

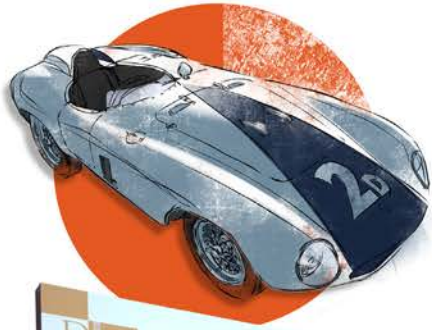
PEBBLE BEACH ROAD RACES

CELEBRATION
70



1950 JAGUAR XK120 ROADSTER

PHIL HILL DROVE HIS OWN JAGUAR XK120 TO VICTORY
IN THE VERY FIRST PEBBLE BEACH ROAD RACE



PEBBLE BEACH ROAD RACES

CELEBRATION 70

A VISUAL CELEBRATION
OF THE ORIGINAL
PEBBLE BEACH
ROAD RACES
1950-1956



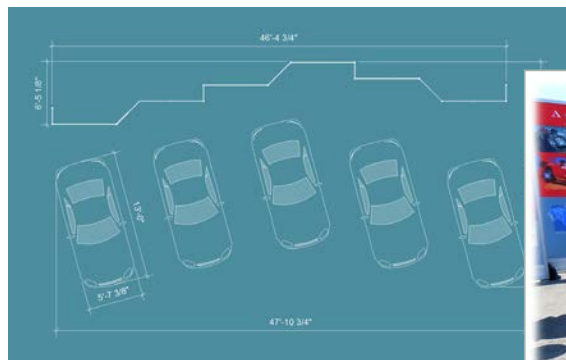
THE AUTOMOTIVE COMMUNITY HONORED THE
70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST RUNNING OF
THESE ROAD RACES DURING MONTEREY CAR WEEK
AUGUST 12-15, 2021.

The winning cars of that legendary era were brought together
for the first time in history and showcased at the
Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance and the
Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion at
WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca.



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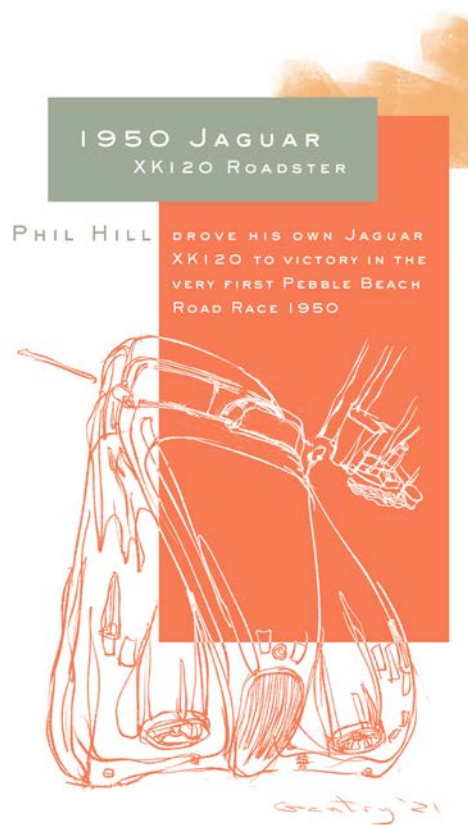


PEBBLE BEACH ROAD RACES 70TH ANNIVERSARY DISPLAY

GentryDesign in association with the Del Monte Trophy Race Group and Total Expo created and produced the backdrop display that showcased this event.

The production was sponsored by Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance and WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca for the Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion.





THE STORY

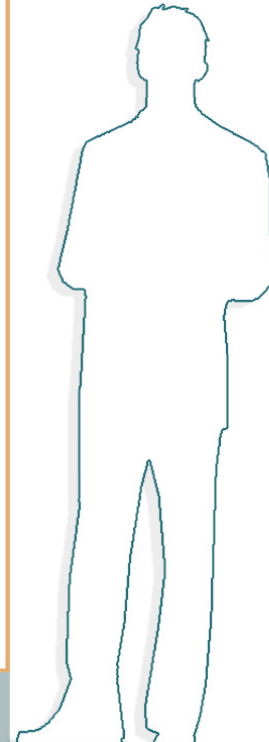
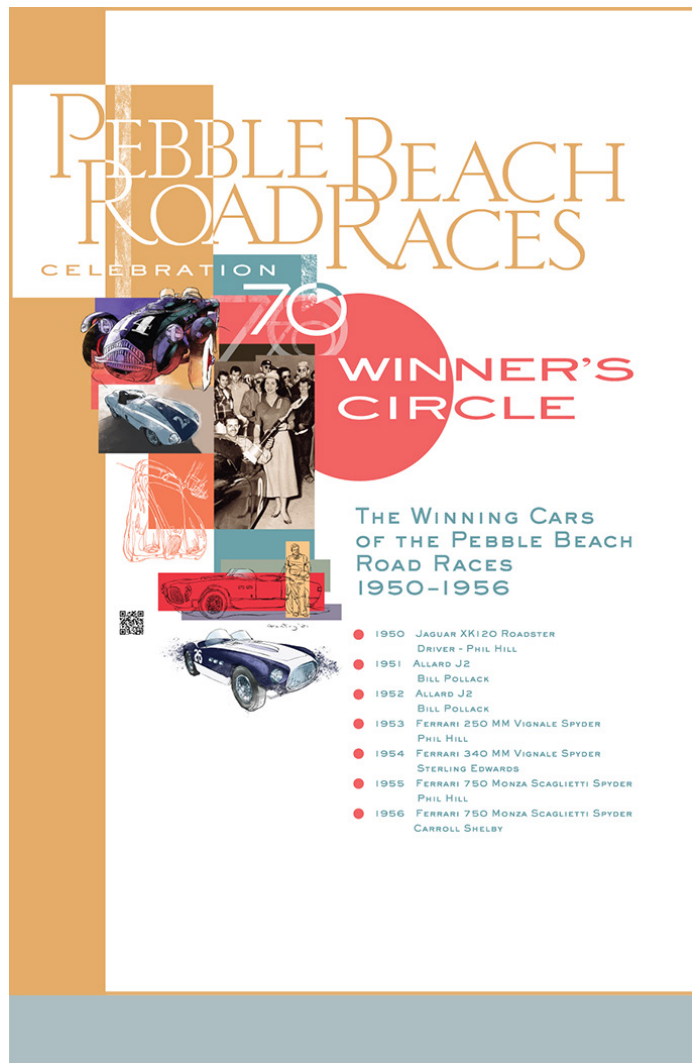
A LEGENDARY CAR RACE ROARED THROUGH THE FORESTS OF MONTEREY IN 1950, THE FIRST OF MANY THAT SPAWNED THE GRANDDADDY OF MOTORSPORTS EVENTS

THE PEBBLE BEACH CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

It was the beginning of an era that created so many drivers and innovators who influenced the American racing scene in the following decades. For the 70th Anniversary the winning cars of those original races were invited to show at the Concours d'Elegance. For those who are counting, the official date of 2020 was canceled, but was fortunately revived when conditions became more favorable.

For many attending who were not aware of this background, we had the opportunity to lay out a condensed narrative as well as to showcase the cars.

Sports car racing in the early days was largely a casual affair. In the postwar-era drivers were buying a new kind of car from Europe designed for the twists and turns of the Old World roads. These cars were being manufactured for the American market and the drivers were thrilled with this form of driving. Owners organized events on whatever roads were available. The Hot Rod culture jumped in thinking they could take on the big boys. The game was on and the rest is history.

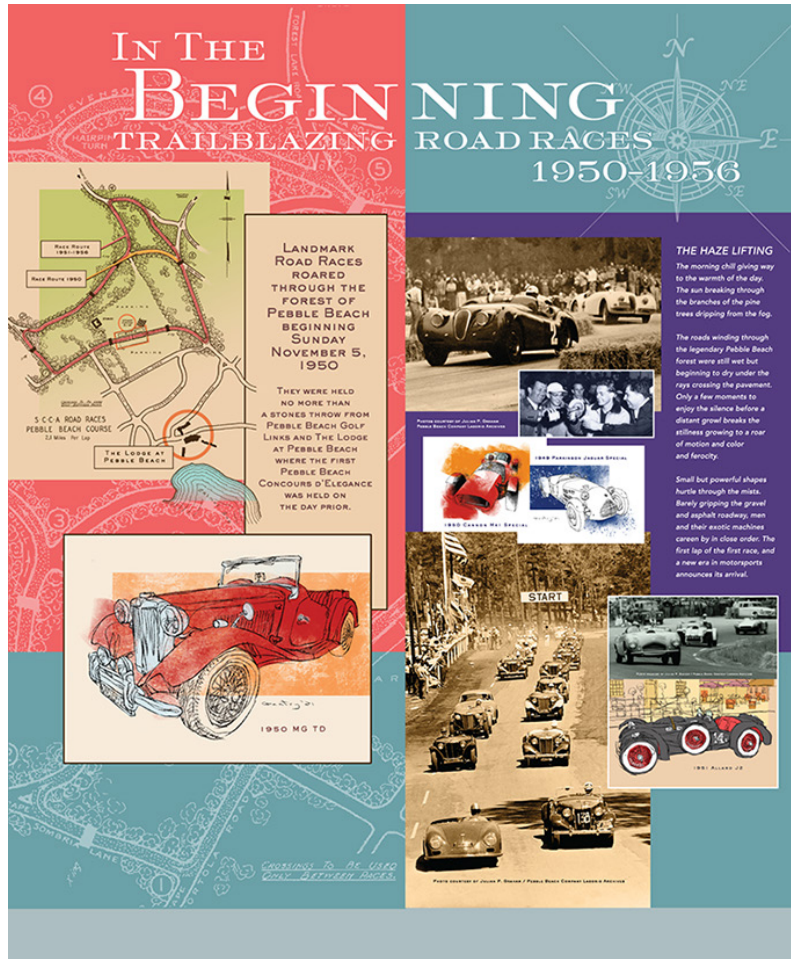


PEBBLE BEACH ROAD RACES

CELEBRATION 70 – WINNER'S CIRCLE

THE WINNING CARS OF THE PEBBLE BEACH ROAD RACES 1950-1956

1950 – Jaguar XK120 Roadster	Driver - Phil Hill
1951 – Allard J2	Bill Pollack
1952 – Allard J2	Bill Pollack
1953 – Ferrari 250 MM Vignale Spyder	Phil Hill
1954 – Ferrari 340 MM Vignale Spyder	Sterling Edwards
1955 – Ferrari 750 Monza Scaglietti Spyder	Phil Hill
1956 – Ferrari 750 Monza Scaglietti Spyder	Carroll Shelby



IN THE BEGINNING TRAIL BLAZING ROAD RACES 1950-1956

LANDMARK ROAD RACES ROARED THROUGH THE FOREST OF PEBBLE BEACH BEGINNING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1950.

THEY WERE HELD NO MORE THAN A STONE'S THROW FROM THE GOLF LINKS AND LODGE WHERE THE DAY BEFORE THE FIRST PEBBLE BEACH CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE WAS HELD.

THE HAZE LIFTING - The morning chill giving way to the warmth of the day. The sun breaking through the branches of the redwood trees dripping from the fog.

The roads winding through the legendary Pebble Beach forest were still wet, but beginning to dry under the rays crossing the pavement. Only a few moments to enjoy the silence before a distant growl breaks the stillness, growing to a roar of motion and color and ferocity.

Small but powerful shapes hurtle through the mists. Barely gripping the gravel and asphalt roadway, men and their exotic machines career by in close order. The first lap of the first race, and a new era in motorsports announces its arrival.



A NEW GAME

SPORTS CAR RACING IN CALIFORNIA

IT WAS THE DEBUT OF THE PEBBLE BEACH ROAD RACES IN 1950.

It was a time of postwar energy and optimism. A new breed of sports car, compact and nimble, was being manufactured and exported from Europe and the young men in America were lured to the thrill of the Game.

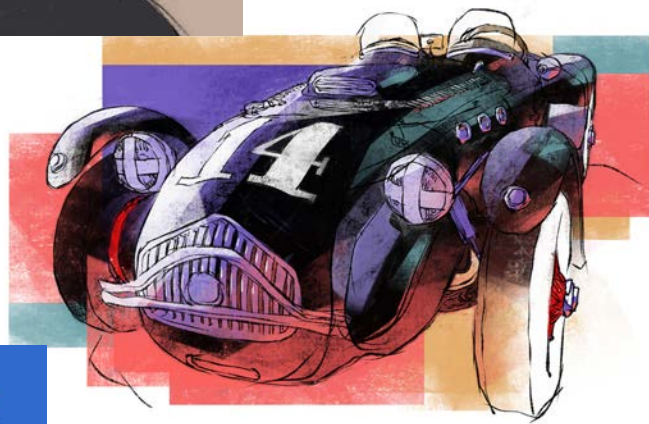
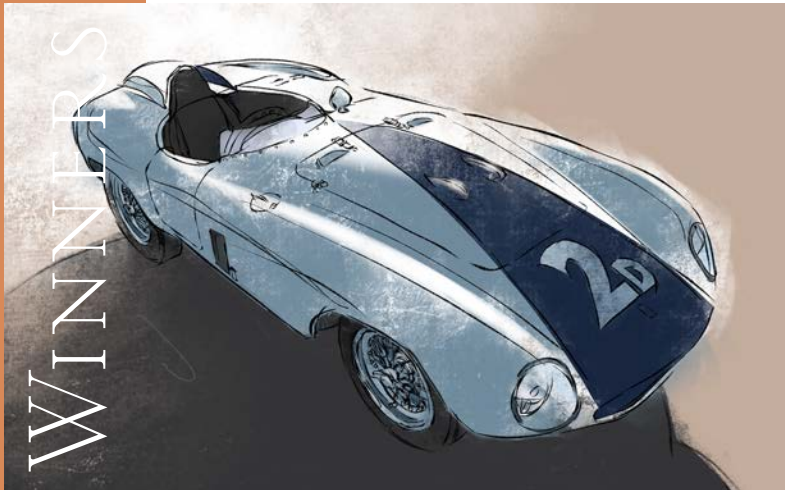
A rich new era of American sports car racing arose in the early 1950s as the exotic new sports cars arriving from England and Europe coincided with the innovative hot rod movement that was taking off in California.

Races run on rural roads, city parks, and airfields attracted an extraordinary collection of talented builders and drivers who went on to become influential figures in automotive history.

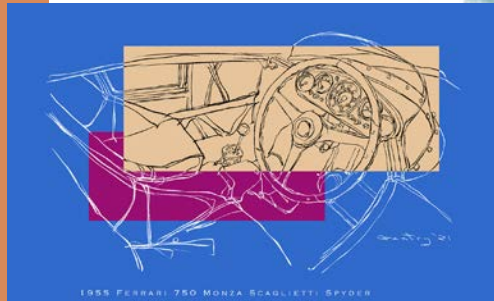
Those first Road Races gave birth to the event that has become the premier automotive gathering, the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, and ultimately the events that surround it.

WINNERS

THE



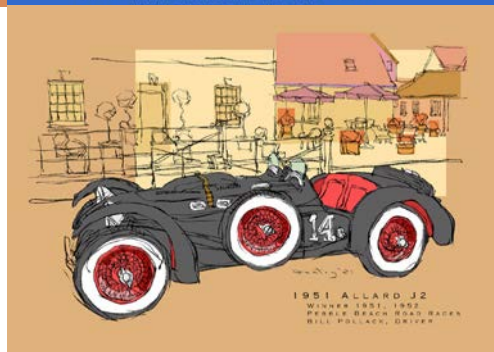
1951 ALLARD J2
WINNER 1951, 1952 PEBBLE BEACH ROAD RACES
BILL POLLACK, DRIVER



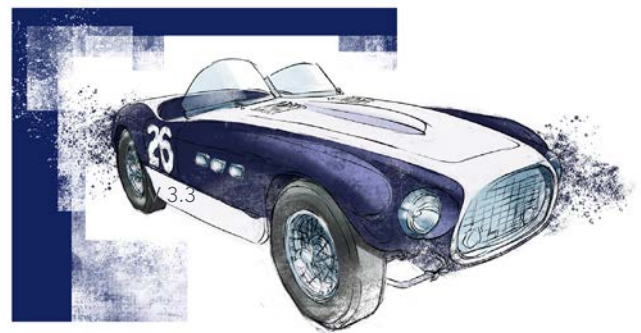
1955 FERRARI 750 MONZA SCAGLIETTI SPYDER



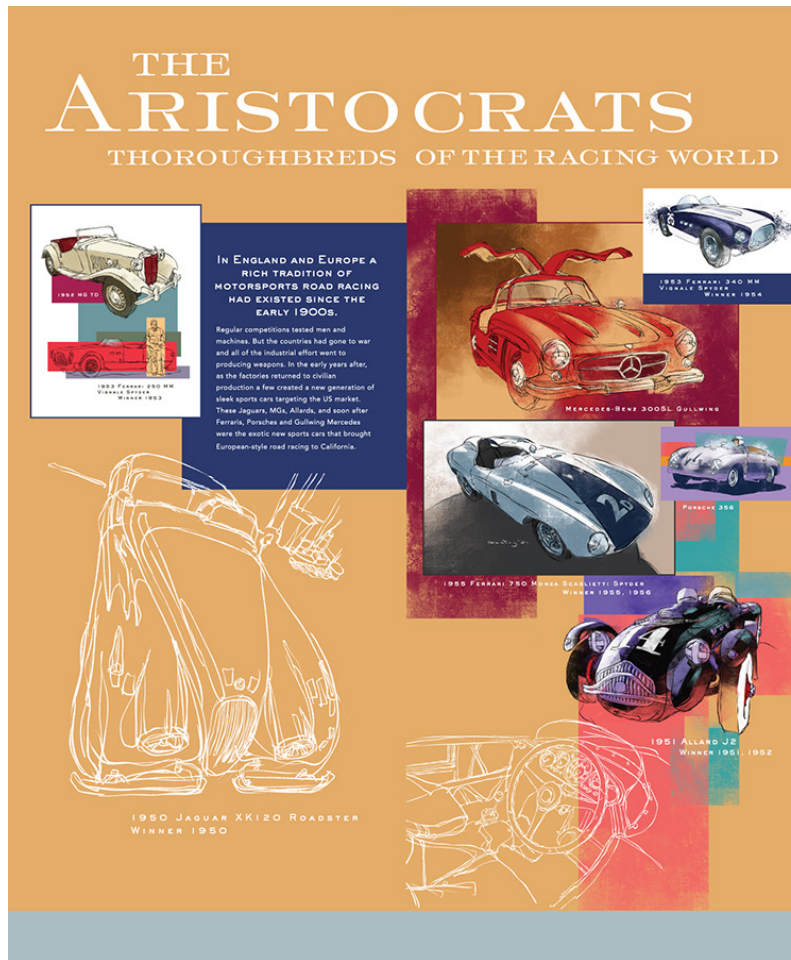
1953 FERRARI 250 MM VIGNALE SPYDER
PHIL HILL SECOND OVERALL WIN AT PEBBLE BEACH IN 1953



1951 ALLARD J2
WINNER 1951, 1952
PEBBLE BEACH ROAD RACES
BILL POLLACK, DRIVER



1953 FERRARI 340 MM VIGNALE SPYDER
WINNER 1954 PEBBLE BEACH ROAD RACES
STERLING EDWARDS, DRIVER

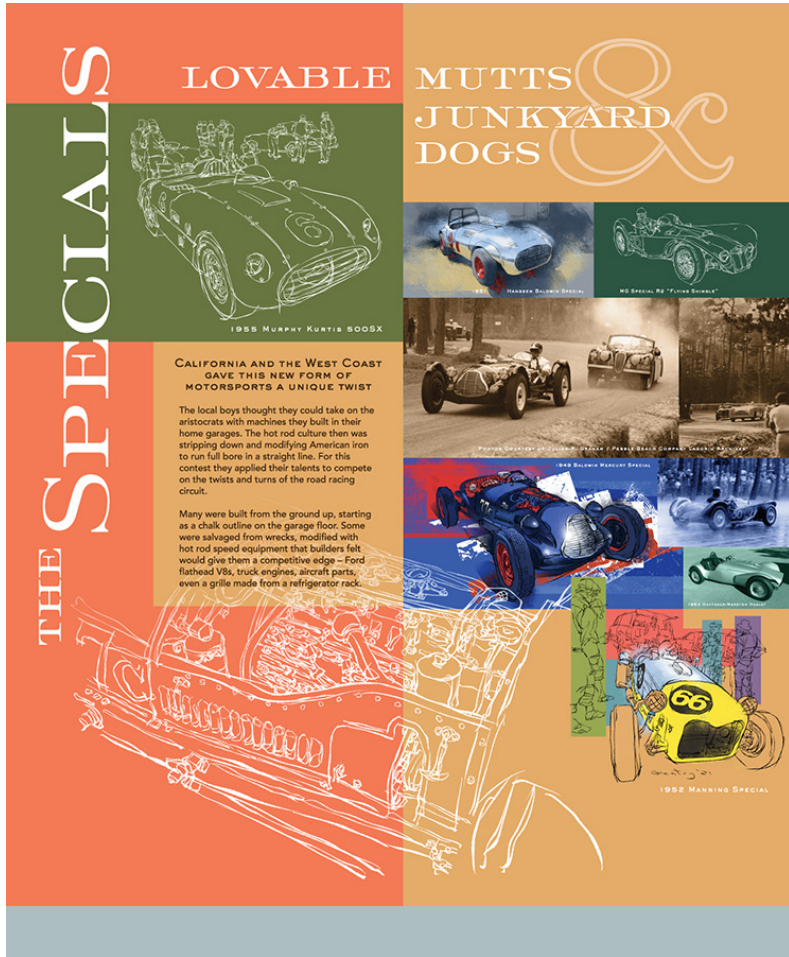


THE ARISTOCRATS

THOROUGHBREDS OF THE RACING WORLD

IN ENGLAND AND EUROPE A RICH TRADITION OF MOTORSPORTS ROAD RACING HAD EXISTED SINCE THE EARLY 1900S.

Regular competitions tested men and machines. But the countries had gone to war and all of the industrial effort went to producing weapons. In the early years after, as the factories returned to civilian production, a few created a new generation of sleek sports cars targeting the US market. These Jaguars, MGs, Allards, and soon after Ferraris, Porsches and Gullwing Mercedes were the exotic new sports cars that brought European-style road racing to California.



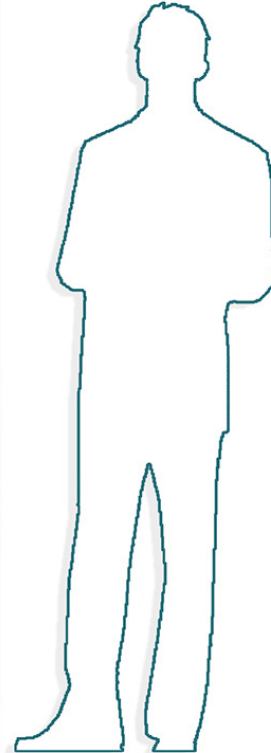
THE SPECIALS

LOVABLE MUTTS AND JUNKYARD DOGS

CALIFORNIA AND THE WEST COAST GAVE THIS NEW FORM
OF MOTORSPORTS A UNIQUE TWIST

The local boys thought they could take on the aristocrats with machines they built in their home garages. The hot rod culture then was stripping down and modifying American iron to run full bore in a straight line. For this contest they applied their talents to compete on the twists and turns of the road racing circuit.

Many were built from the ground up, starting as a chalk outline on the garage floor. Some were salvaged from wrecks, modified with hot rod speed equipment that builders felt would give them a competitive edge—Ford flathead V8s, truck engines, aircraft parts, even a grille made from a refrigerator rack.



THE LEGACY

HEROES OF THE SPORT AND THEIR WIDESPREAD INFLUENCE

THE PARTICIPANTS IN THESE EARLY RACES, THE MANUFACTURERS AND DRIVERS, WENT ON TO WEAVE A RICH TAPESTRY IN THE HISTORY OF MOTORSPORTS

THE CALIFORNIA STORY TAKES OFF ON MULTIPLE TANGENTS.

Phil Hill, who won at Pebble Beach in '50, '53, and '55 went on to attain a dominant position in worldwide racing, becoming the first American-born driver to win the Formula One World Drivers' Championship. He topped that by scoring three wins at each of the 24 Hours of Le Mans and the 12 Hours of Sebring.

Frank Kurtis modified his Indianapolis 500-winning roadster design to create one of the earliest US production sports cars. Most of these 500S models were successfully used for road racing. Wealthy scion Lance Reventlow assembled an extraordinary group of Southern California mechanists and fabricators to build the iconic Scarab sports racer. These early engineering professionals had come from oval track builders like Kurtis, or from hot rod backgrounds. They migrated to the Shelby stable to establish their championship racing program. Others went to Jim Hall for the Chaparrals and to Dan Gurney for the AAR Eagles.



THE LEGACY

CARROLL SHELBY PAINTED THE SCENE WITH A BROAD BRUSH, WINNING THE LAST RACE AT PEBBLE BEACH IN 1966. ASIDE FROM CREATING THE LEGENDARY COBRA HE DOMINATED THE 24 HOURS OF LE MANS, FIRST AS A DRIVER IN 1959 THEN AS FORD'S RACING GURU DEVELOPING THE GT40.

WEATHERTECH RACEWAY LAGUNA SECA

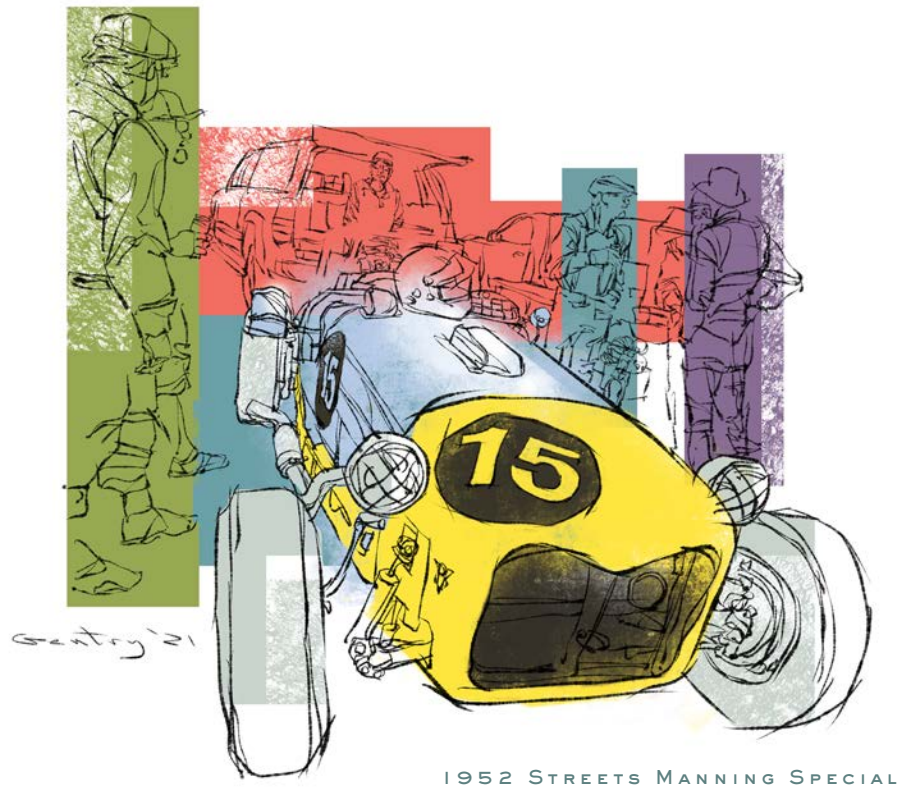
As the cars became faster and more powerful, community leaders built the Laguna Seca Raceway—now the WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca—in the hills outside of Monterey and moved racing events there. Purpose-built tracks like that became the order of the day around the nation and replaced the ad hoc locations of the 1950s.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANKS TO ALL THE PARTIES THAT BROUGHT THESE HISTORICAL EVENTS TO LIFE

Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance
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Robert Devlin

GentryDesign
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Del Monte Trophy Race Group
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