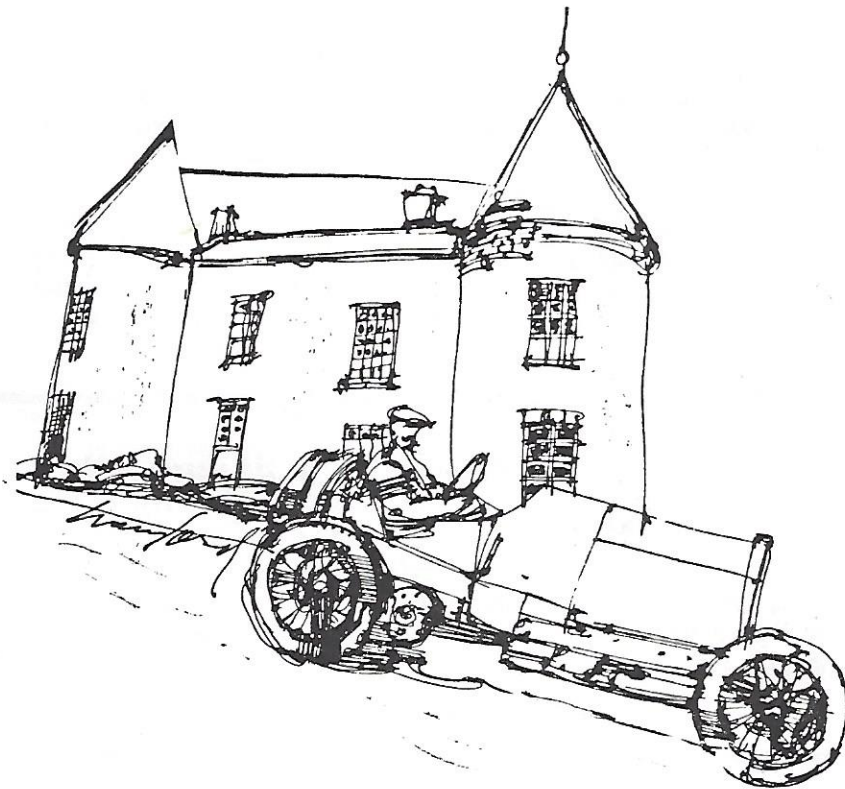


# Off-Side Undo

*English Motoring Club*

Vol. 9301 4305 Woodside, Vicksburg, MS 39180 Feb 93



*A Festival  
of British Cars  
and the British Lifestyle*

## The Editor's Column

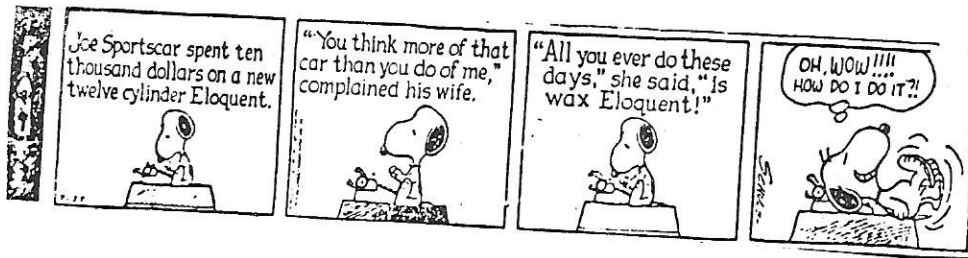
We have lettuce in the bathtub.  
We have lettuce in the bathtub because we wash lettuce in the bathtub. We do this because the bathtub has the only working cold water faucet in the house. This is the case because my father is a genius on working with British cars, a veritable miracle worker - however, he seems incapable of fixing a faucet. So while we have boxes of UPS'd car parts cluttering the hallways as my dad adds and replaces and tampers with various car parts,

we have no cold water. I wish that I could figure out the mental block that is causing this, but alas, I cannot. So as my father tinkers away in the garage, doing the most complex mechanical maneuvers possible, my mother and I make dinner ... and continue to wash our lettuce in the bathtub.

Susan

### Druid Advisory

"The Celts were brilliant, flamboyant, fearless, and dynamic people, but also given to drunkenness and boasting." Greetings Bards, Ovates, and Priests, on this, the 18th of Muin, 1993. We've just passed Imbolc - (1 Feb) - the time of cleansing, so hopefully your cars are now clean. Spring equinox is 20 March, when light and darkness finally balance, and the light grows stronger. Best bets are to hold out for Beltane, (Mayday) and party naked - but beware of suspicious fertility rituals  
Sluagh Sidhe



## The Chief's Comments

I have chosen the old Celtic title of "Chief" as it may be more appropriate to the nature of our club than the more commonly used term "President". I have also moved the Flag, such as it is, to Vicksburg and club mail will come here so it will take less time to move things around. In this monthly column, I will liberally criticise organizational matters and try to improve the level of our event planning.

There are several potential problems facing any club such as ours. First problem - laidbackness: While we have always prided ourselves in being laid-back unfortunately some of the organization necessary to make events fun for all, just does not get done. When we look sloppy and poorly organized at our yearly show or rally, it is an affront to those who have paid the price to attend. Travel to and from Jackson/Vicksburg from any other place plus food and two motel nights plus registration fees are not cheap. Last minute arrangements just do not inspire confidence and do not insure return business and return business is important to a club that has as

little member support as our own has had lately. There is a check list for event planning that may help in assuring that we have sufficient planning and advance publicity to carry out something other than just three or four people standing around in someone's drive way looking at a couple of cars.

Second problem - liability. We as a group, may be held legally responsible for any accidental injuries that occur at any of our events. We are not covered by a group or club policy and in the event of any unfortunate injury to a participant and/or spectator, we could have a problem. We have linked the previous Empire Trophy Rallies to the SCCA, and our last two British car shows have been linked to the Highland Games. We must now consider liability as well as publicity as part of any planning process. I hope one of the legally inclined members will provide the appropriate advice on the liability question (and waive his/her fee).

John

**Dues are Due** and may be sent to Alex at PO Box  
5263 Jackson, MS 39296

*Classified Ads and Contributions  
are needed by the 15th of each month*

## *Off Side Undo under new management*

For all of recent memory, Craig House has edited the Off Side Undo. During that time, he has located clever graphics, cut, pasted, drawn, typed, and generally produced a really great club newsletter. Craig and Jane may be moving on from the stately manor in Forrest for the wilds of the Empire, and Craig has passed along the newsletter. The current newsletter staff are now learning all the thing Craig already knows and it will probably be several issues before a degree of professionalism emerges (if it ever does). So while you work your way

through this issue keep in mind, that just like Craig, the newsletter needs, articles, stories, pictures, cartoons, and just about anything you would care to contribute.

We tried, with the cover graphic to find a picture that sort of looks like Craig in a pose that looks appropriately personly, and sort of symbolizes his leaving the helm of the OSU. We have been assured, by Craig, that contributions will be periodically forwarded and, of course, we will print them all. Good Luck Craig and Thanks

### ***THE MONTHLY BRITISH FASHION NOTE***

One of the most indispensable accessories for the colonial gentleman is the pith helmet. However, there are certain unwritten rules concerning its wear. In the tropics year round wear is, of course, permissible, but in the more temperate areas, wear should not commence prior to the 15th of April and wear should terminate on the 15th of September (regardless of whether one is on safari or not). In both the tropics and temperate regions (whether on safari or not), the pith helmet is neither to be worn after sunset nor before sunrise.

#### English Motoring Club Officers 1993

John Simmers, Chief (601)638-0968 Home  
(601)634-2803 Work  
Keith Anderson, Membership Chairperson  
(601)829-2573 Home  
(601)373-0682 Work  
Steve Collins, Tech Chairperson  
(601)982-5543  
Alex Wade, Chancellor of the Exchequer  
(601)825-9621  
Harvey and Joan Lane Social Chairpersons  
(601)965-2707 Home  
(601)362-6199 Work  
Susan Simmers Editor-in Chief  
(601)638-0968

# Coming Events

March 21  
Tops Down Party  
See flyer in this issue

April 18  
Tech Session  
call Steve Collins (601)982-5543 for information

April 23-25  
Ozark Scottish Festival  
call John Simmers (601)636-0968 for information

May 13-14  
3rd New Orleans British Car Day  
call Frazer Rice (504)736-0452 or  
Roger Gibson (504)887-2725 for information

June 6  
Picnic  
Harvey and Joan Lane

June 24-27  
North American MGB Register Covention  
St Louis  
call John Simmers (601)636-0968 for information

July 11  
Tech Session  
call Steve Collins (601)982-5543 for information

September 19  
Tech Session  
call Steve Collins (601)982-5543 for information

September 26  
Picnic  
Harvey and Joan Lane

November 5-6  
British Car Day and Highland Games of Mississippi  
Watch this space for further Details

## *The Short, and Now Shorter, Tail of Sidney* By Barbara Cashman

As some of you know, three or four years ago Pat and I bought a run down TR-3 from our neighbors, Bunny and Oscar. They had the car for quite a while, but the young marrieds, needed the money from its sale to continue their life's journey in a new direction, and advertised the car for sale. We drove by it daily for some time, the car bearing a bit sadly its FOR SALE sign. Perhaps in a weak moment we decided to buy it and save it from some unknown fate, as we had seen it for some time and Bunny had been one of the few who took our handicapped son, John, into her day care center to provide him with some social interaction amidst normal children. For nearly four years we collected parts and money to restore the car we came to call Sidney. (Actually Frank Peel knew its history from Jackson and it was called Bogey by its owners there. Maybe from the beginning the car had lots of obstacles to overcome. We knew it had been in a wreck before (didn't it run into a house?) and underwent a less than perfect rebuild. Still we were going to give it another try at life on the road with grace. We took it to a local body shop, Lamar's, for body work and paint. It wasn't a priority for us -because of money, etc., nor was it a priority for Lamar, who derived the bulk of his income from insurance

work- fast turnaround stuff. We were actually glad that he agreed to work on it as we knew his work was very good. Sidney spent a long time in the shop compounded by the fact that Lamar suffered a heart attack and Sidney was placed even farther back on the burner, and the heat was turned down lower. Parts we had located were lost and had to be reordered or scrounged. Finally, it emerged from the shop with a really good paint job and, like some of us, looked pretty good from fifteen feet away.

During this time we tried a local upholsterer for the interior. After some time he gave it up as being beyond his skills. Then Pat loaded Sidney on the trailer and headed for Gary Miller's shop in Yazoo City.

Once again, because of money, the car wasn't a high priority, but after a while Pat brought the car home finished and ready for the road. It was a day or so before our thirteenth anniversary, and I accepted the car with great pride as a gift of love from "the man I would most like to be parked next to in the garage of life". That was June of last year. Since then the car has been my true pride and joy. I love it because it's cute and small and is fun to drive, even though I have my share of problems with it, living in a very hilly town. I have to pick my routes as I can't manage a stop on a steep hill without rolling backwards. Just recently on a Sunday drive I had to cut the engine and turn it over to Pat when a car got too close on my tail and I found myself unable to get moving after a stop on a hill.

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"Tops Down Party"  
presented by  
the English Motoring Club

When: Sunday March 21 1993 2:00-4:00

Where: 200 Tolleson Place, Brandon, MS

Food: Bring your favorite beverage and snack food

Requirements: Arrive with your convertible top up - We will have an official lowering ceremony to celebrate the vernal equinox and the coming of SPRING

Directions: From Jackson, head East on I - 20 to the "DOWNTOWN BRANDON" Exit. Go East on HWY 80 to the first traffic light. Turn Left and head North on HWY 471 to the RR Tracks. Continue North on HWY 471 exactly 1.1 miles ~~past the RR tracks~~ to Tolleson Drive. Turn Left and go 1 block, then right onto Tolleson Place to the home of Steve and Julia Cappello (call 825-7832 if you get lost)

For Additional Information Call;

John Simmers 634-28903 or  
Keith Anderson 829 - 2573

Be Warned:  
Spring will not Come  
if you do not participate in this  
Ritual

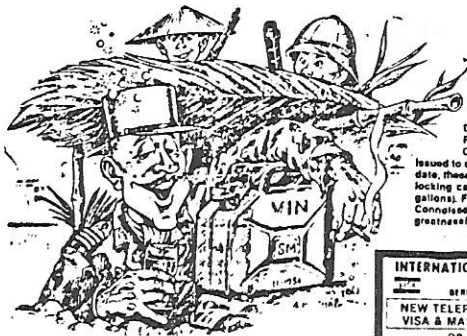
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February 8th was a gorgeous sunny day after some rather dreary rainy and cold weather. It seemed a perfect day to charge up the battery and circulate the fluids. After a nice leisurely drive around town, I was headed north on Washington Street, a rather flat street, I might add. There was a car ahead of me and we stopped for the light at Speed Street. As we started up, the car ahead signaled for a left turn into a convenience store and I continued slowly still in first gear, when WHAM, I was rear ended by a very large 1984 Mercury. Exiting the car, I quickly assessed the damage to mine and absolutely none to hers! Telling her to pull over, I ran to the store and called the police. After the policeman arrived, we gathered the salient facts- she had no insurance and only a part time job.

Luckily, no one was hurt and we carried insurance on Sidney, but the anger still remains, that by the system or the laws in Mississippi permit someone to drive and crunch so very badly my beautiful little

car. She, in fact, bears no responsibility for her actions in this matter. Oh, the policeman told her she could lose her license for this, but he and I and you all know that more than likely she will continue to drive without a license. Just think how long its been since you were asked to show your license to a policeman. For my part, its' been over a year since I went through a license check. Even then, the policeman told her, it would be ten days in jail or a \$1,000.00 fine. The jail term would be only ten days with good food and medical care. A \$1,000.00 fine is no threat to someone with only a part time job.

So the long and short of it is that my insurance rates and yours will be raised to cover situations such as this, and the guilty parties pay nothing. We pay doubly to drive our cars in this state, and the situation should not be allowed to continue. Join me in urging our legislators to pass some sort of compulsory liability insurance.



#### ORIGINAL FRENCH MILITARY WINE CANS

Dated in the 1950's, perhaps this is why the French lost at Dien Bien Phu, these are the ORIGINAL Mini JERRY CANS expressly issued to carry WINE! Die stamped "VIN" and 1950's date, these all steel cans have the German WW2 type locking cap and have a 10 litre capacity (approx. 3 gallons). Fully functional, a MUST for every Military Connoisseur of the Grape! The Secret of FRANCE'S greatness! Keep your Juice secured for only \$ 84.98 plus \$3.00 S&H (MF1000). Excellent usable condition.

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY ANTIQUES, INC.  
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BERNARDSVILLE, NEW JERSEY 07924  
NEW TELEPHONE SERVICE "HOT LINE" FOR  
VISA & MASTERCARD ORDERS, 908 853 9335  
OR ORDER BY FAX 908 953 0941



**Draft Event Planning Form (Please Comment)**

Name of Event \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance required \_\_\_\_\_ Source \_\_\_\_\_

Flyer supplied \_\_\_\_\_ Flyer needed \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Event \_\_\_\_\_

Date form Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Event \_\_\_\_\_

Potential attendance \_\_\_\_\_ Intended audience \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Event Chairperson(s) \_\_\_\_\_

# of Workers needed \_\_\_\_\_ Names of workers \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Publicity released \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Dash plaques required \_\_\_\_\_ Ordered \_\_\_\_\_

Needed (supply drawings) \_\_\_\_\_

Trophies required \_\_\_\_\_ Ordered \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Whitworth Spanner's Shade Tree Garage \**  
*A Column in which Technical Matters are Discussed*

Dear Mr. Spanner, Sir:

Several days ago, whilst driving my Triumph TR-2, I heard a most frightful noise underneath the car. On close examination, upon which I damaged (frightfully) a knee of my best tweed trousers, I found a great, long, beastly, pipe-thing had dropped from some where and was, in fact dragging upon the road. Now Mr. Spanner, Sir, I would like to know just exactly what this thing is that has spoiled my motoring, and how I may repair it myself here at the manor.

Respectfully, St John Grosvengnor Chomondeley  
Bovina, MS

Mr. Chomondeley's problem is not all that difficult for the trained shade tree mechanic. Firstly the great, beastly, pipe-thing of which he speaks is undoubtedly the exhaust pipe, a common occurrence on many British cars. Once such a part has slipped its moorings, several courses of action can be taken. My personal favorite (and the one I am apt to use most often is as follows: First go to your bedroom closet and locate a pair of trousers that have been thrown into a discarded heap. Having located said disreputable garment, take it immediately to the local dry cleaning establishment. When the garment is returned from the cleaners you will find that it is enclosed in a sort of plastic film bag and that the trousers are draped over a thing we call a "coat hanger". Remove the plastic material for later use as a seat cover, throw the trousers back into the bottom of the closet, and take the coat hanger and use it to wire the exhaust pipe of your car to some portion of the body frame or suspension that is of sufficient elevation to keep that beastly, pipe-thing from further dragging on the road. WS

\*In future issues this drivel will be replaced by serious answers

*Send in your technical questions*

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 1993 BUSINESS  
MEETING OF THE ENGLISH MOTORING CLUB**  
(REPORTED ALMOST IN THEIR ENTIRETY BY KEITH ANDERSON)

PART 1

Attending: John Simmers, Keith Anderson, Dennis Loftin, Steve Collins, Harvey Lane, Joan Lane, Alex Wade, Tere Wade, Craig House, Jane House, Barbara Cashman, was fashionably late, Joe Speetjens stopped by for a moment, and Frank Peel arrived after everyone has already left.

New Officers: John Simmers; Chief  
Keith Anderson; Membership  
Steve Collins; Tech.  
Alex Wade; Chancellor of the Exchequer  
Harvey and Joan Lane; Social

Susan Simmers has agreed to serve as Editor-in-Chief of the newsletter.

Steve Collins was recognized for his great job serving as President for the past two years.

Craig House was recognized for serving as newsletter editor for years. He and Jane will be moving to the great northwest later this year

**Treasurers's Report (hereafter Exchequer):**

1992 income: \$1,869.39  
1992 expense: \$1,720.13  
Bank balance at the beginning of 1992: \$286.73  
Bank balance at the end of 1992: \$435.99

Club Dues Will Remain at \$15.00 per Family

John Simmers won the 1992 "Spirit Award" for having accumulated the most points, due to his participation in most of the club events and related functions. A \$50.00 gift certificate to Matthews Auto Parts should help keep his British Iron on the road.

Points for the 1993 "Spirit Award" will be tallied by Keith Anderson.

*Your comments on this and all issues of  
the Off Side Undo are always welcome*

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

**For Sale:** Three 165 x 15 tires, nearly new- \$ 45. Two Corbeau bucket seats, black fabric. Were in my TR-6, will even fit in a Mini- \$100. Pat Cashman  
(601)638-2340 (h) (601)636-4545 (w)

**For Sale:** 1958 MGA 1,000 miles on total frame off reatoration, red/tan with wire wheels- \$9,500, negotiable. (504)748-8223

**Wanted to Buy:** TR-6 to restore. Joel Elkins (904)623-0415 (h)

**Wanted to Buy:** Sprite engine and transmission. Kent Turner (601)638-8005 (h)

### MINUTES PART 2

*Please keep him informed of any out of state functions that are attended.*

*The club has decided to encourage new menbergrowth by printing calling cards, that can be placed on the windshields of unsuspecting British car owners.*

*Keith Anderson advised that the annual "Tops Down" party will be held at the new home of Steve and Julia Cappello on Sunday, March 21st, from 2:00-4:00 PM.*

*Rallymaster John Simmers has set the date for the Empire Trophy Rally for May 15-16. The rally may take place either in Vicksburg or Natchez. (NOTE: These dates conflict with the New Orleans Show-Rescheduling will be necessary)*

*Harvey and Joan Lane have announced two picnics set for June 6 and Sept.26. They have graciously agreed to host the Christmas party at their home on December 19th.*

*British Car Day will be Nov. 6th, in conjunction with the Highland Games. We agreed to encourage enthusiasts to show their "daily drivers", cars in progress of restoration, and generally any British car.*

*Note that most of the events are set on Sunday, to invite greater participation from those that are not able to join us on Saturdays, due to work schedules.*