

April 17, 1991

Mr. Jim Ash  
North 8415 Branch Road  
Ixonia, WI 53036

Dear Jim,

I was able to do some digging in my files and came up with some letters (copies enclosed) which I think pretty much clear up the travels of the SIAM during the sixties.

As you can see, there's a letter from a man whose signature I can best make out as 'Warren Meyer' sending the title of the car to my father. Also he mentions the title is "still in Frank's name" and that tipped me off that the car had probably been previously owned by Frank Isaacson before he bought the Martin T2. I suspect Frank sold the SIAM to Warren Meyer who probably didn't do much but let it sit in Sandy MacArthur's garage until my father bought it.

As you know, my father raced the car, I believe I was right in saying it was throughout 1961 and you'll note his mentioning in his letter to Chuck Reupert in July of 1962, that he had won the Milwaukee State Fair grounds H-modified race in June of 1961. I have two third place trophies for Wilnot dated 1961 and I'll try to dig up any old programs I have to fill you in on the car's racing history. In any event, the car seems to have been for sale in 1962 and apparently remained so for quite some time. This surprises me as we did not have both cars at the house at the time as most certainly my mother would never have stood for it so I suspect it may have once again been stashed away at Sandy's.

I happened to come across the enclosed flyers advertising "cars for the enthusiast" which Clarke Walser used to put out (the Buick Roadmaster convertible listed strangely among the Alphas and Jaguars was our tow car and the car I learned to drive in!). As you can see, the SIAM is listed in April of 1963 but not in June, so I think it must have gone to Chuck Reupert in May of that year. The more I think about it since I let you know by phone that I found all this, the more I suspect that this was either one of those "I'll buy it now and pay you later" deals or possibly that Chuck bought the car and intended to race it and didn't worry about the title until Jim Wisniewski came along and made him an offer he couldn't refuse. Then likely he did need the title and wrote to my father asking for it. They were pretty loose about such things in those days. I do remember that Chuck was an active H-mod racer in those days, so he may have had another way to go racing or got the glint in his eye to build his own car and sold the SIAM to finance it. I'll be interested in learning if you were able to locate Chuck in Milwaukee.

The last letters I found were from Jim Wisniewski to my father asking about details of the car and my father's reply. As I said, Jim's letter tells you that Chuck put in a billet crankshaft and my father's reply, which is really full of interesting technical information for you, also reinforces the idea that Frank Isaacson once owned the car. Hopefully when you show the enclosed pictures to Sandy he'll remember in more detail.

Please give Sandy my best when you see him -- the "Skipper" as we have always called him, has been a great friend to both myself and my father. In the late sixties, Sandy invited my father to help him sail his ketch "Compass Rose" from Tahiti to Hawaii and the letters my father wrote home during that trip give a vivid picture of the adventure. Basically it was two racers applying H-modified techniques to a largish sailboat on an even larger ocean. I was not surprised that they made it but I was also not really surprised that "Compass Rose" went to the bottom off Alaska a few years later! Probably something got fixed temporarily and "we'll do it right later."

As for the pictures, as I said, I would like you to have the small ones but I would appreciate it if you could make copies of the two large ones and send the originals back to me. No hurry, but I would like to keep them.

Well, that's all I have for now but not bad for a day of investigating what happened thirty years ago if I do say so. I'll keep digging as time and my own racing schedule permit and I'd be happy to hear how you're doing. I'm really delighted that you found the car and plan to bring it back. I'm sure that if my father and Frank Isaacson were here today, they would be equally pleased.

Best regards,



Steve Hawxhurst  
2254 Soto Street  
San Diego, CA 92107

Home: (619) 221-5990