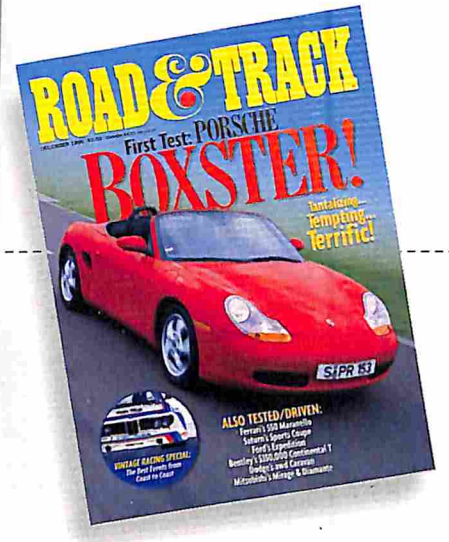

1996 December

VOLUME 48, NUMBER 4

This month's issue reads like an enthusiast's Christmas-shopping dream. For the sultan, sheik or surgeon on your list, we have a Road Test of the bold Bentley Continental T and a First Drive of Ferrari's wondrous new 550 Maranello. The hard-to-buy-for old-car lover will adore our special section covering the Monterey Weekend, the Chicago Historic Races and Dennis Simanaitis' vintage adventures in Pennsylvania. And while you're under our tree, treat yourself to the first Road Test of Porsche's Boxster, plus lots of other gifts.

Road Tests

58 **1997 Porsche Boxster**—*on time (6.1 seconds to 60) and on budget (base price $39,980), Zuffenhausen's roadster is already a legend*

68 **1997 Bentley Continental T**—*it's the baaad Bentley; the bent Bentley; the 590-lb.-ft.-of-torque Bentley: You've been warned. More tea, dear?*

76 **1997 Saturn SC2**—*in its latest pass, Saturn revolves a bit closer to Japanese orbit in livability and slightly ahead in sportiness and style*

83 **1997 Ford Expedition**—*Dearborn builds a sport-ute brute to take on the General's triumvirate of dirt-path warriors: Suburban, Yukon and Tahoe*

First Drives

49 **Ferrari 550 Maranello**—*Paul Frère exercises Maranello's newest thoroughbred, putting the V-12-powered foal through its performance paces at Fiorano*

51 **1997 Mitsubishi Diamante and Mirage**—*Mitsubishi, reaching for higher ground, re-creates the top and bottom rungs of its car-line ladder*

55 **1997 Chrysler All-Wheel-Drive Minivans**—*the van for the Rubicon Trail Elementary School soccer team, or any family that wants a little extra safety*

Features

92 **Straman Ferrari 456 Spyder**—*Richard Straman performs a miracle even Maranello couldn't manage: making the 456 GT the top-down talk of the town*

127 **Long-Term Tests: Toyota RAV4 and Mercedes-Benz C280 Sport**—*our RAV journeys cross-country; the C280 Sport remains a seasoned traveler*

130 **Salon: 1953 Fiat 8V Berlinetta**—*an engineer's occupation, this V-8 coupe saw a little production, a little competition and a lot of obscurity until now*

140 **Snapshots of Little Al**—*Bob Judd profiles the public and private sides of the Once and Probable Future King of Indy Car racing, Al Unser Jr.*

Mint Vintage

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112 **Monterey Historics Photo Essay**—*R&T's photographers capture the highlights of vintage kids racing at Laguna Seca's 2.2-mile candy store*

Columns

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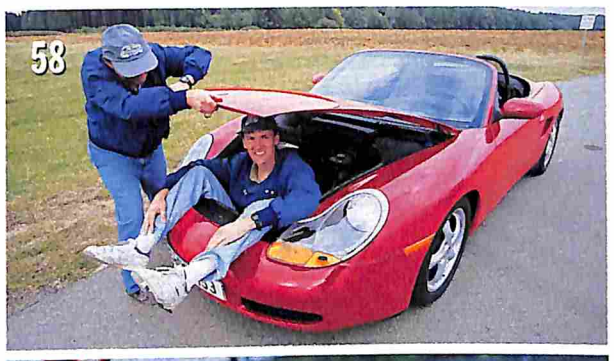
32 **Side Glances**—*I could never get the same crush on the Andrews Sisters that my dad had, and my sons probably won't see what I saw in the Ronettes*

36 **Ampersand**—*supercar successors: sneak peeks of the next Ferrari 355 and Lamborghini Diablo, plus the firebreathing Diablo SV and new VW Passat*

148 **About the Sport**—*Schu shines at Spa and Monza as Hill gets the heave-ho; the Indy Car finale at Laguna Seca; and the first IRL race in Las Vegas*



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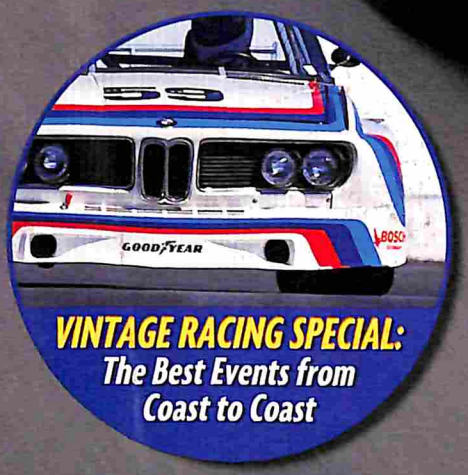

VINTAGE RACING SPECIAL: The Best Events from Coast to Coast

ALSO TESTED/DRIVEN:

- Dodge's awd Caravan
- Mitsubishi's Mirage & Diamante

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