

Otto Bartsch Biography

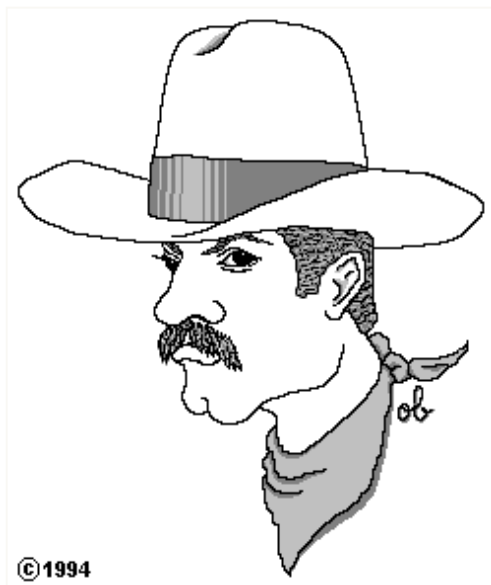
To briefly paraphrase the first line of one of my favorite "piano bar" songs from the Limelighters in the '50s, "In answer to an ever diminishing number of requests . . .", a line or two about my interest in Opels . . . oh, "froid" is 'cold' in French . . . drew a total blank on it, could remember "chaud" (warm/hot) just fine, just not 'cold'!

I became completely turned off from an overall design perspective by GM's grossly overweight, overpriced and underpowered Corvettes in the late '60s and early to mid '70s and, as luck would have it, this was about the same time, mid-1976, that my "ex" began "suggesting" that I should get a newer car to replace my '68 Chevelle Malibu, a Michigan car with all that that implies . . . not great to look at, but dead reliable mechanically because I maintained all my cars personally. I really liked that car, but she thought I should drive something "better".

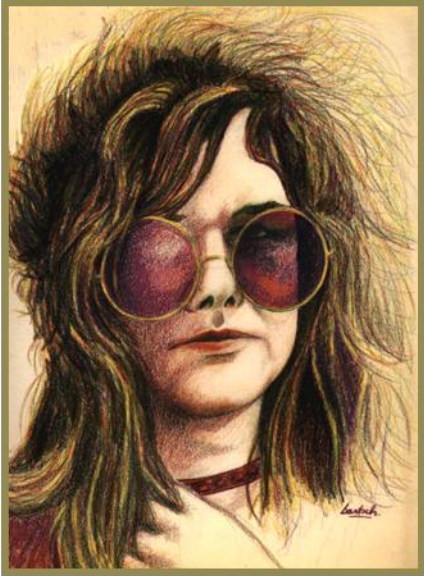
Eventually got tired of hearing her complain about it and looked in the Plano Star Courier for a potential replacement . . . used, not new!, which was **my** only stipulation at the time. About a week later, a Richardson woman was selling her "Mid-Life Crisis" car (her words), a Rallye Gold 1973 Opel GT 4-speed, listed at \$1,600. Long story, short . . . I bought the car the following week for \$1300 and the rest is history.

I didn't buy my next Opel, actually two GTs, until 1996, two years after, and still own my original GT which I converted to FI in 1978, the first one ever done in the US and possibly the world. I've added some more over the years since then, just for some interesting projects.

Below, one of my very early Windows 3.1 Paintbrush digital BMP drawings in "CGA 16-color mode" (all that was available at the time!) and done entirely with a mouse! . . . and a pen and ink self-portrait done in mid 1999 . . .



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. . . and an album cover design, colored pencil illustration, about which I was talking with you, for an "Advertising Design" class at the university to honor Janis Joplin shortly after her death in 1970, which I titled . . .

... **Janis: Opus Posthumous** ...

Only Totally Teutonic Opel

1960: ♥ '61 Rekord PII 1.7 3S 3.9 ♥ '69 Kadett LS *sprint* 1.9 3A 3.18

1970: ♥ '70 GT 1.9 4S 3.44 ♥ '72 GT 2.2SSD 5S 3.44 ♥ '72 GT 2.4FI 5S 3.44P ♥ '73 GT 1.9FI 4S 3.44 ♥ '75 1900 1.9FI 4S 3.44

1980: ♥ '85 Bitter SC 3.9FI 5S 3.44P