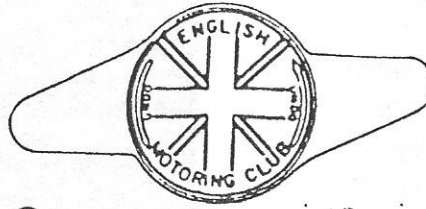


Off-Side Undo

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Zupan's Markets Historic Races Portland International Raceway

By Alex Wade

Most of you know that EMC members Jane and Craig House moved from Forest, Mississippi to Oregon City about five years ago. They now live in a fantasy world known to the rest of us as the great Pacific Northwest. Here, eagles reside in the trees next door to their suburban home high on a cliff in the foothills of Mt. Hood. In addition to incredible scenery, nearby Portland is home to a world class track for auto enthusiasts.

It was an invitation from the Houses to attend the Zupan Historic Race at this track that brought Tere and I to our first vintage race in over seven years. It was also the first opportunity we have had to see Jane House in her Mini Cooper on the track. Jane knows how to drive fast, play it safe, and have fun- a combination we look for in historic racing.

We had hoped to see some interesting British machinery at Zupan's race and we were not disappointed. In addition to some MGAs, MGBs, Lotus's, TR-3As, a TR-6, Mini Coopers, Austin Healeys (100-4,3000, and Sprite Mk.1), and Jaguars (XK-120s and an E-Type), we saw an incredible Jaguar C-Type and a very nice AC Bristol. Heavier British metal also appeared such as a Lister- Chevy, several Lolas, AC Cobras, several Allards (including a Palm Beach), a few Sunbeam Tiaers, a Ford Cor

tina, and a TVR. Although not British, I was impressed with some of the other vehicles present such as a Saab Sonnet (from Alaska) and a Kennedy (one powered by a thumping-big gasoline-not gin- guzzling V-8).

Portland International played host to the car clubs on Saturday. A large number of Minis, Triumphs, AustinHealeys and Jaguars were present along with a few Mgs and Bentleys. The Dodge Viper Club was well represented with almost one dozen examples present. Two of our favorite cars, however, consisted of a turquoise BMW Isseta and a hot pink Nash Metropolitan hot rodded with a V-8. However I digress. All of the club people we met were exceptionally nice and helpful.

Jane's car competing as Bumble-Bee Rcing is a nice little 1964 Mini Cooper S painted in black with a broad yellow rcing stripe. This car has been tuned to a very high degree by master mechanic and Mini guru Jeff Dolan. This man knows more about Minis than Bill Gates knows about Windows. In addition to his expertise, Jeff and his baby daughter Sarah provided enormous entertainment throughout the whole weekend. Jane's car is very nicely prepared with an engine built for performance and reliability proven by the fact that we never had to turn a wrench in anger the entire weekend.

Our position in the paddock placed us next to the very nice 1958 AC Bristol driven by Bob Boyfer of Issaquah, Washington. You have to look under the hood to appre-

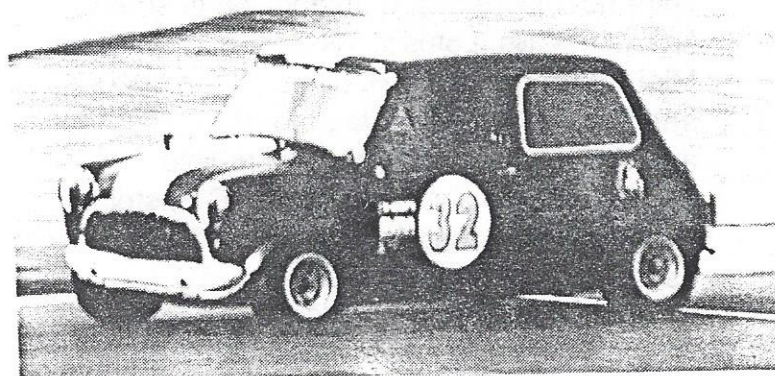
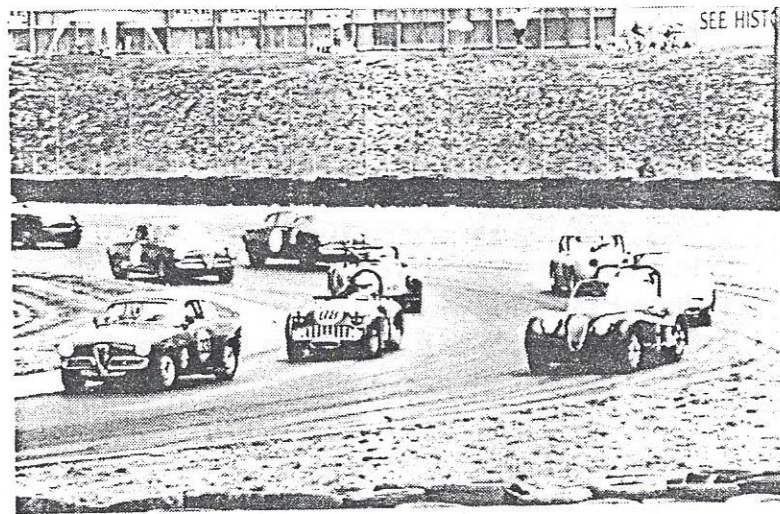
ciate this machine. Wrapped in an aluminum body familiar to all AC Cobra enthusiasts, the car shares the transverse leaf front and rear suspension of its younger and bigger brothers. The steering box however is identical to the worm and peg box carried in the TR-3. It is linked to a very peculiar device which allows the tie rods to pivot from a location far forward of the steering box. Leave it to the British to design an overly complicated solution to a non-existent problem. The engine, a Bristol-built copy of a pre-war BMW design, is a marvel of its day. Looking for all the world as a double overhead cam straight six it is actually pushrod operated with cross-tubes operating the opposite bank of valves. This design allows for a hemispherical head which greatly enhances performance. Between the valve covers rested a set of three Solex carburetors. Very nice arrangement and a very fast car on the track.

Sunday's race was quite exciting. You really needed the earplugs that the Houses thoughtfully provided to us. The Grand Prix cars especially produced a type of scream heard only at international races and in certain Jackson neighborhoods on Saturday nights. A few accidents occurred including one which involved our paddock mate the AC Bristol. The AC I am afraid has a very expensive visit ahead of it at Bubba's Exotic Aluminum Cr Fix-It Shop.

Jane's car ran nearly perfectly affording her an opportunity to post her best lap time ever. She drove a safe race and had great fun doing it. Her only problem arose at the very end of the race when the racers lined up for their complimentary checkered flags at which time her faithful Mini decided it had had enough and gave starting trouble. Nevertheless, she made it under her own power back to the paddock and a few hours of diagnostics will undoubtedly locate the culprit.

The weekend of July 11-13, 1997 which was followed by a week long rock hounding expedition in the Oregon desert will always be remembered by Tere and myself as one

of our best vacations ever. Long live Bumblebee Racing!



Natchez British Car Exhibition Oct.18

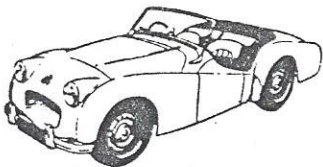
This EMC exhibition will coincide with the Natchez Balloon Festival Weekend and Fall Pilgrimage tour of antebellum homes.

We will be "on the green" at the corner of Broadway and State Streets overlooking the Mississippi River and just a block away from the balloon site. Cars can be put on site as early as 8:00am.

IMPORTANT: call NOW for rooms. 1-800-647-6742 for b&b or call Terry Trovato for motel suggestions 601-442-8684.

Terry and Meredith Trovato have really-put in the effort to secure a great site for us. Bring your car and join us in Natchez!

THIS and THAT

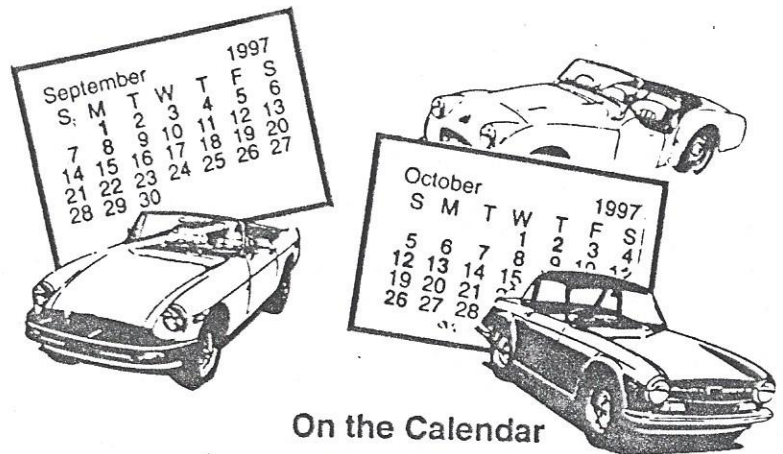


Ray Zagorski sold his Spitfire and it has gone to Louisiana.

I picked up my Mk II Jaguar after it sat at European Automotive in Jackson for eight weeks. Aside from chipping the paint on the front fender, knocking a piece of interior wood loose, loosening the gearshift knob, nothing was done. My engine rebuild was of no interest to them after all. Some people really play strange games with customers.

Past President Steve Collins says his TR-6 is back together but may have some internal problems.

The EMC had a nice turn out at the Scottish Highland games-and it was not too hot. Much cooler air made the day more enjoyable than last year.



On the Calendar

THIRD BRITISH CAR DAY AT ALABAMA HIGHLAND GAMES SEPT. 27

Montgomery, Alabama. Call Hamer Phillips -334-277-3645 or Raymond Cooper 334-279-0971. Included this year is a tour of a private collection with cars in excess of \$1,000,000.00 valuation.

MEMPHIS BRITISH CAR & CYCLE FEST OCT. 9-11

Wilson World Hotel. Call Jim Hofer 800-344-9683 or Bill Cravens 901-683-7195.

CRUISIN' THE COAST OCT. 9-12

Live entertainment, cruises, show & shines, swap meets. 1-800-808-1188.

EMC NATCHEZ EXHIBITION OCT. 18

Enjoy cars, balloons, antebellum homes. Terry Trovato 601-442-8684.

FOR SALE , SWAP OR TRADE

Wanted: transmission for series 3 Jaguar. Call Peter Brauen 601-467-0519.

1966 Mustang GT convertible. New top, has pony interior, 289 four barrel, duals, A/C, auto PB, PS. Tom Cole 601-636-7728.

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