THE CAN-AM CONNECTION

vol. 11 no. 4 | Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club | June 1991

This Month's meeting:

Rally? The Devil You Say!!

The meeting for June is a rally with a unique twist. In the past, the organizers have been accused of sending the drivers to Hell and back. Others have called some of these events "Rallies From Hell". The second half of this rally WILL BE a rally from Hell!

The organizers, Jay & Mary Kay Kollin (with a little help from Dan and Marla) laid out a very scenic route which will take us literally "to Hell and back".

For those who don't know, Hell is a little town southwest of Brighton, Michigan. It's quite a drive, but if the weather is nice, the scenery will be worth the trip.

To entice our Canadian members, we will start in the parking lot of the Pace store on Haggerty Road at Grand River. Please note: WE WILL BE LEAVING AT NOON, SO SHOP EARLY!!!

To entice our U.S. members, we may start a pool to see which Canadian member can fit the most in the trunk of their roadster.

The entertainment starts at noon on Saturday, June 22, rain or shine. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the rally, which will be a restaurant somewhere in the Eastern Time Zone.

This poses to be most fun you can have in an MG (unless, of course, you're a contortionist). We will see you there!

How'd that happen?

BSCC Spring Rallye Encounters Spring Weather

For those who missed the BSCC Spring Rally, held May 19, you missed an absolutely beautiful day for a drive! The weather was sunny, the temperature was in the 70s, and the route was very scenic.

The rally started at Herschel's Deli in Troy and wound through Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham, and Orchard Lake, until we ended up at Pearl's Chinese Restaurant in Rochester Hills.

The club was well represented, with **Lou & Linda Tortola** accompanied by daughters **Tiffany** and **Tina** (in Lou's Jaguar Sovereign), **Pete Tortola & Lori Morden, Tom & Marcia Greiner, Larry & Debbie Dudek**, and **Dan & Marla Zebarah** driving the rally route. **Matt Oles, Ed Fleming, Jay & Mary**

(continued on page 3)

This Month's Events:

Note: Events in **boldface** type are WDMGC events!

JUNE

9 (Sun)	Carnival of Cars, General Motors Sports Complex, Warren.
16 (Sun)	Father's Day—Buy your dad some regalia!
22 (Sat)	**Father's Day Rally, Starting Point: Pace Membership Warehouse, Farmington Hills. Details on this page.**
30 (Sun)	**Joint event with Emerald Necklace MG Club, Greenhouse Country Club, Marblehead, Ohio. Details on this page!**

WDMGC Meets ENMGR In Search of More Vowels: "U" Are Invited!

The joint event with the Emerald Necklace MG Register has been scheduled for Sunday, June 30. We will meet at the Greenhouse Country Club in Marblehead, Ohio, for brunch, followed by an impromptu softball game, volleyball game, or whatever at nearby East Harbor State Park. Marblehead, near Port Clinton, is approximately halfway between our two clubs.

The brunch costs $8.95 per person and is all you can eat. It runs from 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., and we should try to get there by 11:00.

The drive is about 2 1/2 hours from Detroit. We will caravan from the Detroiter Truck Stop on West Road off I-75 in Woodhaven. We will be leaving around 8:30, so please try to be there by 8.

This is a good opportunity for us to meet other MG owners and show off our club spirit, not to mention our cars! If you have any questions, contact Dan Zebarah at (313) 382-6715.

The Brunch Menu:

Cinnamon Raisin Biscuits
Scrambled Eggs
Denver Style Eggs
Corned Beef Hash
Cherry Filled Pancakes
Sausage Links
Bacon
Waffles & Toppings
Roasted Tom Turkey
Baked Ham
Greenhouse Baked Chicken
Mashed Potatoes
Stuffing & Gravy
Beef Stroganoff & Noodles
Shrimp Stir Fry
Pork Fried Rice
Sauteed Chicken Livers
Dessert Table & More!

Behind the Wheel

by Hayden Heath, President

The breeze was cool and the day was dry, while sun and clouds drifted by . . . and ten MGs (2 GTs & 8 roadsters) began their drive to Port Algonac and Henry's Restaurant, overlooking the St. Clair River!!

Our afternoon began in the driveway at 4155 Audubon in Detroit. As members arrived, the big question of the day centered on whether or not hood should remain up or be folded down. All roadsters "felt the breeze". From my mother's home, we proceeded down Three Mile Drive to Jefferson Avenue, and headed east to Lake Shore Drive. The caravan then headed to 9 Mile Road, where we caught I-94.

During our journey, we passed the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, listened to the church bells ringing at St. Paul's Cathedral (celebrating a wedding), watched giant waves crash against the shore and peered up the driveway to the Edsel Ford estate.

As we were driving towards I-94, we toyed with the idea of rolling our windows up and turning on our heaters . . .but we didn't!

Exiting I-94, we headed east on Route 29, traveling through New Baltimore, Anchorville, Fairhaven, Pearl Beach, and Algonac. Upon our arrival at Henry's, most of us conceded with Mother Nature and put our hoods up prior to entering the restaurant.

In addition to drinks, dinner, and a brief meeting, we sold raffle tickets for the MG clock, discussed details of the event with the Emerald Necklace Club, and distributed our latest batch of club name tags.

Thanks to all of those members in attendance and to Mrs. C. P. Heath for her hospitality and the use of her home.

See you in June!!!

The Litter Bag

by Dan Zebarah, Editor

(Editor's note: Since it's Father's Day this month, I'm taking June off and reprinting an article I wrote for the Rainbow Review, newsletter of the Greater Detroit Cooperative Nursery Council.)

"Daddy! Daddy! I have to show you something!" Lisa, our three-year-old came barreling down the hall like a runaway truck. "Looky, looky at this!" I braced myself for the unknown—after all, it was 6 o'clock on a Saturday morning. I am normally an early riser, but I had worked late the night before and decided to try to sleep in. I thought about faking sleep in an attempt to buy some time, but as I heard her voice echoing off the walls in the hall, I decided to get up before she woke up the rest of the neighborhood.

I was greeted with the most frighteningly cheerful face I'd seen in a long time. "Here Daddy, I made this for you." She handed me what appeared to be a shirt and tie made from construction paper. "Can you come? Can you come?"

I sat down with a cup of coffee and studied her latest *objet d'art*. Turning it over, I discovered it was an invitation to "V.I.P. Day". I was invited to spend a day in Lisa's co-op nursery. According to the invitation, I would be able to paint *(without moving furniture?)*, use the work bench *(I can't even FIND mine)*, play with toys *(while the kids are awake?)*, meet Lisa's friends, play a game *(I wonder if any of these kids know how to play euchre?)*, and enjoy a snack *(SNACK? I'm going to get food out of this?)*.

As I contemplated a free meal (or at least a cookie) and all this other fun stuff which I figured would make up for all the "quality time" that I missed while working overtime so we could make the house payment, Lisa tugged at my sleeve.

"Well, Daddy? Can you come? Can you come?" I think police interrogations would result in more confessions if the cops used three-year-olds for questioning. But I digress. . .

"Of course I'll come! I wouldn't miss it for anything," I told her.

She gave me one of those hugs that only a child can give, looked me in the eye, and said, "Can I watch TV now?"

(Continued on page 6)

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 compatable word processor.

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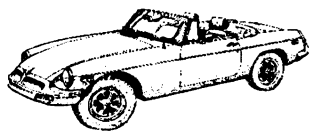
In the Headlights

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

Christine Osowski	June 1
Hayden Heath	June 2
Greg Newton	June 3
Sofie Stoyshin	June 4
Pamela Gamble	June 5
Vicki Thomas	June 5
Tom Bondy	June 7
David Clarke	June 7
Tabitha Lucente	June 8
Marie Bondy	June 9
Gary Howe	June 11
Rachel Harmon	June 13
Ed Marshall	June 15
Will Zehring	June 17
Fred Nevin	June 18
Doug Balsis	June 19
Betty Sylvestre	June 19
Gayle Pillon	June 20
Mark Thomas	June 20
Harry Mueller	June 21
Elaine Howard	June 24
Pam Shipley	June 26

I would like to apologize to Carolyn and Steve Delmore - I missed their birthdays in April. So Happy Birthday to Carolyn on April 28 and Steve on April 23! Sorry about that!

—Marla Zebarah



Calendar of Events—1991

Note: Events in **boldface** type are WDMGC events!

JUNE

9 (Sun)	Carnival of Cars, GM Sports Complex, Warren.
16 (Sun)	Father's Day—Buy your dad some regalia!
22 (Sat)	**Father's Day Rally, Details on Page 1**
30 (Sun)	**Joint event with Emerald Necklace MG Club, Marblehead, Ohio. Details on Page 1.**

JULY

10 (Wed)	**General Meeting, Canadian Side**
14 (Sun)	**Autocross with Detroit Triumph Club, Details later.**
18-21(Thur-Sun)	AMGBA National Convention, Drake Hotel, Oakbrook, IL. For details, contact the Chicagoland MGB Club, P.O. Box 445, Addison, IL 60101.
19-21 (Fri-Sun)	GT-16, NAMGAR, Huntsville, AL. For details, contact Joyce Hart, (805) 566-1467.
27 (Sat)	**3rd Annual Homecoming Picnic at Three Mile Park, Grosse Pointe Park, MI**

AUGUST

16-17 (Fri-Sun)	American MGC Register National Convention, Park City, Utah. For details, contact Tom Boscarino, (516) 751-8107.
18 (Sun)	English Day on the Green, Domino's Farms, Ann Arbor.
23-24 (Sat-Sun)	University Motors 15th Annual Summer Party, Grand Rapids.

SEPTEMBER

7 (Sat)	**A & W Rally, Canadian side.**
~~15~~ (Sun)	Battle of the Brits, Freedom Hill, Sterling Heights MI
29 (Sun)	English Day at the Races, Waterford, MI

OCTOBER

6 (Sun)	**Apple Picking/Fall Colour tour, site TBA**
14 (Mon)	Thanksgiving Day (Canada)

NOVEMBER

28 (Thur)	Thanksgiving Day (U. S.)

DECEMBER

7 (Sat)	**Hibernation Party, Bobby's Country House, Livonia.**
25 (Wed)	Christmas! Did you remember batteries?
26 (Thur)	Boxing Day
31 (Tue)	New Year's Eve—Don't drink and drive!!

Spring Rally

(continued from page 1)

Kay Kollin, and **Eric & Eileen Ozar** attended but did not drive. As always, **Gary & Diane Howe** were there to assist with the running of the rally. Thanks, Gary, for another fine job!

The club had first place winners in two classes: The Greiners won the MGB-Midget Class; and the Tortolas won the Jaguar Class *(editor's note: Lou HAD to win—he had THREE females telling him where to go!)*. Congratulations to the winners!

NOTICE:

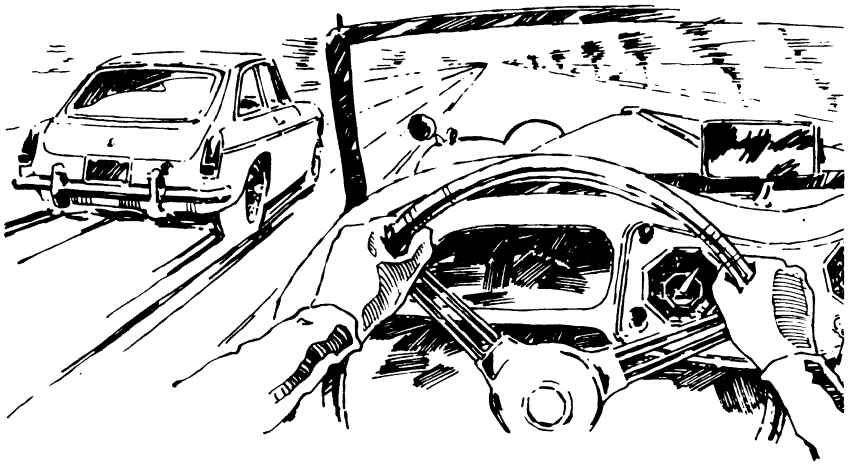
Starting with this issue, classified ads for members will only run for THREE issues unless I am informed otherwise. This is necessary because I am not being informed as to when these ads are to be stopped.

If you have an existing ad, it will be run three more times. If you have a classified, please contact me at a meeting or call me with your instructions.

In addition, classified ads for non-members will be run at a cost of $5 for three insertions. Existing classifieds will be run under the conditions specified at the time the ad was first placed.

Dan Zebarah, Editor

EXHILARATION SAYS IT ALL



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Classified Ads

FOR SALE: (3) Pirelli P3 175-SR14 tires. Low miles, incorrect size for MGB, but will fit wheels. Excellent condition! $15 each. Aftermarket hard top with hardware, good condition, $275 or best offer. Factory hard top, good condition, with hardware, $325. Dan Zebarah, 382-6715. (ufn)

FOR SALE: Showroom brochures: MGB 1967-80; 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. (ufn)

FOR SALE: 1980 MGB Limited Edition, Black. Stored winters, sharp car! 47,600 miles. Terry Schultz, (313) 650-9507. (1/3)

FOR SALE: 1979 Midget, white with black interior & top. Low mileage, stored winters, $4500. Walt Jenkins, (313) 476-1310 work, or (313) 349-8469. (1/3)

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)

FOR SALE: 1968 MGB, stripped to shell, new body panels, wire wheels, car is basket case, parts car included. Philip, (313) 932-0072 (1/3)

FOR SALE: Fiberglass hardtop for MGB. Excellent condition; newly refinished—no scratches or cracks. $99. Dave Campbell, (313) 681-3852. (1/3)

FOR SALE: MGC Parts. Engine, suspension, interior, etc. Too numerous to list. Tim Covert, (313) 355-0749. (3/91)

FOR SALE: 1974 Austin Marina, new paint, BRG, 4-door deluxe model, very solid, needs very little work, stored 11 years.
1969 MGB-GT, pearl white with black, good running shape, wire wheels, overdrive, needs brake, tires, and tuning.
1966 Austin Healy Sprite, mint, racing screens, red on black, stored 15 years.
1979 Austin Mini Special, hot pink, great shape, stored 2 years, runs well, 3-year-old restoration. Call Bob Nevin, (519) 969-6260. (1/3)

WILL TRADE: 1970 MGB engine for 1978 MGB engine. Will also consider sale. Ray Filter, (313) 676-8379. (1/3)

WANTED: MGB engine for rebuild project, also wire wheels and splined hubs. Ozzie Pillon, (519) 734-7355. (1/3)

WANTED: (2) HS4 Carbs for 1974 MGB. Call Will Zehring, (313) 577-4199 days, (313) 885-4180 evenings. (1/3)

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

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

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• Monthly Magazine - *Enjoying MG*
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The Octagon Car Club
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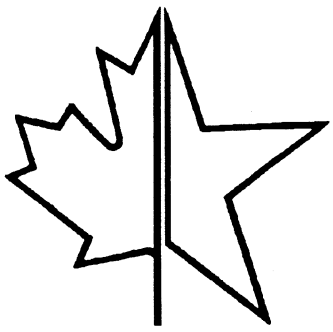

Litter Bag

Continued from page 2)

For the next three weeks, "Is it Father's Day yet?" replaced, "Is it my birthday yet?" as number one on her hit parade. I started to look upon this special day with the same anxiety that I look at Christmas, only without assembly required.

The day before "V.I.P. Day", I awoke with the worst case of the chills I could remember. I was sore from head to toe. Even my eyelashes hurt. I had come down with the flu! How was I to break this to Lisa, who had told me time after time how she was going to introduce me to all her friends, show me how she painted, and (get this!) SHARE HER SNACK WITH ME!

I decided the direct approach was best. I sat down with her and told her I wasn't feeling well.

Before I could get the second sentence out of my mouth, she said, "That's all right, Daddy. If you don't feel well, Papa Z (my father) will go with me." I didn't know whether to feel relieved or upset: I'd just been replaced as a V.I.P. in a matter of seconds! Boy, fame is fleeting. Worse than that, I'd been volunteered to write an article about this experience for the Greater Detroit Co-operative Nursery Council newsletter. (Believe it or not, I actually have time to write articles for other organizations, too!)

Marla frantically called another co-op dad and asked him to write an article about HIS experience. However, I was not able to weasel my way out of this assignment. I still had to write an article on MY experience! You're reading it now—hope you like it.

While Lisa and my Dad were having all that fun that I was supposed to be having, I was wrapped up in a blanket on the couch watching old movies and drinking enough water to float a battleship.

Oh well, maybe next year.

We would like to thank everyone in the club for their support in the time of our loss.
We sincerely apprieciate everything offered, said, and done.

Dan & Marla Zebarah

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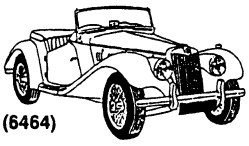

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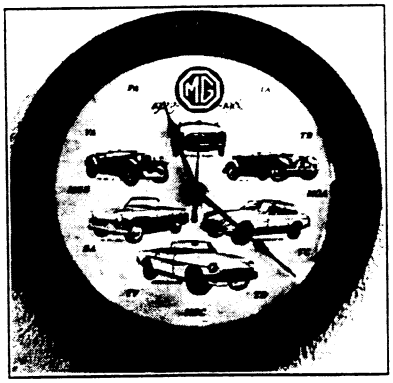


WIN ME!

You (yes,you!) can win this attractive MG wall clock being raffled off by the WDMGC!!!!

This 14-inch diameter commemorative clock has an oak frame and will look great on the wall of your living room or den. (The photo doesn't do it justice, so you can see it in person at club functions.)

At this point, you're probably asking yourself, "How can I win this wonderful prize?" I'm glad you asked!

Tickets are available at all meetings and club events for the low, low price of $1 each or 6 for $5. See Dan or Marla.

The raffle will be held at the Homecoming Picnic on July 27. You need not be present to win.

All proceeds will go to the club.

MG
WINDSOR-DETROIT

Special Report

ROVER EXEC COULD BE CREATOR OF THE NEXT MG

by Richard Truett
Orlando *Sentinel*

Reprinted from The Detroit *Free Press*, May 20, 1991

Roy Axe, director of design for the Rover Group, Great Britain's biggest automaker, might end his career the same way he started it: with a shot heard around the world.

In the 1950s, Axe and two other designers created the Sunbeam Alpine sports car, which is now a sought-after and fast-appreciating classic. In the late '60s, Sunbeam's parent company, the Rootes Group, was acquired by Chrysler. Axe stayed with Chrysler, moved to America and rose to the top of design at the nation's third-largest automaker before joining Rover in 1982.

Since then he's gone on to design Rover's Sterling luxury sedan, the 1986 MG EXE concept car and the Rover CCV, the vehicle that will influence heavily the upcoming Sterling coupe. He also has designed several smaller Rovers not sold in the United States.

One of Axe's current projects is the new MG sports car. During a trip to Orlando recently, where Axe attended a British car show, he indicated that he may be retiring in the next three or four years.

If in that time Rover decides to resurrect the MG, Axe will be the man who designs it. Officially, Rover says that no final decisions have been made and that the company is only considering bringing back the MG, the most successful sports car ever made. More than a million different models were sold from the 1950s until production ended in 1980.

Axe, 54, says a new MG is not likely to be given final approval for production until Rover decides it is financially feasible. Yet, there have been fuzzy spy photos, rumors, a litany of denials and some interesting developments at Rover's U.S. headquarters.

This year Rover gave Axe's MG EXE center stage on the company's display on North American auto show circuit, the first time an MG has been shown since 1980. Rover's U.S. boss, Graham Morris, said the move was designed to draw attention and create excitement around the company's display of Sterling sedans. Indeed it did.

"People were thrilled and amazed at the lines of the EXE. Despite its age, it attracted attention and, of course, questions of `will you build one like it?' Unfortunately, we had to answer in the negative. But there's no question Americans like a sexy car," said Rover's Mike Geylin.

With the Sunbeam Alpine, Axe had a hand in creating a timeless classic. With the EXE, he designed a sleek, aerodynamic futuristic looking sports car. One wonders what a new MG might look like, and if it might contain elements of both. But Axe is not forthcoming with details.

"I think those are closely guarded secrets. Anything that contributes to product identity in any way gives things away. I keep very quiet about those things as a rule," Axe said.

Even though Axe won't say much about what the new MG will look like, he is perhaps the perfect choice to design it. He drove the very first MG, the last MG, and he is familiar with everything in between. He says his favorite model is the classic MGA of the late 1950s and early '60s.

Pointing to an 1954 MG TF, an MGA and one of the very last MGBs, he says "Apart from the badge, there really isn't anything consistent across those three cars. There probably isn't a design theme among three. I think MGs have always had a certain individuality from one model to another."

WILL THERE BE AN MG?

Reprinted from *Autoweek*, May 20, 1991

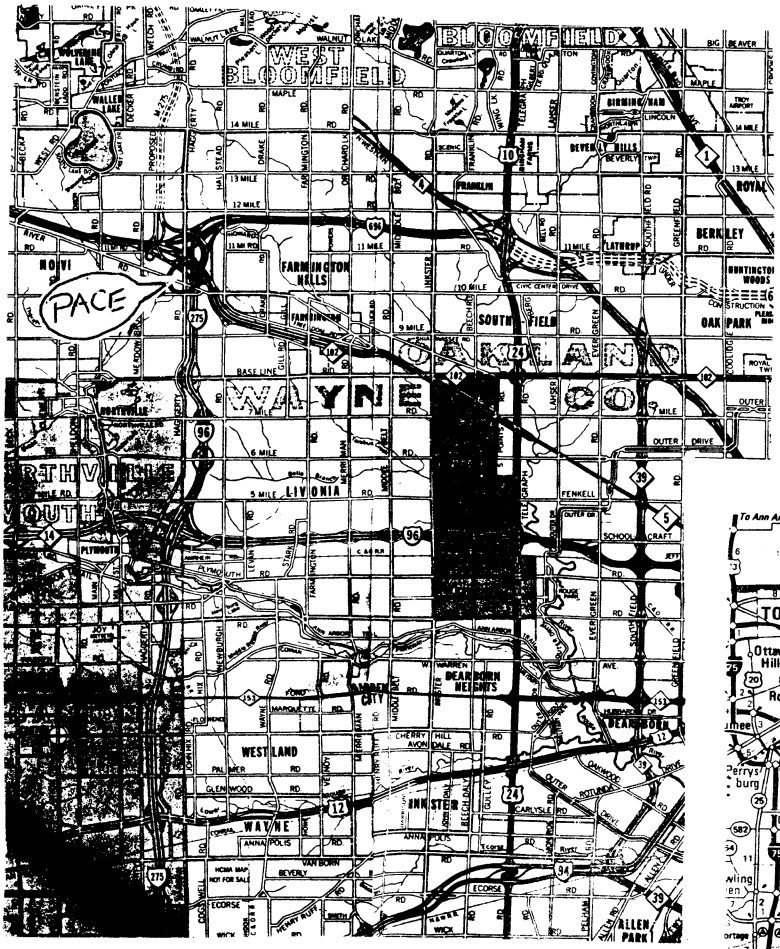
Word out of England is that there's been a Miata-sized MG prototype in the Rover design houses for the past six years, but it was scrapped by the pre-British Aerospace management. Director of Design, Roy Axe, is said to be working on several new proposals, waiting for Rover management to make a decision. Sterling, Rover's sales arm in the States, is said to be pushing very hard for the car; in fact, one wild rumor has it that the only reason Sterling is staying in the States is the prospect of selling an MG. But Sterling President Graham Morris fears that with any new MG being at least three years away, the Miata may satisfy all of the demand.

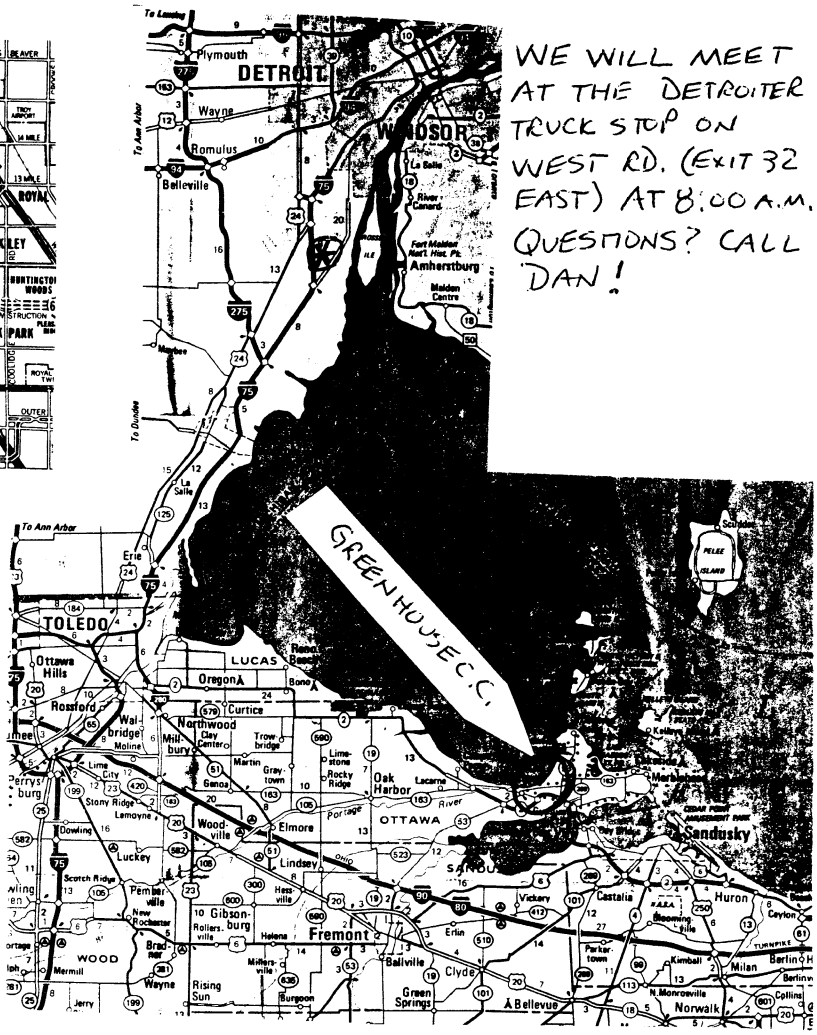
There's not telling when - or if - the new MG will be made. Geylin said Rover officials are keeping a tight rein on spending. Great Britain is also in a recession and auto sales there are in a slump.

In the 1960s and '70s when Rover was known as British Leyland, it had a large stable of sports cars in its lineup. From the tiny MG Midget/Austin-Healy Sprite to the mighty Jaguar XKE, it had a sports car for nearly every taste and price range. All of those cars are now considered classics. Even though Rover hasn't built a sports car since the Triumph TR8 went out of production in October 1981, it is that type of car for which the company is still best known - at least in the United States.

Axe, who has a home in Sarasota (Florida), spends much of his time in the United States. He has been working on the next generation Sterling, now set for a debut early next year. Axe said he also will have a hand in designing the new version of the Range Rover luxury sport utility vehicle.

Axe clearly loves sports cars. He owns a Ferrari and an Austin-Healy 3000 and drives both regularly. You get the feeling he would like to go out in a blaze by styling a modern MG sports car for the '90s.





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