

December 20, 2008

Dear Henry,

Well here it is December and I am just now getting around to writing you. I intended writing once Christine and got home after picking up the Speedster in July.

Thanks for the suggestion; the best way is to pickup the car in Vancouver, BC and drive back to the states. Not only does it make a nice vacation but the BBQ was a great way to meet IM owners and future owners and view their cars either on the tour or under construction. How can the same cars look so different? The real advantages with the IM cars are that we owners can get them equipped just the way we want and the additions are fit in a manner that they look like they belong as part of the car not just bolted on.

As stated to you when I first saw our Speedster in your shop; "It is better than I dreamed it could be".

The banjo steering wheel, ivory knobs, and Blaupunkt radio really give it the ambiance of a mid fifties German car.

The air conditioning is a marriage saver on hot days. With the top up and the AC on it is quite comfortable and never an overheating problem. The 2332 cc engine is a nice option for going over mountain passes with plenty of torque to accelerate up a 7 1/2 percent grade in fourth gear.

After leaving Vancouver we motored to Oliver, BC for a few days stay at a bed and breakfast inn on the shores of Vaseux Lake. Crossing the border at Osoyoos went smoothly then off to Post Falls Id. via Grand Coulee Dam. The next day we stopped at St. Gertrude's Monastery near Cottonwood Id. for a little spiritual renewal. St. Gertrude's is like being in Bavaria, the Speedster looked right at home there. The following morning we were off for home via McCall, Id.

The first 2000 mile tune up is completed and the mechanic that did the work is really impressed with your improvements to the original 356 design. He is a 1970s era factory trained Porsche mechanic so he must know the original's shortcomings. Everyone that takes a close look at the Speedster is awe struck at its quality. People that have owned 356s think it is an original and want to know who did the restoration. I just give them one of your cards.

After a few short tours in the country around the Boise area and a Thanksgiving food drive with my grandson the car is now tucked in the garage for the winter.

Christine and I plan on attending the Intermeccanica 50th Anniversary Tour and BBQ in July. See you in B.C. in 2009 and Merry 2008 Christmas to your family and staff.

Regards,

Al & Christine Straessle