



English Motoring Club

P.O. Box 5263
Jackson, MS 39216-5263
(601) 442-8684



President: Terry Trovato
Contributing Editor: Pat Cashman

"A gentleman does not motor about after dark." -- Joseph Lucas, attrib.

Montgomery show reflections

by Renee Cole, EMC Member and Special Correspondent

AUGUST 2000

JACKSON, MISS. — Recently I heeded the beck and call of our club's Prez, Terry Trovato, to attend the All-British Car Show and Exhibition in Montgomery, Ala., sponsored by the British Car Club of Montgomery. My companion for the trip was Terry's wife, Merideth. She motored to my home, loaded her baggage into my vehicle and off we went in the rain (I decided to drive my other foreign import, the daily driver, instead of my MG with the hole in the top. The First Lady would not look very dignified holding an umbrella or bucket on the drive — the leak is on the passenger's side, of course!).

I must admit that in the back of my mind, the thought that this show might not be worth attending in pouring rain was as heavy as the clouds hanging overhead. Our drive across the barren Alabama countryside was accompanied by a full moon (we had gotten ahead of the front), and was uneventful with only one brief stop for petrol, a soft drink and Nabs (supper!). After a few wrong turns in Montgomery, we finally found the hotel and were joyously greeted by the Prez — relieved and thankful the First Lady had been delivered safely.

The show was held on the grounds of Auburn University's Montgomery campus. That morning, the Prez and his First Lady readied their newly painted, ultra-red 1949 Singer, complete with driver and passenger wearing authentic WWII cotton aviator helmets and goggles! I followed in the domestic vehicle and was entertained (unbeknownst to Ter and Mer) by the "rubber-neckers" as we motored some two miles to the show site.

As we drove up, I was very pleasantly surprised at the number of vehicles already in place (over 25), with others arriving behind us. I love these British cars (as do all of you!) and still marvel at their immaculate condition, and the attention to authenticity the owners have maintained (okay, the majority of the time!). I couldn't wait to examine each one in detail.

(As I share with you the cars, I show no partiality. I gleaned as much information as I could about each one, but if there was no sign on the windscreen, there was not much for me to go on!)

I should point out that this was not a judged/popular choice show, but rather a public relations opportunity for enthusiasts to display their cars and educate the general public about the hobby and its rewards.

There were four Big Healeys present in nice condition, spanning the years '57 (Tim Anderson's), '59 (Raymond Cooper's), '63, and '66 (Terry Mount's). For the uninformed, I now know the proper colors are "Healey Blue over Cream" (it sounds edible doesn't it?).

The Triumph marque was well represented with Hamer Phillips' 1975 TR6 (Mimosa — it looked British yellow to me!), a TR7 (Doug Kirkley's, Imola yellow) and TR8, a Spitfire 1500, Bill Silhan's artfully decorated 1970 GT6 (resplendent with hand-painted flames on the side — better than flames out the carbs!), and a classic, white 1959 TR3 owned by Roland Towney.

The MG marque included three MGAs (Bill Berg's beautifully restored blue 1962 1600 MkII, and two fine red 1959 1500s) and three MGBs (a white 1974, James Davis's 1978 "Tahiti Blue," and a green, not BRG, GT).

As I was standing in the parking lot, William Mahoney drove up in his Sable 1973 Jaguar XKE Series 3 Roadster, complete with matching dog. Yes, matching dog — a standard poodle! I had to wonder, did he purchase the dog to complement the car or vice versa? Anyway, they went well together! The Jaguar marque also included a 1992 XJS-V12, owned by Tom Schmitz, and Mac Walker's 1984 XJ6.

At these shows, one never knows what sort of fascinating vehicles will appear. I was treated to a number of unusual, never-before-seen-by-me cars that day! I saw my first Morris Minor 1000 (1957, Old English White). An inspection sticker from 1957 was still in place and original sale ads were well presented. Terry Trovato's Signal Red 1949 Singer "Nine" Roadster brought a lot of attention (perhaps it was the car in combination with his authentic "GOD SAVE THE KING" linen flag from the reign of King George VI).

In zippy fashion, with incredible precision, Jeff Jeffries appeared in his BRG 1966 Austin Mini Moke. More of you have seen one of these than you realize. Remember the TV show *Fantasy Island*? Tatu would cry out "Da plane! Da plane!" and would transport the guests to their respective dwellings in a — *right!* Mini-Moke!

(Cont'd)

AUGUST 2000

For those of you who like the grander-sized British vehicles, you would not have been disappointed! Doug Butcher motored in with his two-time National Award-winning (1978 and 1987) 1927 Rolls-Royce, and G. Needham arrived with his National Award-winning (1974) 1955 Silver Wraith. Two beautiful automobiles!

The final delightful surprise was the cloud cover that did not pour down upon our heads but protected us from the scorching sun. To keep the masses entertained, there were food wagons present, "Favorite Photos" to vote for, and "Valve Cover Racing" — go, Barbie! *YES!* A valve cover "driven" by a Barbie doll beat out the valve covers "driven" by a rubber duck and a fuzzy chicken!

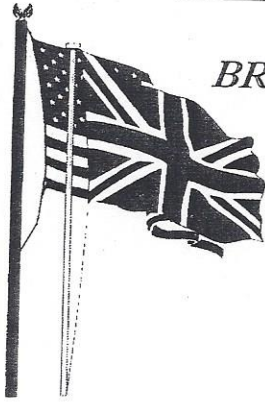
One may conclude that was enough for one day, but not our gracious Montgomery hosts. After this wonderful open-air exhibition we were invited to tour a private collection of the most fabulous automobiles I have ever seen in one location!

There was a range of autos from Indy racers (four of the five were the actual first place winners, and included cars driven by Jackie Stewart and Stirling Moss), a Jaguar race car of which only 12 (yes, 12) were built (I had my picture made standing by this one with the First Lady), to several Ferraris, a Delahaye, several Rolls-Royces including a rare Roadster complete with a dickey seat, a Duesenberg, several Packards, two vintage Porsches and a Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing, complete with fitted luggage. All of these cars are driven periodically on a private course, and I want to know the brand of wax the owner uses!

The day *still* was not over! We then caravanned to Hamer Phillips' "shop." I counted 25 British vehicles of various marques in various stages of restoration. Hamer's shop was very entertaining! He showed us his frightful "critter" which Hamer sends leaping out at the ladies, demonstrated a ten-penny nail balancing act, and found for me an MG part I had been seeking (Whew! Thank you, Hamer!). We spent quite a while there enjoying one another's company until the out-of-towners from Florida begged need of departure. (There were a number of participants who came from the Florida/South Alabama area.) We returned to the temporary homestead and concluded the evening in true British style — in the company of friends, saluting the Queen with a gin and tonic, and yes, with a twist!

Hats off to the Montgomery crew for a terrific show — and they even overcame a change of show locations at the last minute without a hitch! Cheerio 'til we meet again!

And me? I returned home late that night again, crossing that barren Alabama countryside basking in the joy of a wonderful day — and that moon! Yep, perfect for that "tops down" late night drive. I'm thrilled I heeded the call.



*'BRITS ON THE BLUFF'
BRITISH CAR SHOW AND COMPETITION*

October 13-15, 2000

Natchez, Mississippi

AUGUST 2000

Presented By

English Motoring Club

P.O. Box 5263

Jackson, MS 39216-5263

(601) 442-8684

This will be a Concours d' Elegance (points) judged show with awards and dash plaques presented by Mississippi's English Motoring Club. Entry fee of \$20 per car.

A Fun-Filled Weekend

The show will coincide with the city's proclamation of "British Heritage Day," which will honor the town's growth and prosperity under British rule from 1763 to 1779. Brits on the Bluff car show participants will motor through town accompanied by a Police Escort to the city's new Main Street Marketplace, which resembles New Orleans' famous French Market. The site is within walking distance to fine antique stores, quaint gift shops and outstanding restaurants. Natchez merchants will be carrying out the British Heritage Day theme, with each featuring items from Merry Olde England. In addition, Friday through Sunday, over 20 antebellum mansions will be open for touring. Architecturally magnificent, many feature priceless antiques and accessories.

Overnight Accommodations

The English Motoring Club has reserved blocks of rooms at two establishments. When making reservations, be sure and tell them you are with the English Motoring Club:

Hotel -

The Radisson Natchez Eola Hotel 800-333-3333. This is the city's grand old hotel downtown, which has just been totally renovated and is next door to "Biscuits 'n Blues," where the Friday night reception will take place. Special EMC rate of \$79 per night.

Motels -

Ramada Inn 800-256-6311. This motel has a commanding view of the Mississippi River and is right across the highway from the assembly point for the Parade through town. Special EMC rate of \$65 per night.

Natchez Bed & Breakfasts - For B&B reservations simply call Natchez Pilgrimage Tours at 1-800-647-6742. Many Natchez B&Bs are restored antebellum mansions; NPT will give you a slate of prices and describe the facilities in detail.

For further information about any or all aspects of the show and weekend call or e-mail Terry Trovato (601) 442-8684; terryt@callon.com



MARDI GRAS T's

**A Chapter of the
New England MG T Register**

President: Marvin Dupree, (504) 835-0170

Contributing Editors: Barbara & William Wolf,
(504) 892-1574

Natchez — our October event

by Dave Loeb

For the last two years, Chesney and I, along with one or more children and friends, have made the trip to Natchez for the English Motoring Club's "Brits on the Bluff" fall show. In the past, the show has been scheduled to coincide with the fall Pilgrimage, which made it somewhat more difficult to get reservations at restaurants and the better accommodations. This year, the show has been moved up a week to October 13-15, and the format has been changed.

On Friday night, there will be the by-now-traditional dinner at Biscuit and Blues, but this time we are requested to dress appropriately for the year of our car's manufacture. While the show is still a judged event, Terry Travato and his crew have some interesting additions planned, including a parade down the main street on Saturday. After the parade, the cars are scheduled to be in place by 11 a.m. Judging will start at 12:30 p.m. and awards are intended to start at 3:30 p.m.

I note with some interest that the events for Friday and Saturday are disclosed, but those for Sunday are not. The show's schedule includes Sunday, so I wonder if that is just an error, or does Terry have something up his sleeve?

This has been a great event in the past as I hope you know from reading my past article. We plan to attend again this year. Terry has arranged a special block of rooms at the Radisson Natchez Eola Hotel where we have made our reservations. The hotel is downtown and walking distance to the planned events. It is a nicely restored, historic property with a very nice restaurant.

At our last Christmas party, several members expressed a desire to attend the Natchez show this year, and it is my hope that we can bring six to ten cars. Last year, Chesney and I drove our TD and 3.8S and made the drive in a very leisurely 2.5 hours. If anyone else is interested, a pokey van departing New Orleans mid-morning on Friday and returning on Sunday would be a welcome addition to the event. I will be more than happy to organize the caravan. All you have to do is let me know that you want to participate.

If you would like to attend, I strongly encourage you to make your reservations now at the Eola and let me know that you intend on participating. You can contact the hotel at (800) 333-3333. Be sure to tell the hotel

that you are participating in the British car show and ask for Terry's special rate of \$79 per night.

Just imagine six or eight or ten cars from New Orleans parading through historic downtown Natchez! Anyone have any old Mardi Gras throws?