

TO: Lotus F/F Register Members/Subscribers

Feb. 13, 1994

FROM: Vern Jaques, Editor/etc.

SUBJECT: Missing Winter 1993/94 LFFR Bulletin

No, this is NOT a substitute for the missing Bulletin, but an explanation for why it is, and will remain, among the missing. For once, it was totally out of my control.

And no, it had nothing to do with the recent Southern California earthquake. Though a number of LFFR members live near the epicenter of that quake, the San Diego area is a long way away. Insofar as I know, there was literally no quake related damage in this area. I was awake only a few minutes before the quake occurred (at 4:30AM) and here five miles from the Mexican border felt absolutely nothing.

I mentioned in the last Bulletin that I planned to attend the Monterey Historic Automobile Races last year, and I did. However, the visit was somewhat curtailed, and in ways that also curtailed my personal 1993 racing season.

On Saturday my wife and I were walking up the grassy sidehill on the outside (driver's right) of Laguna Seca's Turn 9 to watch the F-1 cars come down out of the corkscrew, when she put a foot wrong, slipped, and broke her left ankle. Actually, it was the bones just above the ankle, with a couple of ankle bones cracked.

There are few better places to get hurt than at an auto race, and we had emergency personnel on the scene within 10 minutes, spectators iced down the break immediately, and Katie was at the hospital emergency room before I could retrieve our car from the parking area. Due to the nature of the break and the immediate care, no surgery was required and healing went very well.

HOWEVER, apparently quite independently, Katie contracted a serious infection in the other leg just as she was preparing to get a walking cast, and was unable to use either leg for awhile. She spent a week in the hospital being pumped full of antibiotics and finally got more or less over both, but I put in a good deal of "nurse" time. Needless to say, this put a crimp in my end-of-season racing plans, and I only made the Nov. 7-8 VARA/ RMVR event at Las Vegas -- which was a really fun event, by the way.

Things were seemingly back under control and rattling along to the New Year, when between Christmas and New Years I woke up from a nap and realized I couldn't breathe. I have been an asthmatic all my life, and was having a serious asthma attack. Quick trip to the emergency room, from which I was discharged after three hours, only to be back four hours later. This time I ended up admitted to the hospital, where I spent the best part of two weeks.

The asthma was knocked down sufficiently for me to have been discharged to outpatient care in a few days, but I have also had cardiac arrhythmia (erratic heart beat) for a number of years, which has been controlled by medication and is not normally a prob-

lem. However, the heart's response to a deficiency of oxygen from the lungs is to beat faster and try to make up the shortage. The result was that I was running a pulse rate of around 180 for a long time, and my heart didn't really want to settle down, but randomly took off at madly accelerated rates.

Even after I got out of hospital we were still experimenting with medication, and before really getting that all solved I turned up with an apparently unrelated case of total urinary blockage. If you have ever absolutely HAD to pee, and been absolutely UNABLE to do so, you know the feeling. To brief up this account, I currently have a temporary non-stock external plumbing arrangement, and expect to soon go in for prostate surgery to get the stock system functioning again. The Urologist says this should render me more or less hors de combat for not over three or four weeks, assuming no additional problems are found during surgery.

Incidentally, for those saying "Poor Vern," my Doctors have been telling me for a number of years that the percentage of males over the age of 50 who WILL have some sort of prostate problem is: 100%. So all you younger and/or luckier guys have something to look forward to!

Net result is that I expect everything to sort out eventually, but not in time to do a proper Winter Bulletin. And since I specifically advised a couple of folks to send in ads as I had a Bulletin almost ready to go into production, I think I had best get out this stopgap.

CORRECTIONS

I need to make a couple of corrections to phone and FAX numbers that are in error in recent Bulletins.

First of all, the correct numbers for Wayne Mitchell at CMW Enterprises are:

PHONE 619/942-9170 FAX 619/942-6406

Second, the correct numbers for Peter Denty Racing in England are as follows:

PHONE 0953-498529 FAX 0953-498154

ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE: 1969 Lotus 61 Formula Ford, chassis #61/FF/93. Completely rebuilt with new Peter Denty bodywork, AN hardware, rod ends, plumbing, brakes, suspension, etc. Hewland Mk-6 gearbox. Fresh engine, ready to vintage race. \$18,000. Dan Miller, Ohio. (216) 835-6547

FOR SALE: Lotus 51A AM-59. Rebuilt to original and sorted, fresh dry sump, fuel cell, fire system, Avons on alloys, stock wheels with new rains. Great history, ready to race. \$25,000. Jack Gordon, 227 3rd Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062. (408) 425-0899 or (408) 425-0254 FAX.