

# THE OFF-SIDE UNDO

“A GENTLEMAN DOES NOT MOTOR ABOUT AFTER DARK” JOSEPH LUCAS



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Volume 31



## This 'n That

By Charlie Durning

July is usually a slow month. Way too hot to drive our little cars. All is not lost. **Donna** and I spent time working around the house and making a trip to San Diego to see family, old friends, and just chill out. Time well spent. I'll be back to fiddling with my rolling stock when it cools off a bit.

Since Donna and I were away for the Lotus gathering at the **Glore's**, I'm unable to give a first-hand account of the festivities. I understand there was a big turnout. **Mike** had his cars on display and **Alice** had things well organized. Barry Schmidt submitted the photos of the event.

In Membership news, we have 2 new members to welcome to the EMC!

Brits on the Bluff is fast approaching. BotB is always a fun time. Hope to see you all there. And don't forget our next gathering at the **Baileys'** on the 12<sup>th</sup>. **David** will have his stable well organized. It will be interesting to see what he's up to in his garage.

# Thank You!

from Charlie & Donna Durning

Donna and I want to thank all of you for the prayers, thoughts, and the beautiful card following Dad's passing. Your friendship is greatly appreciated.

I give my dad credit for passing on his love of LBC's to me. Here is a photo of the family in Dad's new 1953 MG-TD. I am the one on the spare tire.





# Membership News by Stephen Turner

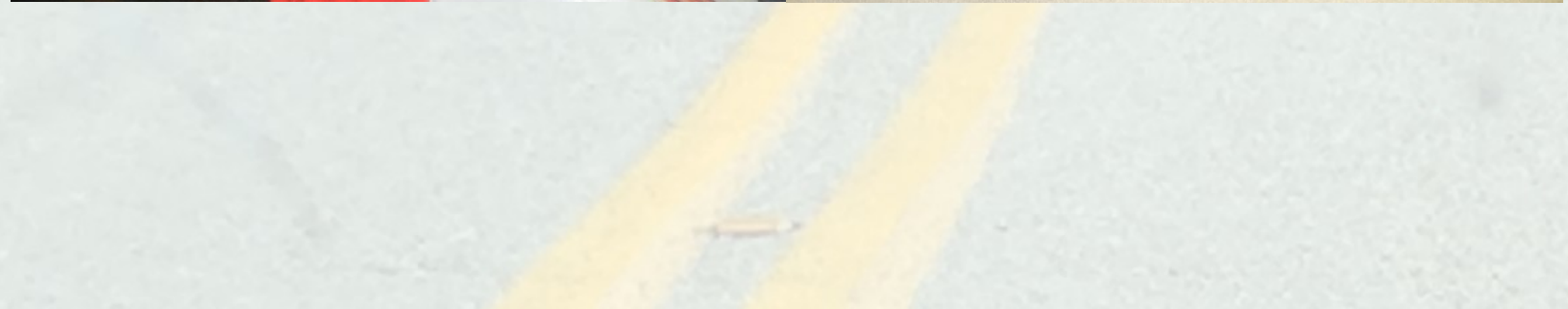


Please join me in welcoming new members to the club. This month we have **Bobby McClellan** and **Ken and Rhonda Slay**. Ironically, they both own 1977 MGB's!

## Gathering at the Glores' photos by Barry Schmidt











Everyone had a great time at the gathering at the **Glores'** last month, and there's another special event on the calendar on August 12, 2017 at **David and Joann Bailey's** garage in Brandon. We hope everyone can make it out.





# Midget in a Store Window

Bro. Clay and Debbie spied a well preserved MG Midget in a women's clothing store in the historic district in downtown Cleveland, MS.









# Blast from the Past

by Terry & Merideth Trovato



The EMC Gang assembles for a group photo at the conclusion of Brits on the Bluff some 15 years ago. That year the show was held on the grounds of the Natchez Mansion “Rosalie.”





# From the Passenger Seat

By Donna Durning



This month we continue with Part-4 of our history lesson from the Drive Thru History 2017 series. We will look at Mount Olive and Bassfield and hopefully learn something we didn't already know!

## Mount Olive

As early as 1858, a post office was established in the community of Mount Olive. Mount Olive became the first community in Covington County nestled in the northern part of the county. With the arrival of Scottish settler, **John C. Calhoun** and his family between the years 1810 to 1840, the town started to take root. After Calhoun, other Scottish settlers also made the move from North Carolina and Alabama settling in the growing, backwoods community.

In the early years of the territory, what would become Mount Olive was little more than a small farm here and there on land originally purchased from the **Choctaws**. However, in the mid 1890's, a railroad surveyor stabbed a stick into the middle of a cornfield saying, "*This is where the depot will be.*" and hence, began the town of Mount Olive.

When the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad (GSIR) built its railway from Jackson to Biloxi, Mount Olive's small depot was placed along the railway. However, unlike the other communities with depots that accommodated the raging lumber business such as Mish and Gandsi (named for the GSIR), Mount Olive had a different beginning as one of America's first planned communities. The GSIR tracks were finished in 1899, and Mount Olive was incorporated on May 18, 1900. Some legends tell that the town was named for the community of **Mount Olive, North Carolina**, that still exists between Raleigh and the North Carolina coast.

*Mimi's is a café in Mount Olive specializing in soul food and down-home cooking.*



Mount Olive Photos by

Donna Durning





## Mount Olive Fire Station No. 1

A lovely wide boulevard was built and 100 oaks were planted along the boulevard. In the beginning, Mount Olive was a center of trade for the agriculture and timber industries with the various shops, stores and businesses that also supported the residents involved in those industries.

It was a bustling, thriving town in 1937, according to the account written in Covington Crossroads: a History of Covington County, Mississippi. A list of the businesses in town according to one of Mount Olive's older residents in 1988 was, "the Baptist church, Texaco filling station, Pan-Am filling station, Rawls' Cash Store, the old J. B. Byrd Store, a sandwich shop, a grocery store, the bank, Gatewood's General Store, Calhoun Drug Store, the Church, the Greentree Hotel and another filling station. To the left headed east from the Baptist church on Main Street were Lampton-Rawls store, city hall, the post office, the Calhoun-Fairley store, Dickson Motor Co., and the filling station." Two smiths did a roaring business seeing to the horses, wagons, and creating various implements needed in the agricultural and lumber enterprises.

Mount Olive was the hometown of professional football player **Steve McNair** (1973-2009). McNair was the quarterback for the Houston Oilers, the Tennessee Titans and the Baltimore Ravens. McNair was tragically killed in Nashville in 2009.



Mount Olive is also the hometown of the famous **Johnston** family. Pictured below are **Clay and Debbie, Dr. Joe and Mary, Gene and Martha.**



## **Bassfield**

No train has passed through in years, and the tracks are long gone, but the future of the quiet community of Bassfield is still tied to the old rail line that once carried away cotton and other crops.

Bassfield was first settled around 1832 in southeastern **Jefferson Davis County**, according to records from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.



The town's name came from the **Bass family**, who owned the land on which the village was settled.

The entire village of Bassfield moved a few miles from its original site around the turn of the 20th century to be near the new railroad. Almost 100 years later, Bassfield community leaders engineered a campaign to convert the then-abandoned train tracks into a recreational trail. The transformed path, dubbed the **Longleaf Trace**, attracts visitors from around the country to a town untainted by time.

One of Bassfield's oldest buildings and businesses is **Carraway's Store**, which opened in April 1919. One general store was already operating here when A.F. Carraway Sr. decided to build his mercantile, but he said he wanted to give residents "a choice of shopping opportunities," according to a 1993 Prentiss Headlight article. Longtime employee **Neil Burns** took over from the Carraway family in the mid-1990s but knew enough about the business and the community to keep most things the same as they had been for decades.

**Carraway's Store  
opened in 1919.**



Not far from the store is another unique long-standing structure known as the **Faler House**. The home, built around 1910 of solid concrete blocks that were poured on-site, was designed to look exactly the same from all four sides. Original owner **John Adam Faler** was reportedly "fearful of a fire," noted a 1979 Jackson Clarion-Ledger article, so he used as little wood in the construction as possible. Even so, he did include two large chimneys, serving six fireplaces, in the home's plans.



**The Faler House**



With its concrete walls, the house was reportedly always so damp that Mrs. Faler was treated for pneumonia "almost every year." Her doctor eventually suggested that the family move to a drier house, so the family built a small frame house next door, using some of the doors, windows, and paneling from the old house.

The concrete house has been unoccupied for decades and--perhaps because of the missing doors and windows--is now in disrepair, but as the 1979 article noted, "its walls are as sturdy as ever." Though funding has been hard to come by, officials say they hope to someday restore the home so the community can again enjoy it.

Local churches, including L.L. Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church and St. Peter's Catholic Church, both built in 1935, are also among the town's oldest buildings.

"The hills around Bassfield are dotted with tumbledown shacks, tilting at crazy angles, their roofs sagging unpropped," noted article author George Harmon. "But the sign of neglect is a sign of prosperity rather than poverty. For chances are that the people who lived in the cabins have moved a few hundred feet away to six-room, white-painted houses with all the modern conveniences."

Once they moved here, residents of Bassfield were here to stay. "With most of the citizens of Bassfield members of 'old families' in that area, a new family must stay in Bassfield for at least three generations before the natives are convinced that the 'newcomers' are not just visiting," Harmon wrote.

The lumber boom that made many other south Mississippi towns rich--and then left them stripped of natural resources and jobs when it was over--never impacted Bassfield to such a degree, a fact for which residents said they were thankful. "We don't have to pine for the good old days," said **Mayor Newton McLean St. in 1950**. "All of our days have been good. Farmers are a lot more steady than lumber companies."

A popular local restaurant is **Cowboy Jim's**, which offers live music and dining Thursdays through Saturdays.

*Bassfield photos were taken from <http://www.bassfieldms.org/historical.htm>*

Next month will be the last segment of this series. We will feature Sumrall and Hattiesburg.



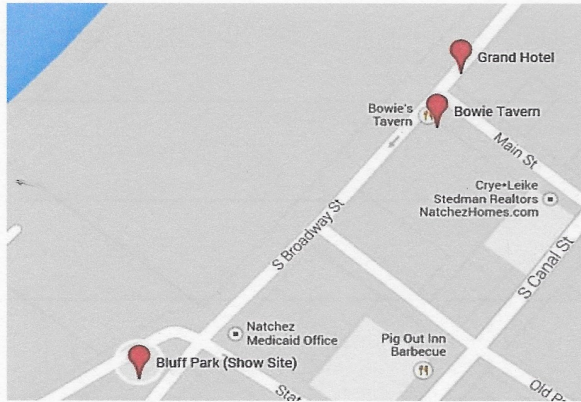
## Brits on the Bluff Sept. 15-16, 2017 Natchez, Mississippi

The English Motoring Club of Mississippi proudly announces its annual all-marque car show and celebration to be held in Historic Natchez, Mississippi, the weekend of September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Bowie's Tavern - Welcome Reception: Friday evening, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.** Join us at "Bowie's Tavern," an 1852 Cotton Warehouse converted to an "antique pub." It is located at 100 Main Street at Broadway (across the street from the Grand Hotel and just up from the show site), and offers tasty appetizers, specialty pizzas, salads, sandwiches and a full bar.

**Natchez Bluff Park - Show: Saturday 10 a.m. -** At 303 South Broadway Street, just a few blocks from the Grand Hotel, located on a magnificent 200-foot bluff containing shade trees and picnic tables. Awards presentation 3 p.m.

**Overnight Accommodations -** A block of rooms has been reserved at the Natchez Grand Hotel, located at 111 Broadway Street. The EMC has negotiated rates from \$119 to \$169 plus fees and taxes per night. See [natchezgrandhotel.com](http://natchezgrandhotel.com) for hotel information, call 866-488-0898 or 601-446-9994 for reservations, and be sure to reference "English Motoring Club of MS" for the group rates.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City St, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Car Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_

In consideration of this entry, I waive any and all claims for myself and my heirs against the English Motoring Club, their officers and any sponsors of this event for injury or illness which may result directly or indirectly from my participation. I give my permission for use of my name and/or picture in any published or broadcast account of this event.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose check for \$25 per car (\$10 for additional cars) payable to English Motoring Club and mail to: EMC MS, 498 Old Hwy. 49 N, Mount Olive, MS 39119.



# Upcoming Events

## English Motoring Club 2017 Calendar

**August 12, 2017 – EMC Tech Session / Brandon MS** - David and Jo Ann have a way of throwing a great party leading up to the EMC show. Come on out and see what David has added or improved on for 2017. Always lots to see and do, along with a great meal. What else can you ask for.? This will be the pre-Brits on the Bluffs gathering so bring along a dish and enjoy the fun. Gathering starts at 11:00am. Lunch starts as 12:00pm. Details: David / Jo Ann Bailey (601) 992 - 8566.

**September 15 - 16, 2017 – EMC Brits on the Bluff / Natchez MS** - We have the promise of a perfect weekend for the 20th Annual BOTB. Hang out on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River starting with our Friday night party and spend Saturday with us under the oaks at City Park. There will be lots to do on your visit with us. Information and registration information is located on the website. Details: John Turbeville (601) 940- 5288, Gene Johnston (601) 201 - 0801.

**October 7 - Renaissance Euro Fest** Come to Ridgeland Mississippi and enjoy the 9th Annual Renaissance Car Fest. The 2016 event was one to remember. Lots of participation from EMC members as well as friends from surrounding clubs will be the order again for 2017.

When posted get your entry in early and make plans to attend. You'll see cars that you don't get a chance to enjoy often and in the surroundings of the Renaissance it's just magnificent. Details:[www.euro-fest.net](http://www.euro-fest.net).

Now, for a bit of soap box. The Off-Side Undo is the fuel that keeps the EMC going. It's full of fun events and occurrences that your fellow members are into. It keeps everyone in touch and aware of what has gone on and what's ahead. The EMC is looking for articles and photos of your automobile or near automobile adventures. Please give some consideration to submitting an article or photos to **Charles or Donna Durning at [durningcharles@gmail.com](mailto:durningcharles@gmail.com)**.

If you wish to be a ghost writer just request and your wish will be granted in the utmost of confidentiality.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Happy motoring,

The members of the EMC