10th Anniversary
1980 MG 1990
WINDSOR-DETROIT

CAN-AM CONNECTION

vol. 10 no. 7 Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club September 1990

This Month's Meeting:

Takin' Care of Business . . .

We will have a business meeting on Wednesday September 12 at the Model D Restaurant in Dearborn. We have a lot of business to attend to, including upcoming meetings, events, and the organization of the Hibernation Party in December. We will also discuss the membership packets, regalia, and the Luau.

We have not held a regular business meeting since early in the year, and we really need to get a grasp on what we are going to be doing in the upcoming months. We will have sign-up sheets for those who wish to be on an organizing committee.

Your attendance is important to the future of the club. We have had a lot of fun this year, with a lot of driving events. We would like to start to plan next year's calendar, so perhaps we could have even more events.

Model D is located just west of the Oakwood exit of the Southfield Freeway (no, it's not near a PACE store). We hope to see you there!

Calendar of Events--1990

	SEPTEMBER
5 (Wed)	Cruise Night & Rally. Meet at the A&W in Windsor.
7-8 (Fri-Sat)	23rd annual Concours de'Elegance Sponsored by the Jaguar Affiliates of Michigan, Edsel & Eleanor Ford Estate, Grosse Pointe Shores. Contact Al Fuller (396-6560) or Ilene Harris (352-2771) for details.
9 (Sun)	British Car Festival, Oakton Comm. College, Des Plaines, Ill. Call (708) 885-7789 for information.
12 (Wed.)	Business Meeting, Model D's in Dearborn. Bring your ideas!
9 (Sun)	British Car Festival, Chicago, IL. Call Mahlon Hiliard for details (312) 469-7031.
16 (Sun)	Battle of the Brits, Historic Fort Wayne.
30 (Sun)	English Day at the Races, Waterford, MI
30 (Sun)	Indy British Motor Day, Indianapolis, IN.
	OCTOBER
14 (Sun)	Apple Picking/Fall Colour Tour.
	DECEMBER
1 (Sat)	Hibernation Party, Details TBA.
25 (Tue)	Christmas Day: Have you finished your shopping yet?
26 (Wed.)	Boxing Day: Take a prizefighter to lunch.
31 (Mon)	New Year's Eve: Don't drink and drive. . . we need members!

Cruise Night/Rally:

Let's All Go to A & W

It's cruise night once again! The 1990 version has a new twist, however. We will start at the A&W on Huron Line at 7:00 and RALLY to the restaurant. ANOTHER rally? Why not?

This has always been a popular event and we expect a good showing of club members. The rally has been organized by Dave Clarke and Lou Tortola, and will take us through downtown Windsor. Dave's rallies have always been a lot of fun, so come on out and join us.

To get to A&W: from the bridge, take highway 401 left to Huron Line. It will be on your left at Tecumseh. I hear that Dave is out to get the organizers of the previous rallies, so watch out, Heaths, St. Johns, and Zebarahs. . . you might get your clues in Sanskrit!

Marx Your Calendar:

A Day at the Races Slated for Sept. 30

You won't see the Marx Brothers there, but you will have a lot of fun at a Day at the Races on September 30 at the Waterford Hills Racing Course in Waterford.

You'll see British cars in action (as opposed to stationary) on the track and there will even be a tour of the track facilities during the lunch break.

It starts at 11:00, and admission is $5 per British car. There will also be a caravan from Herschel's Deli at the Drury Inn, Big Beaver Road at I-75, at 10:15. If you care to have breakfast there, plan to be there EARLY.

Behind the Wheel

by Hayden Heath, President

WOW! It sure was a WET English Day on the Green . . . BUT, for those of us who made it, it was an enjoyable "London" afternoon. Of the 173 British cars represented, there were 40 MGBs!! Compliments to the earlier model chrome bumper models as they received all three popular choice awards in the MGB class. First place went to Tom Shipley with a 1974 MGB. Other marques represented were Triumph, Rolls Royce, and Jaguar (especially Rick Case's 1950 XK120 Roadster, fresh from the Meadowbrook Concours de'Elegance. . .Beautiful!!)

Next on tap is University Motors' 14th annual Summer Party, in Grand Rapids on August 24-26. It should be great fun!

Last, but certainly not least, we have a business meeting scheduled for September 12 at the Model D restaurant at 7 p.m. We have many items on our agenda, including:

Battle of the Brits
Fall colour tour
Hibernation Party
Hawaiian Luau
Bylaws
Officer nominations
Regalia

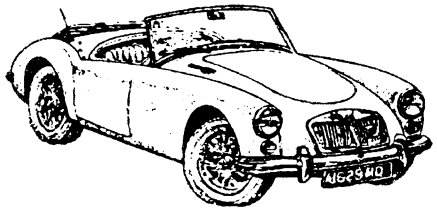
Your attendance at this meeting is important. the remainder of our current MG season (as well as next year) is at stake!

SEE YOU AT THE SUMMER PARTY!!!

Officers Wanted: No Experience Necessary

It's time to start thinking about club leadership for next year. If anyone would like to nominate a member for an officers' position for 1991, let us know either by mail or at any meeting.

In addition, we are looking for candidates for our "Most Valuable Member" and "Rookie Member of the Year" for 1990. If you know of anybody who is deserving of these honors (including yourself) please contact one of the officers.



The Litter Bag

by Dan Zebarah, Editor

I'm sure that most of you people have struggled with your car, but how many of you have tried to do so while accompanied by a three-year old? It's kind of like being interrogated by Mr. Rogers.

I tried to let her help by holding wrenches or bolts. Unfortunately, having the attention span of, well, a three-year-old, not only did I have to hunt HER down, but then I had to hunt down whatever it was I had her hold because they were never in the same location, i.e., she was on her swing and the screwdriver was in the dog's water dish.

Sometimes she would only want to watch me, grilling me like a KGB agent. A typical conversation sounded like this:

"What are you doing, Daddy?"

"I'm fixing the car."

"Why are you fixing the car?"

"Because it doesn't work."

"Why doesn't it work?"

"Because it's broken."

"Why is it broken?"

"I DON'T KNOW!!"

"Why don't you know?"

"Because I haven't figured it out yet!"

"Why haven't you figured it out?"

"BECAUSE I'M ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS!!!!!"

"Why are you answering my questions?"

"AAAAAAAAAARGH!!!!!!!!!"

"Why are you saying 'aaaaaaaaaargh'?"

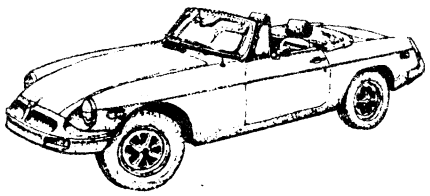
Of course, I could always use the "go tell your mommy" line, but I don't dare. Marla just looks at me with that glazed look in her eyes that she gets whenever I'm out in the garage and tell me that I should have this quality time with my little girl. There are exceptions, naturally.

There was the time she was "helping me" and dropped a torque wrench on my foot. Or the time she was holding the hammer for me. I was underneath the car trying to convince the transmission to cooperate with me and line up with the holes in the mounting rubbers. She kept bringing me tools and placing them behind me. Then she started rearranging them by size, so when I reached for the socket I needed, it wasn't there, so out from under the car I rolled while she told me that the socket didn't match all the others and she put it back in my toolbox.

Anyway, I gave her a mallet to hold and went on with my work. After five or so minutes, I heard a banging noise and the car started shaking over my head. I looked over and saw her lying next to me under the car pounding on the jackstand with the mallet! I haven't moved that fast in years.

On the other hand, there were advantages. Lisa made a fabulous runner to send for beer. Also, she would get a tool for me. If I needed a wrench, I would tell her to get a wrench with "one-two" on it and she would hand me a 12mm wrench. Of course, I wanted a 1/2-inch wrench, but that's my own fault for not teaching her fractions.

All in all, it was an educational experience for the both of us. I learned incredible amounts of patience. She learned to avoid Daddy at all costs when he works on his MG!



In the Headlights

We want to wish a big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following people:

Derek Hanson Sept. 1
Allison Hornby Sept. 1
Linda Lucente Sept. 1
David Zebarah Sept. 1
Jaimie Bondy Sept. 2
Diane Howe Sept. 2
Mark Binkley Sept. 5
Dan Harton Sept. 5
Jennifer Hanson Sept. 6
Felicia Tortola Sept. 9
Ray Filter Sept. 14
Jennifer Kollin Sept. 14
Mark Osowski Sept. 16
Bob Lendt Sept. 17
Scott Sylvestre Sept. 17
Tom Shipley Sept. 19
Tiffany Tortola Sept. 21
Ron Harmon Sept. 25
Christopher Howe Sept. 25
Delphine Moore Sept. 27
Paul Nevin Sept. 29
Drew Hastings Sept. 30

In this space last month, we mentioned Dave Clarke's auto accident. Unintentionally, we inferred that the mishap was Gayle's fault. This is an error and we regret it. Let it be known: "IT WAS ALL DAVE'S FAULT!!!!"

Congratulations go out to former member Karl Agee, who is geting married on September 29. Good luck Karl and Robin!

-Marla Zebarah

The British Are Coming! The British Are Coming!

In 1812, a fort was built along the Detroit River to protect the city from the British. Well, it's taking over 170 years, but the Brits will invade on Sunday, September 16 at Historical Fort Wayne.

This time, However, they are battling each other! Yes, it's time for the Battle of the Brits! Once again, the Good Guys (that's us!) have to endure those other guys telling us how well their tractors are running this year.

All kidding aside, this event is always a marvelous time, and many marques are represented. As with last year, competition will be by year in two categories: Judged, and People's Choice. Registration is $8 U.S., $9 Canadian, with registration closing September 10. this includes prizes, admission to the fort, and door prizes. So bring a picnic lunch and brace yourself for some fun.

Incidentally, the invasion took 170 years because the British had Lucas boats!

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PRESIDENT:
HAYDEN HEATH
10701 Mt. Vernon #201
Taylor, MI 48180
(313)291-5637

MEMBERSHIP:
DAVE CLARKE
3996 Longfellow
Windsor, Ontario N9B 2E4
(519)966-3449

CLUB REGALIA:
ROLI SYLVESTRE
(Can) 3493 Church St.
Windsor, Ontario N9E 1V6
(519)969-2739

CLUB REGALIA:
DAVE NAYLOR
(U.S.) 2551 Ripple Way
Milford, MI 48042
(313)685-7563

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
DAN ZEBARAH
1327 Austin
Lincoln Park, MI 48146
(313)382-6715

SPARES & PARTS:
FRANK LUCENTE
854 Hall Ave.
Windsor, Ontario N9A 2M3
(519)977-5346

BRIT CAR COUNCIL:
GARY HOWE
12243 Corvair
Sterling Heights, MI 48077
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Club Regalia

	U.S.	Can.
Men's T-Shirts, Club Logo S/M/L Gray with red logo Gray with black logo Tan with black logo White, blue ribbing, red logo	$ 6.50	$ 8.00
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Classified Ads

FOR SALE: Tonneau cover $110. Hayden Heath, 291-5637.

FOR SALE: Aftermarket hard top with hardware, good condition, $275 or best offer. Factory hard top, good condition, with hardware, $325. Dan Zebarah, 382-6715.

FOR SALE: 1973 MGB, repainted royal blue with blue interior. New clutch, brakes, rebuilt carbs. 47,000 actual miles. Beautiful! $3900 or best offer. Barrie Barber, (313) 793-4502.

FOR SALE: Used Midget parts: Rostyle wheels $60/pr. Cylinder head assy., $55, flywheel, $10, Air cleaner assy., $25, other misc. parts, will make package deal. Jay Kollin, (313) 464-4381, after 6.

FOR SALE: Showroom brochures: MGB-67-80; MGB-GT-66-73; Midget-63-79; Also MG Princess, Sport Sedan, Spitfire, GT-6 and other misc. brochures. Jay Kollin (313) 464-4381, after 6.

FOR SALE: 1974 Midget: "Cherry" condition (second only to Tom Shipley's). Red with black interior; new top, tonneau and solo covers; Blaupunkt AM/FM cassette; new Michelin tires and DieHard battery; additional parts. Low mileage. Must see to appreciate. Jim Carr, (313) 547-9050.

WILL TRADE: 1970 MGB engine for 1978 engine. Will also consider sale. Ray Filter (313) 676-8379.

WANTED: MGB engine for rebuild project, also wire wheels and splined hubs. Ozzie Pillon (519) 734-7355.

WANTED: Emission control components; Air pumps, Zenith carbs, Air manifolds, gulp valves, etc. Contact Dan Zebarah, (313) 382-6715.

Looking for something? Selling something? Don't forget, these classified ads are FREE to members! Call or write the newsletter editor.

The Kids are Alright

by Lou Tortola

When I was 15, my next-door neighbor purchased a 1972 MGB, burgundy in color, with the intention of completely restoring it from the wheels up. In the process, he collected a garage full of parts, including a complete corduroy interior from an MGB-GT. He never laid a finger on that car, and it just sat there for what seemed like an eternity. At 21, with a handshake and $1500, I bought my first MGB.

It took me about a year or so to restore the car, including new paint and switching the interior, but once it was done, I enjoyed the car immensely. At this point, we were expecting our first child and it seemed like a wise decision to sell the MG.

Later, in my travels, I came across a '65 MGB that had just been taken off the road. The car still ran and it had a new top. I bought it for $500. It sat in my driveway for the longest time, without being driven. One day, I was approached to sell the car and, like a fool, I let the car and all my spare parts go for $750. I've never regretted anything more than that decision.

Once you have owned an MG, it is difficult to explain the feeling you get when you see one; especially if you don't own one anymore. It wasn't long before I found and purchased my current '73 B. Unlike my '72, which was plagued with mechanical problems (contributing to the decision to sell it), I found a reasonably reliable and sound car.

A few days ago, while in my travels out in the county, my internal MG radar spotted an MG on someone's front lawn with a for sale sign on it. It must have been a mile away. This blue MGB with a white soft top appeared to be in fair condition. It looked to be about a '65-67 and seemed to have been on the road recently. The odometer read 55,000 miles.

The keys were in the ignition, but a weak battery didn't allow it to turn over. I opened the hood and was surprised at the condition of the engine. I left my card on the windshield and headed back.

I left the car, but the thought of owning a second MG (and an older one to boot) started appealing to me. I became more and more anxious to hear from the owner regarding the car. A few days later, he called the office and left a message; I quickly called him back. I told him I didn't know much about MGs and was wondering how much he wanted for that beat-up, old, rusted car on his lawn.

"What do you mean old and rusted?", he asked. "I've had that car for 10 years and it has sat in the garage most of the time!" He had bought the car ten years ago, meaning to restore it but had never gotten around to it. He added it was a '67 and had 55,000 original miles. Although he was physically too big to fit in it, his wife had driven it on occasion. He had decided to sell it the day I put my card on the windshield.

I had already made up my mind that I had to have this car and was willing to pay $1000 for it. Of course, I was willing to pay less.

(continued on page 7)

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The Tool Box

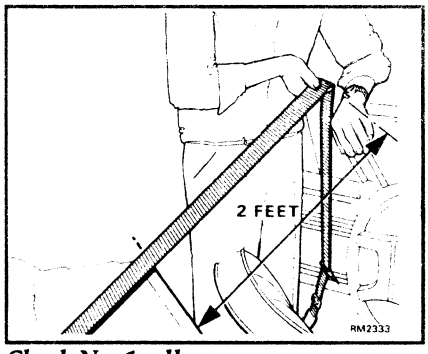
Attention 1977-1980 MGB and Midget Owners!

Are Your Seat Belts Safe?

In 1985, Austin Rover sent a recall notice to all owners of 1977 to 1980 MGBs and Midgets because of problems with the seat belt retractors. Sometimes the belts will not come out of the retractor, therefore forcing the driver to not wear the belt.

Here is the testing procedure. If your car fails this testing, you can write Jaguar Cars, Inc. (who is handling this claim) for the proper forms and receive new seat belts free of charge. THEY WILL BE REPLACED ONLY IF THE CAR HAS NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT WHERE THE BELTS HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO STRAIN.

CHECK 1: WEBBING EXTRACTION



Check No. 1, all cars

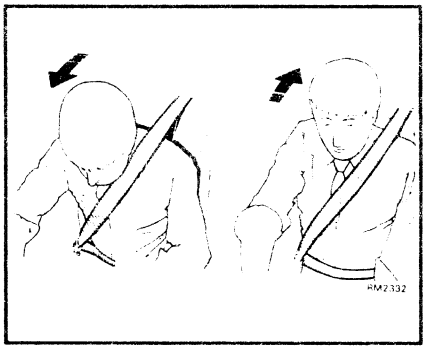
PURPOSE
This check tests whether the seat belt retractor locking mechanism is unduly sensitive to webbing extraction.

PRE-CHECKS
Park car on a level surface.
Apply handbrake.
Check webbing is not twisted or knotted.
Check webbing is stowed correctly.

CHECK PROCEDURE
1. Refer to illustration.
2. Grasp webbing as shown.
3. With a steady action can you pull two feet of webbing from retractor reel?
4. If yes, repeat and check whether it takes longer than 5 seconds to pull 2 feet of webbing from the reel.
5. Repeat CHECK PROCEDURE operations 1 to 4 for the other seat belt.

RESULT
Pass OK if both belts unreel 2 feet in under 5 seconds. NOW carryout CHECK 2.
A belt does NOT COMPLY if it takes longer than 5 seconds to unreel 2 feet. In this event carryout CHECK 3.

CHECK 2: WEBBING RETRACTION



Check No. 2, all cars

PURPOSE
This check tests the tension and re-reeling action of the seat belt retractor.

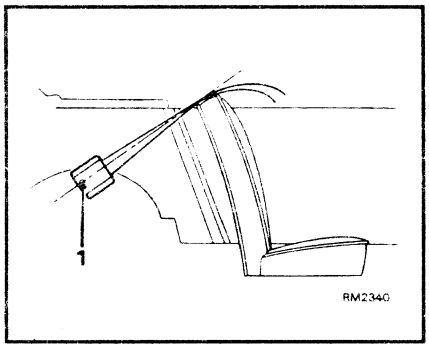
CHECK PROCEDURE
1. Sit in a front seat.
2. Fit the seat belt.
3. Lean the upper part of your body forward as far as practical.
4. As you return to the normal seated position, does the seat belt webbing retract leaving NO slack webbing across your chest?
5. Repeat CHECK PROCEDURE operations 1 to 4 for the other seat belt.

RESULT
Pass OK if webbing retracted without slack as you returned to upright position.
A belt does NOT COMPLY if webbing is slack across the chest. In this event, carryout CHECK 3.

CHECK 3: ALIGNMENT AND ADJUSTMENT

PURPOSE
The webbing retractor may have been accidentally disturbed. This check is to test for correct alignment of the webbing retractor. Adjustments may be required to ensure correct function of seat belts.

MIDGET FROM VIN 191159 THROUGH 210748

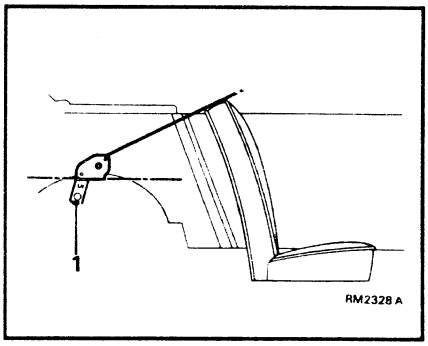


Check No. 3, Midget 191159 through 210748

CHECK
1. Set the seat in its normal used position.
2. Extract webbing so that it is resting on the top edge of the seat as shown.
3. Does the retractor align with the seat top?
4. If not, release the plastic cover on the retractor, slacken the retaining bolt (1) realign the retractor with the top of the seat and re-tighten bolt to between 30-32 lbf ft torque.

RESULT
If realignment WAS necessary, repeat checks 1 and 2 once again.
If realignment was NOT necessary, the previous result from checks 1 and 2 stand.

CHECK 3 - MIDGET VIN 210749 AND LATER

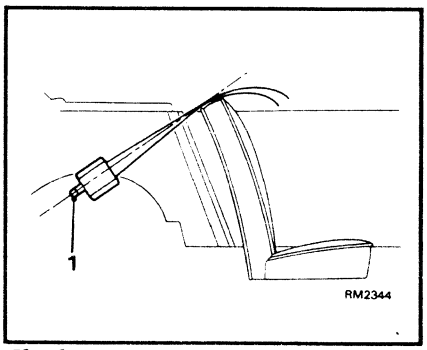


Check No. 3, Midget 210749 & later

CHECK
1. Is the lower mounting surface of the retractor horizontal?
2. If not, slacken the retaining bolt (1), realign the retractor horizontally and retighten the bolt to between 30-32 lbf ft torque.

RESULT
If realignment WAS necessary, repeat CHECKS 1 and 2 once again.
If realignment was NOT necessary, the previous result from CHECKS 1 and 2 stand.

MGB FROM VIN 429589 THROUGH 467524

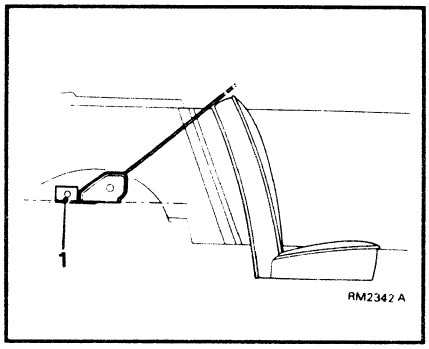


Check No. 3, MGB 429589 through 467524

CHECK
1. Set the seat in its normal used position.
2. Extract webbing so that it is resting on the top edge of the seat as shown.
3. Does the retractor align with the seat top?
4. If not, slacken the retaining bolt (1) realign the retractor assembly with the top of the seat, and retighten the bolt to between 30-32 lbf ft torque.

RESULT
If realignment WAS necessary, repeat CHECKS 1 and 2 once again.
If realignment was NOT necessary, the previous result from CHECKS 1 and 2 stand.

CHECK 3 - MGB VIN 467525 AND LATER



Check No. 3, MGB 467525 & later

CHECK
1. Is the lower mounting surface of the retractor horizontal?
2. If not, slacken the retaining bolt (1) realign the retractor horizontally and retighten the bolt to between 30-32 lbf ft torque.

RESULT
If realignment WAS necessary, repeat checks 1 and 2 once again.
If realignment was NOT necessary, the previous result from checks 1 and 2 stand.

The Kids are Alright

(from page 5)

He told me he wanted $1000 for it. I offered $500. After intense negotiation, we agreed upon $800. I bought the car the next day (for $700).

I really think I owe this to my joining the WDMGC. I really became aware of the foolish mistake of letting the '65 go. I don't think I would have been as anxious to inquire further on this car if I wasn't so MG aware as I have been in the last few months. The two Michigan rallies that Linda and I participated in, including the second rally which we won as the Canadian entry, has given us a mutual involvement and something that we have both enjoyed. I look forward to taking part in ongoing club activities (not to mention shopping at Pace). For those of you who belong to the club and just don't seem to find the time to come out to the rallies or other outings, I would encourage you to make an effort. You won't regret it. Getting together with a bunch of people who have a common love for this car is an incredible feeling. The times, the cars, and the people are great!

"The Kids are Alright" is a very good Who album and its title lends itself to the end of this story.

On July 14, we were in the rally. Those of you who were there may recall that we rushed home to attend another function that evening. We had no idea of what awaited us at home.

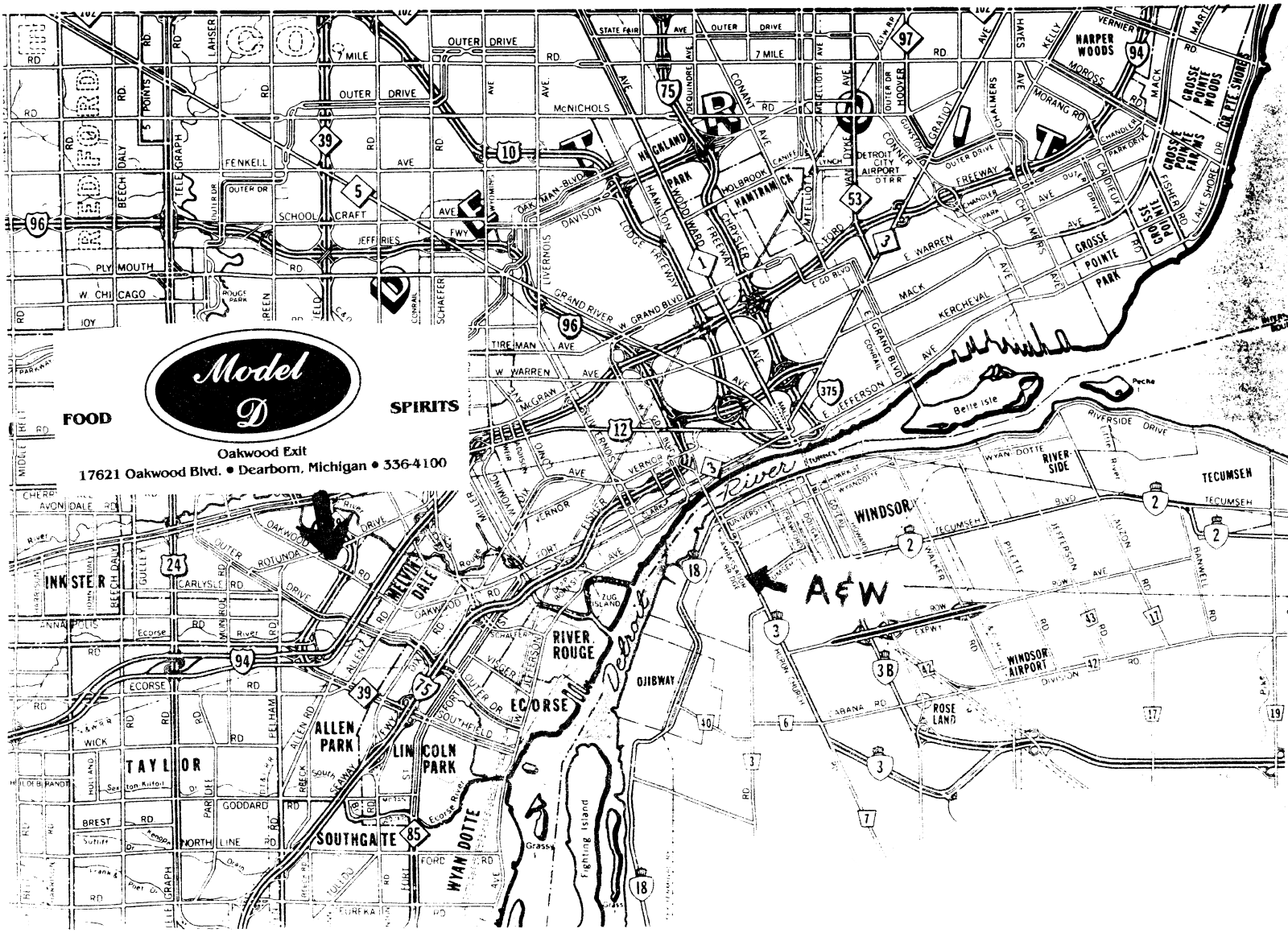
We left our three girls, ages 5, 3, and 1 1/2 with my mother-in-law and a 17 year-old guest. As the girls were playing in front of the house, they made their way into the unlocked trunk of our 1987 Jaguar. At the urging of the oldest girl, the other two climbed into the trunk and somehow closed it, locking them inside. With Linda and myself having the only sets of keys, it became a real emergency.

As the sitters went into shock and panic instantly, the neighborhood caught wind of the situation and soon a crowd of over 30 people gathered. Someone had called the fire department and three fire trucks were at our house. As near as I can figure, this was happening about the time we were looking for the house of Seven Fables.

The firemen first tried to free the girls by removing the back seat, but there was solid metal separating them. They then broke the locking mechanism in the trunk and freed the girls (lucky for me they didn't bring a blow torch).

They emerged among applause from the crowd, after about 25 minutes in the trunk. They were a little red and flustered, but otherwise they were all right. I can tell you the $500 damage to the car was a small price to pay for their safety.

When we learned what happened, Linda and I were very shaken up. Linda ended up missing her function. If you have kids, you must know you cannot turn your back on them for even a minute. However, I'm really glad to tell you that "The Kids are Alright".



The Can-Am Connection
1327 Austin
Lincoln Park, MI 48146
U.S.A.