



THE TIDEWATER MG 'T' CLASSICS

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A HAPPY NEW YEAR, ONE AN' ALL !!

I hope you all had very happy holidays and lots of dirty little goodies in your stockings; original nuts and bolts and gizzies that we all love to play with.

We all enjoyed the Annual Christmas Party, graciously hosted by Helen and Dave Barrows. Thank you, Helen, and the food contributors, for all the work you did; I think we can all agree that Helen did most of the work though and it is very much appreciated. We had a lot of fun, as always, and the party always lasts as long as there is some stalwart still able to pump the player-piano. There were some pretty fit guys and gals there, as the party didn't break up until well after midnight. It was a pretty chilly night, so there were only two MG's in the parking lot - Roy's TD and our Y. Dave had made a lovely octagonal (what else?!) wooden bowl, with our club emblem embedded in the bottom; he held a raffle for it - funds to go the club treasury so that we can afford new badges - and guess who won it? The guy who made his girlfriend pay for the tickets because he didn't have change in his "best suit" - none other than Roosevelt Moseley! When Doris reached for the bowl, Rosie's hand was there first and he never let go of the bowl the rest of the evening; we told Doris she'd better give it to him for a Christmas present, whether he wanted it or not! The bowl couldn't have gone to a nicer guy, and Dave has our thanks for doing such a nice thing for the club.

On December 5th we had a technical session at our house; it was very well attended and a lot was accomplished. I think a few people went away much relieved that their problem was much less costly than they thought!!

I want to inject a word here about some of the cartoons you have seen in the past few newsletters; these were sent to me by "The Mouth Of The South" - alias Tony Roth - who gets them from Jim Krekovich, in Kansas. I would like to thank "Krek" for allowing us to use his work. I think this cartoon is rather topical and applies to many dads up and down the country.

Tony Roth has asked me to plug GOF-South. This is to be held in Ocala, Florida, in March (the 3rd weekend, I think). I will give you details next month. Mike and I are planning to drive down; if anyone wants to make it a caravan, please get in touch with us. I can't stress too strongly how much you would enjoy a gathering like this - we've never had a bad one yet!

A reminder to plan ahead for the Spring GOF which is to be held in Detroit this year. It will be the weekend of June 24, 25 & 26. This will be the 24th T-Register GOF. Mike and I - again - are planning to take a few days off to drive out there and see some more of the good ole U.S. of A. I think we'll have to make our family slogan "See the USA the MG'T" way". If anyone wishes to make a caravan of it, just get in touch. There are two out-of-town members who are going to be looking for the Tidewater Contingent - John Newman, in Columbus, Ohio, (who would like us to pass through that way so that he can join the caravan) and Bob Brown, Michigan, (who is eager to show us how his 'basket case' is coming along - or ARE you Bob?!!!).

Brenda and Jim have completed our club banner!! It really looks good; come to the next meeting and have a little look. It will cost 50¢ a peek, because it isn't paid for yet!

MONEY MAIL

Mr Good saved his money in 1958. Mr Bad bought a second-hand MG . . . and has driven up a tax-free profit of £3,750

You can drive a real bargain .

A YOUNG man inheriting £750 in 1958 and using the money to buy a second-hand MG sports car would have aroused deep frowns from his elders and betters for his irresponsibility.

His more sober cousin, who promptly invested his legacy in Government stocks would, of course, have been equally generally applauded.

Now, 18 years later, the picture looks different. A 1956 TF model MG in good condition will fetch over eight times its purchase price (£4,500 on the spot, or £5,500 if you ask us nicely, says one hard-bitten dealer), and the value of the gilt-edged stock will by now have declined by two-thirds.

For the desire to possess—and use—old cars is by now no longer confined to the Genevieve set, the truly well-heeled who can afford over

£30,000 for a 55-year-old Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost.

The steady disappearance through the years of the manufacturers offering a truly distinctive brand of car has been accompanied by a corresponding desire among motorists to own and use any out-of-the-ordinary machine.

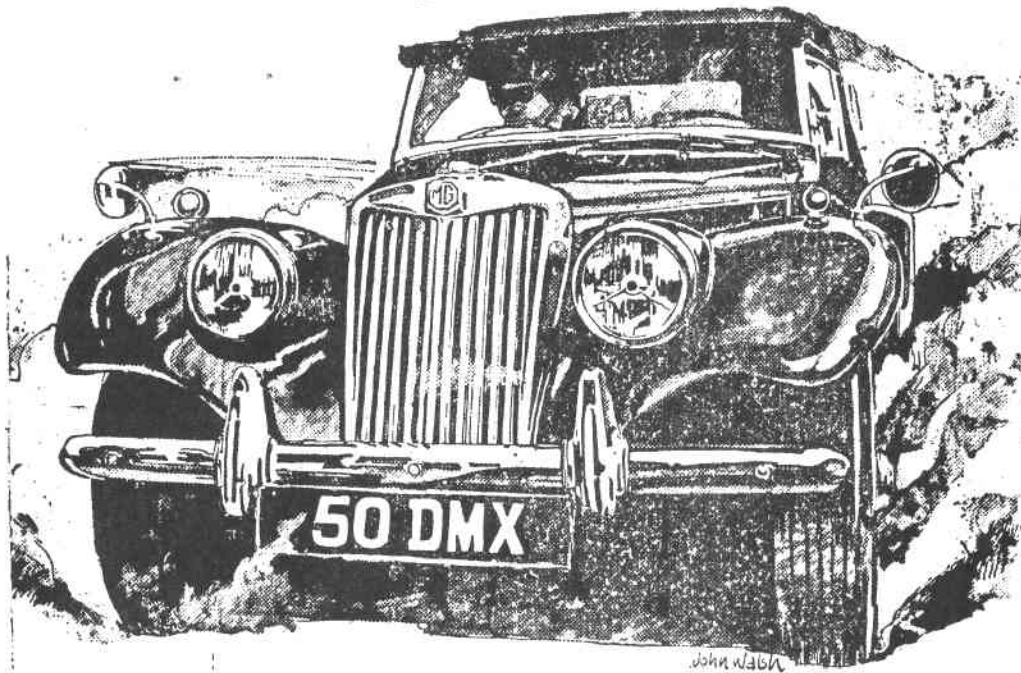
Hence the astronomical prices paid for any Jaguar XK sports car—up to £6,000+ for a late XK 150; hence the two-year waiting list and the willingness of any dealer to pay over the odds for any example of the Morgan, that most sterling and old-fashioned of modern sports cars.

According to Glass's Guide, the bible of the motor trade, a 1971 Morgan Plus Eight went up £350 in value between 1973 and 1976, even though the mileage on which the price was calculated doubled to 54,000.

Present-day investors — or car enthusiasts who don't actually want to lose money — will have to be more careful. And, if they are, the profit is completely free of tax.

The rules, as they emerge from talks with the gentlemen of the motor trade (and their high priests at Glass's) are clear enough. But even among dispassionate experts personal preferences can be very strong—the Managing Director of Glass's, for instance, fancies a small punt on a Lancia Fulvia, 'the poor man's Mercedes,' as he puts it, though his staff are more cautious.

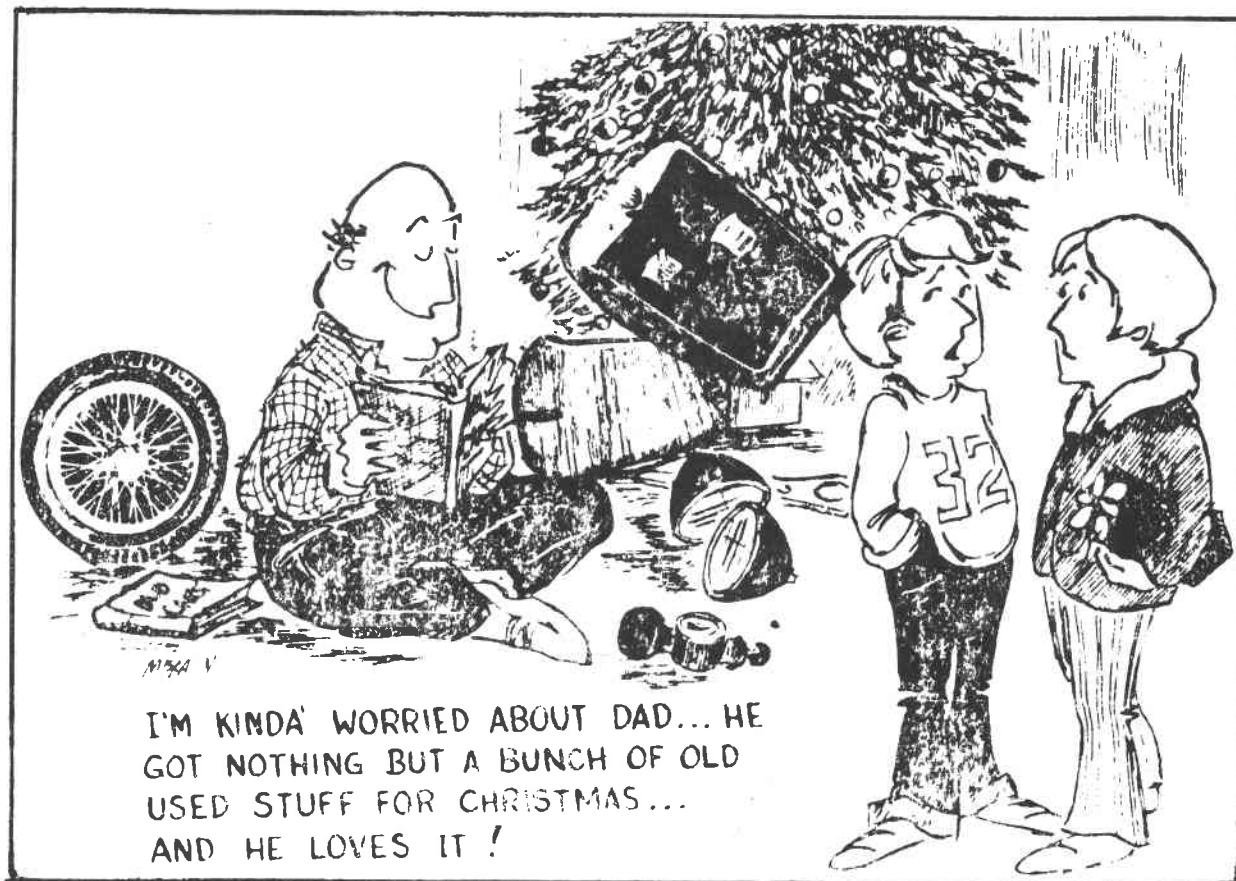
Nevertheless, there are some fundamentals to consider when dealing with 'modern' cars—defined as ones which have been on sale in the British market during the past ten years.



What else are Mum's for, but to keep us informed of what is going on in the Old Country. Mike has his Mum trained, as you can see for the above, to keep us in touch with anything connected with MG's that appears in their local "rag" (as we Brits affectionately refer to our newspapers!) We thought it would interest you and make you glad you can't afford to get into the Stock Market!!

UP-COMING EVENT... Dinner at Blue Pete's Seafood Restaurant in beautiful downtown Pungo. SEE THE ENCLOSED FLYER FOR DETAILS. Anyone wishing to meet at the Court House in Princess Anne (on the corner where we always gather) be there at 7.30p.m on Friday JANUARY 21st. We plan on being at the restaurant between 8 to 8.15 p.m. PLEASE CALL ME (JENNIFER - 424-1660) IF YOU PLAN TO BE THERE - so that I can give Blue Pete some idea of what to expect (in the way of numbers - he knows what WE'RE like!)

NEXT MEETING: This will be held at the home of Don and Barbara Moore, on Wednesday January 12 at 7.30 p.m. SEE MAP ENCLOSED FOR DETAILS. Let's get off to a flying start in 1977 and plan to have a good turn-out at this meeting. It is the first one that Don and Barbara have hosted, and Don will be going on a cruise a couple of weeks after, so let's give him a good send-off.



NEWS FROM OUT OF TOWN: We had a letter from Gary Cook yesterday. He really HATES Hawaii - you can tell by the way he keeps on about the steady 82° temperature and the beaches and the pathetic way he tries to have fun; it's not much fun for a bachelor on a tropical island. I could read between the lines and knew that he really is missing our lovely winter here in Tidewater! Seriously, though... he is now a member of the Hawaii Club and has been elected... (get this)..Chairman of the Car Education Committee. That means he has to organize tech sessions - which they don't have and which Gary is already missing. Gary, "you've come a long way, baby"!!! You dentists really seem to catch on quickly to this technical stuff. Once Gary and Bob Pellerin were shown their way around an engine, they took to it like amalgum to a cavity; they must like working in small spaces! Good to hear from you Gary - keep those cards and letters coming in!

THIS IS AN ARTICLE THAT RICHARD HALL GAVE ME, from "MOTOR RACING MAGAZINE", May, 1953

In the second half of 1952, Britain sold almost as many cars to the U.S. as in the whole of the preceding year - 18,604 to 1951's 19,809. Total British sales in the U.S. for 1952 was 31,287.

The M.G. is the leader of the British invasion. Sales of the little car last year totalled over \$10-million, 106% higher than the previous year. They are now selling at the rate of \$250,000 per week. Production of the M.G. Abingdon plant has been stepped up by 80% within the last year to handle the large demand.

Another fast-selling sports car is the \$4,000 Jaguar, boasting a top speed of 120 mph. \$10-million worth of Jaguars were sold in the U.S. in 1952 and this order has already been doubled for 1953, with approximately 5,000 cars scheduled for delivery.

That was pretty good going, wasn't it? I wonder what will happen to the M.G. Some people believe that the MG. badge will eventually end up on the Triumph - let's hope it won't happen.

- DATES TO REMEMBER:
- February 1 - Meeting at the Pellerins' new house - we'll give you a map.
 - February 20 - Brunch at Fort Monroe; drive to Fort Eustis transportation museum (Kids will enjoy this one - REALLY)
 - March 2 - Meeting at home of Tom Lund & Bobbi (NOT the Ashes, as printed on calendar for year)
 - March 20 - Spring Tune-Up - tech session - location to be decided.

FOR SALE:

TD MkII - Frame (good); Andrex shocks(excellent) front end - no rack & pinion (excellent); R & L frong wings (Excellent); Rt. rear wing (good); L rear wing (fair); all body tub metal - no wood (good); gas tank (good); spare tire rack (good); R & L doors (Excellent); 4 rims (good); front splash-pan (fair); rear splash-pan (excellent); fire-wall (poor); radiator (good); shell(poor);

Call: HANK GIFFIN (301) 267-9012 (would like to swap for needed parts in WANTS section, but will sell if parts not available)

- TF: Wiper motors - \$65
- TD/TF: Tachometer cables, complete - \$12
- TD/TF: Tachometer cable inserts - \$5
- TF: Speedometer cable inserts - \$6

ALL NEW & ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT!! Call: JIM BANVARD - 340-6737

PARTS WANTED:

TA - Any tools to fit tool tray; ignition switch that works;

late TD - Front fender side lamp; turn signal switch; water temp./oil pressure guage; rear side curtain frames for 3-bow top; windshield glass.

Call: HANK GIFFIN (301) 267-9012

IF THE GOOD LORD HAD WANTED US TO....

Be dry during inclement weather, he would never have created side-curtains!

..see where we were going during a shower, he would never have created the Lucas Wiper!

..not to have trouble with the wiring, he would have created printed circuits back in the 40's

..have a firm suspension, he would never have forsaken Gurling for Armstrong (that's shocks!)

..not notice that spot of oil under our car, he never would have created concrete driveways!

..enjoy fine literary masterpieces, he never would have created the Editor of the Tidewater M.G."T" Classics Newsletter!!

SEE YOU AT THE JANUARY MEETING - Don & Barbara Moore's, 1532 Hidden Cove, Va. Beach...

We'll be "T"ing you in all the old familiar places.... Blue Pete's....Fort Monroe...etc.