

# Rare old Ferraris pay visit

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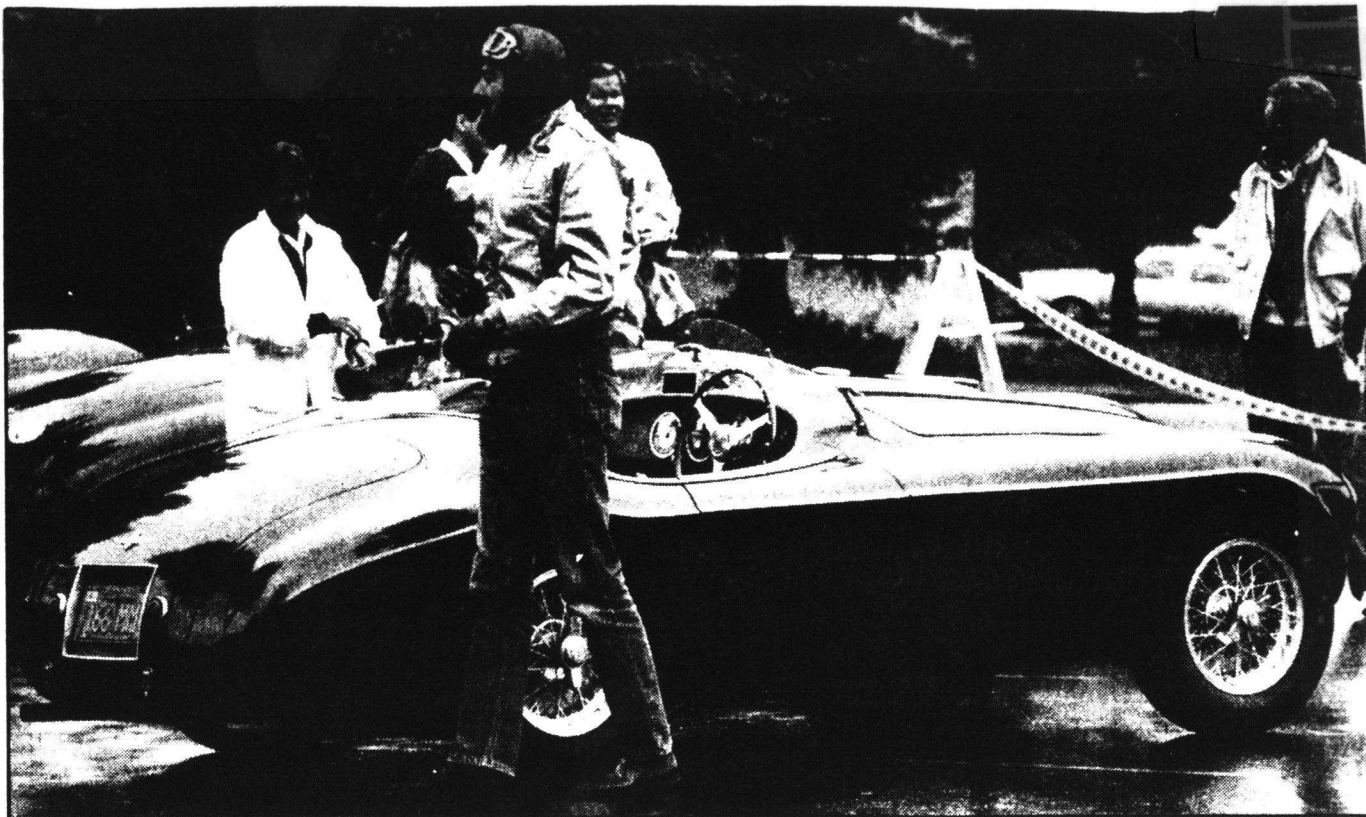
**RIO DEL MAR** — A distinctive bit of automotive history rolled through Santa Cruz County Thursday when eight Ferrari 166mm Barcelettas delivered their very enamored owners in soggy but elated condition for a bite of lunch at Deer Park.

It's been 40 years since the storied Ferrari auto works turned out these two-seaters, giving the driving world Ferrari's first production car. But they are production cars in name only, as only 26 of the Barcelettas ("little boat," in Italian) came off the Ferrari line from 1948 through 1950.

Only 14 of those cars remain in original condition and running worldwide, and the eight parked here represent some \$16 million in rolling stock, by conservative estimates.

But it's not the money that motivates the owners of the elegantly understated racing machines. They have gathered in Northern California from Japan, Switzerland, South Africa, England to schmooze with fellow owners and revel in the pleasure of driving their cars.

The week-long excursion began in Yountville in the wine country, included a one-day stop at Sears Point Raceway so the drivers could put their foot down in acceptable surroundings,



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

Ed Gilbertson strolls away from the car he loves after Thursday's rally ended at Deer Park.

and wound its way through Santa Cruz Thursday as the drivers participated in a rally.

The day ended with a reprise of the original Pebble Beach Road Race, with the drivers and cars darting about on the old track which includes a portion of 17-mile Drive. Phil Hill, who drove the car as a factory driver for Ferrari in the '50s, put the group through its paces from the lead car.

Ed Gilbertson is an owner whose wist-

ful expression alone speaks volumes about the love affair these folks have with their machines. He discussed the Barcelettas while a morning's worth of accumulated fog dripped from his beard.

"I have to say that most of the people in this group have owned their cars for a number of years and don't really care about the money," Gilbertson said. "People are constantly asking us to sell, but we really aren't listening — we just

love Ferraris."

Four of the cars are scheduled to take part in this weekend's classic car races at Laguna Seca and another will be included in the Concours d'Elegance, also this weekend at Pebble Beach.

Viewing these works of automotive artistry is a delight, but ask one of the drivers to fire one up and you'll understand just how God wanted a car to sound — and why he chose Enzo Ferrari to build it.