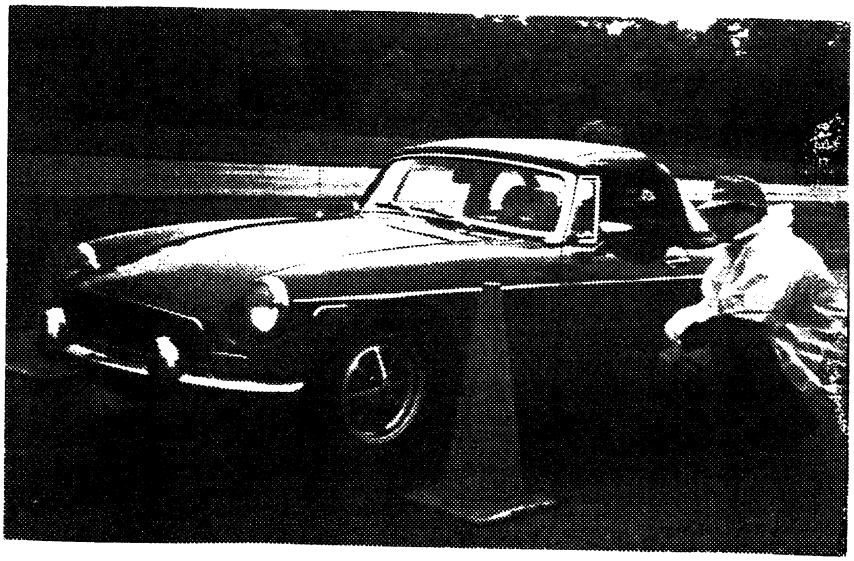
THE CAN-AM CONNECTION

vol. 13 no. 4 Newsletter of the Windsor-Detroit MG Club June 1993

Brighton Run Not Dimmed by Weather



Above, **Ed Fleming** instructs **Mike Derderian** to drive EXACTLY 50 feet and stop. Mike did 80 feet later. Below **Tom** shows off the two trophies the **Greiners** won, (First place in the rally and second in the driving competetion.

Wouldn't you know it, after 22 days of sunny weather, it rained on our rally. Very British weather for our very British Brighton Run.

Despite the gloomy weather 18 cars showed up for a demented day of counting newspaper tubes, octagons and railroad tracks, looking for fish in a cemetery, and finding a pizza parlor to take a hooker to. Four potential new members also showed up. These totals are possibly a record for the spring rally and definitely a record for a "Rain" Rally.

Phil Whilshire and I strung the clues together via some of the best MG roads in southeast Michigan. We started by renaming a church and having everyone stop there, so at least 36 club members went to church that day.

Phil also set up a driving skill event. Drivers were told to drive exactly 50 feet and stop. **Jay Kollin** came within 9.6 inches, to take first place. Everyone else was five to forty feet off the mark. Next drivers were instructed to parallel park, with the one closest to the curb winning. **Tom Greiner** came within an inch for first in this category. This was followed by an oral test of the rules of the road both here and in England. Since all the cars started this test at the same spot, a large oil spill was created followed by an S shaped line of oil at the parking test. Did I mention that despite the rain all but two of the participants were in their MGs? Ok, **Dave Campbell and Diane Clingan** were in his MGC or rather GMC so make that three.

Part of the ralleye was a speed test on U.S. 23. Ralleyest were instructed to average EXACTLY 60 MPH for about 9 miles along the expressway. A perfect score was to arrive at the second check point in exactly 9 minutes and 6 seconds. **Tom and Marcia Greiner** arrived in 9 minutes and 9.02 seconds, **Guy and Ann St. John** did it in 9 minutes and 9.26 seconds. The rest of you were late by 12 seconds to a minute and twenty five seconds.

Marcia Greiner and I made some really great trophies (he says modestly), won by the following people. In the driving competition first went to **Jay Kollin,** second to **Tom Greiner** and third to an unnamed member who hasn't renewed his membership yet. In the ralleye portion first place went to **Tom and Marcia Greiner**, second to **Dan and Marla Zebarah** and third to **Guy and Ann St. John.** For more on the trophies see my Safety Fast column. By the way how many people noticed the message at St. John's church about the "Safety Fast next Lent"?

In addition to those mentioned above, **Harriet West, Frank Hilberer, Mary Kay Kollin, Mike and Kathy Derderian, Donn Rajaniemi, Mark Blackburn, Otto and Judy Pope, Keith Nelson, Bonnie Norman, Garey Knop, Trever Sines, Pete Tortola, Rosa Marin-Rojano, Lou and Linda Tortola and kids, Ross and Lauria Di Lorenzio, and Phil and Dorry Thompson** all participated. I hope you all had fun (and for the married couples, are still talking to each other).

Safety Fast!

Ed Fleming, Editor

The Brighton Run is finally over! This may not seem like a big deal to you, but I have been working on it since February I think. You probably haven't any idea how much work goes into one of our events until you help put one on. It sounded simple enough when I first said "Let's do a Brighton Run just like they do in England". Next, **Phil Whilshire** joined in and dug up some history on the British event, that it starts in London and runs down highway 23 to Brighton. Great all we have to do is find a London to start the rally at. Easier said than done. After months of searching maps and phone books for something, anything with London in it (something closer than London Ontario) we found a London Township about 30 miles south of Brighton along U.S. 23. More investigation showed that the only things in London Township are Milan Dragway (in use the day of our rally) a Ford factory and an old folks home with a five car parking lot.

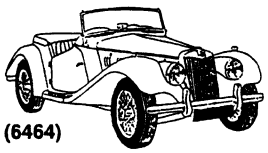
Back to square one. Let's start and end in Brighton. Let's have a hill climb at Mount Brighton! Mount Brighton has a mountain, a big paved parking lot and a restaurant. But they wouldn't let us use the hill or the parking lot. Square one again. The ranger at Brighton Recreation Area had a TR4 once and showed me the parking lot for a gymkhana. Finally a place to hold the rally.

Phil and I then mapped out a route, found some great clues and had things well set, until construction began on I-96. A new route was planned, new clues etc. After running the new route 4 or 5 times, the rally was done.

The trophies! Another simple one night job that became a marathon project. **Marcia Greiner** warned me that ceramics were a time consuming hobby. I thought we'd do a small, medium and large trophy for the rally and the same for the driving skill event. Six trophies, how long could that take, one or two evenings? The first place trophies took 13 hours to make, several days to dry, another couple of days to fire, eight more hours to glaze and another couple of days to fire the glaze. That's why the second and third place trophies are simpler. Elegant, but less complex. I now have a greater appreciation for ceramic artists (and the prices they charge). By the way, if anyone out there would like a ceramic of their MG call Marcia or me. Make sure you really appreciate ceramic artwork (a seven inch long model is $195 and a 14 inch one $395).

Phil helped me with the rally part and did all of the driving skill event stuff himself (while also organizing the Stratford Run all on his own). Now there is a guy who contributes to the club.

You can see that I spent a lot of time on this event, but it was fun time. Work, but enjoyable work. You won't catch me complaining about the next rally. I now know what's involved. Don't let this report frighten you into not volunteering to help at one of our events. You don't have to organize the entire event yourself, just volunteer to help, as much or as little as you feel up to. You'll have some fun, you'll probably learn a few things, and you'll feel like you're really part of the club. Try it, you'll like it.



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Behind the Wheel

by Guy St.John, President

As the old saying goes "April showers bring May ralleyes"? or something like that. Although the British Car Council's spring ralleye fizzled out for lock of a club sponsor, our first ralleye of the year was a great success considering the weather (Phil assures me he personally arranged for the typical English Atmosphere).

Eighteen cars, including many new and prospective members had a wonderful time **running** around the **Brighton** area trying to decipher and then find some very inventive clues.

The club thanks **Phil Wiltshire, Ed Fleming, Brett Altman and Marcia Greiner** for all their hard work. Well done indeed. Speaking of Phil, he informs me we have 15 cars registered for our weekend trip to Stratford Ontario. Look for a full report in the July newsletter.

For those of you who may be seeking some competition on a more visceral level, find your driving gloves, pump up those tyres, gap your plugs and join us in Novi on Father's Day for the 2nd Summerfast Autocross.

Looking ahead to July and August, mark your calendars now for the annual summer picnic at **Tom and Marie Bondy's** lovely home on Lake St. Clair July 18th, and Lou Tortola has offered to host another Rooftop/Costume ralleye on August 8th in downtown Windsor. Start making plans and costumes now.

The new member contest is underway. Each new member you sign up earns you change for free dues for 1994. You can pick up extra applications at any meeting or from any board member.

Please drop by this month's meeting at La Trattoria on the 9th. There will be lots to see and talk about. Some of the Brighton Run winners will bring their beautiful hand crafted awards, watch some videos, rent some videos, Check out the new regalia and get details on our line of embroidered regalia.

Finally, for those members who don't have an MG on the road or one that may be a little tatty or a rolling work in progress, we don't care what your drive. Come in anything, just join in. Ralleyes, tours, autocrosses are just excuses to share your enthusiasm for these wonderful English cars.

Safety Fast

Guy St John

G.O.F. in Ann Arbor

G.O.F. stands for Gathering of the Faithfull. A big gathering of MG T series cars. This is an MG T Register event July 15 - 18 in Ann Arbor. Events include a "40's" Theme Dinner Dance under the wings of B-17 and B-25 bombers in the Yankee Air Force Hanger at Willow Run Airport, a ralleye, tech sessions on supercharging and paint work, a car show, Flea market, photo contest, funkhana, kidkhana and all kinds of neat cars. They've invited A, B, C, and Midget owners to join them. Registration forms are in THIS newsletter.

Newbies (As In Members, Bs & Midgets)

We would like to welcome the following new members to our club:

Dante Costanze lives in Roseville. He has one son, **Paolo**. Dante owns a 1976 Green Midget. He is a Designer.

John Downes lives in Berkley. His travelling companion is **Doug Spencer**. John owns a 1973 Yellow Midget. He is a Graphic Artist. Ed Fleming gave him his application.

Bill and Anita Swetland live in Rochester Hills with their daughter **Amanda**. They own a 1978 Carmine Red MGB. Bill is an Engineer.

Richard and Dorothy Bremer live in Ann Arbor. They have a '32 J2, a '46 TC, a '66 B and a '80 B with 2600 miles on it! Richard is the Chairman of the G.O.F. meet in Ann Arbor this July.

We would also like to re-welcome **Bill & Holly Bollinger** to the club. Some of you that have been members for a long time will remember them! Jim and Holly live in Flat Rock with their two daughters, **Sarah & Guenna**. They own a 1966 White TVR Mark IV 1800S. Jim is an Engineer and Commerical Loan Officer. Welcome Back, you two!

Hope you enjoy being a part of our club!

Also Congratulations go out to **Peter Tortola & Rosa Marin-Rojano** on their engagement. Hope you two will be very happy!

Happy Birthday To These Members

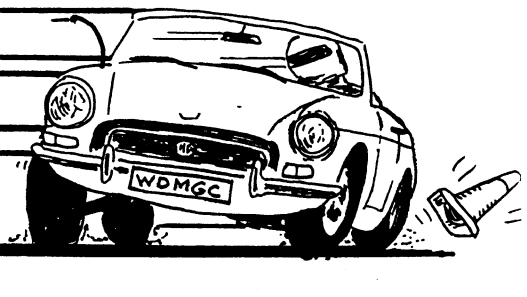
Some people don't like birthdays, but studies have shown that people who have the most birthdays live the longest.

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

Tim Murphy June 1
Christine OsowskiJune 1
Rich Wagner June 1
Becky Derderian June 2
Hayden Heath June 2
Alicia Murphy June 2
Greg Newton June 3
Eric Thompson 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
Jeff Monroe June 8
Derek Baggot June 9
Marie Bondy June 9
Barbara Kobeck June 9
John Low June 10
Gary Howe June 11
Rachel Harmon June 13
Tricia BattersbyJune 14
John Kaufman June 14
Brian Schwartz June 14
Lisa Camilleri June 17
Will Zehring June 17
Doug Balsis June 19
Drew Hine June 19
Phillip Plevek June 19
Manuel Ramirez June 19
Betty Sylvestre June 19
Tony WerderitschJune 19
Gayle Pillon June 20
Jaimie Snyder June 20
Mark Thomas June 20
Norm Werner June 20
Ken Allen June 22
Cherie Baggot June 23
Elaine Howard June 24
Pam Shipley June 26
Anne Sinasac June 26
Sheryl FraidenburgJun27
Harry Mueller June 29
Larry Enders June 30

Summer Fest!

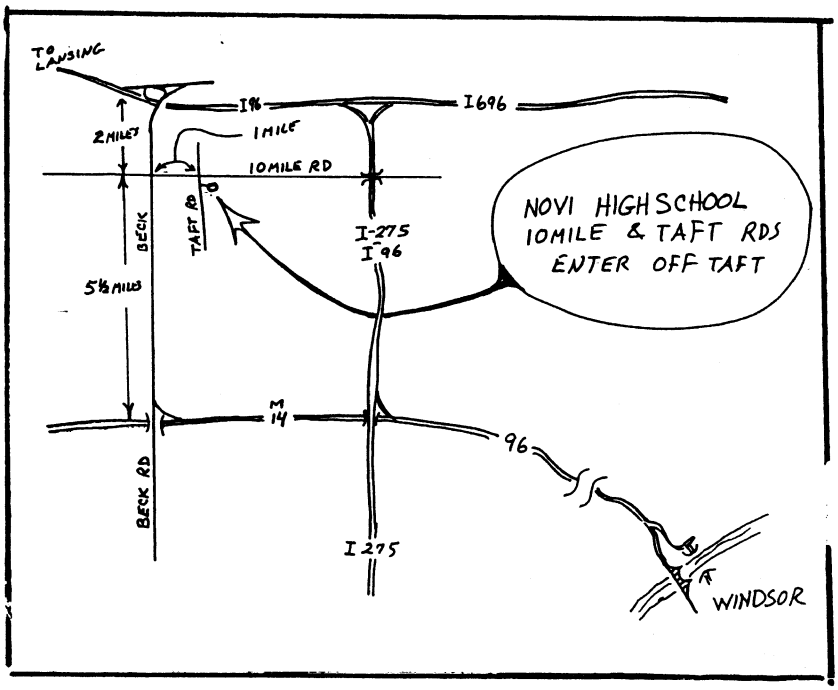
AUTOCROSS, SUNDAY JUNE 20th



An autocross is a fast event. It's also a relatively safe event. A safety fast event! You try to go as fast as you can around a course marked by orange traffic cones without touching any of the cones. Quick steering and lots of torque are the main ingredients. Because it takes place in a parking lot and the corners are rather tight (sometimes extremely tight) speeds are usually of the first and second gear variety. If you want to drive fast without worrying about other traffic or the police, this is your event.

It all takes place Sunday June 20th at Novi High School's west parking lot (see map). Start time is 11:00AM. We'll run until about 3:00PM. Also attending will be members of the Lansing Area MG Association and the Michigan Rowdies (MGA).

The cost is only $5.00. Only British cars will be eligible for awards. And in keeping with the times our cars were produced there will be a separate class for the distaff drivers.



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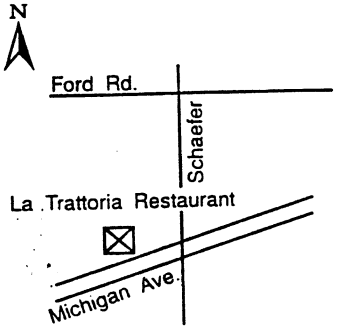
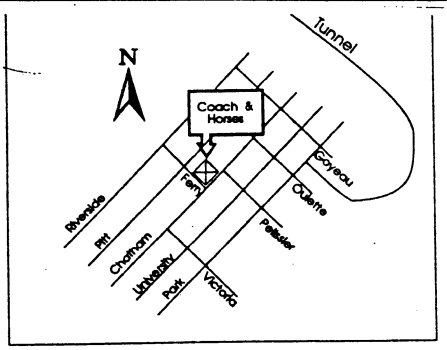
The Windsor-Detroit MG Club meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.: Even months at the La Trattoria Restaurant, 13736 Michigan Avenue in Dearborn, west of Schaefer, and in odd months at the Coach & Horses Pub, in the basement of The Old Fish Market Restaurant, 156 Chatham Street in Windsor just off the tunnel.





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English Day is Back On The Green

This year's English Day on the Green returns to Greenfield Village. The last couple of years it took place at Dominos Farms and probably should have been called English Day on the Blacktop.

Being at Greenfield Village results in some additional logistics. **YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER BY JULY 15th!**. Cost is only $5.00 for the show, but you must also pay $9.00 per person to get into the Village. You must arrive between 9AM and 10:30AM and can only leave between 3:30 and 4:30 PM. Of course while you are there you'll be able to tour the shops and houses that make up Greenfield Village, so plan on making a day of it.

"A people's choice award will be presented to your favorite car in each marque." Sounds like one award for all MGs, one for all Triumphs etc. Figure **Tom Shipley** has another award and the rest of us get just as many awards as at Battle of the Brits last year.

An event "T" shirt will be available contingent upon enough advanced orders.

Send the entry form on this page to;

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Items in **Bold type** are WDMGC events. If you want to know more about any of these events call Ed Fleming at (313) 349-3799.

JUNE

June 6 University Motors Early Summer Picnic
June 9 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn
June 13 Carnival of Cars-GM Sports Complex-Warren
June 13 Detroit Grand Prix
June 20 Summerfest Autocross - Novi High School
June 20 Wheels of Freedom Parade - Windsor
June 24-27 NAMGBR Convention-St. Louis
June 26-27 Overnight Trip to Stratford ON

JULY

July 14 Monthly Meeting-Windsor
July 10-11 Mad Dogs & Englishmen-Kalamazoo MI
July 15-18 New England T Registry Meet-Ann Arbor
July 18 Club Picnic at Tom & Marie Bondy's

AUGUST

Aug 1 English Day on the Green-Greenfield Village
Aug 5-8 AMGBA National Convention-Westminster VT
Aug 7-8 Vintage Racing at Waterford Hills
Aug 8 Rooftop Ralleye - Windsor
Aug 11 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn
Aug 13-14 Roadster Factory Summer Party Armagh, PA
Aug 20-22 University Motors Summer Party-Grand Rapids

SEPTEMBER

Sept 4-6 Trip to Auburn Indiana?
Sept 8 Monthly Meeting- Windsor
Sept 12 Battle of the Brits
Sept ?? Lucas Night Rally
Sept 26 English Day at the Races-Waterford Hills

OCTOBER

Oct 3 Deacon Brodie British Car Show
Oct 13 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn
Oct ?? WDMGC Fall Colour Tour
Oct ?? British Council Colour Tour

NOVEMBER

Nov 10 Monthly Meeting-Windsor
Nov ?? Hibernation Party-Canadian Side

DECEMBER

Dec 8 Monthly Meeting-Dearborn

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I further agree to abide by all conditions or requirements for use of any facilities and equipment of the Museum, and acknowledge that I am responsible to use the same in a safe and careful manner. I accept responsibility for my actions and the actions of my accompanying, minor children, whether acting individually or as part of a group, and for any injuries or damage caused to the Museum or others.

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_____ CHILDREN: $4.50 each. (5 to 12 . under 5 free)

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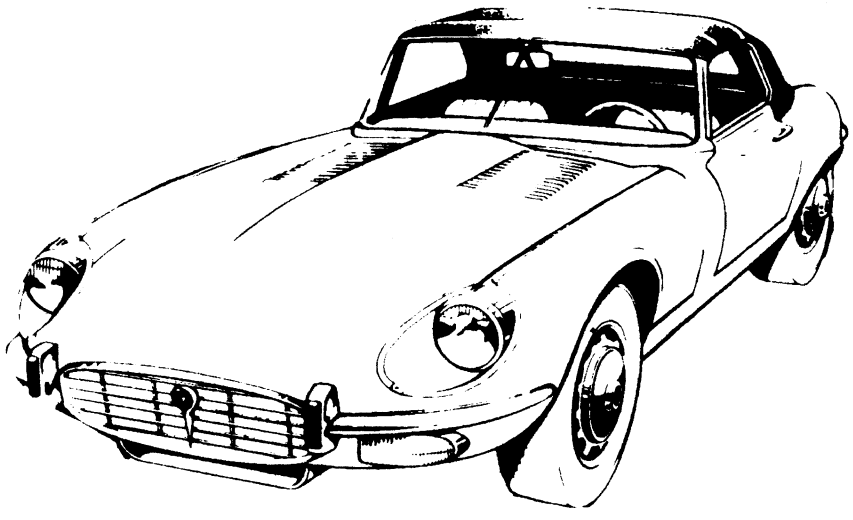

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'68 MGC, blue, body & interior need work, drive train is VG, new clutch & cloth top. $5000. Mike Conley (313) 933-6315

"77 MGB, Blaze red, rust free and in excellent shape.Driven summers only. New top, exhaust &brakes. 51,000 miles. $3200. Joe Watamen (313) 274-4453

Mikuni Sidedraft Carbs and manifold for 1800 engine. $200. Will Zehring (313) 577-4199 or (313) 885-4180

'66 MGB-GT BRG, black leather int., reclining seats, chrome wire wheels (knock-offs), oil cooler, Hella 500 driving lamps, good No. 3 car. Stored winters (not like Greg Newton's dad's though!). $3400. Mark Uhlig (313) 651-6338

Brand New Mikuni SK Carburetor conversion kit with manifold and air filter for MGB $175 **Spax Shock Absorber** Conversion Kit for 74 1/2 -80 MGB. Complete front & rear, brand new $200. **Ansa Exhaust Header** for MGB. Factory "Special Tuning" competition design, brand new $50. Terry Schultz (313) 650-9507

'77 MGB Brooklands Green, completely restored 3 years ago. Wire wheels, 60,000 actual miles. For details & pictures call Dan Leighton H (313) 629-0303, W (313) 278-5300.

Chrome wire wheels, four 5 1/2x14 bolt on for MGB, good condition $500 OBO Rich Wroblewski. Home: (313) 669-9507, Work: (313) 948-4927.

'67 MIDGET White, VGC, new brake system, hardtop &many spares.40,000 miles $4500. Greg Pukay (519) 974-8826

WANTED

A-H Bugeye Sprite or '69 or earlier MGB. Will Zehring (313) 577-4199 or (313) 885-4180.

Ear Knock Offs. Frank Lucente (519) 977-5346

Back issues of Can-Am Connection to complete my collection: Jan/Feb '87, Nov '87, Dec '87, Sept '86, June '85. Issues prior to Oct '81. Roli Sylvestre (519) 969-2739

PARTING OUT

'65 MGB Engine & trans missing, good suspension, wire wheels. All or part best offer. Tom Newton (313) 562-2377

'72 MGB Parts. Good Bonnet and mechanical parts. Call me with your needs. Mike Derderian (313) 979-4234.

'72-'76-'77 MGB's Tons of parts, rebuilt heads, interior & exterior parts. Must sell, too many parts, too little room, any reasonable offer. Chuck Wiley (313) 586-2500

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The Making of a Great Interior

I replaced the interior in my '80 LE this spring. Having the seats reupholstered got me started. The seats were done by a Ford Motor Company Experimental Trim Designer named Don Venning. Don does top quality work at very reasonable prices. I took the seats to his home work shop last November and told him that I did not need them finished until April. This allowed him to work on the seats, as a fill in, between bigger jobs. He removed the covers and pads, chemically striped the frames and springs, painted them, rebuilt the cushions and made new leather covers per my design (actually it is a Jaguar, Aston Martin design). Don did all the tear down and assembly work and charged hundreds of dollars less than a leather upholstery kit through a catalog. With the kit I would have done all of the work. Don does upholstery and trim for cars, boats airplanes, motorcycles, and furniture. He works in leather, vinyl, and cloth fabric.

The seats looked so good that I decided to replace the entire interior. In keeping with my policy of trying to get the best quality for a low price I checked around for the best "deals on interior components (some people call this cheap). I bought a deluxe carpet set from Special Interest Car Parts ($119), floor mats, on sale, from Moss Motors ($19), English made full trim panel set from Victoria British ($149|) and weather strip ($10) and window seals ($3.50 each) from Northwest Imported Parts. Two quarts of contact cement and a lot of my time and work finished the job.

If you want your interior replaced but do not want to do the job yourself, Don Venning is willing to do all or part of the work for a very fair price. His home work shop is in Dearborn Heights near Outer Drive and Southfield. You can reach him after 5:30 PM at (313) 274-6707.

Otto Pope

Video Library

The following videos are available to club members. You can rent these videos for **one month** for $5.00. Contact **Greg Newton** at (313) 562-2377.

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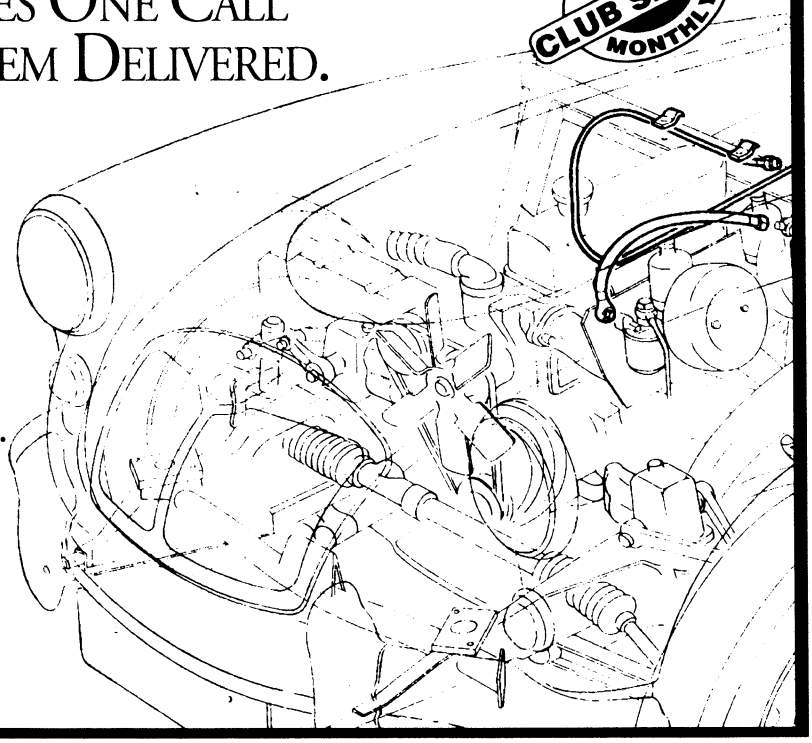

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