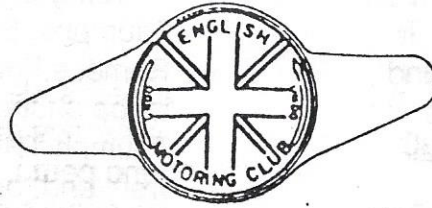


# Off-Side Undo

Published by the English Motoring Club



August 1998

## A Drive Through History, June 13, 1998

The morning of June 13 found several EMC members waiting near their cars for the arrival of our tour leader John Simmers. We had gathered at Rocky Springs on the Natchez Trace to begin a drive to visit historic St. Francisville, Louisiana. John and Florence Simmers drove up in their MGC GT and a parade of Jaguars, Triumph, and Morgan fell in line astern and motored on into Natchez where we were to link with Terry Trovato our other leader. Terry met us and led us to a Mobile gas station where one of the Natchez cars pulled in for a bit of repair.

Terry and Meredith had booked a great coffee shop downtown where we could all fortify ourselves for the day's activities.

After breakfast we crossed the Mississippi and stopped for fuel at a station that was doing a brisk business in bait and fishing supplies. The group then formed on the leader and set out down the levee road south to the ferry.

We had to wait a bit for the ferry which put us in the sun which was getting pretty-hot by this time. Hard to complain though since the ferry ride was free.

As we stood along our cars a white Healey drove down the levee and came on the ferry to join us. These folks turned out to be just driving to visit relatives and were as surprised as we were at the appearance of another English car.

Our first stop across the river was the Locust Grove cemetery where Jefferson Davis' first wife is buried. After a welcome

pause here under the delightful shade from the spreading live oaks we left for Oakley Plantation. John James Audubon lived here for a time while he continued his wonderful paintings of the native birds. This is well worth your time to visit this home. Many other homes are in St. Francisville but we thought it was time for a cool drink.

Simmers has scouted out and selected Steamboat Charlie's Sports Bar and Grill for our lunch. Air conditioning, good po boys and cold beer were enjoyed by all.

Twelve cars took part in our drive and all but one made the entire journey. A bad alternator sent Debbie Adams and her son back home in their TR-6. Other than that we all had a hot but pleasant tour. Thanks to the Simmers and Trovatos for working up a most enjoyable time.

Almost forgot.... Terry and Meredith invited those staying in Natchez over to their home for a presidential supper. Our president never seems to stop working for the club and he announced a new member from Monroe, Louisiana Daniel Decote who brought his TR-3 over for the tour. Welcome Daniel and thanks Terry!

## Scottish Highland Games of Mississippi August 22, 1998

Our informal show at the Highland games is the next club activity. This is not a judged show but an opportunity to display the cars and educate the general public about our club activities.

Cars need to be on site at 8:30 am.

Simmers says there is security if you want to bring the car in the night before.

Location is the Ag & Forestry Museum on Lakeland Drive in Jackson, Mississippi. It usually is hot so, bring a cooler. Food and cold drinks are available at the vendors. Come on out. For further information call Terry Trovato at 601-442-8684.

Terry has been sending in our club dates to several national publications and placing them on internet sites. This should help spread the word about the EMC.

### **Brits On the Bluff**

Plan on joining us in Natchez on Saturday, October 17 for our premier event. Our show coincides with the hot air balloon festival and Fall Pilgrimage and really provides fun for everyone in the family. We will display cars at a site just a block away from the balloon festival so we really are in the best place in town.

Registration will be \$20 and includes awards. You need to book hotel rooms now as rooms go quickly with all of the activities in Natchez. Give Terry a call at 601-442-8684.

### **Vintage Races at Elkhart Lake** by Pat Cashman

I recently had a chance to drive to Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin for the vintage races at Road America. Parker Hall from Vicksburg and two friends from Tallulah and I loaded up and made a banzai all day drive to the races.

The weather was much more comfortable there than the oven we left. Sixty degree nights made camping a welcome change from Mississippi.

The atmosphere at most vintage events makes it a pleasure to attend. We were able to walk around the paddock area and stop and talk to just about anyone. There is a tremendous difference in budgets of the racers. Huge 18 wheelers with uniformed

crew and those who flat towed a car are all in sight.

I really enjoyed seeing Devins, Elvas, Triumphs, Scarabs, Jaguars, Alfa Romeos, Ferraris, and many, many more all in top shape. Well there was one guy in a Triumph TR-8 who wasn't running well all weekend, but most others were hot or hotter.

We walked around the track which is over four miles long and found shady spots at all of the corners. There were plenty of food stands where you could get a bratwurst and cold drinks. It was a great event and a super track.

The Can-AM cars really do thunder by and can be felt as well as heard. Take a set of ear plugs.

After the races we went swimming in the lake a few miles away. Fancy resorts and hotels served as a back drop for a concours show in town. I think some of the race cars got ahead of the police escort.

While swimming in the lake I talked to David Hobbs. He was cooling off and playing with grandchildren. He was staying at the pricey resort while we just "borrowed" a little of their beach and lake water.

### **12th Annual VTR Southeast Regional Convention**

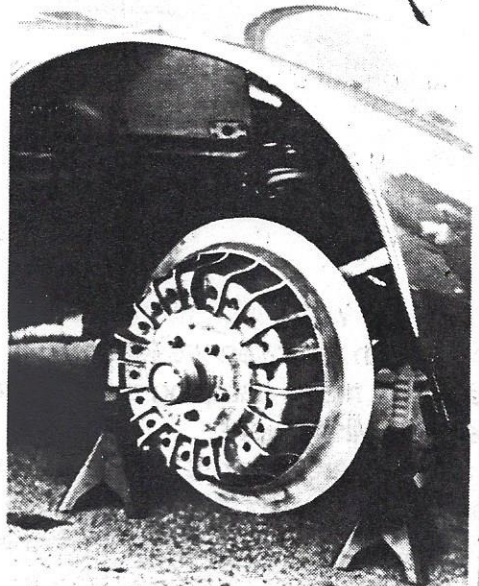
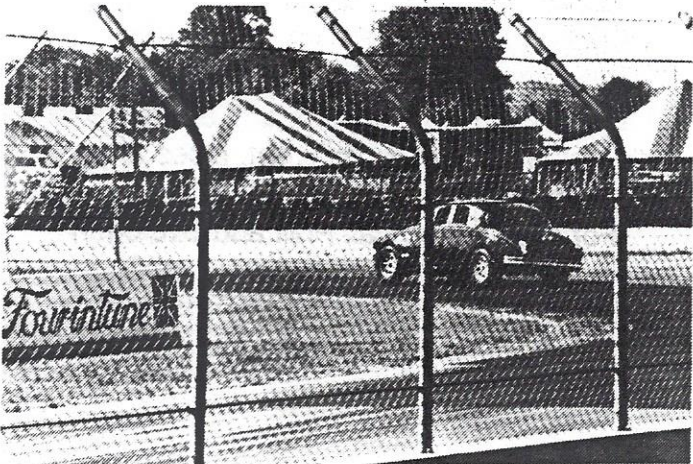
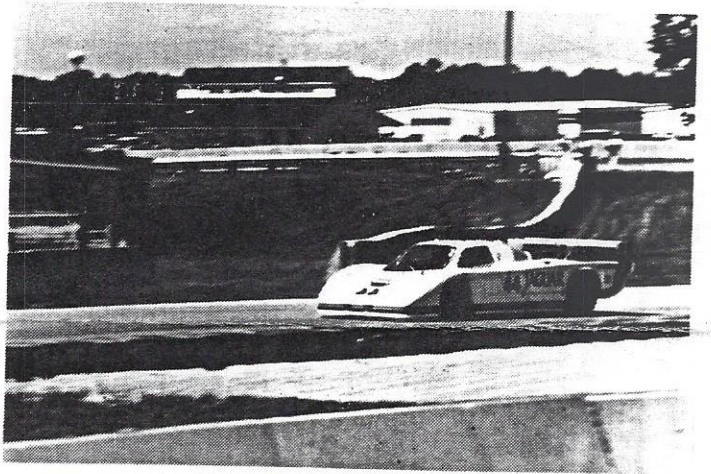
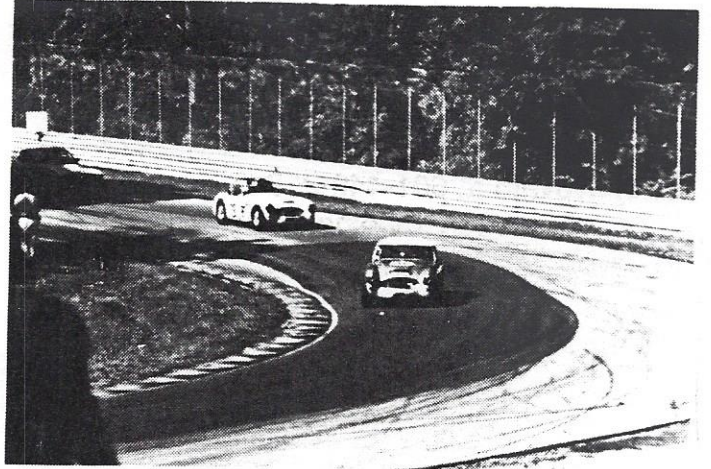
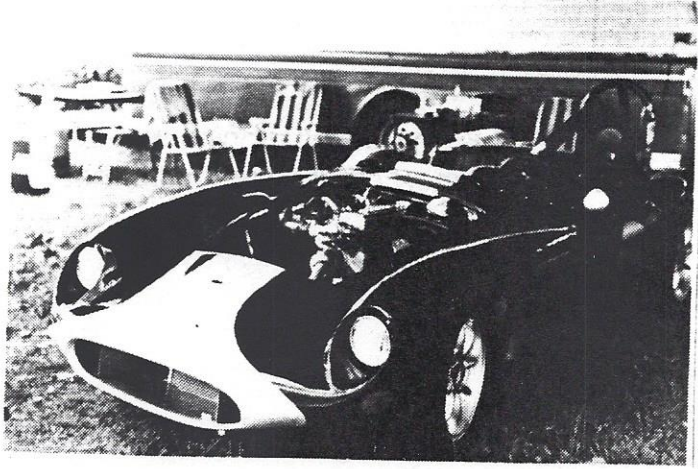
Ocala, Florida is the place and October 22 through 25 is the date for this VTR event. This is celebrating the 75th anniversary of Triumph.

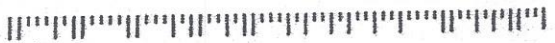
A full selection of events is planned including rallies, autocross, driving tours, concours, and more.

It sounds like great time and a chance to do something a little different. Does anyone from the club want to go?

For information call Phill and Gretchen Bacon, 561-498-4656 or Larry and Susan Miceli 954-941-5432 or send e-mail to [skmiceli@juno.com](mailto:skmiceli@juno.com)

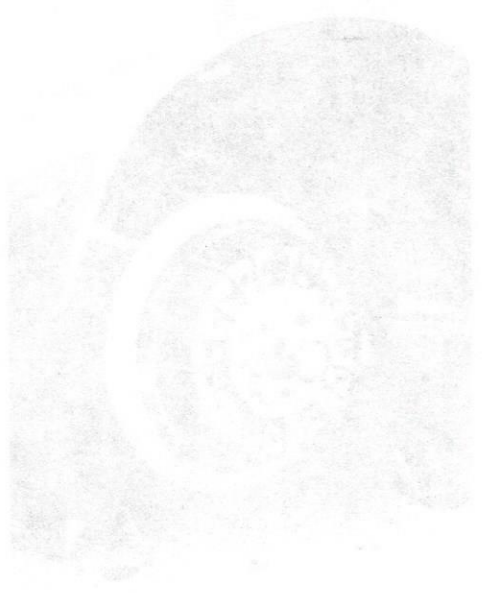
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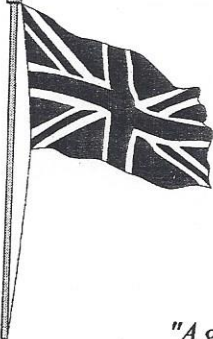


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*"A gentleman does not motor about after dark." -- Joseph Lucas, attrib.*



# "Drive through History"—warm, but enjoyable

by Terry Trovato

A nice collection of British cars and their owners took part in the English Motoring Club's June 13th event, entitled "A Drive through History" because it was routed through the scenic plantation countryside of Mississippi and Louisiana. The weather was warm—the air temp was 95-plus by mid-afternoon—but everyone did their best to keep cool and enjoy the scenery.

On hand were tour leaders John and Florence Simmers in their MGC GT; Joe Speetjens and Steve Collins in Joe's Morgan Plus 8; Debbie Adams and her son, Ray, in a TR6; Chuck Daniels in an MGB roadster; "rushee" Daniel Ducote in a TR3B; Bruce and Theresa

Moak in an MGB roadster; Dennis and Mary Kay Lofton in a Jaguar E-type roadster; John Turbeville in an MGB roadster; Pat, Barbara and John Cashman in a Jaguar MkII saloon; and Terry and Merideth Trovato in a Sunbeam Alpine roadster.

The drive through history began on the Natchez Trace Parkway, with the group assembling at Rocky Springs and then motoring south to Natchez. A human pit stop was made at Clara Nell's Deli on Main Street, where the group was served New Orleans' style beignets—yum!

Regrettably, upon leaving Natchez, Debbie Adams' TR6 had to drop out of the tour when it began experiencing electrical and fuel system problems. Chuck Daniels also gallantly dropped out to help the Adamses. A trailer was sent from Jackson, Miss., to rescue the Adamses and their car, and all arrived home safely.

From Natchez the remaining entourage crossed the Mississippi River into Louisiana and drove south along its west bank to New Roads, where they crossed the river again, this time by ferry, to St. Francisville. An Austin-Healey 3000 appeared from nowhere and joined the EMC group for the ferry ride. Its owners were as shocked to see a gaggle of British iron already on board as we were to see the Healey meandering down the road onto the ferry boat landing.

In the St. Francisville area the group toured the old and interesting Locust Grove Cemetery, where Sarah Knox Davis is buried—the daughter of General and later President Zachary Taylor, and the first wife of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

Then the group journeyed to picturesque Oakley Plantation for a tour of the antebellum home, followed by lunch at not-too-historic, but plenty-fun Steamboat Charlie's Sports Bar and Grill. From there the group disbanded, with members motoring back to their respective domiciles.

John and Florence Simmers did an outstanding job arranging this historic and educational event, driving the entire course previously to ensure a smooth journey for their fellow members.

## Two excellent events!

The Mississippi-based English Motoring Club would like to invite all *British Marque* readers with-in driving distance to join us for two excellent upcoming events. They are:

**Saturday, August 22** — The "British Car Exhibition." We have again been invited to display our cars at the Highland Games Competition in Jackson, Miss. Each year the Highland Games is a Celtic spectacle featuring the stirring sounds of the pipes and drums, Celtic arts and crafts, and great food and drink. This will not be a judged show, but rather a public relations opportunity for us to display our cars and educate the general public about our hobby and its many rewards.

There's no registration fee, no awards or prizes. Call Terry Trovato at (601) 442-8684 for starting time, location and further details.

**Saturday, October 17** — "Brits on the Bluff." This will be our premier event, a judged British car show held on the bluffs overlooking the mighty Mississippi River in picturesque, historic Natchez, Miss.

Our show will coincide with the city's Fall Pilgrimage Tour of antebellum mansions and its famous Hot-Air Balloon Festival. Our location for the show is superb and just one block away from the Balloon Festival site, where there will be music and food. Registration fee is \$20 per vehicle; awards and dash plaques will be given. Call Terry Trovato again at (601) 442-8684 for the starting time, location and further details.



# Drive through History but enjoyable

by John Jones

The drive through history is a journey of discovery and excitement. It is a way to see the world as it has been, to feel the pulse of the past. The roads are paved with the stories of men and women who have shaped our world. Each turn of the wheel reveals a new chapter in the grand narrative of human existence. From the ancient ruins of Rome to the modern marvels of the industrial revolution, the drive through history is a continuous thread of progress and achievement. It is a journey that enriches the soul and broadens the mind. As you travel, you are not just seeing the world; you are experiencing it. You are becoming a part of the story. The drive through history is a journey that is both educational and enjoyable. It is a way to connect with the past and to see the world as it is. It is a journey that is worth every mile.

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