

The

Minnesota



Group Gazette



June 2000

Brit Day Drive

Curt Carlson

Join us for a scenic drive to "New Life to Classics" on June 10th. I've worked up a new scenic route through Shakopee, Chaska, Carver, Henderson, LeSueur, Ottawa, Kasota, and Mankato. No road construction, no gravel roads, no traffic, no rain! We'll be meeting at 9:00AM at Dangerfield's in Shakopee (see map). The Happy Chef is located at 1583 1st Ave E on the North-east end of town towards Valleyfair. See you then!

In case of inclement weather, Dave has planned an alternate day on Sunday, the 11th. However, I will not be able to be around to lead a drive down on that day.

See the usual map on page 4

Rover Lives

Well, it seems that our parent company is British-owned once again. The Phoenix Consortium, a group of British business interests put together just for this purpose, has successfully purchased the Rover Group from BMW. Rumour has it that the purchase price was ten pounds. It appears that they intend to continue production at Longbridge much as it had been under BMW, but they intend to position Rover as more of a mid-market brand. BMW had tried to sell Rover as an up-market brand and that is claimed to be part of the reason they never made any money with it. Rover has made sales gains in the last couple of months, sales in April were so strong that certain models were out of stock and more than one in every ten cars newly registered in Britain was a Rover. Whether this was due to a swell of loyalty, or a reaction to deep discounts is unclear. The original Mini is still scheduled to cease production in September. It had to happen eventually but it's still a sad bit of news.

Editor's Corner

Phil Vanner

So I find myself with a column to fill. It's 10:30 at night. This newsletter is already overdue, and I have about 15 column-inches of blank space staring at me. Help. I'm not complaining about having to fill Doug's space, because he's the only person who has contributed every month. I just need some thing to put in here. Anything: jokes, rants, ideas for events, stories of drives you've taken, your first British car, your last *British car*. just e-mail it to me and I'll drop it in. It doesn't even have to be good. Most of what I write isn't.

OK. Now what? I still have a bunch of space left. How about an old car story? A while back a guy named Jim posted a message to the Spridgets e-mail list. He told a story about taking his Sprite out for a drive:

"With my wife's car in the shop, she's been driving mine, so my '69 Sprite has once again become my daily driver, after a looong time hidden in the garage (so it's not exactly been a common sight on the streets of my neighborhood.)

(A little background here: I bought the car brand-new in 1969. The car was new, I was young - 22 years old - and the world was at my feet, with all things possible. Enter the millennium, so doing the math will tell you that I'm now a 53-year-old driving a 31-year-old car.)

Back to my story. As I was pulling out of my cul-de-sac, I noticed a group of the neighbors from the next block over gathered across the street, you know, just hanging out. They were all ages; kids, teens, and a couple of suburban moms in their thirties. Suddenly, a strange thing happens: they're smiling, and pointing at me, and nodding their heads with big grins and - waving? Yes, waving! I wave back without thinking and continue on down the street with all the speed that 1275cc can muster.

And then it hits me...like a bolt of lightning...like a ton of bricks...like a knot of ice in my stomach. It's happened: I've become...I've become...(I can't say this)...THE OLD GUY DOWN THE STREET

(Continued on page 2)

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MEMBERSHIPS

Initial membership is \$30 (this gets you up to two name badges- additional name badges are \$5.00 each)

Dues are \$25 per household per year for established members. Includes 1 year subscription to the MMGG Gazette.

Fill out the form on page 3 and send it with your check payable to "MMGG" to:

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Bloomington, MN 55437

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All statements are the opinion of the persons expressing them, and not necessarily the official opinions or policies of the Minnesota MG Group.

Visit us on the internet at: www.mmgg.org

Editor's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

WITH THE FUNNY OLD CAR!

Remember? Sure you do; we all had one living somewhere near us when we were growing up. For my generation, it was some nice old harmless guy who'd kept that old Model T or Model A, and could be seen in his driveway every once in a while washing it, or even more rarely might be spotted *driving* it!

But now...AAAAARRGGHHH...I'm HIM!..."

In my neighborhood it was Mr. Sweet. He was on my paper route. Near the bottom of the hill, a few blocks from my house. Mostly we used to see it in his garage, or in his driveway. Whenever he drove by in his flat cap and string-backed gloves we pointed and waved; he always waved back with a smile. The kids in the neighborhood used to argue about what kind of car it was - none of us would ever betray our ignorance by asking him, but the guesses were pretty wild.

One day in early spring I was delivering his paper and he had it out in the driveway, cleaning the wheels I think. I was about ten. He could tell his car fascinated me, so he started to tell me about it. I remember thinking the chunky chrome and the flat dashboard with the swoopy top were very exotic. He told me to hop in if I wanted to. I was afraid to touch anything because I didn't want to smudge newspaper ink on it. It was the first time I ever sat in an MG. It was a pale primrose TD. I don't remember if I ever thanked Mr. Sweet, but I never forgot it.

Maybe it ain't so bad to be that old guy after all.

Oh, and by the way, this Midwest Fest business sounds like a heck of a deal. I know we have a number of overnight events planned already but I like the sound of this one.

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4th Annual



BRIT DAY at NEW LIFE TO CLASSICS

Come spend a fun filled day in a 10,000-sq. ft. Facility exclusively devoted to the restoration and servicing of classic British sports cars. Dave Wintz and the Minnesota MG Group invite all British Car lovers to attend.

FESTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- ❖ Door prizes for every British car attending. Gifts, gift certificates, and prizes from the major vendors of British auto parts, accessories, and memorabilia. (Vendors donated over 160 door prizes last year.)
- ❖ Free food and beverages
- ❖ Live entertainment during lunch
- ❖ Special Award for British car club with largest attendance.
- ❖ Free registration for car show and event
- ❖ Car show will be held on the grass fields by the shop! Your British car is welcomed in any condition.
- ❖ Trophies awarded in each marque (voting by participants choice)
- ❖ Professional group photo of all cars present will be taken at 10:00 am sharp.
- ❖ Auction of select items of interest.

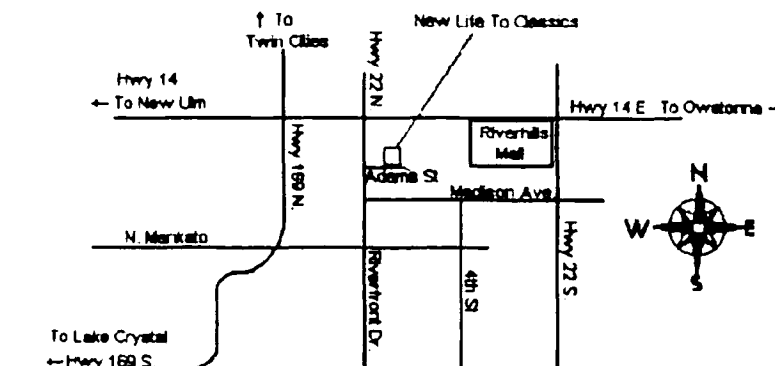
Place: New Life to Classics

1101 N. Riverfront Dr. , Mankato, MN (507) 387-CARS

Date: Saturday, June 10, 2000

Bad weather alternative: Sunday, June 11, same time

Time: 9:00 am to 3:30 pm (may run later)



Classifieds

SERVICE:

Motoring Goodies will soon have an open bay available for your MG work. Complete restoration or major renovation a specialty. Benefit from my years of experience with T-series MG's. Highly competitive hourly rates and the highest quality workmanship is my gurantee. For your appointment, please call Bob Figenskau at 612-935-7909

Service

To my fellow British automotive enthusiasts,

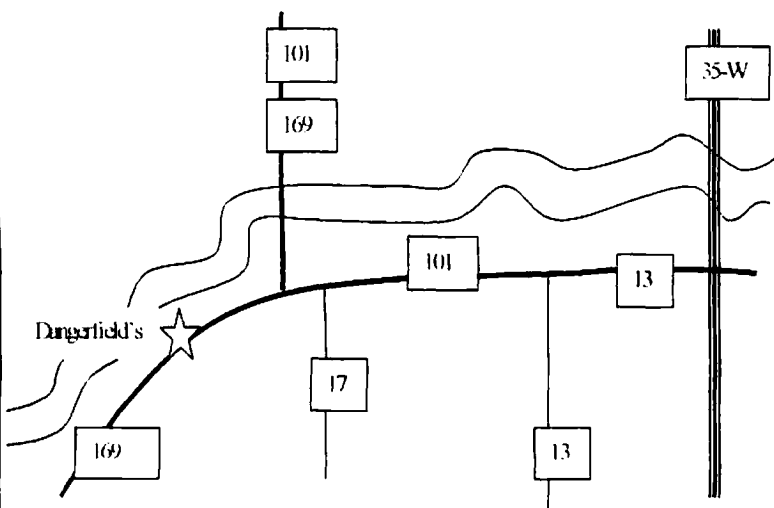
I am currently working full time on British vehicles and believe in providing the best quality work for my customers. I'm equipped for repair, maintenance, tuning and restoration of all drive line and Chassis components.

I deal with Moss Motors, Victoria British, Mini Mania, The Winners Circle, and other Local, National, and International parts sources. Used parts are available for various cars locally and out of state.

-Located forty five minutes north of Minneapolis near Forest Lake MN.

Thank you.
-Brian Mc Cullough.
(651) 462- 0145
bmcMcC@hotmail.com

The Map:



FOR SALE :

or trade MGB wire wheel hubs and rear axle for MGB Rostyle hubs and rear axle.

Also have 5 wire wheels. Call (612) 892-3519 or e-mail JKDSH@cs.com. Kevin Healy.

FOR SALE :

1979 MGB 58,000 mi. Excellent driver, minor rust, all original and working, red, new tires, brakes, generator, alternator, fuel pump, and battery. \$3800 or best offer. 763-531-1722

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Midgets:

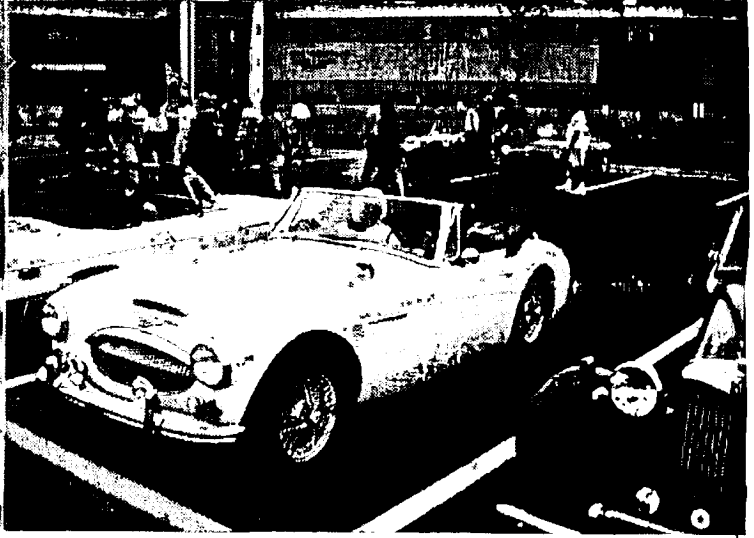
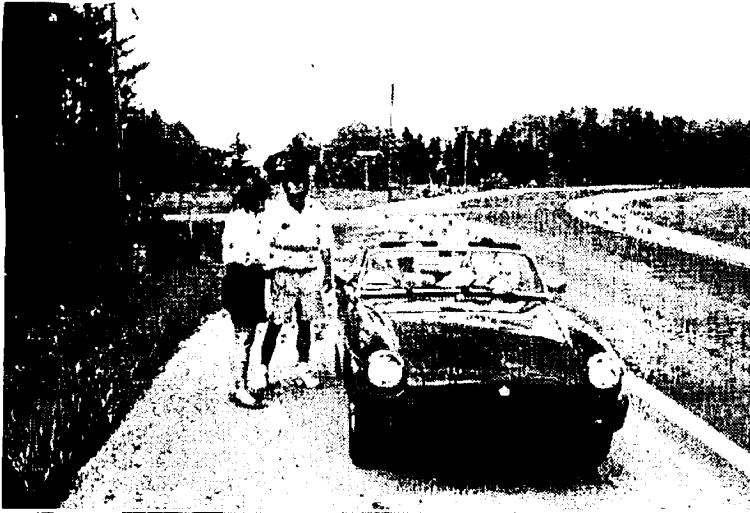
Dewey Frier.....612-424-3286

Brian McCollough.....651-462-0145

Bodywork

Dewey Frier.....612-424-3286

If you want to know - Ask! These people have expressed willingness to answer questions and offer advice about these cars, whether you are looking to repair or purchase, it always helps to know more.



Midwest Fest

La Crosse, Wisconsin
September 22, 23 & 24, 2000

The Event

Midwest Fest is the perfect way to close out the perfect summer of the first year of the millenium. Join your friends at a Great River Road location to celebrate all those wonderful British cars that survived into this century.

This will be the first multi-day, all British, regional event ever held in this part of the country. It may be the first anywhere. All cars can participate in the rally, tour, funkhana, autocross, and concours.

The La Crosse area offers the Midwest's best mix of big city amenities (decent hotels, local breweries, etc.) and country pleasures (uncrowded two-lane blacktops through a landscape that will have you swearing you're in England's Lake District). We're going to put this exciting mixture to good use, and invite you to join us.

Friday

Afternoon – Funkhana. Start off your stay with this semi-serious test of driving skills and mechanical aptitude. The event may be partly in jest but the event organizers are deadly serious about providing a course that will entertain you. Evening - Welcome Party Unlace your string-back driving gloves and kick-back with all your Upper Midwest British car friends. There'll be drivers and towers. There'll be racers and tourers. There'll be polishers and tourers. They'll all be there. You be there too.

Saturday

Morning - TSD Rally Bring your Halda Speed Pilot (or just your watch) and join us for a well-planned rally in the scenic coulees of the Mississippi. This is the territory made famous in the Great River Road Rally (the Midwest's Monte Carlo Rally). And we have the GRRR's rallymaster helping us with this event on all paved roads. The rally will be part of the 2000 Great Northern Historic Rallye Championship series. More curves than you can double clutch to in a month at home.

Morning - Coulee Tour Want to enjoy the Rally roads but without having to worry about when you get to the next checkpoint? The Coulee Tour is the TSD Rally without the TSD (time, speed, distance) component.

Afternoon - Concours The concours will be judged on the VTR's 400-point scale, so if you've previously been judged on a 100-point system this is your chance to run up an astronomical score. In addition, VTR has classes for modified and competition cars. So enter that triple-Weber, Judson-supercharged, Paddy Hopkirk-seated special without worrying that its score will suffer. And we'll have some special people's choice awards also (Car with a paint job that looks like it cost more than my first house; Car least likely to make it home from the event; etc., etc.)

Evening - Awards Banquet/Entertainment No boring speeches! No self-congratulatory introductions of everybody that ever owned a Triumph in Minnesota! Just a little fun and handing out of the hardware. Anybody who attended the 1988 VTR National knows that we don't mess around at these things.

Sunday

Morning - SCCA Autocross This is the real thing. The Midwest region of the Sports Car Club of America is putting on their autocross for specialty-built machines. But they're going to let us have a go at their course first. If you're an autocross aficionado, or if you'd just like to see what your street car can do on the course, this is your chance.

Lodging

Host Hotel: The host hotel is the Radisson La Crosse, located on the banks of the Mississippi River. Make your own reservations by contacting the Radisson at 608-784-6680. Mention Midwest Fest and/or Minnesota Triumphs and receive the \$97 event rate. Only 75 rooms are booked and they will be released August 22, so hurry.

Alternate: The Holiday Inn is walking distance to the Radisson and they have 40 rooms blocked off for us until August 22. Prices are \$82 for a double queen. Call 608-784-4444 and mention Midwest Fest and/or Minnesota Triumphs. Other downtown hotels: Courtyard by Marriott (608-782-1000); Guest House Motel (608-784-8840); Chateau La Crosse (800-442-7969, on National Registry of Historic Inns)

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2000 Schedule

Date	Event	Host	Place
June 10	Brit Day	Dave Wintz	Mankato
9-11	Vintage Sports Car Rendezvous	TB Vintage Sports Car Club	Thunder Bay, Ont
15-18	MG 2000	Emerald Necklace MG Register	Cleveland, OH
17	Buffalo British Car Day	Don Carlson (701-293-6882)	Buffalo, ND
July	Picnic/Car Show	Bosworths/Olsons	St. Paul
18-21	GOF	MN MGT Register	Duluth
	Chicago Historics		Elkhart Lake
Aug 5-6	The Marshall Plan	Larry and Barb Henle	Marshall, MN
12	Swap Meet Show	Vanners/McCulloughs	Ellingson's, Rogers, MN
Sept. 9	Wheels and Wings	Jerry and Nancy Strand	Osceola, WI
22-24	Midwest Fest	Dan and Jeanette Shidla	LaCrosse, WI
Oct 6 or 7	Fall Colour Tour	?	Owatonna?
Nov 4	Annual Meeting	Doug and Mary Madson?	
January '01	Holiday Party	Jon Masley	

More on Midwest Fest inside

What's the deal with the July picnic event, Hmm?