



# Speed Bump - Slow Down For Some Automotive Tales

A Monthly Column By Hal Tretbar

In Japan, older people are held in high esteem. While visiting my daughter Nancy Wheelock in Okinawa I encountered an interesting situation.



Naomi's hidden and rustic Café.

We had stopped for lunch at Naomi's Café. Nancy knew about this little, cozy, hide-away place. It is in a small lush ravine just off of a busy thoroughfare.

Naomi is the delightful owner, cook, waitress, and cashier of this quaint

wooden four-room cafe. From her kitchen she offers a limited menu of Okinawan dishes, but the piece-de-resistance is her apple pie.

Nancy is a good friend of Naomi. They are teaching each other their native tongues. So, when we walked in, there was a lot of good morning, *ohayo gozaimasu*, greetings and bowing to each other.



I'm with granddaughter Megan Burns

Naomi greeted me with respect, bowing several times with her hands together. She graciously asked Nancy my age. She looked with disbelief when Nancy replied, *hachi-ju hachi*, eighty plus eight.

There were two older ladies and a man at a nearby table who were watching with interest. Naomi introduced us,



The delightful, relaxing interior

again with much bowing for my elderly status. Then Nancy pulls out her cell phone and shows them the video image she had of me driving the Macan on the Musselman Track. There were looks of astonishment all around!

With Naomi making steering wheel motions she said, "Movie star, Movie star." And the ladies all wanted to pat me on the shoulder! What great respect for an elder.

But that is not the end of the story. A few days later we stopped in again.

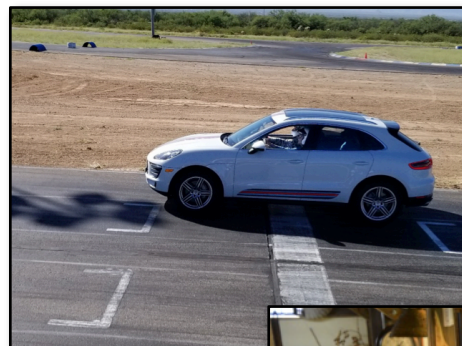
After the formal greetings, Naomi introduced us to her sister-in-law. Again, with steering wheel motions, she asked for the video. The sister-in-law also had to touch me on the shoulder.

I think it may be embarrassing to go back again.

Sayonara



Nancy surprises the ladies with the video of my Porsche Macan on the track



2017 Porsche Macan at the Musseleman Track

Naomi's husband stopped by on his way to work



Photos by Hal Tretbar