, Wayne Scraba, who is an automotive writer for Petersen's Publications (Hot Rod, Road & Track, ect) and explained our predicament, asking that he check around and see if any of the principals are still in town? I'll have to wait till he replies but sometimes I get the feeling that we're shoveling sand against the tide. More as it develops.

11-23-90, MORE sad news. Some weeks ago I called Bruce Erfer who owns British Wire Wheel Co. in Santa Cruz, CA. He is the biggest Dayton and Dunlop wire wheel dealer in the U.S., maybe the world. I sent him one of the Squire knock-off's that I thought had been made by Dunlop at their plant in Calcutta, India, and asked him if he could procure ear type's insted of the wrench type that we now have? He returned my sample today with a cover letter that said "Art, I truely tried but struck out! I did discover that Dunlop made the wheels but DID NOT make the caps for the Squires. I've got no ideas other than fabrication."

Tell you what guys, I had investigated having the caps fabricated before I contacted him and the cost is outasight. I have one more idea. A friend of mine has an automotive machine shop and I'll check with him and see if we can come up with simulated ear type knock off's that we can put on the existing caps with some kind of simple attachment. Will keep you informed.

12-3-90, How about some good news for a change? Attached are two letter copies, one from me to Curt Scott at Specialty Cars and his reply. We're off and running again. Have allready instituted an inquiry to Frank Reisner and will pass along the results. Sure like Curt's comment about Intermeccanica's quality. More later.

12-4-90, Nice, informative letter from John Fulton today and a copy is attached. Will also include John's temporary address.

John M. Fulton
c/o Hotel Valleverde
Via G. Leopardi, 53
80038 Pomigliano D'Arco (NA)
Italy

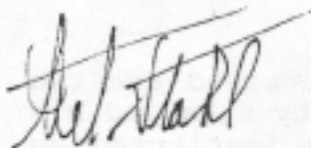
John says the town is just South of Naples. Where in hell did I get Venice? John, Lee Craft (Baltimore) told me on the phone the other day that his girlfriend is from Italy and they are going to visit her home next year. Hopefully, you two can get together?

12-7-90, Speaking of Lee Craft, he calls me about once a week to chit-chat and I keep meaning to ask him if his Squire seats adjust? To explain, the seats in my car are on tracks that work perfectly out of the car but when bolted to the floor you cant adjust them. The metalwork under the upholstery is simply too wide for the floor channel. I have been told that I have Mustang seats. Is that also a problem for the rest of you? If there is a better seat that will just drop in there and be adjustable, please tell me what kind it is? However, if we are all having the same problem let me know and I'll see if it's solveable without declaring bankruptcy. In just glancing at it it, it looks like you could remove the upholstery clips and cut, narrow and reweld the seat base metal and then re-install the vinal cover. Would appreciate hearing from each of you by phone or a note, OK? If it's a universal problem we can solve it and do another "How-to" sketch.

12-8-90, BINGO !!! Wayne Scraba just called me from Canada with a good phone number for Intermeccanica and I called them right back. Talked to Paula Reisner (Who has a thick Italian accent) and she said all her records were at her home but if I would write and request what we wanted she would try and help us. A copy of the letter is attached so keep your fingers crossed.

Think I'll go ahead and get this much in the mail to you fellows and our little enclosed Christmas letter will have to serve as your Christmas Card..

Merry Christmas to one and all and may we find the rest of the Squires next year !!!



John Michael



Dear Art,

Well I am nearly back in business. This is my third week and I THINK I am over the cultural shock! I am still in a hotel but will take an apartment on Dec. 1st. It is about as large as my Denver place but is about \$800 a month. My typewriter was slightly damaged in transit but managed to survive. I just got a transformer and Italian plug put on yesterday. I will send you my new address when I am there. It seems pretty fancy as it is in a high rise on the corner of Via Roma and Via Alfa Romeo. I can see the Alfa plant from my window. In the meantime if you would like to write, I am enclosing a card from the hotel which will accept my mail forever. Some of the guys use it as a post office box!

I am at Aeritalia working on the McDonnell-Douglas MD-11 stretch version fuselage. These jokers are building that and parts of the Boeing 767. They are also going into production on several versions of Airbus and also have a line of twin turbos called ATR.

The town is Pomigliano D'Anco and is about five miles South of Naples. I have been to Naples and Sorrento. It seems that the Isle of Capri is not far and I hope to get into Rome over Christmas. Just too much stress and expense to try and make it home for the holidays.

I got off in a big rush and packed all wrong. There are things in Denver and in Dallas. Some things I thought I brought are not here. I don't know if I left them or they got snatched in transit. Phones here are a two year waiting list and \$2000 installation. I will give you my office number as it is probably the only one I will ever have. Dial: (Int'l Opn) 39-81-845-2593. That phone is on my desk.

Many of the guys are here just as a stopover to get into the European boom. It seems to be growing everyday.

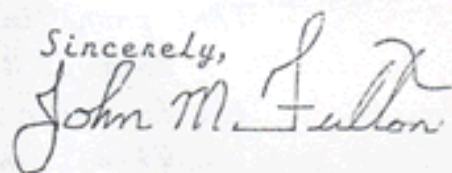
Things are not cheap here. Gasoline is \$6.43 a gallon which I understand is mostly taxes to keep them off the road, but

they just keep on driving! Eating out is about double to triple the States. You have to drink bottled water and clothes dryers are unheard of. Heating is optional and I have HEARD of ONE dishwasher! Gas for cooking comes in bottles and I suspect it to be propane or butane. There is very little ice and I have just learned to do without. I will be glad when I get my own place and start cooking. Lunch is the pits and just a matter of survival. We eat at a corner shop which fixes sandwiches to order on rock hard bread. Very few things are cooled, including Cokes and milk.

I expect to be back in the States during the month of August when they have a plant shutdown here. I would like to fly into Denver and pick up my Squine and put it somewhere. That will depend a lot on what my future plans are at the time. I'll just have to see what is happening then. The Chrysler is with a friend in Dallas, but I don't think I want to leave the Squine with them if I come back to Italy.

Most of the problems seem to be getting solved as time goes by. Right now I am concerned about connections with a bank in England where I want an account to transfer money to my bank in Colorado. Right now I have three weeks pay floating around out there somewhere which I would like to get under control! I don't even know where my mail is. I sent in a card to hold it and then another to forward it and I don't know that any of that has happened! I suppose that time will tell. I plan to write a form letter of explanation to all my creditors. Since my credit is so good, I certainly don't want to ruin that.

Well Ant, I suppose that is about all I have for now. As soon as I can get relaxed, I will look up Turin and see what I can learn about Intermeccanica. I have met several Italians here that may be able to help us out.

Sincerely,

John M. Fulton

INTERMEC

Intermeccanica International, Inc.
3083 Grandview Highway
Vancouver, BC, Canada V5M 2E4
Attn: Frank & Paula Reisner

12-7-90

604+872-4747
OR 877-1933

Dear Mrs Reisner:

After all these months of searching it was delightful to talk to you today. The entire story of how we came to identify you as the manufacturer of the Squire is a little more than I can get in one letter but I'll give you an thumb-nail sketch.

I have been an active member of the Arizona Kit Car Club for some time now. Last year, one of our members went to visit his son in Arkansas and while there, found what he thought was a completed Jaguar SS-100 kit. The car had been stored outdoors for four years and was in pretty poor condtion. He made the man an offer, bought the car, rented a trailer and hauled it home to Arizona. Once he got the car home, he realized he had more in repairs and restoration than he could handle so he called me to see if I was interested? I took one look at the car and realized it was something more than a slap-together-kit and purchased the car on the spot.

The Title I recieved with the car said Reliant SS-100. I never have figured where the "Reliant" came from. In the process of rebuilding the car, a friend of mine called me and said he thought there was one just like it, called a Squire SS-100, for sale in Hemmings Motor News. I went to the Library, found the add and contacted the man. He had allready sold the car (And has since purchased another since he found some other owners) so I ran an add myself in Hemmings and have found five more, one each in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Denver. (The man in Denver has the car stored while he's on a two year work assignment in Naples, Italy) We decided to form this little owners group and started looking for the history of the car and other owners.

I wrote to both Mike Baranowski at Petersen's Kit Car (By the way, he not be with that magazine after the 1st. of the year) and Bill Moore at Kit Car Illustrated, asking them to reproduce my request for information about the Squire. They both did and of all places, I recieved a reply from a fellow in Melbourne, Aust. who reproduced a nine page article about your firm in the Nov/Dec '86 issue of Hi-Performance Cars. Now, at least, we had a name.

I started the painful search on your present location and all the mail was returned. The phone number I had was disconnected and information had no new listing. I was stumped!! I had written to Curt Scott at Specialty Cars because he had asked me to inform him on the manufacturer of the Squire if I found you. He keep's

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records on that sort of information. (You may wish to inform him of the other cars you have been responsible for over the years). He wrote right back to say that he was really surprised that Intermeccanica had been involved in the Squire SS-100 and he gave me your current address but an incorrect phone number. I asked my friend Wayne Scrabba, an automotive journalist who lives in Vancouver, to look you up and the rest is history.

As you might suspect, our little group has many, many questions. We are very serious about finding and maintaining the rest of the Squires that the magazine article said numbered fifty? It is our belief that the Squires will gain sharply in value with an organized group of enthusiasts promoting them. If you would search your records and reproduce anything that might be of interest to our group we would be very grateful and would be willing to pay any reasonable cost of reproduction. While you made it clear on the phone that you and Mr Reisner were not solely responsible for the production of the Squire, if you could take to time to set down on paper your involvement with the car it will help me to compose some sort of factual history of the Squire.

We are very curious to know more about Mr Felbin, the radio show host from Philadelphia who was involved in the distribution, the dealer in Louisiana and any other dealers that were involved. A few of the many specific questions follow -

(A) Was an owners, or repair manual or wiring diagram ever produced and if so, do you know of anyone who has a copy.?

(B) We have identified most of the Ford parts used but the front torsion bars are a mystery. Does anyone have a drawing that can be used for disassembly and repair? (The plastic or nylon bushings are drying out and they "growl").

(C) The magazine article mentioned an Intermeccanica Owners Club that was being formed. Did that group ever get off the ground?

(D) Do you have the name and address of any other Squire owners we can contact, or have the names of people or organizations who MIGHT have contact with other Squire owners?

(E) The City, Company and any individuals in Italy that our man there could contact seeking the same information?

The questions are endless but if you can give us this much we'll have most of it behind us. I realize we are asking a good deal of you but in return, our group will do our best to assure your place in automotive history.

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Of a personal nature, my Squire is in the process of being stripped down to the glass for repainting and most of the metal will have to be rechromed. The car, as purchased, was a mess. The entire top, bows and all, was missing and I have replaced using photos and a drawing by one of the other members. I hit a storm drain rather hard and the motor fell out on the street. The motor mounts cracked loose from the frame. I removed the engine, beefed up the frame and added a cross member just aft of the rise in the oil pan. On inspection, every one of the other cars in the group were cracked in the same place so I made a scale drawing showing necessary addition of steel and welding and now all the rest are being repaired.

None of us in the group have met. I would like to drive my car East next Fall for a run with the New England Specialty Car Club in October and at that time will visit with the Eastern members. If you have an interest, possibly those of us in the West could make the trip to Vancouver?

I'll sign off for now and let me assure you, our group is awaiting your reply with keen interest.

Sincerely:

Art Stahl
11826 S. 51st. Street
Phoenix, AZ 85044
Area 602+893-9451

12-7-90

1 DEC 90

Please excuse the form letter but after a month of frantic moving I felt that this is the best method to let people know where I am and what I am doing.

I left my apartment and stored my furniture and other things, as well as my Jag. in Denver. I then drove to Dallas with a carload of other things which I left there along with the other car.

On Nov 2, I caught a flight to London and then on to Naples, Italy. A short train ride took me to a small town South called Pomigliano D'Anco where I reported to work on Nov. 5th at Aeritalia.

Aeritalia is an aircraft company which is building certain components for British and U.S. aircraft including Airbus, McDonnell-Douglas and Boeing. I am currently working on the stretch version of the MD-11. It is a modern facility and I have a window seat with a view of Mt. Vesuvius. We get paid in pounds Sterling which exchanges to \$2.177 American and then to 1100 Lire per dollar. I have to count my Lire each night to know how much money I have!

As for the town it is very crowded with both autos and people. The streets and buildings outside are much like Mexico. However, the inside of most homes are elegant and comfortable. I have been living in a small hotel since Nov 3 at \$47 per night and plan to move into a nice three bedroom apartment near work on Dec 1st for \$727 a month.

All ceilings are ten feet and heating is rare. I will have a clothes washer, but dryers are not seen. I have HEARD of one dishwasher! I will be happy to start cooking again as eating out is double to triple in cost to the States. Have not seen any American food nor had a cup of coffee since arriving.

Most contract people walk to work as it would be foolish to have a car here. I have yet to see one without large dents. Plus, I think that Americans are not allowed to own one. They drive and park anywhere they want, including backward and on sidewalks. I have seen one signal light and one stop sign in the whole town. Gasoline is \$6.43 per gallon, yet the streets are packed with cars. They drive about 60 MPH in town when they have a chance. One can also see three piece suits riding scooters and bicycles! There are also horse drawn carts.

Cigarettes are \$2.85 a pack in a tobacco shop, but stolen ones can be had on street corners for \$2.00. An airmail stamp to the States is \$1.18 and must be purchased at a tobacco shop, when they have them, as post offices are rarely open. A letter to the States takes seven to ten days.

Banking is a problem here as my salary comes from a bank in England to my bank in Colorado to avoid all taxes. My sole source of getting money is writing personal checks which are accepted by a local bank for a cashing fee.

Most water is not drinkable, so all stores carry 2 litre bottles of mineral water. There is very little ice so I have learned to do without.

I have so far been to Naples and Sorrento. Soon I must make plans for Christmas as I will be staying here. If still here, I may come home(?) the month of August as the plant shuts down then.

I have met two American speaking Italians who have offered to help me shop for things when I get moved. They will even drive me.

Just learned that a friend of mine is coming to work here on Jan 7th. That will be a big help.

Trains are fast, cheap and regular except when they have a strike. Haven't tried the buses yet. You can walk anywhere in town.

A phone is out of the question as there is a two year waiting list and a \$2000 installation charge.

I have had to buy transformers and plugs for all the electronics I brought. Nothing U.S. will work here. That will have to be reversed when I return.

As you may have gathered, it has been very much of an ordeal and right now my only consolation is getting in on the ground floor of the European boom which should last for many years.

It has taken awhile to compose this letter, so I will hold it for a few days until I can include my new mailing address. My only phone will always be at work.

Dial: 011-39-81-845-2593, Always remember the vast time difference.

Mail: Viale Alfa, 10

Apt #12

80038 Pomigliano D'Anco

Napoli

Italy

Please allow this to be my Christmas greeting for 1990. I am sure that I will spend it here alone.

Sincerely,

J.M.