# CAN-AM CONNECTION

10th Anniversary 1980 MG 1990 WINDSOR-DETROIT

vol. 10 no. 9 Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club Nov.-Dec. 1990


**This Month's Meeting:**

# Two, Four, Six, Eight . . . Now It's Time to Hibernate!

Well, it's winter once again. Soon the snow will be flying, the temperature will be flirting with the freezing mark, the roads will be clogged with people who have forgotten how to drive, and that bearded gent with the reindeer and sleigh will be making his rounds. This can only mean one thing: PARTY!!!!!!!!

That's right. The 1990 Windsor-Detroit MG Club Hibernation Party is scheduled for Saturday, December 1, at Bobby's Country House in Livonia, in the dining room.

For those who have never attended, this is one of our best attended events; last year, there were 60 members in attendance.

Dinner will be served family-style, featuring roast sirloin, baked chicken, salad, potato, vegetable, roll & butter, and coffee or tea. The cost is only $12.95 (U.S.), plus tax and gratuity ($15.50 according to my wife the accountant). There will also be a cash bar.

We are also asking everyone to bring in their photos from this year's events to share with everybody. This has been a great season!

Cocktails will start at 7, dinner at 8, and awards and elections at 9:30.

Awards? Elections? Hey, we have to hold them sometime! This is the time at which we award the coveted "Most Valuable Member", "Rookie of the Year", and "Hard Luck" awards. Who knows, maybe one of the highly prized and sought-after prizes could be yours!

And speaking of prizes (doncha love a good segue?): There will be a drawing for door prizes and a raffle after the elections (while the newly-elected president is drowning his sorrows for leaving the room at the wrong time). Door prize tickets will be given to each attendee. Tickets will be sold for the raffle for a great prize! I can't tell you what it is because I haven't gone out and bought it yet.

*(but wait, there's more! Turn to page 7)*

## Calendar of Events—1990-91

| | |
|---|---|
| | **NOVEMBER** |
| 22 (Thur) | Thanksgiving Day (U.S.) |
| | **DECEMBER** |
| 1 (Sat) | Hibernation Party. Full details on this page. |
| 1-2 (Sat-Sun) | North American MGB Register Inaugural Business Meeting, Grand Rapids MI. Contact Jerome Rosenberger (618) 627-2292, or John Twist (616) 245-2161 for details. |
| 8 (Sat) | British Parts Sale! Downtown Motors, 840 Wyandotte East, Windsor. See page 7 and call Frank Lucente for details. (519) 977-5346 |
| 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! |
| | **JANUARY** |
| 1 (Tue) | Happy New Year! |
| | **FEBRUARY** |
| T.B.A. | Second Annual Hawaiian Luau, Reg & Deb DiRezze's house. |
| 8-10 (Fri-Sun) | T-Series Technical Seminar, University Motors, Grand Rapids. |
| 15-17 (Fri-Sun) | MGA & Early MGB Technical Seminar, University Motors, Grand Rapids. |
| 22-24 (Fri-Sun) | Late MGB (1968-on) Technical Seminar, University Motors, Grand Rapids. |

## Season's Greetings!

The Officers of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season!

Hayden & Ann Heath
Dan & Marla Zebarah
Dave & Gayle Clarke
Guy & Ann St.John
Roli & Betty Sylvestre
Frank & Linda Lucente
Gary & Diane Howe

# Behind the Wheel

by Hayden Heath, President

It's hard to believe that we are already well into fall and hovering close to the holidays!! Where did our MG season go...?

Well, most of us know what we did as a club during the spring and summer, but what about the "very warm" month of October? As you recall, we scheduled an Apple Picking/Fall Colour Tour on October 14. Those in attendance had their hoods down and were ready to roll at 10:30 sharp at the Ontario Tourist Bureau. Although the route and ride were beautiful, it was a bit brisk after the sun went behind the clouds.

Our first stop was a Colasanti's Greenhouses for brunch (WHAT A BRUNCH!!). The other activities included a petting zoo for our youngsters, ponyrides, plant life, shopping and APPLES!! Unfortunately, we were a tad late in the season to actually pick the apples.

From there, we jumped back into our MGs and headed for the Pelee Island Winery in Kingsville. When we arrived at our final destination, our hostess gave us the guided tour of the Winery. Then, the MOST IMPORTANT PART was to go into the wine cellar for THE Tasting. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we arrived back home "Safety First and Fast!"

To close out the month of October, the Heaths held their annual Halloween Extravaganza, October 31. To those who attended from the club, I hope you had an interesting time (not your typical night on the town ... was it? ... HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!) Incidentally, I hope no one was misled about the kind of event it was. If so, I apologize for the misunderstanding.

On November 5, the Executive Board met at the Coach & Horses restaurant in Windsor. Our topics included: the year ending Hibernation Party, December 1 at Bobby's Country House in Livonia; the Second Annual Hawaiian Luau, hosted by the DiRezze's on either February 9 or February 16; reworked the WDMGC Bylaws (second draft to be returned to H. Heath week of 11/19).

Other decisions made involved having all of the regalia funds combined into the general membership fund (and collecting U.S. interest, too!). Our current membership status is 69 active members (41 U.S., 23 Canadian, and 5 lifetime memberships). Balance in the WDMGC is $387.53 (not including a $200.00 deposit for the Hibernation Party).

In addition, I would like to give on behalf the club a HUGE "Thank you" to Fred and Jeanette Nevin for organizing this years Apple Picking/Fall Colour Tour!! Thank you!!

See you on the 1st of December!!!

P.S. Bring pictures of our year's activities for everyone to see, too!

# The Litter Bag

by Dan Zebarah, Editor

Before I go any farther, I want to say that Marla didn't put me up to this.

Thanksgiving (U.S. style) is upon us, and as I finish my second year as newsletter editor, I would like to give some thanks:

**To Tom & Sandie Newton:** Thanks for the wonderful job on the artwork for the dash plaques. They look terrific!

**To Frank & Linda Lucente:** Thanks for all your help in organizing last year's hibernation party and this year's homecoming, not to mention all the help with virtually every other event.

**To Hayden Heath,** who I think wonders sometimes how he got involved with a lunatic like me in the first place: Thanks for all your energy and enthusiasm. Despite all the teasing from me, you've done a great job, and it's about time I put that in a newsletter!

**To Dave Hornby:** Thanks for warning me about doing the newsletter. Too bad I didn't listen and chose to do it anyway.

**To Calcott Horsley:** Thanks for inventing the Christmas card—It's the only way I hear from my relatives who won't talk to me. (Come on gang, do you honestly think I could write a totally serious column?)

**To Dave & Gayle Clarke:** Thanks for all your help with the Canadian side events. By the way, Dave, you still owe me an article.

**To Guy & Ann St. John:** Thanks for being at almost every single event and volunteering your time and energy!

**To the DiRezzes and the Filters:** Thanks for the use of your homes for club events. Sorry about the carpet.

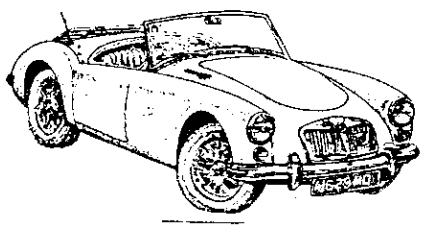
**To Bruce Harton:** Thanks for making the trophy for LAST year's homecoming (in case I hadn't mentioned it before).

**To Dan Schreiber** (a bowling buddy and fellow computer afficianado): Thanks for supplying me with a utility to rescue my crashed hard disk (the reason this newsletter is so late).

**To Jon Motschall at James Motschall Printing:** Thanks for printing up the newsletter each month for an obscenely low price. Thanks to you we have a treasury!

**To Marla, my better half:** Thanks for putting up with this nonsense, even when I completely rewrite her articles. There's no way I could have pulled this off without you!

**And finally, to everyone else:** Thanks for making the Windsor-Detroit MG Club the most fabulous bunch of people I would ever want to associate with. You're the greatest!



# In the Headlights

Happy Birthday Wishes to the following people:

| | |
|---|---|
| Edna Fleming | Nov 6 |
| Roberta Sand | Nov 6 |
| Jeannie Hastings | Nov 7 |
| Jennifer Cooper | Nov 8 |
| Patrick Trofin | Nov 9 |
| Keith Nelson | Nov 10 |
| Susan Schultz | Nov 11 |
| David Heywood | Nov 12 |
| Guy St. John | Nov 17 |
| Jeff Newton | Nov 19 |
| Laura Mann | Nov 21 |
| Lance Rutherford | Nov 22 |
| Judy Cooper | Dec 1 |
| Matt Oles | Dec 1 |
| Tony Ignagni | Dec 3 |
| Stacey Thorton | Dec 3 |
| Jane Boot-Osowski | Dec 6 |
| Barb Binkley | Dec 8 |
| Kim Rutherford | Dec 11 |
| Lorrie Campbell | Dec 12 |
| Doloras Hosler | Dec 13 |
| David J. Ruch | Dec 14 |
| Dave Fraidenburg | Dec 15 |
| Sandy Stoyshin | Dec 16 |
| John Van Dyk | Dec 16 |
| Aaron Pillon | Dec 21 |
| Erik Fleming | Dec 22 |
| David Hanson | Dec 22 |
| Cliff Morris | Dec 22 |
| Holly Orlowski | Dec 30 |
| Dan Zebarah | Dec 31 |

*-Marla Zebarah*

# Welcome New Members!!

We would like to welcome the following new members to our club. You are all more than welcome!

**Brian & Judy Gamble** live in Windsor. They are the proud owners of a 1978 Java green Austin Mini. Brian is in Veltri Stamping. They have two children, Pamela and Gary.

**Dan & Doloras Hosler** live in Drayton Plains. They are the proud owners of aa 1950 blue TD, a 1952 red TD, a 1931 Bugatti Type 49, and a 1955 Mercedes 300 SL Gullwing. They have three children, Lisa, Linda and Michael. Daniel is self employed.

**Art & Lynn Kainz** have a 1979 B, color candy apple red. They joined us at the apple picking. They have two children, Kristin and Michael and live in Windsor. Art is a Personnel Manger.

**David & Susan Ruch** also joined us at the apple picking. They have a beautiful 1955 cream brown TF Midget. Their children are Allison and David and they live in St. Clair Beach. David is a Chartered Accountant.

**Harriet West** lives in Whitmore Lake. Her travelling companion is Keith Nelson. She owns a 1977 blue Midget, and is a teacher. Harriet has a daughter named Dawn.

Some of you we have already met, we hope to see you again soon. We would love to meet the rest of you.

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**The Can-Am Connection is published nine times a year by the Windsor-Detroit MG Club. Deadlines are the 15th of the month. Contributions are welcome in either written or typed form, or on computer disk using an IBM compatible word processor.**

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Half Page:
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Full Page:
$25.00/month, $175.00/year

# 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. (5/90)

**FOR SALE:** 1979 Midget, white with black interior & top. Low mileage, stored winters, $4500. Walt Jenkins, (313) 476-1310 work, or (313) 349-8469 (12/90)

**FOR SALE:** 1967 MGB. Green, Runs good, good shape. Wire wheels, hard top, overdrive. Price:$1200. Includes extras: engine, trans, hood, trunk lid, windshield and more! Gene Skupinski (313) 562-2232. (12/90)

**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.

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Thomas Shipley

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Registration is $125 and includes banquet. For details, contact:

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University Motors, Ltd.
614 Eastern Avenue SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
U.S.A.
Phone (616) 245-2141
Fax (616) 245 MGMG

North American MGB Register
P. O. Box MGB, Akin, IL 62805

# PRESS RELEASE!

October 22, 1990

## The North American MGB Register is Formed

The date of this release is of special significance! It is ten years to the day since the M. G. Car Company's factory closed in Abingdon on Thames, England, and the last M. G. sports car rolled off the line. During the course of over 50 years of MG production, none was more popular or better loved than the MGB, Britain's best-selling sports car. Over half a million MGBs were produced from 1962 to 1980–in fact, over 45% of all MGs made were MGBs!

Ten years after the factory closure there are still large numbers of MGBs delighting their owners. DMV reports show over 133, 000 MGBs still active in North America. Consequently there has been a requirement, indeed, a demand for a strong, responsive and supportive organization to cater for today's needs of the MGB driver on the North American Continent. Therefore, today on the tenth anniversary of the closure of the MG factory, we are proud to announce the formation of:

**The North American MGB Register**–A new vibrant organization sanctioned and supported by the original MG CAR CLUB founded in 1930, with factory approval, a register which is destined to serve the modern MGB owner in all aspects of their ownership, and which will be the official MGB register for the United States and Canada. Members of the register will receive the International MG CAR CLUB award winning color magazine, *Safety Fast* every month, plus the NORTH AMERICAN MGB REGISTER'S very own publication, *The MGB Driver* which will be issued six times per year.

*The MGB Driver* will contain feature articles by acknowledged MGB authorities, such as John Twist, Peter Beadle, Rick Hockney, George Butler and many others. It will cover all aspects of MGB ownership including technical information, meeting reports, "how to" articles and historical coverage, plus much more! Drawing on the vast experience of the parent Club in England, it is envisaged that a healthy membership roster will be quickly established to join the 4, 000 members of the MGB Register in the U. K.

Briefly, the aims of the NORTH AMERICAN MGB REGISTER will be to:

1. Maintain and expand interest in Britain's most popular sports car–the MGB.
2. Provide a social charter for the mutual enjoyment of driving the MGB by holding local and national meetings and effecting an interchange of contact between members across the USA and overseas.
3. To provide through *The MGB Driver*: informative technical advice, historical and archival information on all aspects of owning an MGB. The first issue is scheduled for publication in January 1991.

These benefits and the foundation charter will be announced following the inaugural business meeting of the NORTH AMERICAN MGB REGISTER, to be held on December 1st & 2nd in Grand Rapids, Michigan. All interested parties are cordially invited to attend the meeting, which will be chaired by John. H. Twist, Jerome Rosenberger and Ken Smith.

For further details regarding the meeting or the NORTH AMERICAN MGB REGISTER, you are invited to contact:
North American MGB Register,
P. O. Box. MGB
Akin, IL 62805
Telephone (618) 627-2292 after 6. 00 p.m. Central Time or FAX (618) 438-2371

Safety Fast,

Jerome Rosenberger,
Acting Secretary, NAMGBR of MG Car Club

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# 1991
# REGISTRATION

TECHNICAL SEMINAR: T Series 8-10 Feb A&B 15-17 Feb MGB 68> 22-24 Feb
(Circle One)

GRADUATE COURSE: Speed Week 11-12 Feb Tune-up 18-19 Feb Drive-line 25-26 Feb

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____STATE_____ ZIP_____

DAY TELEPHONE _____

NIGHT TELEPHONE _____

MGs YOU OWN _____

_____

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_____

_____

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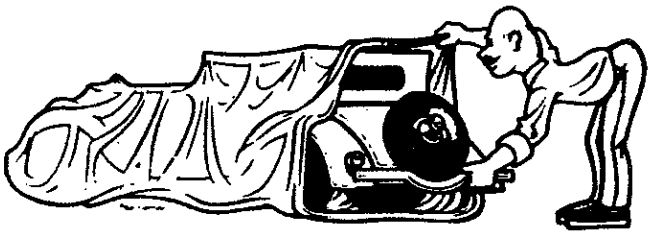

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# The Tool Box

## Should I Read it a Story, Too?

*(Thanks to Ed Fleming for supplying this article)*

I know it seems like it was just last week when you took the MG out for that first drive of spring. Now the leaves are turning and the temperature is getting close to freezing and it is time to put the sports car away for another long winters nap. Here is a list of things you should do to make that nap, and the condition of your car next spring, much better.

1. Change the oil and filter. If you can find some 20W20 Break In Oil use that. Break in oil sticks to the metal surfaces more tenaciously than regular oil so it protects bare metal longer.

2. Clean the car, top to bottom, inside and out as if you're heading to a car show. After washing the car, drive it briskly for several miles to shake and blow all the water off the car.

3. While you're out on your "blow dry" drive, fill the gas tank. Before gassing up you might also want to add a gasoline stabilizer such as Sta-Bil, sold at Meijer, K-Mart and Murray's.

4. Repair any nicks, stone chips or rust spots and apply touch up paint to keep moisture off the bare metal.

5. Apply a coat of wax to the body and a coat of petroleum jelly to the chrome. Armorall all the rubber pieces.

6. Inflate the tires to 55-60 PSI. If you store the car on its tires (as opposed to on jack stands) roll the car back and forth every month to keep from flat spotting the tires.

7. Lubricate all suspension and steering components to remove dirt and water from bare metal areas.

8. Check the anti-freeze. Even if you store the car in a heated garage, anti-freeze is needed for its anti corrosion qualities.

9. Remove the sparking plugs and squirt about 2 tablespoons of engine oil into each combustion chamber. Crank the engine with the starter motor for 5 to 8 seconds to spread the oil around. Do not operate the gas pedal while doing this. Reinstall the sparking plugs.

Another way to lubricate the upper cylinder is to use a Fogging Oil in a spray can. Murrays Auto Parts sells it.

10. Remove the battery and store it in a cool dry place (65 F is ideal. I don't know why, but everything I've read on storing batteries says not to store them on a cement floor. Recharge the battery every month or put it in a car you're going to drive during the winter.

11. Mercedes recommends removing one cable and the screw connections of the coil. Porsche recommends disconnecting the coil wire from the distributor cap.

12. Remove all Vee-belts and store them in a sealed plastic bag in a cool place. This will keep them from drying out in an oval shape.

13. Disengage the clutch so that the clutch lining doesn't stick to the clutch plate.

14. Make all engine openings air tight. This includes all vents, PCV hoses, exhaust pipe, carbs, etc. Use plastic wrap and duct tape. On cars with vented oil filler caps it is best to remove the cap and seal the opening.

15. Spray the engine compartment and engine with a wax preservative or light oil.

16. Jack up the car and support it with jackstands under the suspension.

17. DO NOT apply the handbrake.

18. Open any heating or ventilation flaps to promote air circulation.

19. Store the car with the windows and top up.

20. Store the car under a roof, preferably in a room with minimal temperature changes and away from dripping water. (I guess that means you should park it in the bedroom rather than the kitchen or bath.)

21. The ultimate storage tool is a large plastic bag produced right here in Bath, MI (near Lansing) by Pine Ridge Enterprises (517)641-6444 ($89.95) (see ad in this newsletter). The bag keeps moisture, dirt, ultra-violet rays and rodents out and with the desiccant packs provided, eliminates moisture inside the bag as well. The car comes out in the spring exactly like you put it in, back in the fall.

Next spring you'll want to put back all those things you did above, so leave a list or copy of this article in the car as a checklist for returning the car to running condition.

## SALE! SALE! SALE!

In case you missed the last one, this is your second chance to get some great deals on parts.

Downtown Motors in Windsor has found some more parts lying around and want to get rid of them!

They will open their doors for us at 12 noon until 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 8.

Most of these parts are new old stock, in original boxes. Bring part numbers for what you need, as these are not sorted by car.

How to get there: Take the tunnel to Windsor. Turn left to Goyeau (the first light) and go to Wyandotte. Turn left and go 5 blocks to 840 Wyandotte East.

For more info, call Frank Lucente, (519) 977-5346.

# Electronic Instrument Repair

*(The following was shamelessly ripped off from DTSC who snagged it from SNIC BRAAP in Chicago, who stole it from someone else. It was originally in the Queensland Rover, newsletter of the Rover Association of Queensland, Australia.)*

**Step 1)** Approach the ailing instrument in a confident manner. This will give the instrument the mistaken idea that you know something. It will also impress anyone who happens to be looking, and if the instrument should suddenly start working, you will be credited with its repair. If this step fails to work, proceed to step 2.

**Step 2)** Wave the service manual at the instrument. This will make it assume that you are at least familiar with the source of knowledge. Should this fail to work, proceed to step 3.

**Step 3)** In a forcible manner, recite Ohm's Law to the instrument (Caution: before taking this step, refer to some reliable handbook to be sure of your knowledge of Ohm's Law). This will prove to the instrument, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that you know something. This is a drastic step and should be attempted only if the first two fail. If this step fails to work, proceed to step 4.

**Step 4)** Jar the instrument slightly. This may require anything from a three to six foot drop, preferably onto a concrete floor. However, you must be careful with this step because, while jarring is an approved method of repair, you must not mar the floor. Again, this is a very drastic step. If this fails, proceed to step 5.

**Step 5)** Brandish a large screwdriver in a menacing manner. This will frighten the instrument and demonstrate your knowledge of the deadly "short circuit" technique. Proceed to step 6.

**Step 6)** Add a tube...even if the instrument is solid state. This will prove that you are familiar with the instrument's design. This will confuse the instrument and thereby increase your advantage. If this doesn't work, proceed to the most drastic and dangerous step. It is seldom needed and is a final resort if all else fails.

**Step 7)** Think!!, and get training.

# Logic Puzzle

**by Marla Zebarah**

Six women were talking at a recent BSCC event. They decided that even though each one's husband had a different model of car, they could overcome that obstacle and try to form a club of their own. Therefore, the British Sports Car Widows Club was formed. Their first two acts will be to try to get a seat on the BSCC, and talk to their husbands (each of whom is an officer of his club) so that not every single weekend is filled with car events!

The six women are: Ann, Betty, Diane, Elaine, Faye and Greta. Their husbands are: John, Kevin, Larry, Mark, Nathan and Tom. The cars are: Jaguar, MGA, MGB, MGB-GT, Mini and Triumph. From this information and the following clues, can you match each woman, her husband, and the type of car he owns?

1) No husband, wife and car have any of the same initials.

2) Elaine and her husband, John and his wife and Nathan and his wife are all going to Twist's Summer Party.

3) Each couple has shirts which feature their car. Kevin & his wife, Ann & her husband, and Faye & her husband all have shirts which read "I'd rather push a MG than drive a Triumph!". Larry & his wife's read "Minis are Mighty!". Betty's has a feline on it.

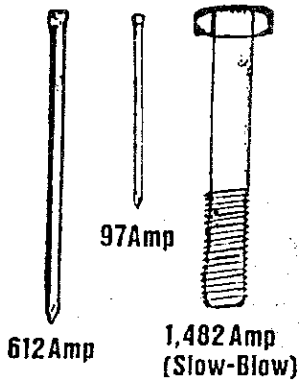
4) Ann would like to move up to an MGB-GT so she could take their 3-year-old son on more outings, like Nathan does with his daughter.

5) Diane thinks Minis are too small and is glad she and her husband do not own one.

***The answer will be published in the next issue of the Can-Am Connection.***

# Guide to Fuse Replacement

**(see adjoining article)**



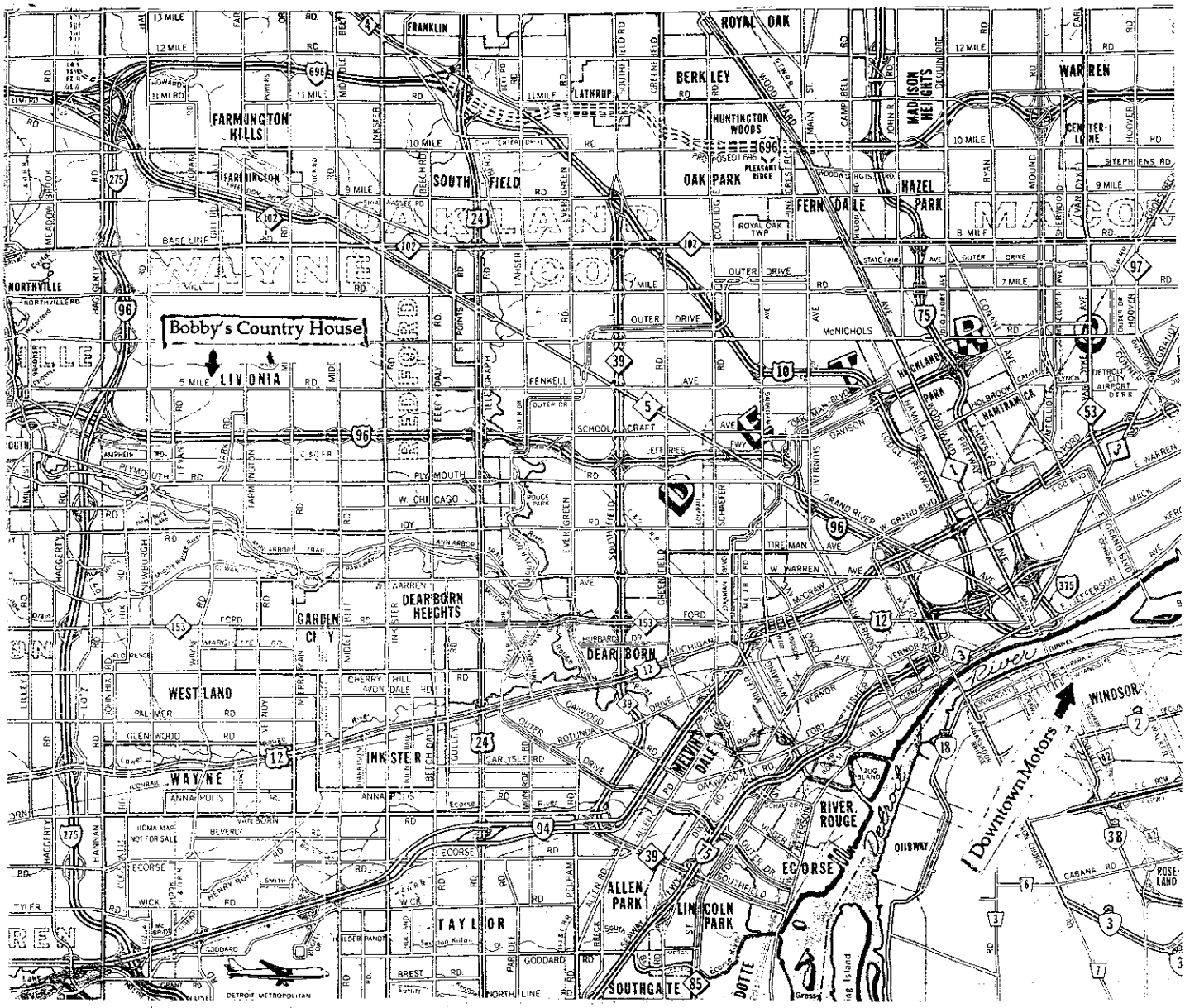

# Hibernation Party

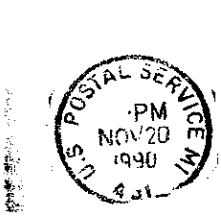
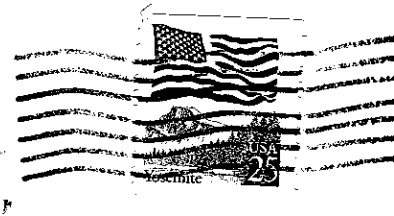
*(from page 1)*

"Wow!," you're probably saying, "How do I place my reservation?" Well, if you're waiting for Ed McMahon to show up on your doorstep with an invitation, forget it. Our officers will be calling you to make sure that you don't forget. And the best part is: WE'RE NOT GOING TO TRY AND SELL YOU ANY MAGAZINES!

A party like this happens just once a year. So don't just sit there in front of your TV on a Saturday night. Program your VCR to tape "Twin Peaks" and join us for some REAL strangeness!

How to get there: Take I-96 (Jeffries) west to the Farmington Road exit (number 174), turn north to Five Mile Road, head west to Idyl Wild Golf Course. Bobby's is the clubhouse for the course.

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