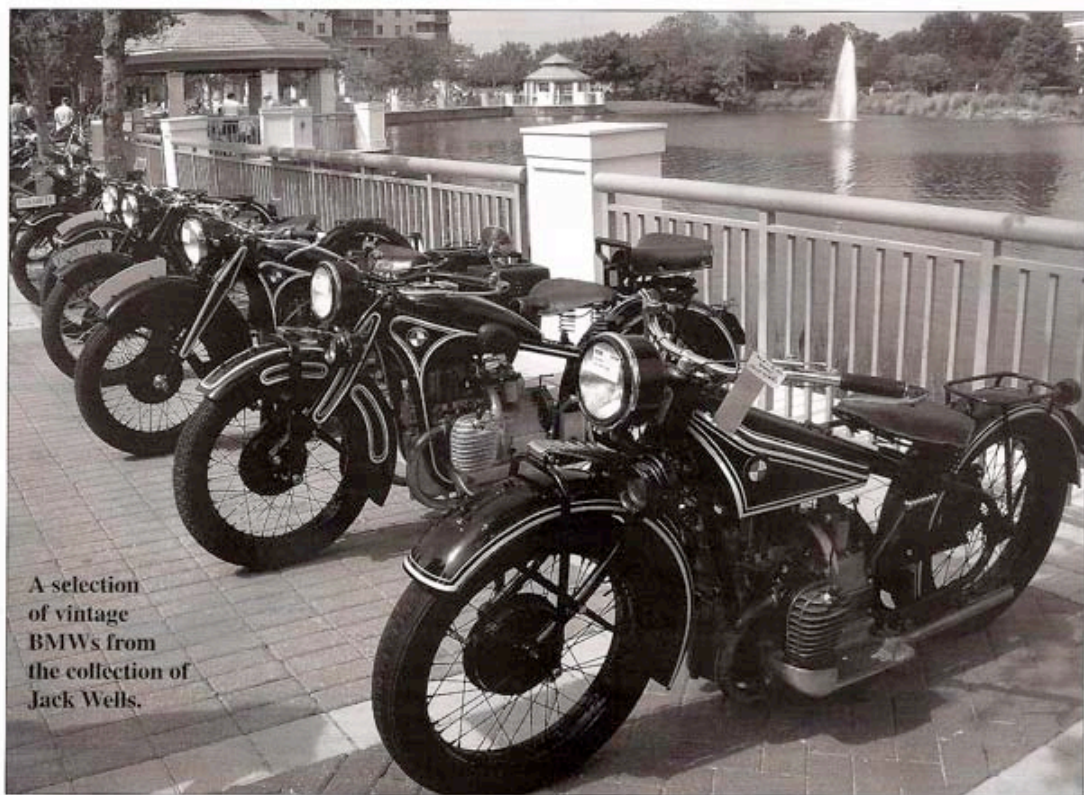




BMWNEF Powers



A selection of vintage BMWs from the collection of Jack Wells.

By William Robinson

In its ninth year of existence, Riding Into History has grown from a small club show to one of the premier antique and vintage

motorcycle events in America. BMW Motorcycle Owners of Northeast Florida (BMWNEF) is the primary supporter of the event, providing the event chairman and nearly 100 volunteers annually.

Their participation has made the difference that has allowed Riding Into History to grow and prosper.

Another one of the keys to its success is the beautiful World

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Riding Into History



Jeff Bronsdon's 1965 R69S class winner.

Golf Village venue, near St. Augustine, Florida. Several hundred motorcycles from all nations dating back to the turn of the last century were on display at the May 17th Concours d'Elegance, on a tree-shaded walk circling the lake, which is the centerpiece of the facility.

All proceeds from Riding Into

History are contributed to Buddy Check 12, a breast cancer charity founded by Jeannie Blaylock, a First Coast News anchorwoman in Jacksonville, Florida. The event is the largest single contributor to Buddy Check 12, having raised over \$160,000 in recent years.

Visitors to the event are treated to not only a display of some

of the most spectacular and noteworthy motorcycles ever produced, they also are free to enjoy the numerous exhibitors, clubs, and restaurants that the event offers. This year there was the added bonus of Grand Marshal Mert Lawwill of *On Any Sunday* fame and internationally known designer Craig Vetter being on hand to interact with the



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spectators. Lawwill graciously signed autographs for hours, and Vetter presented two entertaining audio-visual programs recalling how he came to design to famous Triumph Hurricane.

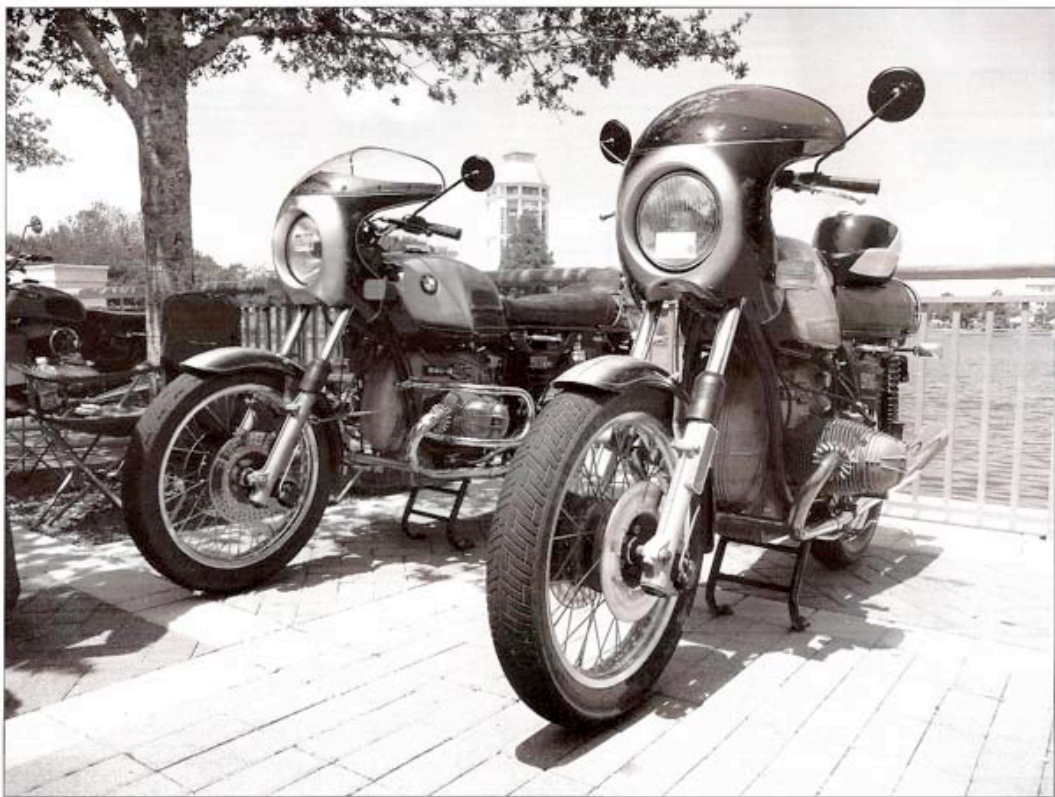
There were plenty of beautiful vintage BMWs on hand, many courtesy of Jack Wells, a Lake City, Florida, based collector who has an outstanding selection of antique and vintage Beemers. Jack's entries were recognized

with several awards. Another BMW that drew considerable attention was Jeff Bronsdon's beautiful bristol gray 1965 R69S, which was a best in class winner.

Judging was a daunting task, given the large number of excellent motorcycles entered in the Concours. In the end, it was Jim Thomas, a noted collector and restorer who won Best in Show with his elegant 1937 HRD single. The coveted Preservation

Award went to Ray Morton's unrestored 1911 Pierce. It was fitting that this was the year of "Racy Competition Motorcycles," and the Chairman's Award was won by Ed Borowy's perfect 1994 Honda RC45.

That evening patrons of the Biker's Ball were treated to a moving talk by Lawwill, who noted that famed actor Steve McQueen, co-star of *On Any Sunday*, had been instrumental



A pair of siver smoke classic BMWs.

in providing the doctors and treatment which resulted in the saving of Lawwill's left arm following a motorcycle crash. Today Lawwill has many ventures, including a prosthetic hand he developed which allows amputees to continue to ride and compete on motorcycles, bicycles, and snowmobiles.

An historic ride featuring some of the vintage motorcycles that had competed in the Concours was held the following morning. The brunch in St. Augustine, America's oldest city, was the ideal way to conclude the festivities of the Ninth Annual Riding Into History weekend. Next year, the 10th anniversary of the event on May 16th, promises to be by far the most spectacular Riding Into History to date, with Classic American Bikes being featured. Additional information can be found at RidingIntoHistory.com.

Mert Lawwill, Grand Marshall, presenting Jack Wells his Best in Class award.

