



THE TIDEWATER MG 'T' CLASSICS

President: Ron Eaton (420-2405)
Vice Pres: Jim Banvard (340-6737)
Secretary: Tom Lund (480-3090)
Treasurer: Helen Barrows (428-3250)
Editor: Susan Boswell (486-1293)

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Hello Gang--

With Jennifer Ash and Levi Tarr III covering the Nag's Head scene and Robert Davis beginning his multi-part saga, "MG Fever" (soon to be an NBC mini-series starring Herbie, the Volkswagen), this edition has practically taken care of itself.

THE OCTOBER MEETING was as the home of Henry and Jeanette Blanchard. The tyre-kicking session included an inspection of Henry's restoration of his TD. The engine, tub and wheels are back on the frame and everything is very nicely painted, polished, cleaned, chromed or whatever. Looks like Henry's put in some long hours. He still has to paint the body parts and finish the interior, so it will be a while before we get to see his TD rolling down the highway.

We welcomed our newest members, Dick and Gwen Kearley, and their '54 TF which they call their "moonlight car" because it looks great by moonlight. During their decade of ownership, they've driven the TF regularly and she's never undergone a restoration, so she looks a little battle weary. The Kearleys also have a '49 TC, half in Virginia and half in Florida. During their tour here, they hope to reunite the two halves.

We also welcomed guest Jim Rudd. Dan and I met Jim and his wife Karen in Asheville. Jim had just been stationed at Ft. Eustis and was interested in joining the Tidewater group. Karen is finishing school in Kentucky and will join Jim in December.

Of course this was the meeting when the great election occurred. You can see at the top of this page who the new officers are. Ron has already started kicking tails and taking names, so I hope we can keep up with him. Thanks to our outgoing officers, Roy Wiley, Dave Barrows, and Don Moore. Roy in particular sweated a lot of blood on behalf of this club in the last two years. While I'm at it, congratulations to Don and Barbara Moore on THEIR retirement from the Navy and on Don's new position as an instructor in industrial management at Tidewater Community College. He'll be teaching most meeting nights which is why he chose not to continue as treasurer. Thanks to Roy, Dave and Don for all their good service.

TREASURER'S REPORT--We have \$491.00.

REGALIA--Brad and Peggy Bradford sold \$54 worth of regalia in Newport. Nice job! Regalia sales this month total \$61.00. Also, Elsie Tarr announced that she will make carpets for Ys and Ts (see Odds 'n Ends for details). Originally, Levi and Elsie were going to donate \$10 per job to the club, but there were some objections to this, so they've decided to reduce the price by \$10 and pass the savings along to the consumer. Now that's a switch in this inflationary age! Thanks anyway to the Tarrs. It was a generous gesture.

PARTS--Robert Davis reported that he will now order from Moss Motors through Phase I where he will continue to work part-time.

OTHER BUSINESS--NEMGTR dues are due on or before Dec. 31. According to TSO, we are all supposed to be billed shortly after Sept. 1, or none of us are to be billed, or only odd numbered people are to be billed, or--aw, heck, guys. You figure it out. Anyway, dues are \$10.00, regardless of the number of cars registered. If you don't get a bill, then before

Dec. 31, 1978, please send your \$10 (and all your register numbers to help identify yourself) to: The New England MG 'T' Register, Ltd., Drawer #220, Oneonta, New York 13820. If you allow your membership to lapse, you will be charged a \$5 reinstatement fee, so get with it.

Speaking of the NEMGTR, last month we voted on two resolutions dealing with that organization. Shortly thereafter I received a friendly but pointed letter from one of the principals of GOF South questioning our second resolution, i.e., "We resolve to support the recognition of GOF South and GOF West as officially sanctioned gatherings in conjunction with the two presently recognized GOFs." I was informed that GOF South does not want to be recognized as an official Register gathering for fear of losing control of its own GOF. Furthermore, I was told that the NEMGTR always supports GOF South and GOF West. I believe our resolution came about because in considering the request of George Jarrard (of the Midwestern 'T' Register) to have GOFs somewhere other than in New England (specifically, he wanted the chance to sponsor a Midwest GOF), we confused the Midwestern 'T' Register with GOF South and GOF West. At the October meeting it was decided that we would rescind our resolution and offer our apologies to GOF South and GOF West. Consider it done.

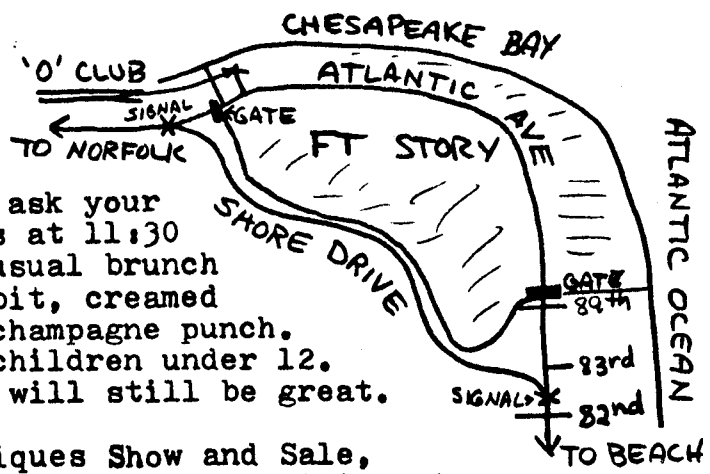
Thanks to the Blanchards for all the delectable delicacies. The NOVEMBER MEETING will be on WEDNESDAY, NOV. 1, at 8:00 at Dennis and Janet Duff's new home (see map). See ya' there.

PAY YOUR NEMGTR DUES NOW!!

UPCOMING EVENTS--

OCT. 29 (SUN)--FALL FOLIAGE DRIVE-OUT AND COOK-OUT--We will leave the Sears in Pembroke Mall (corner of Independence Blvd. and Va Beach Blvd.) no later than 1:30 SHARP!! Richard Hall has laid out a leisurely 2-2½ hr. drive through the countryside to end up at Roy and Marilyn Wiley's (about 4:00 for any one who would like to join the cook-out but can't make the drive--see meeting map on back for location). Volunteers are supplying the food and soft drinks but you are asked to bring your own beer or liquor.

NOV. 19--SUNDAY BRUNCH--not Nov. 1 as was reported last month. Rosemary Eaton checked the 'O' Clubs at Little Creek and Ft. Story and after comparing prices, Ft. Story was chosen. We will meet at the Ft. Story 'O' Club (see map for on-base location or ask your cheerful gate guard) with reservations at 11:30 that morning. The menu includes the usual brunch fare plus eggs Florentine, welsh rarebit, creamed beef, French toast, bloody marys and champagne punch. Price is \$3.25 for adults; \$1.65 for children under 12. If it's half as good as last year, it will still be great.

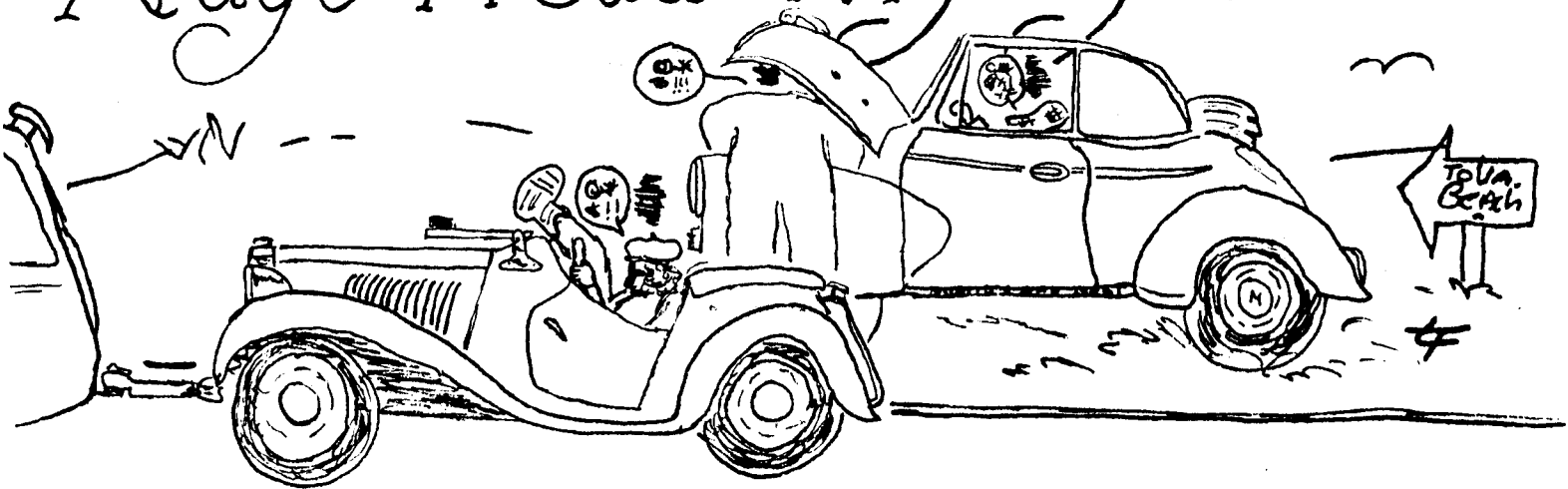


NOV. 5 (SUN)--Museum of Albemarle Antiques Show and Sale, Hwy. 17 South, Elizabeth City, NC. Time: 1:00 PM. Driving time: 1 hour. As of this moment, we have no plans to attend this as a group, but plans may materialize during the meeting. The Show and Sale are for the benefit of the Museum of Albemarle and they would really like to see us come out in our Ts as an added attraction. We'll get free admission to the show, sale and museum. If you can't make the meeting and decide you want to go, please contact Vince and Pam Groover (497-6901).

Dec. 15 (FRI)--Christmas Party at Jim and Tina Pagley's. As usual, the club will help with this event by having everyone bring a snack or hors d'oeuvre or whatever. Please call Tina (622-6894) and let her know what you'll be bringing so she can plan accordingly. Map and details next month.

PAST EVENTS--NAG'S HEAD--Thanks to Jennifer Ash for her report and to Levi Tarr III for his illustrated highlights of the Nag's Head affair. 3

Nag's Head Highlights



Nag's Head Weekend--Sept. 30/Oct. 1 by Jennifer Ash

Saturday dawned bright and sunny and a group of sports cars dribbled up to Princess Anne Courthouse around 8:30 with well bundled up drivers and wives. The Ashes and Eatons arrived at the crack of 9:00 and missed everyone else!

We tootled on down the road enjoying the sunshine and wishing we could do this every day of the week, and halfway between Va Beach and Nag's Head, our car made a noise like a Broken Crankshaft. We immediately pulled off the road and Ron and Rosemary turned around and came back to see "What's up?" Ron took Mike back to Va Beach in the 'A' and they came back with a station wagon with a tow hitch and towed us on to Nag's Head. Afraid we messed up Ron and Rosemary's weekend--they were stuck with us, and a wagon instead of an 'A'--thanks, guys.

The weather was pleasant and some groups went walking on the beach (too rough to swim), some went shopping, and others went to watch the hang-gliding at Kill Devil Hills. WOW, what fun! Roy Wiley and I had fun coming down the dunes on our rear ends--no fancy kites for us!

We split into two groups for dinner. Didn't think it fair to inflict the Whole Group on one poor unsuspecting eatery. After dinner, socializing back at the motel. While socializing, I took the short route from the pool to the sidewalk via a pole and felt a sensation like a Broken Bone in my foot! Got that taken care of next day when we got home.

Sunday dawned cloudy and damp, but cleared up around breakfast time. We all descended upon an unsuspecting restaurant--all 24 of us--and they gave us puzzles to complete before we could get any food. Ron Eaton (I think) finished his first--maybe he was hungrier than the rest (or smarter?),

We all meandered home in staggered (not staggering groups, hitting Christmas stores, antique shops and art galleries all the way home. It really was a pleasant, relaxing weekend, and a fine way to wind up a season of MG-ing. But, the series of Ash accidents was not over yet...

After getting a cast on my foot (up to my knee) on Monday, we set off on Wed. for an MGA G-T (Get-Together) down in the southwest corner of South Carolina in the highest town east of the Mississippi--a place called Highlands. Since the TD we had planned to drive is now out of commission, we took up Levi Tarr's offer of his MGA to drive down. MG folks are great. We took the scenic route down the Blue Ridge Parkway from Waynesborough, VA, to within 50 miles of the end of the Parkway. The scenery was beyond description. All I can say is--go see it; it has a wonderful effect on a spirit

that has been in the rat race chasing the old buck. Top down is the only way to see those mountains.

The meet was just like a 'T' gathering--same church, different pew. We were proud to drive a winning car home. The MGA took a first in the Mk II class. Alas, pride came before a fall--doesn't it always? On I-85 just south of South Hill, Va (100 miles from home), the engine made a noise like a valve going through a piston! The Ashes had their third piece of bad fortune. We were lucky some fellow MG'ers were just 5 minutes behind us, in a BMW with a tow-hitch yet! Debbie and Dick Shepherd, whom some of you have met at Skyland and Williamsburg, were our rescuers and went a long way out of their way to see us safely home before traveling on to Newark, Del.

We had our share of mishaps, but perhaps it was our turn and we seem to have survived--the cast is off, the MGA engine is in the shop, and the TD is out to pasture for a while as I now have a brand new (?) Y-type to drive for the winter!

MID-SOUTH GOF, Asheville, N.C.--The same weekend as the Nag's Head trip, the Boswells headed inland to the mountains of North Carolina for the Mid-South GOF which was held on the grounds of the Biltmore Mansion. About 30 cars showed up from everywhere, including Florida and Connecticut. Among the cars were the SA (of GOF Toronto fame) from Kentucky and the little M-type we saw at GOF South last spring.

The GOF was well planned even if things did not always run according to schedule. After caravanning with a police escort from the motel to the Biltmore House where the cars were put on display in front of the mansion, we did our usual tyre kicking and voting and then toured 14 of the mansion's 255 rooms. Truly an awesome place! Lunch at a restaurant on the grounds was followed by what turned out to be a pretty harrowing mountain drive (in lieu of a rally or funkhana), especially with Dan at the wheel. Now if it had just been a little warmer, it would have been perfect (but then my theory is that the weather gods watch 'T' Register and chapter calendars and plan the weather accordingly). We heard a lot of nice compliments about the Colonial Clutch, but that's not why I say the Mid-South people are the friendliest we've ever met. We've never felt more welcome by a group of people, only a few of whom we knew. They really were great! Thanks to Dick and Laura Dixon and Tonda and Scooter Crump and the other Mid-Southerners for a real taste of old-fashioned Southern hospitality. Almost forgot, we took first TF.

ROOSEVELT MOSELEY'S BRINGING MOM'S POTATO SALAD TO FALL FOLIAGE COOKOUT!!!

And now for Part 1 of "MG Fever" by Robert Davis

It all started when I was 16 and had to get a car. I'd saved about \$600 for a sports car. It was just after Christmas and what a cold winter that was back in '69! I worked in a grocery store with Eddie West, who was my sports car, idle-type person. He had a Healey 3000 and could fix or tune anything. In remember now what a twit he actually was. One night he almost killed both of us making a turn at 50 mph, but that's another story. Anyway I went alone to look at cars.

The first was a TD. The seats, top and side curtains were ragged and the owner wanted \$800. Something was wrong with the way the engine ran and the car needed a new battery. Eddie West went with me a second time and we both decided I wasn't made for a TD! (I would have said a TD wasn't made for me, but obviously the future proves differently.) I wanted the car but I couldn't see spending \$200 more and still having to buy a top and side curtains and borrow a battery((pun intended).

The next afternoon I looked at 3 cars. The first was an MGB, the second an MGA, and the third a Healey 3000. Both the Healey and the MGB were rusted out. The MGA wasn't too bad, ran nice but needed a battery and both the hood and deck lid were held on with only one hinge. The car had Ford Pinto seats and was painted '57 Chevy orange! It also came with extras--

wobbly wire wheels, a radio that only worked when the engine wasn't running, and an Italian racing spare tire and tube (balding).

Later the next day Eddie and I looked at a TF in pieces and went again to the MGA. Eddie recommended that I wait and find a better buy. I had the ever and bought it about a week later for an undisclosed sum (all the money I had and more).

The car gave about four months of reliable service until Eddie drove it in an auto cross and a piston separated. Eddie finished second in his class and I finished last in mine. The car was in pieces for months in Eddie's garage. Soon everything went back together and was running. I drove the car back and forth to school for two years and only did minor work and rebuilds. Later a long needed ivory coat of paint and black top were added.

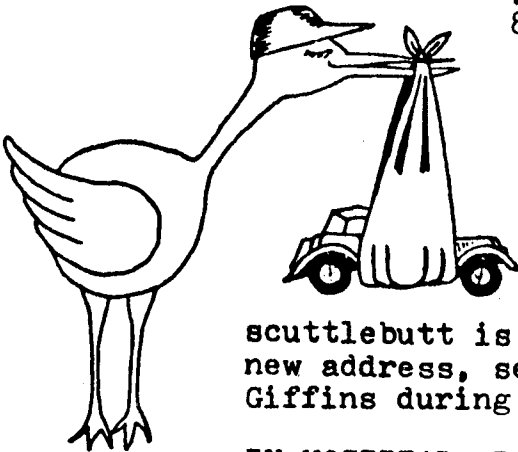
Having the 'A' for so long, I began to notice other MG's. I began to fancy the 'T' series and just had to have one. I looked at a few but by now it was 1974 or so and the price had gone up. Then one day I was out riding bikes and saw a green TD in a driveway with oriental tags. I had to have it. The fever had struck again.

- Does he get the TD?
- Does he sell the MGA?
- Does he keep them both?
- Has he seen the YB?

Tune in next month for: Rots-a-ruck with that reck, or An Air Asia Airline Auto Arrival.

DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK AT 2AM, OCT 29!!!

ODD 'N ENDS--NEW ARRIVALS-- Congratulations to Kevin and Evelyn Ray on the birth of their second child, Benjamin Kevin; 7 lbs., 8 oz; 20"; born Sept. 28.



Ashes Used Car Lot (specializing in Classic MGs) announces acquisition of a 1953 YB (registered under a unique name with the British 'Y' Register-- for uncensored editorial comment, see Jennifer Ash).

ADDRESS CHANGES--Out-of-towners Hank and Stevie Giffin have moved their convoy even farther out of town to New Jersey near Perth Amboy where scuttlebutt is that Hank is to command a minesweeper. For their new address, see the new roster. We may see one, both, or all the Giffins during the Christmas holidays.

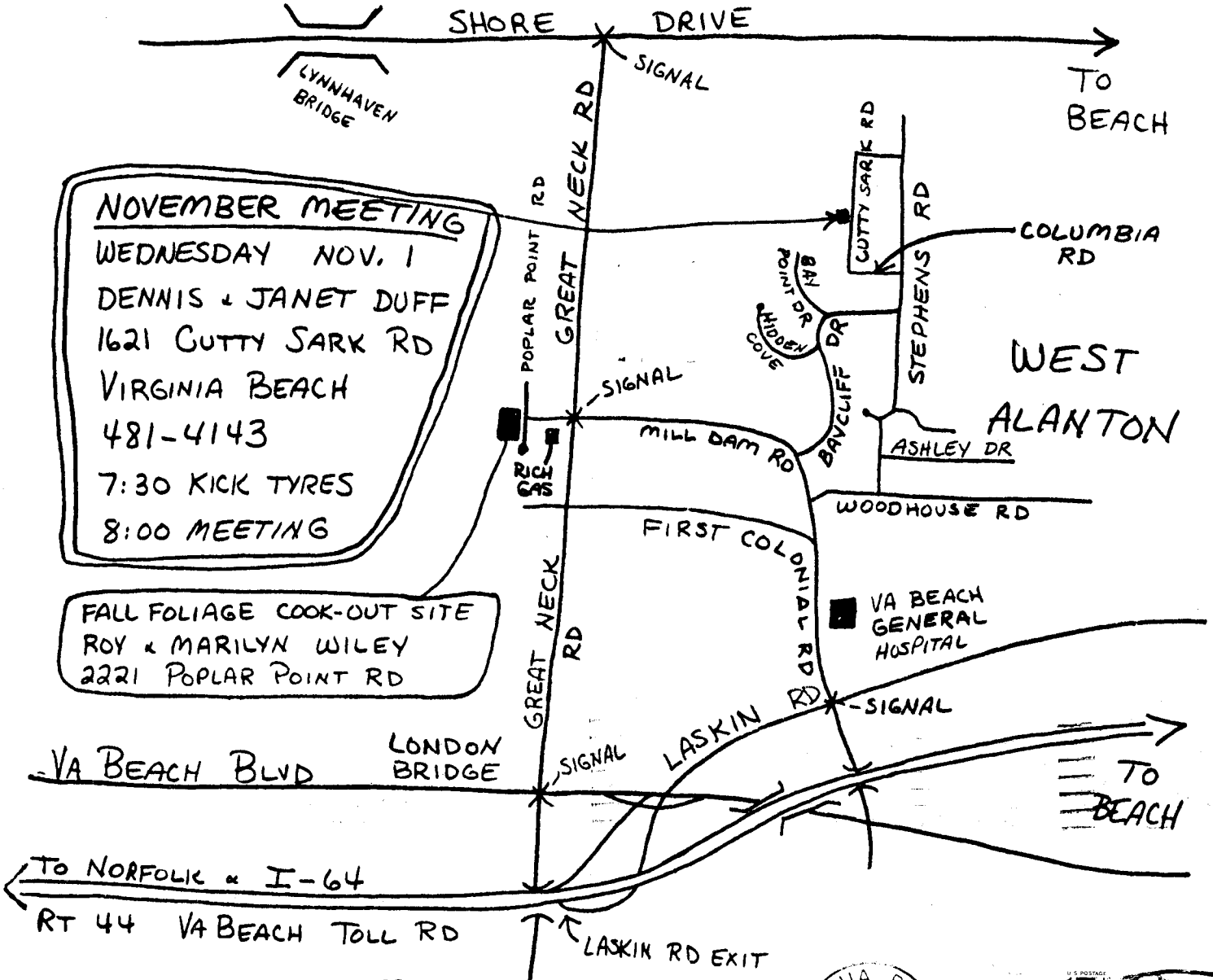
IN HOSPITAL--Robert Davis is scheduled to go into De Paul Hospital within the next week or so for surgery which will rebuild his left leg after one too many rugby injuries. He'll be in about a week. Wish I could give you the exact time but can't. We'll be thinking about you, Robert.

A couple of meetings ago, Dan said he would order a gallon of silicone brake fluid which he would then share with the club. The brake fluid has arrived. Because TD and TF brake systems take 1.2 pints of brake fluid, the gallon will be divided into 6 units of 1 1/3 pints per unit. We're keeping one unit for our TD and will sell the other to the first takers at \$6 a unit (\$35/gallon plus \$1 postage). Please contact Dan if interested and bring your own container. Also I will send off to Mike West on Nov. 2 for the British license tags he said he can get us. He'd like a single order so please let me know and I will include you. The

CUSTOM CARPETS FOR CLASSIC MGS	
Loop pile with exposed edges bound with edge binding	
Y-type	\$50
TD & TF	\$60
Assorted colors available, samples at next meeting	
Under padding available	
3/16" Jute	\$10
1/2" Polyurethane	\$15
Elsie & Levi Tarr 425-5023	
603 Glen Falls Court	
Va Beach, VA 23451	

cost is \$13. Also the October issue of Special Interest Autos has a very informative article on 'T' series MGs, including the history of Morris Garages. If you can't find it on the newsstand, you can order it for \$1.50 from Special Interest Autos, Box 196, Bennington, VT 05201. Ask for SIA #47.

AND FINALLY--Beware of all the ghoulies and ghosties and things that go bu in the night!



TIDEWATER M. G. "T" CLASSICS
630 ROYAL PALM DR.
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. 23452

ROSS & ANN HAINES
633 PINE TREE DR
VA BEACH VA 23452

