

We've been admiring the artwork of Hector Cademartori for years. Toward the end of last year I approached him about reprinting one of his Christmas cards as the cover art for our December e-dition. He graciously agreed. This also gave us the opportunity to correspond, learn more about him, and view more of his work. His story is quite interesting.

He was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where Juan Manuel Fangio is a household name. Fangio was an Argentinean who dominated the first decade of Formula One racing, winning the World Drivers' Championship five times. Hector became interested in racing in the mid-sixties & was very much influenced by the European tradition and names like Dan Gurney, Jackie Stewart, Pedro Rodriguez, Graham Hill, John Surtees, and all the Formula One and Sport stars of those days.

He always liked to draw cars, motorcycles, and WW2 fighters and tanks. With half of the population of Argentina being of Italian origin; Ferrari was obviously a natural subject to start drawing. Racing scenes with Lotus, BRMs, Matras, and Ferraris started to come out of his note pads, to the delight of his schoolmates. His high school teacher, however, had a different take on the fact that he was drawing racing cars and motorcy-

cles instead of paying attention to the classroom subject matters. By the end of high school, he knew that he wanted to be a motorsport artist.

In the early seventies Hector started riding motorcycles. In order to protect Argentina's local producers, Gilera Argentina and Zanella, the government had closed the border to imports in the early sixties. Since these factories only produced small displacement engines [up to 200cc], all those who wanted to ride larger motorcycles had to have imported units before the embargo took effect. Argentina was an incredible motorcycle market and there were many options, mainly from England... Triumph, Norton, Matchless, Ariel, Douglas, Sunbeam, BSA, you name it; plus the Italians with their Gileras and Ducatis, and also Harley-Davidson, Indian, BMW, DKW, and many others.

The problem was that by the early seventies those bikes had been run pretty hard. No new parts being imported forced the owners to make modifications in order to keep them on the road. Riders made the best of it, enjoying what they had & marveling at their technicians' ingenuity to keep the old bikes rolling. Hector remarked, "We had to be familiar with the obscure art of kickstarting, Amal carburetors, Lucas electrics, Whitworth threads, and trying to keep oil leaks to a minimum." Hector's first bike was a 1949 Royal Enfield 500 and then he had Triumphs, "of undetermined vintage".

After high school, he started selling his illustrations and paintings. Wanting to be around racing, he got a job at CORSA Magazine, a publication that covered car and motorcycle racing. Besides producing illustrations, he started writing articles and was in charge of the motorcycle section. He noted that, "Those were fun times."

In time, he learned to appreciate the history of racing; the 30s, the 50s, and the romance of those years which lend themselves to beautiful art.

In 1983, Hector moved to the US with his wife Florencia and their one-year old son Eduardo to specialize in his motor sport art. He started showing his artwork to different people in the automobile and motorcycle fields and, "Thank God, I managed to make a living with my artwork ever since!"

They also have two daughters, Florencia and Mercedes, who are now 28 and 23 respectively. And yes, he has taught them to ride motorcycles!

Hector has been supplying the car and motorcycle industry for the

last 30 years with paintings, posters, drawings, and a lot of cartoons... mainly for Cycle World and Rider magazines. He really has

fun doing them! His clients include racing teams, corporations, magazines, and private commissions. Another subject he really enjoys is creating Christmas cards, which he's produced for various companies. [This is where we first saw his work.] All of this comes together to provide him a livelihood, while allowing him to do what he loves.

You'll find his art in Dan Gurney's All American Racers offices and on Indianapolis 500 Yearbook covers. It's been commissioned for Laguna Seca Raceway, California Speedway, and the Carrera Panamericana posters, the NHRA, national and domestic automobile and motorcycle magazines; and motorcycle manufacturers such as Kawasaki USA, American Honda, and Yamaha USA, Toyota Motorsports, TRD [Toyota Racing Development], and many others.

In closing, he shared, "I hope that you'll enjoy these images and, before I go, I would like to thank Bruce and Betsy for presenting my art to the Arizona Rider Motorcycle News readership. Take care and ride safe."

Anyone who is interested in seeing more of Hector's work can contact him by email at hcademartori@aol.com or via phone at 909-593-8424. Please remember to mention that you read about him here in Arizona Rider.

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The collage below is for Auto Club Speedway in Fontana featuring the winners of their professional events. That year the Blue Angels did a fly-by before their NASCAR race.

