

Book Reviews for Porschephiles

by Bruce Herrington, Orange Coast Region

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U.S. Route Travel Series

Travelogues by Michael Newlon

published by Outskirts Press, Denver, Colorado

Mike Newlon was a Riverside region PCAer. More than that, he was a nut for Porsche 912s, writing of the "Porsche 912's well deserved reputation as a near-perfect sports car..." He carefully selected the '69 he ordered new and he drove that car for 45 years, not just as a daily driver, but as a tourer. In keeping with the vintage of his car, he toured the old roads, not the freeways. Mike has moved on to a better world, but his car and his legacy live on.

Mike's '69 912 has been donated to the Petersen Automotive Museum. The Museum has posted the donation on their facebook page. You can go to facebook.com and in the search area enter *Petersen Automotive Museum Porsche 912*. If you click on the car you will be taken to their instagram of the car. Mike's 912 is the first donation that The Petersen has posted on social media.

Mike's legacy as a touring driver is preserved in a series of books he wrote to document his travels. These travelogues were carefully prepared and well illustrated to report on his experiences as a traveler of the old school – one who drove the two-lanes to see the scenery, not to get somewhere, or to arrive on time. The routes he chose, US 39, 95, 99 and 101, should be of interest to any touring oriented Porschephile near the West Coast, and especially to Southern Californians.

Profusely illustrated with photos dealing with scenery and geology as well as cultural history, each book starts out with a description of his 912 and its renovation/alteration for his long distance cruises. There is also an initial discussion of the pre-interstate 1926 U.S. Federal Highway System from an era when highways had names as well as numbers. Each book contains illustrations of the route in question as presented on a 1959 vintage highway map.

Virtually photographic travel diaries, remarks about the car, its performance and breakdowns are included in each book, as appropriate. Traveling these roads in the 2000s, Mike had to work hard to find tidbits of history still showing through the veneer of modernity. As old or older than US 66, these routes have as much history as that classic road, even if they

don't have the cachet. And like Route 66, in some places the pavement has become four lane, in other cases it parallels the new road, and in other stretches it is just no longer there.

All of the history and current observations are presented in interesting detail. An eye-opener to this reviewer is the fact that the frontage road on the south side of I-10 from Banning to Palm Springs is really US 99, built in the '20s and '30s. That route extended from Calexico to Blaine, Washington at the Canadian Border, and still exists, though in metro-LA it now carries such labels as Garvey Avenue, Figueroa Street and San Fernando Road.

The books cover the highway routes from border to border. Few drivers will have Mike Newlon's dedication and perseverance to peruse the entire distance, but any

Southern California Porschephile who may drive portions of these routes regularly should get these books to learn what they have been overlooking all these years.

There are four books in Mike's series: U.S. Route 395: Travel America's Three Flags Highway in a Classic 1969 Porsche 912; U.S. Route 99: Travel America's Pacific Highway in a Classic 1969 Porsche 912; U.S. Route 95: Travel America's Desolation Highway in a Classic 1969 Porsche 912; U.S. Route 101: Travel America's Golden Highway in a classic 1969 Porsche 912.

All books are 8-1/2x11 inch softbound of roughly 90 pages with large readable typeface. Any one or all can be obtained for \$24.95 each at Amazon Books <http://www.amazon.com/books>. Search for Michael Newlon.

ED: Mike Newlow was a great, down to earth guy... Just a guy doing what he loved. If you happened to be lucky enough you would have met Mike at our GPX concours in May, 2013. He was there with a table set up selling his books. We enjoyed the brief time we knew him (Skip Carter)

