



Autosiaste

VOL. 14

no 2

Membre



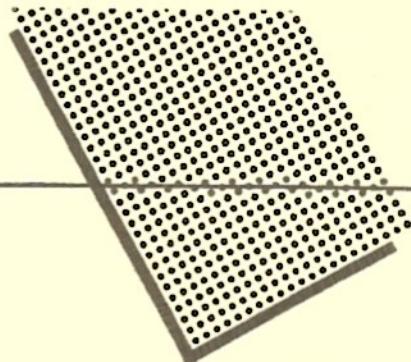
Member

Août August 1988





ENTHOUSIASTES DES VOITURES
EUROPÉENNES D'AUTREFOIS
VINTAGE EUROPEAN AUTOMOBILE ENTHUSIASTS



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1987

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Sommaire — Contents

Le rallye Hemmi-Rally 1988.....	page 2
La restauration d'une Jaguar.....	page 4
Sprite Fest '88.....	page 7
Ottawa Porshe Club Concours.....	page 9
Gymkana '88 A Big Success.....	page 12
Le cinquantenaire de la traction 15-Six.....	page 17
Summer of '69.....	page 19
Early American Racing.....	page 21
Petites annonces.....	page 24
Le calendrier de l'Autosiaste	
An Enthusiast's Calendar.....	page 25

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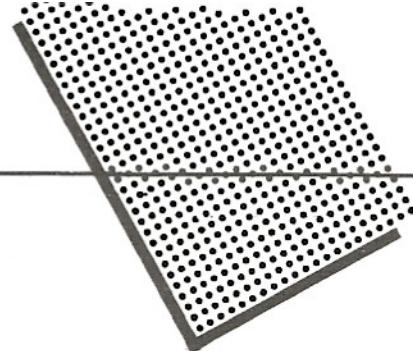
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Le Rallye Hemmi-Rally 1988

by Tom Merson.

May 15. For a couple of years, the V.E.A. has wondered whether we should continue with the Hemmi Rally. Yes, it is all for a good cause, yes, it is a lot of fun. But for some reason, the number of participants from our club seemed to be tailing off. On the other hand again, whenever we questioned the members, the event was voted a popular one.

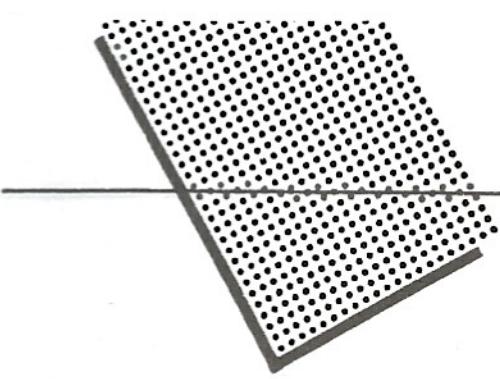
This year, our club's faith in the event was vindicated as a promising number of our cars showed up for the rally, to participate jointly with the Laurentide Driving club, the Mainly Minis club and the V.A.C.M. And as usual, the event posed an excellent opportunity for other enthusiasts to learn about our club.

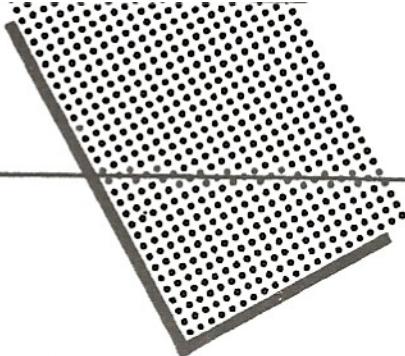
The Hemmi rally afforded us an opportunity to drive through the picturesque Hudson/Como area (this year without the rain!). Once again, our skills and nerves were tested. No one murdered their navigator, and not one divorce case stemmed from this competition.

Quite to the contrary, this gave me the personally satisfying experience of introducing this sport to my son Evan who served as my navigator. The chance to be out in the country, be with family or friends in a fine car makes this one of the most pleasurable events on our calendar.

HEMMI RALLY RESULTS:

1. Richard and Louise Boudrias	Citroen 11 BL	2 pts.
2. Marc Bourgeois and Sylvain Fortune	Mercedes 280 SL	4 pts.
3. Jean Nocera	Austin Healey 3000	37 pts.
4. Roger and Lise Hamel	Austin Healey 3000	45 pts.
5. Jim Begg	Jaguar	67 pts.
6. Tom and Evan Merson	Austin Healey Sprite	69 pts.





rétro pratique

La restauration d'une JAGUAR MKII

Quelle voiture a jamais concilié si parfaitement le luxe et la vitesse, la fiabilité et la beauté ? La Mk II bien sûr ! Car on peut à la fois aimer piloter cette Jaguar et se laisser conduire dans le silence feutré d'une petite berline aux formes rondes.

La Mark II a hérité de la solidité éprouvée sur les grands circuits du moteur XK, d'une boîte de camion, de perfections techniques d'avant-garde (freins à disques, pont autobloquant) et de la griffe du Jaguar. Ajoutez à cela un appétit raisonnable pour les performances de vitesse et de poids (1,4 tonne) et un décor « retour des Indes » où il ne manque que le flacon de whisky pour se retrouver chez soi...

Roues fils chromées, sièges en cuir, overdrive (la cinquième vitesse !), antibrouillard, la route à 160 et toujours le confort, le silence que seuls viennent percer les vitres et tambours des grenadiers sortis tout droit de Barry Lyndon, tout est là, à tel point que l'on se demande pourquoi on a fait semblant de faire mieux. Le prix ? De 150 000 F à 350 000 F. La concurrence s'efface. Certes, il peut être utile de prévoir quelques frais pour une remise en état éventuelle ou pour refaire un moteur à 100, 150, voire 200 000 km, car il est indispensable d'avoir une mécanique impeccable, une caisse propre et un intérieur irréprochable.

La Mark II c'est la seconde voiture idéale pour rouler, s'évader et se laisser mener sans être pour autant dans un bus.

LA PARTIE MECANIQUE

La restauration d'une Mark II commence évidemment par la dépose du moteur et de la boîte après désaccouplement de la barre de transmission, dépose du filtre à huile, de la dynamo et du radiateur : le nettoyage de toutes ces pièces et un examen minutieux des pistons, cylindres, vilebrequin, etc. Certains rectifieurs possèdent un appareil permettant de radiographier le vilebrequin et d'en déceler les fai-blesses internes.

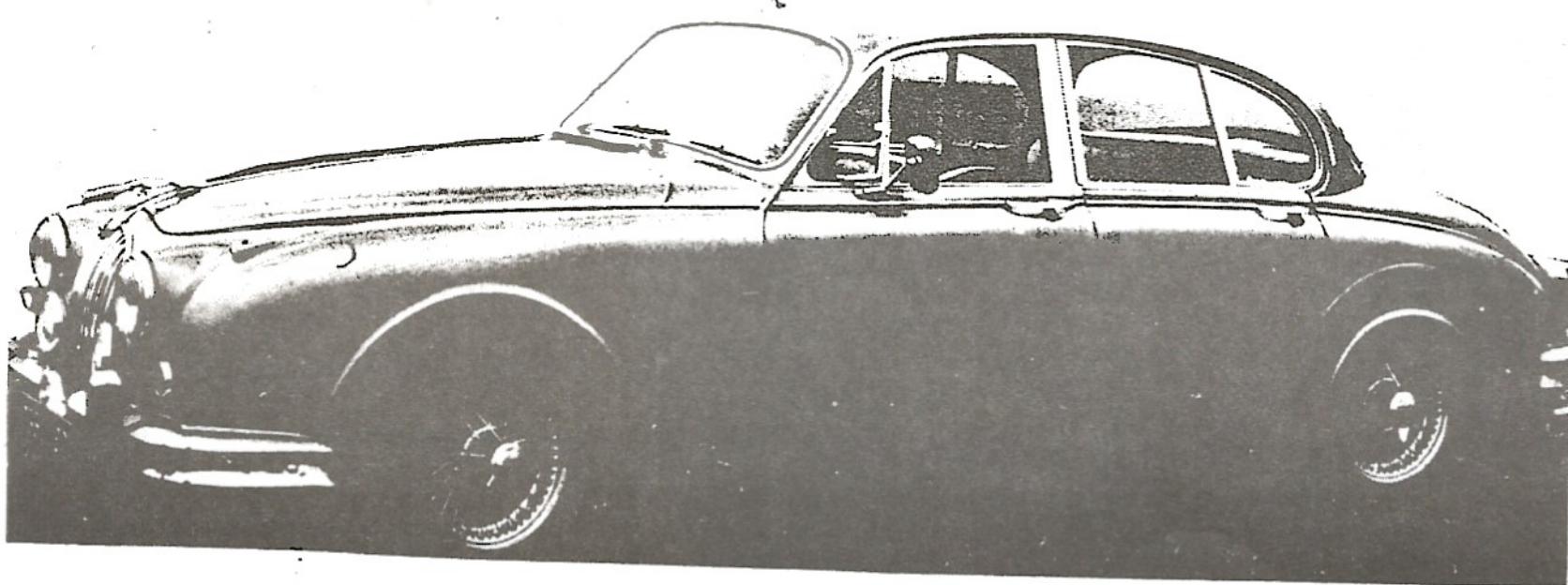
Devant les augmentations considérables de tarif de rectification, un moteur Jaguar coûte 15 000 à 20 000 F à refaire. Après rectification, le vilebrequin

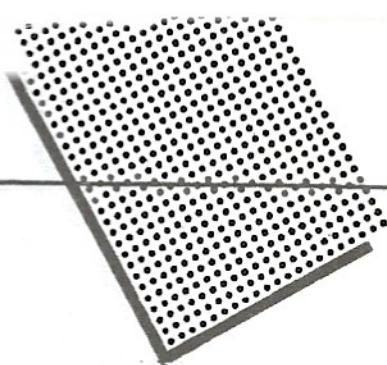
doit être équilibré avec le volant moteur. Le bloc en fonte est alors réalisée, ou, s'il est monté avec des chemises sèches, on procède au remplacement de ces chemises, ce qui permet de monter des pistons à la cote d'origine. Les bielles peuvent être traitées en surface par microbillage. Avant de procéder au remontage du bas moteur il faut passer l'allumeur au banc afin de vérifier la courbe d'avance, et bien évidemment remplacer les vis platinées et le condensateur.

La culasse après surfaçage est remontée en remplaçant les guides, sièges et

ressorts de soupapes neufs, et on procède au rodage des soupapes qui auront été rectifiées. Il est conseillé de changer les chaînes de distribution et la pompe à huile, ou tout au moins d'en vérifier le jeu. En ce qui concerne le circuit de refroidissement, il faut faire détartrer le radiateur, changer le roulement et les joints de la pompe à eau, et remplacer systématiquement les pastilles de sablage, opération peu coûteuse et très aisée lorsque le moteur est déposé. Les dynamos et démarreur doivent être confiés à un électricien auto pour vérification.

Le moteur est alors remonté et pour l'esthétique et le plaisir personnel les





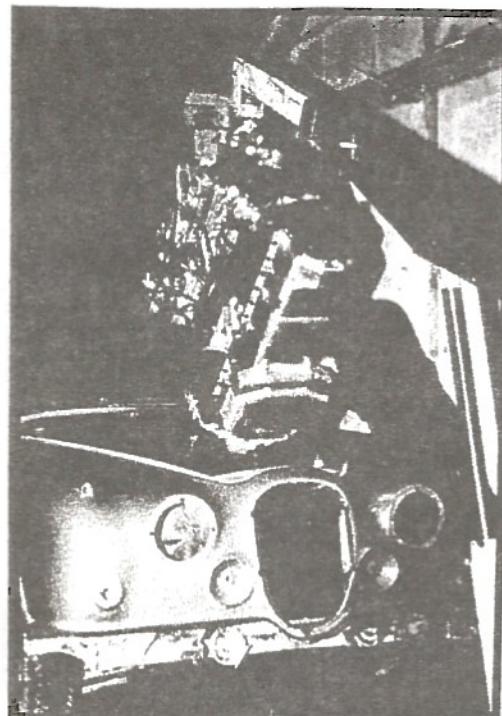
1, 2, 3, Pose du groupe propulseur dans son compartiment.

cache-arbres en alu doivent être polis par un spécialiste ou à l'aide du Bel-gom. Le moteur XK ayant une course longue et conséquemment une vitesse linéaire des pistons très grande, il est indispensable de vérifier fréquemment le niveau d'huile et surtout d'utiliser une très bonne huile (Igol).

La boîte doit être ouverte pour vérifier l'état des roulements et pignons de synchro et leur remplacement si nécessaire, sans oublier l'overdrive. De même en ce qui concerne la colonne de pont.

Le disque d'embrayage et bien souvent la butée sont changés avant de réaccoupler le moteur et la boîte.

Toutes les pièces mécaniques sont disponibles chez British Leyland France, garage Wilson à Levallois ou Afiva à Neuilly.



Le train avant d'une Mark II présente souvent quelques faiblesses du côté des silents blocs de direction, des rotules, des amortisseurs, voire d'un jeu certain de la crémaillère : à voir.

Une réfection totale du circuit de freinage passe par le remplacement des couplets pistons et ressorts de chaque cylindre de roue et du maître-cylindre ainsi que par le changement des plaquettes.

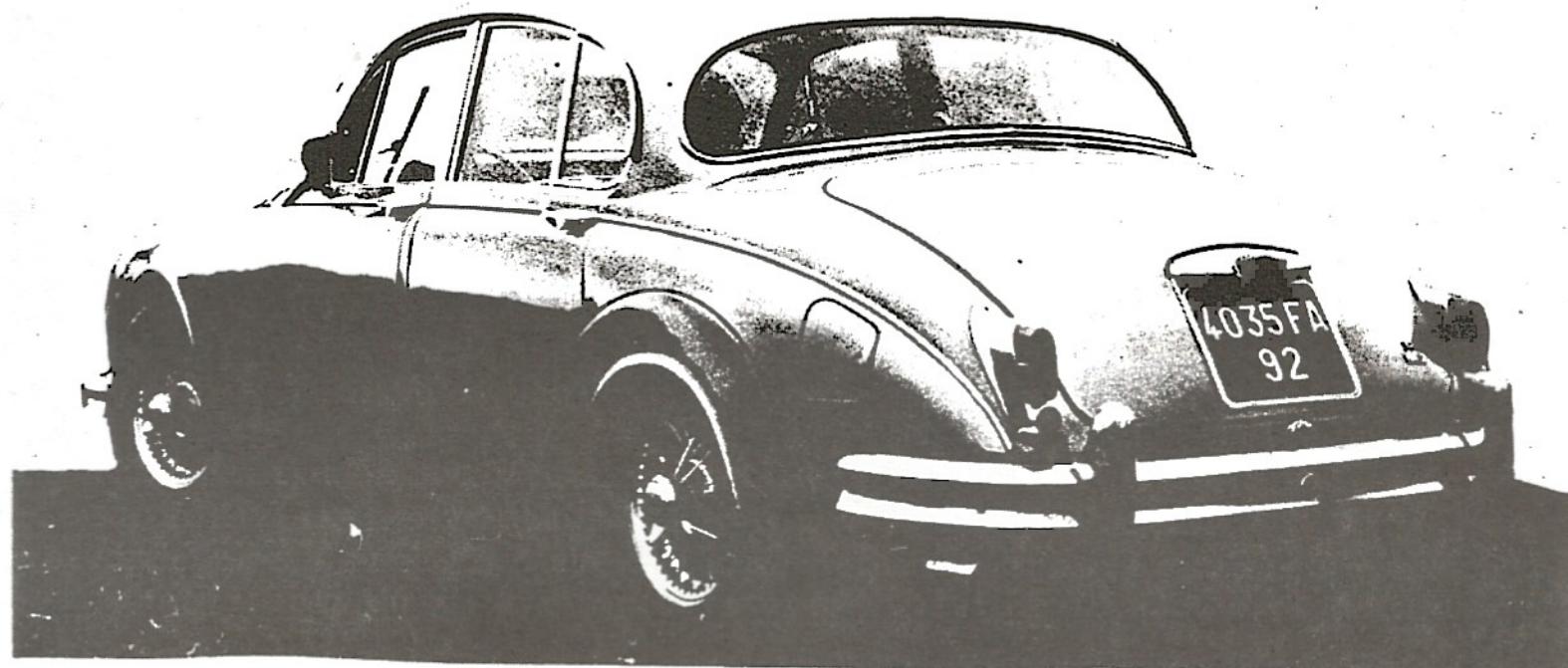


Le remontage du groupe propulseur sur la caisse est une opération délicate étant donné sa taille et son poids et l'exiguité du compartiment moteur : il nécessite outre un palan robuste permettant de soulever l'ensemble à plus de deux mètres de haut pour le rentrer presque verticalement, un cric pour redresser l'ensemble en prenant appui sous la boîte tout en continuant de baisser et deux petites mains pour boulonner le stabilisateur arrière. Les deux silents blocs avant doivent être systématiquement remplacés par des neufs car ce sont eux qui soutiennent le moteur, et lorsqu'ils sont « fatigués », le moteur s'écrase de quelques centimètres sur l'avant, qui suffisent au ventilateur pour déchiqueter le radiateur !

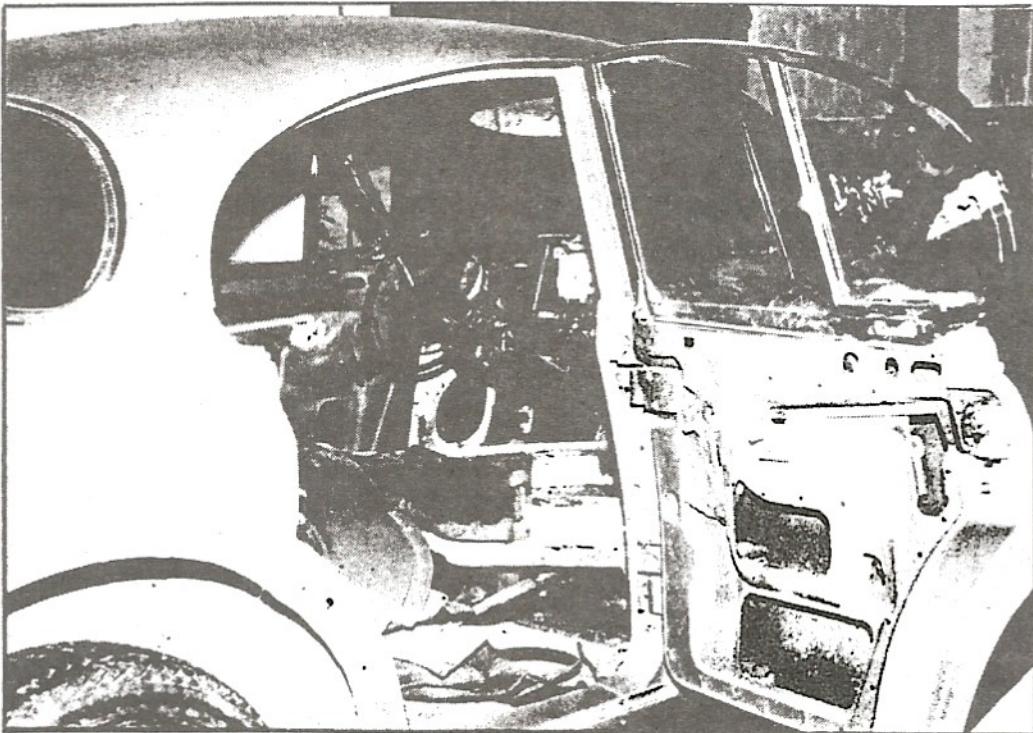
La restauration de la partie mécanique s'achève par la réfection du circuit électrique, pour lequel il faut compter un budget minimum de 2 500 F et la remise en état de l'échappement simple sur les 2,4 l et 3,4 l, le double sur les 3,8 l et 3,8 l S. Les pipes d'échappement émaillées d'origine sont malheureusement introuvables et le réemaillage n'est pas assez solide pour être valable. On peut cependant les peindre au Sperex qui est une peinture spéciale résistant jusqu'à 650 °C.

LA CARROSSERIE

Les points faibles caractéristiques des Mk II sont les bas de caisse (encore et toujours), les pieds de porte avant et arrière, les flasques de roues, le coffre et les portières au beau milieu du pan-



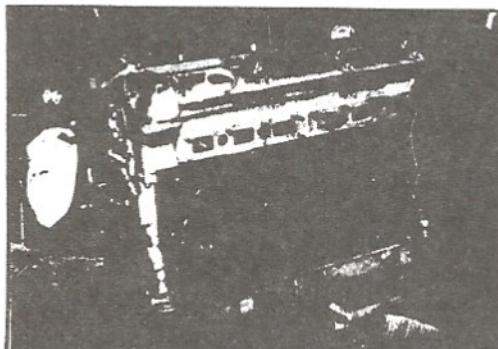
rétro pratique



Intérieur en cours.

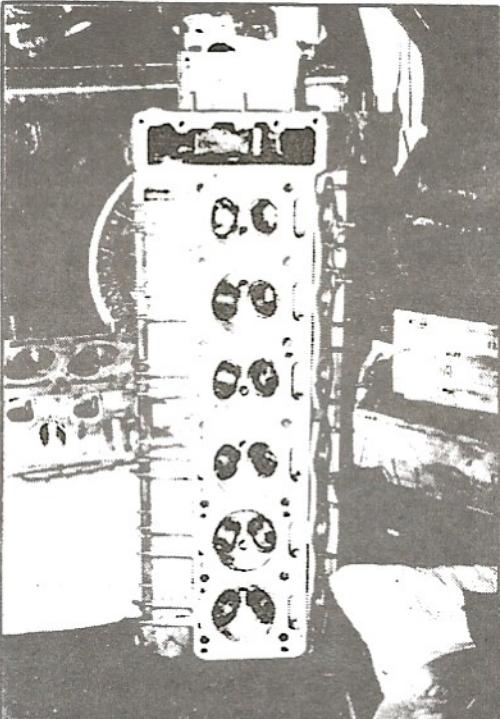
neau, ceci dû au fait que les entretoises intérieures comportent un tampon insonorisant en matière synthétique évitant le gondolement éventuel du panneau de porte et qui retiennent l'humidité provenant des glissières de vitre. C'était le cas de la 318, la plus belle et la plus puissante, hormis la S qui a été défigurée par un coffre rallongé; le plus beau modèle de M. Lemarchant, jaguariste passionné, qu'il avait acheté en 1976 12 000 F chez Harnay & Demaechais à Boulogne (85 000 km moteur refait). Mais la caisse était très touchée; il acheta quatre portières d'occasion 2 000 F qu'il remonta sur sa propre Jaguar, et fit changer par un carrossier les bas de caisse soudés et passer au rubson l'intérieur des passages de roues. Puis

la voiture fut entièrement repeinte dans sa couleur d'origine : Silver Grey,

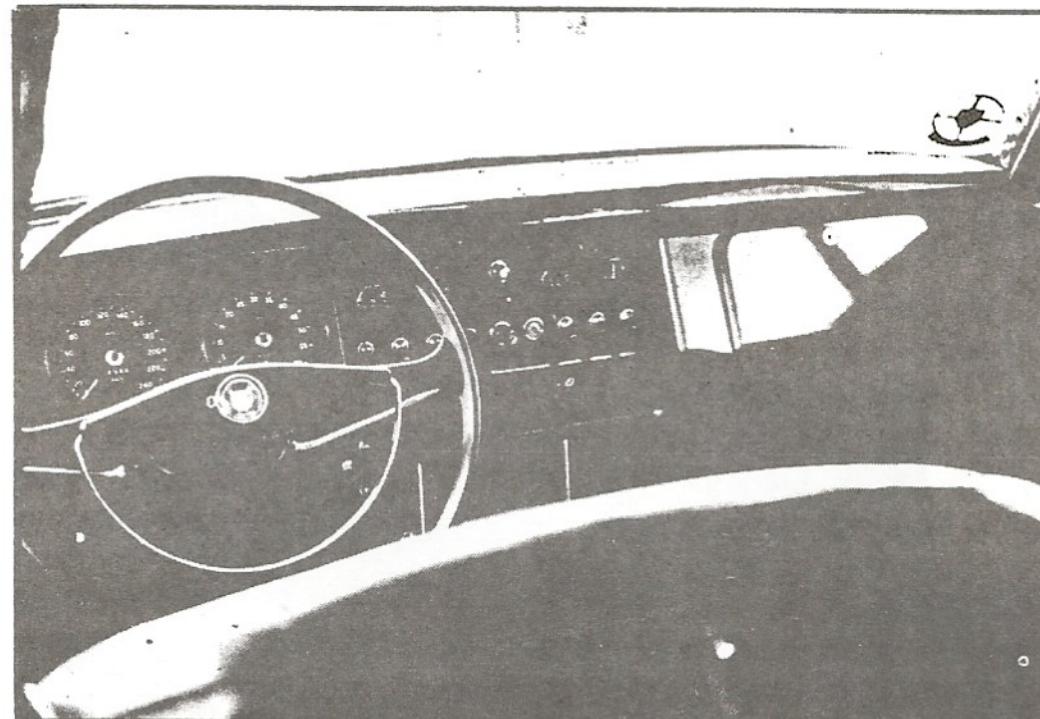


Moteur 3 litres 8, 2 act côté échappement.

qui est certainement celle qui convient le mieux à cette belle robe et fait res-



Culasse.



Une « star ».

sortir discrètement les différentes pièces chromées : calandre, phares, baguette et entourage de portière, sans oublier le jaguar (non d'origine d'ailleurs sur ce modèle). Les roues Rudge, également chromées, passèrent entre les mains d'un spécialiste pour être rayonnées.

LES INTERIEURS

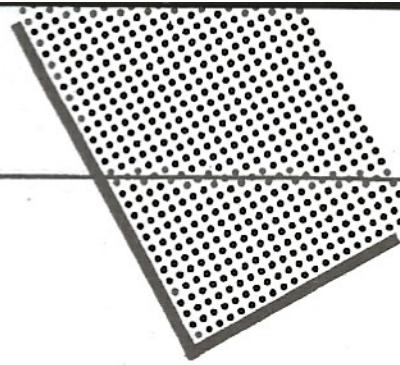
Les cuirs rouges étaient en parfait état et ne demandèrent qu'un graissage d'entretien (Meltonian, cardinal red). Il remplaça les joints de portière et les gallons en feutre rouge d'entourage des portières. Ce sont les nombreuses boiseries : tableau de bord, dessus de portières, entourage du pare-brise et des glaces latérales, qui demandèrent le plus de travail : dépose, ponçage à l'eau, vernis tampon sur le tableau de bord et vernis glycéro sur les boiseries des portières, plus exposées aux intempéries et au soleil.

Les moquettes restèrent d'origine.

Cette magnifique Mk II totalise aujourd'hui 135 000 km avec un embrayage et un échappement neufs, prend la route régulièrement pour de grandes distances avec plaisir et entrain et tourne même dans des films.

Texte et photos :

Daniel PREST



Sprite Fest '88 The 30th Anniversary Gathering

by Tom Merson.

May 19-22. Carlisle, Pennsylvania. It was exactly thirty years ago, May 20, 1958 when Donald Healey rolled off the assembly line the first of what would become one of the world's most successful sportscars: the Austin Healey Sprite. More affectionately known as the frogeye due to the curious headlight arrangement, the car was an instant hit all around the world.

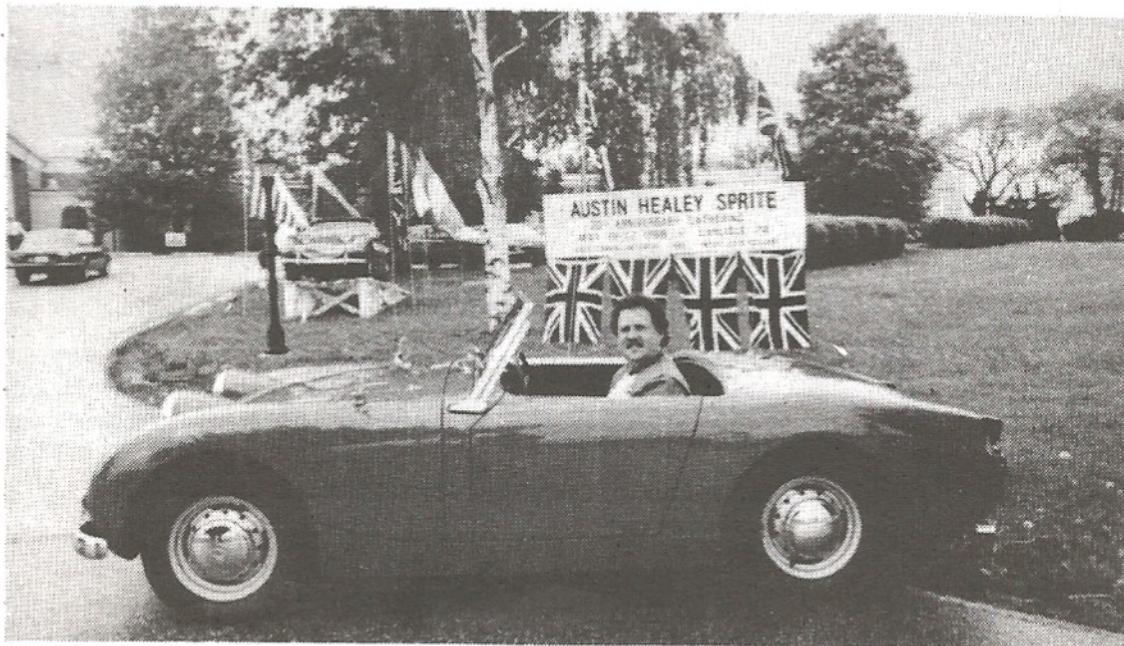
Here was a perfect example of marketing: a car designed to fit a budget. Donald Healey was very much aware of the fact that no car was available for the enthusiast for under \$2400. And the Sprite was planned to fit into that category as a primary objective. But I don't even think Donald Healey could have dreamed how successful his little car would be, or that thirty years later, over a hundred Sprite owners would be converging on Carlisle Pennsylvania to celebrate this event.

It was sad to think that Donald Healey himself just missed this milestone, as he passed away in England just months before. In true Donald Healey fashion, my wife Recia and I decided to drive our Sprite on this 1000 mile round trip from Montreal to participate in this event.

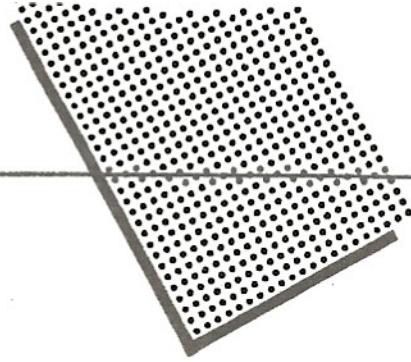
Activities planned for the participants were an autocross, a rally, a concours d'elegance, and an autotest. There was also a gala banquet and a flea market.

Once again I exposed my pride and joy to the scrutiny of eagle-eyed examiners who were keen to set a standard for the judging of these precious automobiles. As we know, there exists a yardstick for comparing most other marques and it was surely the goal of this collection of judges to establish a high standard against which all future Sprites will be compared.

On my car for instance, their search for perfection included the noting of the correct Lucas date markings on the generator and windshield motor. This was good luck on my part,



Author Tom Merson arrives at Carlisle



as I'd never thought to check these dates on my own. In my restoration, though, my attention to detail included an often missed feature: the radiator and all support members were painted black rather than the colour of the car. But; the judges pointed out that my black paint was glossy, NOT semi-gloss! Points off for that one.

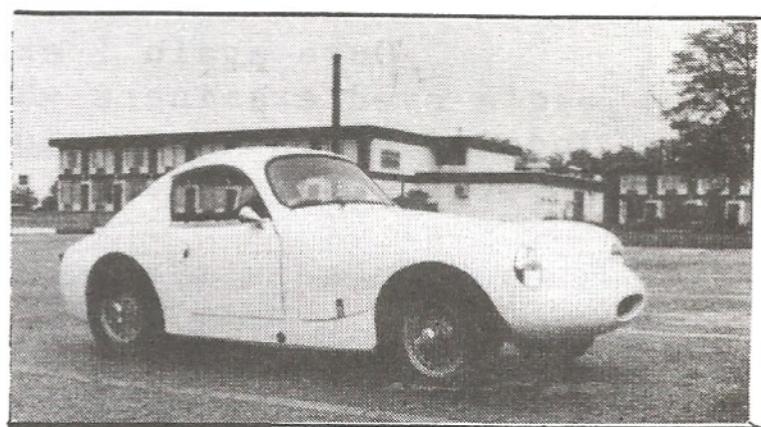
The judges say that there's no such thing as a perfect car, however, and much as I love to have my car as original as possible, I love to drive it even more. And this is, I feel, much more in the spirit of our club back here in Quebec.

The Sprite Fest was a particularly emotional experience for organizer Rick Moses. At the banquet he told us that his dream four years ago was to see a mile long procession of Sprites in Carlisle. - And that's what he got to see! Somehow it made all the effort worthwhile.

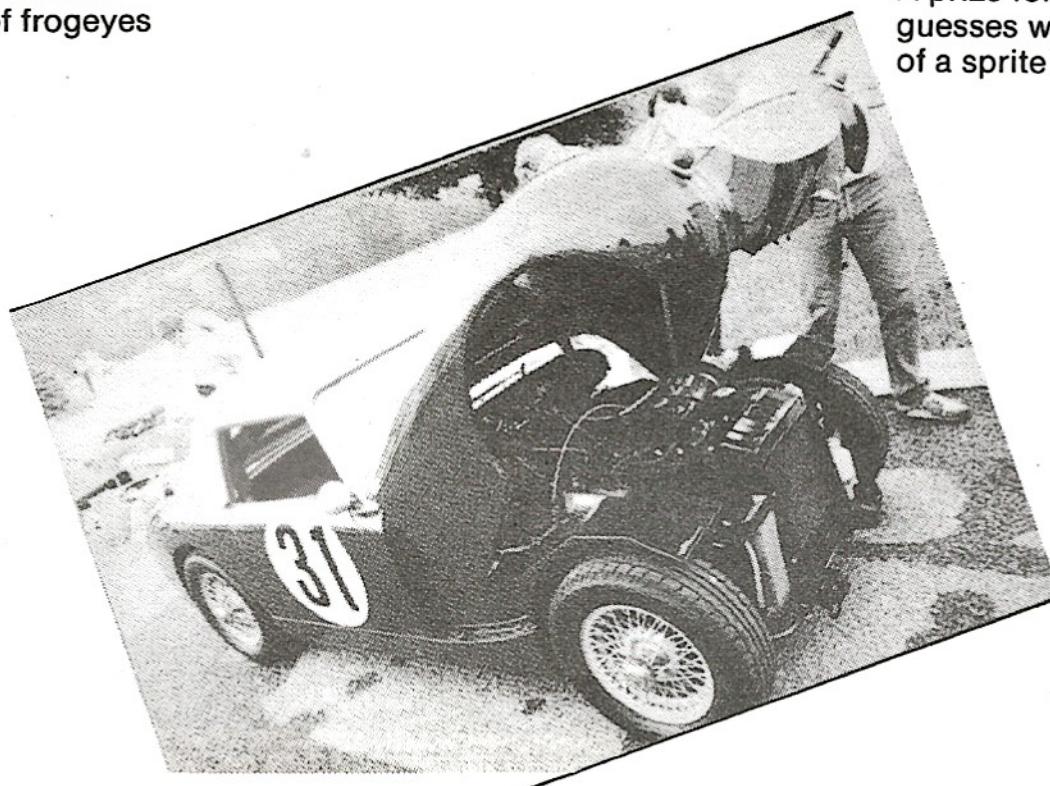
This event is truly the answer to a Sprite enthusiast's dream. - Take it from me! To see row upon row of finely - and some not so finely prepared - Sprites was truly an inspiring experience.



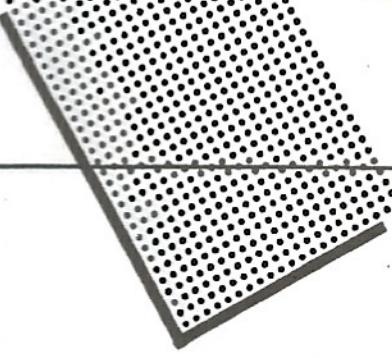
Sprite enthusiast's dream!
row upon of row of frogeyes



A prize for whover
guesses what kind
of a sprite this is.



Even racing cars
enjoy a high standard
of preparation.



Ottawa Porsche Club Concours

by Jamie Brown

"If You Can't Make the Mille Miglia in May, There's Still Hope"

- by Jamie Brown

May 1, 1988. One of the nicest - and earliest - events of the year is held every May in Ottawa where the local chapter of the Porsche Club hold their annual concours. This is a very good event to take in, as it is close enough to Montreal that even a Vintage car can make the run from Montreal without difficulty, and if you take old Highway 17, it is invariably a beautiful drive as well.

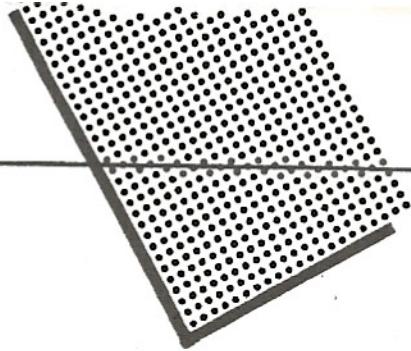
Although the event is primarily for Porsches, many other cars are allowed to enter by invitation. The organizers welcome interesting European cars of all ages, things to please the crowd and cars that they feel the local club may not have seen before. This is fun for them, and interesting for VEA members as well as most of our cars have not been seen in the Ottawa area. Generally, a great fuss is made when any of our members arrive - even to spectate.

Among the interesting Ontario cars on display this year were a Matra, a tiny Alpine A310 (not the Sunbeam variety), plenty of Ferraris - since the organizer, Eric Lister, is also a member of the Ferrari Owners Club - and there are always a few nice Morgans to look at, including a beautiful Morgan three wheeler which seems to make a regular appearance at this event.

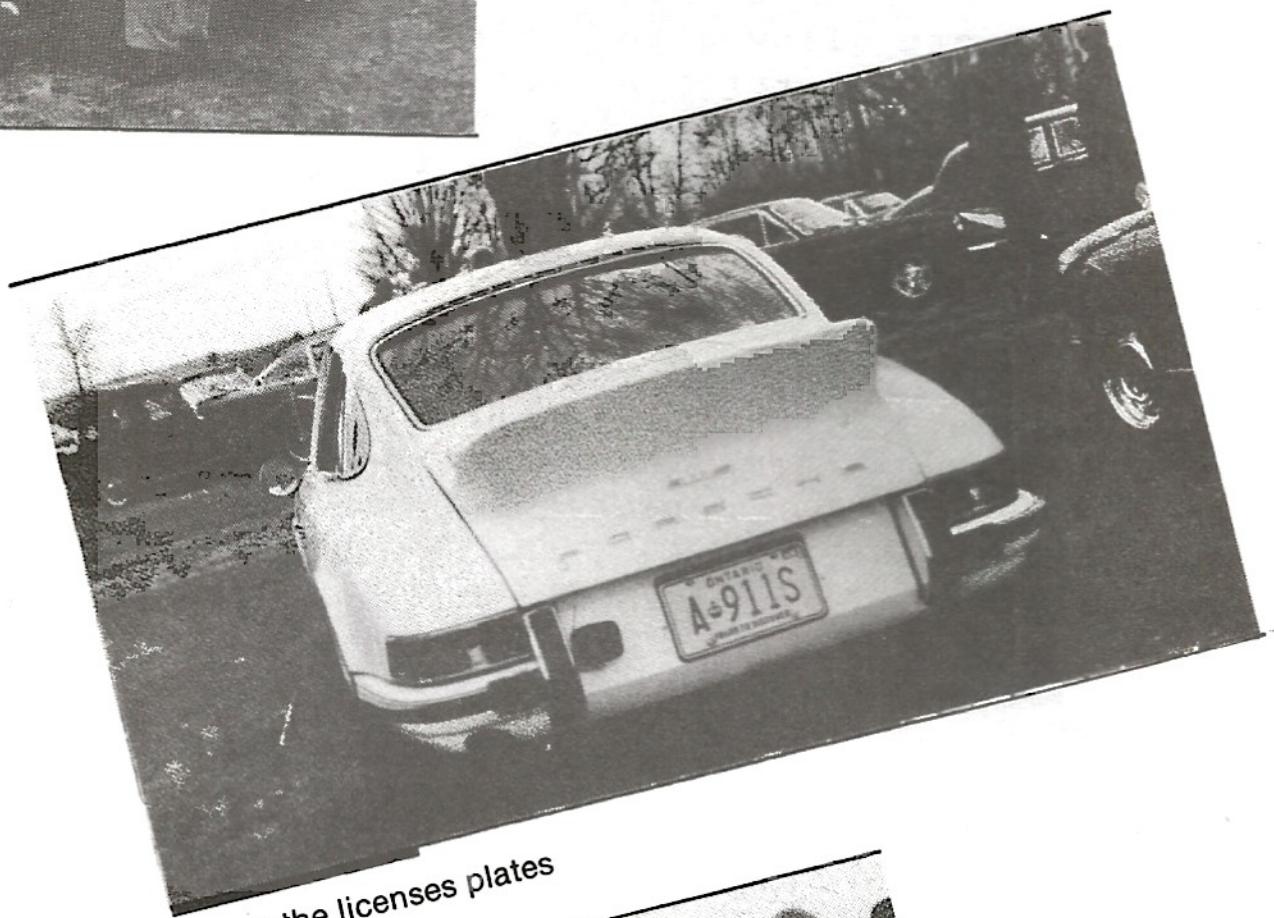
This is a very pleasant concours, always staged in a beautiful Ottawa setting, and a great place to picnic and meet like-minded enthusiasts who don't live very far away. We'll be sending Eric Lister a copy of our membership roster indicating the cars we have in the club. So don't be surprised if quite a number of our cars are invited up next year to the Ottawa Concours.



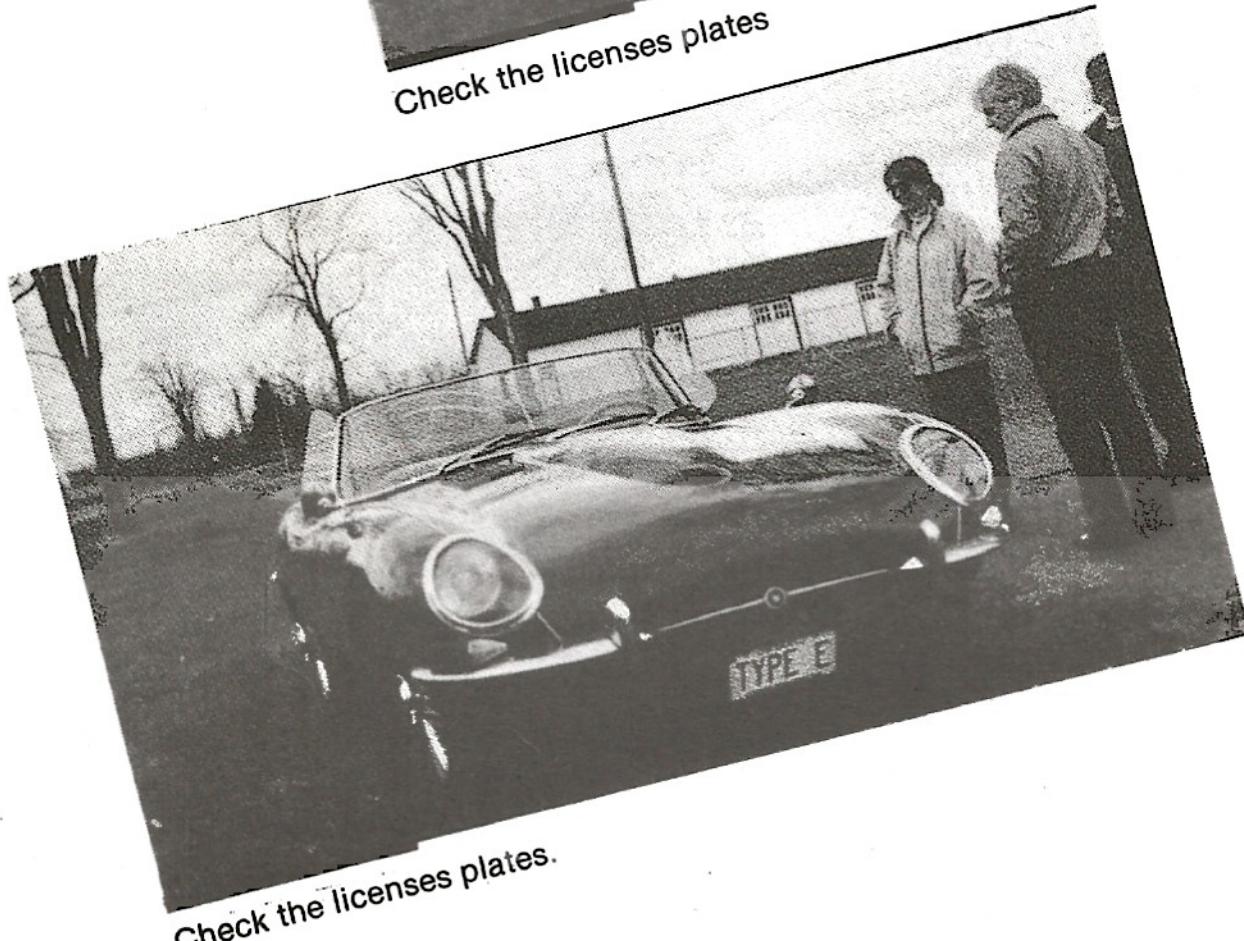
Porsches, naturellement



Mixed grill à L'anglaise.



Check the licenses plates



Check the licenses plates.

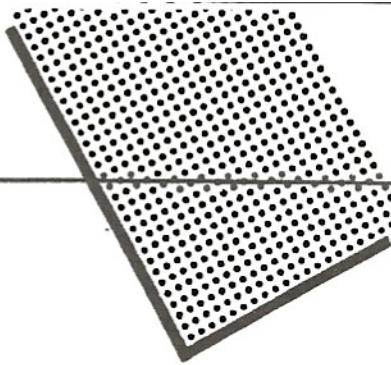
Vous avez sûrement remarqué
la lacune en ce qui a trait
aux textes français.
Votre collaboration serait
fort souhaitable.

(l'éditeur Jamie Brown)
694-6928

Bienvenue aux nouveaux membres

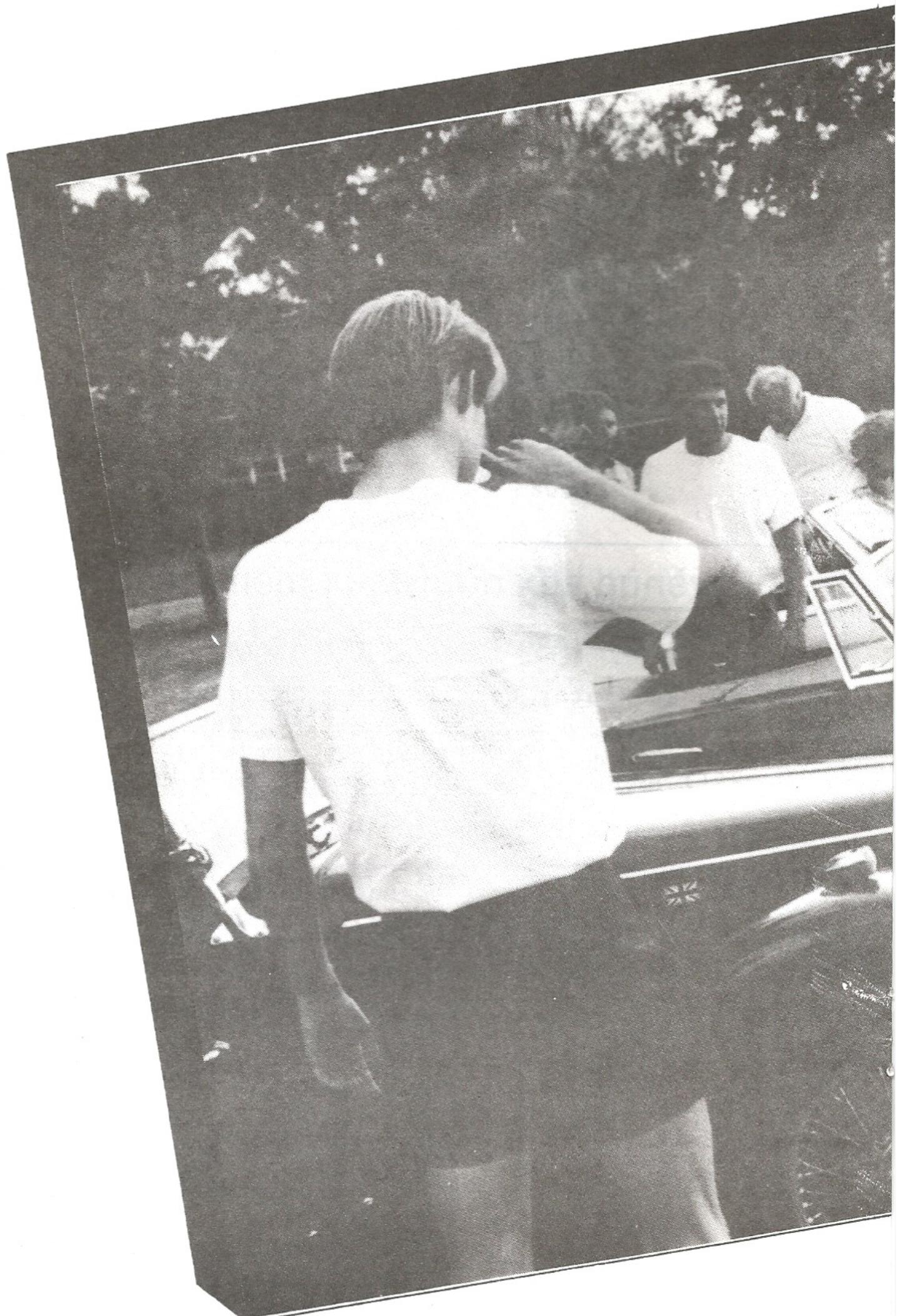
- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Jean Guy et Diane Roy | ► '52 Citroen 11 B |
| Norman and Kathy Carroll | ► '58 Jaguar XK 150 roadster
'58 Jaguar XK 150 coupe |
| Gregory Lowe | ► '71 Opel G.T. |
| Richard Jolet | ► '65 Austin Healey Mk III |

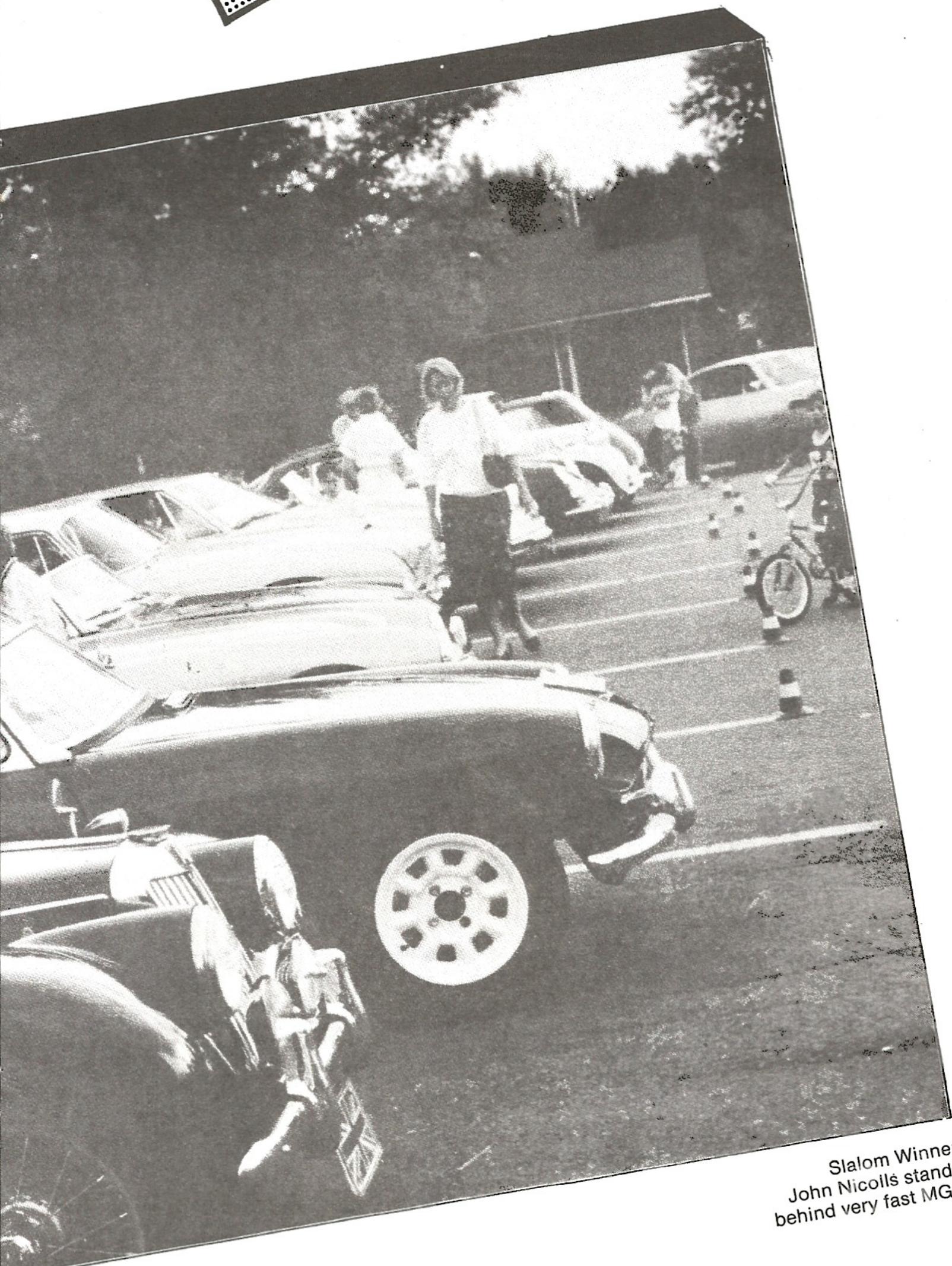




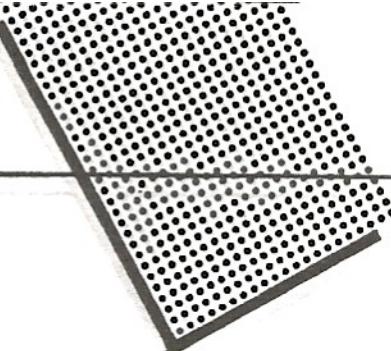
Gymkhana "88" A big Success.

by Jamie Brown





Slalom Winner
John Nicolls stands
behind very fast MGB



June 21, 1988. The weather was perfect, the event carefully planned in every detail. But just 20 minutes before the start of the 1988 VEA Gymkhana it looked like the turnout was going to be more than disappointing. Just a handful of vintage autos were on hand. And the organizers, Roger Hamel and Tom Merson were looking at each other anxiously, wondering what on earth they'd done wrong. But then they started coming, car after car, and before we knew it, the organizers were looking at one of the best turnouts in recent years.

Not only was this to be a quality event with many fine cars present, but the spectacle was impressive enough to demonstrate to many newcomers the joys of vintage motoring. Several spectators asked questions enthusiastic about our next event, and at least two new members joined the club.

Even at the outset of the evening, it was obvious that some of the competitors were deadly serious. Daniel Noiseux trailered in his Isetta racer, then fired it up in the parking lot, carefully charging the battery, warming the tires and the engine as he made ready for his demon attempt at the course record.

Florian and Amalia Reicker demoralized the opposition by showing up in matching concours calibre silver Aston Martins - his and hers. One is a beautiful - and rare - DB6 with the mouth watering combination of standard transmission and the Vantage high performance engine. The other Aston was their latest acquisition, a DBS V-8. The Reickers have been searching for a good one for some time, and when one suddenly came up for sale in Vancouver, they were on the first plane. All the members at the Gymkhana were treated with a first look at the result of their trip.

In the slalom section of the event, there was plenty of spirited driving. Roger DuHamel, looking totally relaxed, wheeled his big Healey around the course with ease, and speed. Driving with one elbow over the door sill and one hand on the wheel, Roger never stopped grinning as he showed us all how fast a Healey can go.

Tom Merson was another serious competitor. But try as he might, his Sprite just didn't have the power pulling away from the tight corners to post the fastest time of the day. Another hard driver was Bob Shelson in his MGB. With what appeared to be a very stock suspension and set of tires, Bob gave us all a very good lesson in car control as he wheeled around the pilons.

But it was Jon Nichols in his modified MGB who easily posted fastest time of the day. Jon's car which he prepares himself in his Pointe Claire garage had plenty of power coming off the turns, but even more importantly, a fully sorted



His and Hers

suspension which left the car looking perfectly poised no matter what was demanded of it. Jon is a real charger and a very modest winner, and obviously someone who can teach us all a lot about performance preparation, if that's our game.

But most important of all were the many competitors who showed up, glad to give their old cars an outing no matter what the results. They gave all of us the pleasure of seeing and hearing their fine cars in action once more. Here's to them!

GYMKHANA RESULTS:

Class A: (Under 1000 cc)

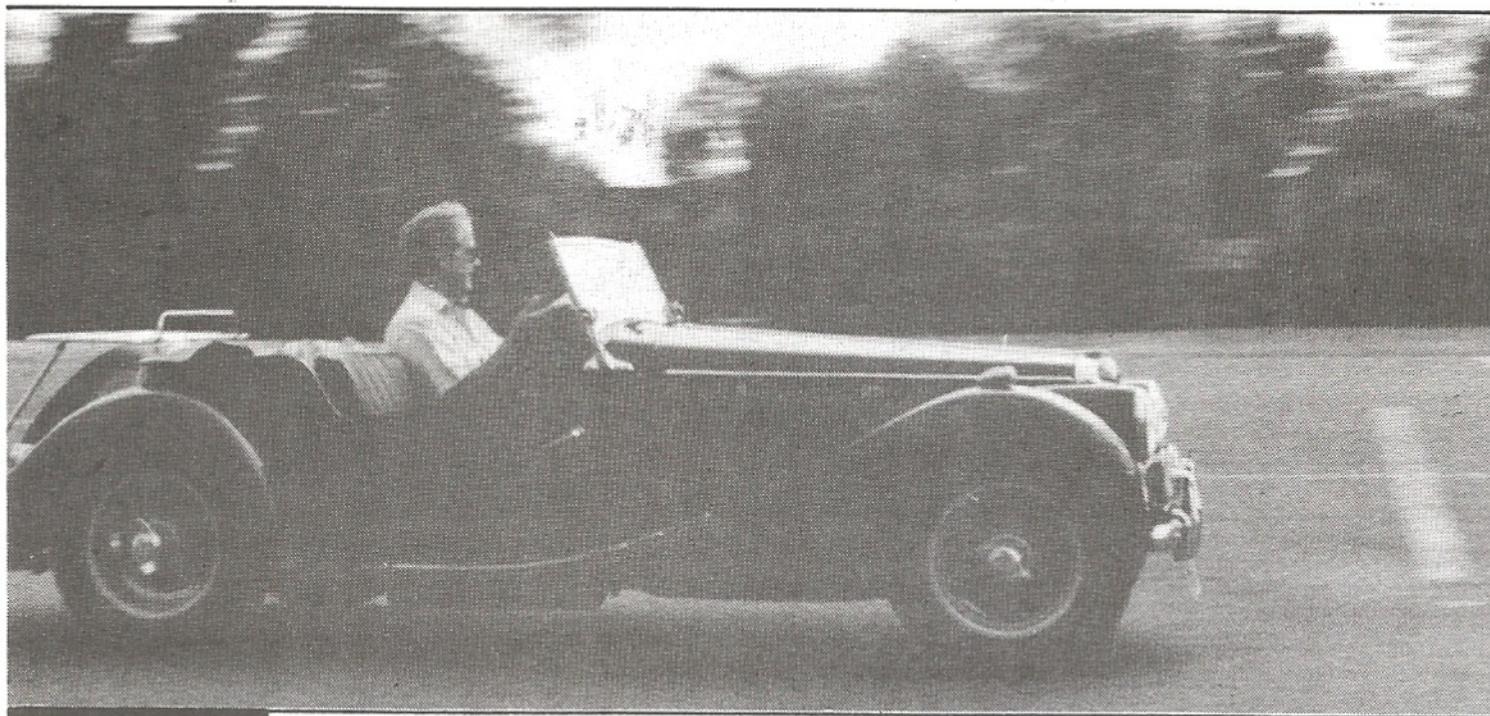
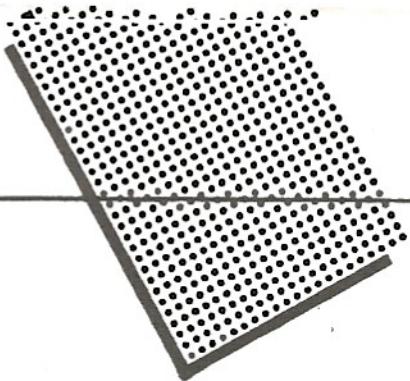
1. Tom Merson	A.H. Sprite	2:10 sec
2. Daniel Noiseux	B.M.W. Isetta	2:39

Class B: (1000 - 2000 cc)

1. Jon Nichols	MGB	1:55
2. Bob Shelson	MGB	2:16
3. Marc Bourgeois	Porsche 356-C	2:30

Class C: (over 2000 cc)

1. Roger Hamel	Austin Healey 3000	2:09
2. Jean Nocera	Austin Healey 3000	2:11
3. Guy Fay	Citroen SM	2:44



"I agree Marc who needs a Mercedes...!"

BLINDFOLD:

1. Guy Fay
2. Jean Nocera
3. Richard Boudrias
Marc Bourgeois
4. F. Reicker
5. H. Francis

TOURNOIS DES VALVES:

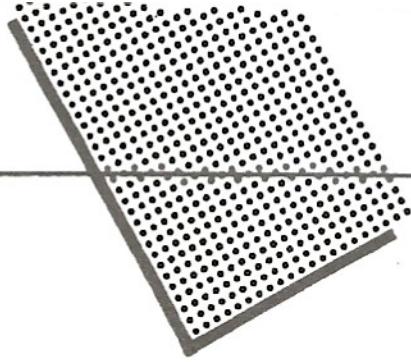
1. Daniel Noiseux
2. Jon Nichols
3. Roy Gillings
Jean Nocera
H. Francis
4. Marc Bourgeois
5. F. Reicker
Tom Merson

POPULARITY CONTEST:

1. Daniel Noiseux	Isetta	22 pts.
2. Roger Hamel Tom Merson	Austin Healey	12 pts.
	Austin Healey	12 pts.
	Sprite	
3. Florian Reicker Jean Nocera	Aston Martin	10 pts.
4. Richard Boudrias Roy Gillings H. Francis	Austin Healey	10 pts.
	MG YT	9 pts.
	MG TF	9 pts.
5. J. Nichols Marc Bourgeois	MGA	9 pts.
	MGB	5 pts.
	Porsche	5 pts.



Qui a besoin d'une Mercedes...? (Marc Bourgeois au volant de sa Porsche 356 c)



Le cinquantenaire de la traction 15-Six

par Daniel Noiseux

C'EST AU COURANT DU PRINTEMPS 1938 QU'APPARAIT OFFICIELLEMENT CELLE QU'ON DEVAIT BIENTOT SURNOMMER "LA REINE DE LA ROUTE".

POUR FAIRE UN PEU L'HISTORIQUE DE LA VOITURE, IL FAUT SAVOIR QUE CITROEN ALORS SOUS CONTROLE DE MICHELIN, SE DEVAIT DE PRESENTER UN MODELE HAUT DE GAMME A OPPOSER AUX 8 CYL. EN "V" DE FORD ET AUX 6 CYL. EN LIGNE DE RENAULT. APRES L'EXPERIENCE DESASTREUSE DE LA 8 CYL. DE 1934 QUI, EN FAIT, RESULTAIT DU JUMELAGE DE DEUX 4 CYL. ON DECIDAIT EN 38 D'ARRETER LE CHOIX SUR UNE FOIS ET DEMIE LE 4 CYL. POUR OBTENIR UN 6 CYL. EN LIGNE DE 2867 cm³ D'UNE PUISSANCE DE 77 CV.

LA "15" AFFICHE 16 CV FISCAUX (ON L'APPELLE DONC A TORT 15 CV) AVEC CE MOTEUR SOUPLE ET PERFORMANT PLACE SUR UNE CAISSE DE "11B" DONT SEULE LA LONGUEUR DU CAPOT DIFFERE DE 11 CM EN PLUS, L'EMPATTEMENT RESTANT LE MEME. ELLE DEVIENDRA VITE "LA REINE DE LA ROUTE" GRACE A SA VITESSE MAXIMALE DE 135 Km/h ET SA CAPACITE A TENIR SANS PEINE UNE VITESSE DE 100 Km/h. CE QUI TENAIT DE L'EXPLOIT POUR L'EPOQUE.

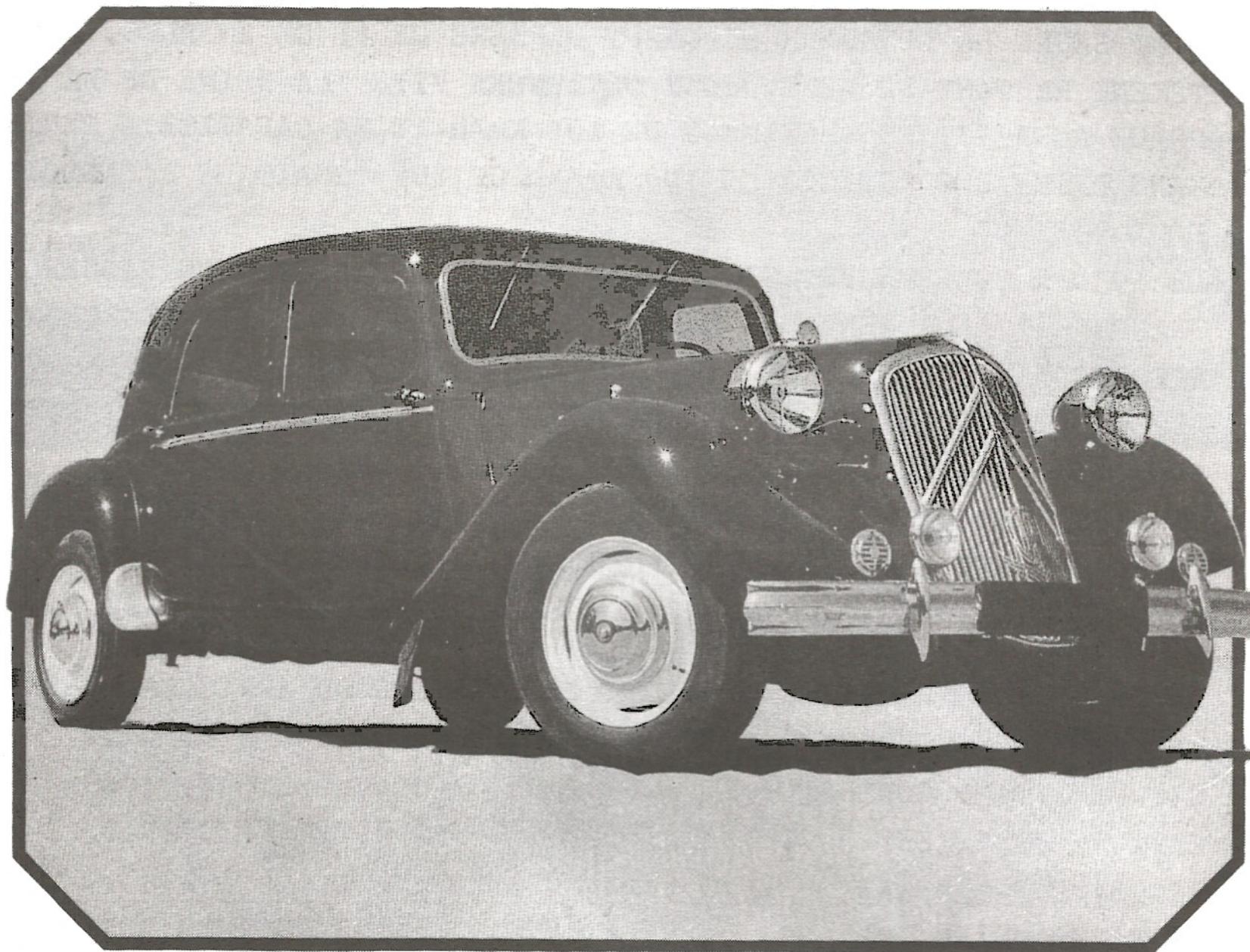
DE 1938 A 1954 ON PRODUIRA 50 602 EXEMPLAIRES QUI CONTRIBUERONT GRANDEMENT A LA RENOMMEE DE CITROEN. PEU DE CHANGEMENTS SERONT APPORTES A CE MODELE ET LES PLUS IMPORTANTS SONT SUR LE PA PLAN MOTEUR DONT ON CHANGERAS LE SENS DE ROTATION DE GAUCHE (15-SIX G) A DROITE (15-SIX D) EN MAI 1947. EN AVRIL 1954, LES 3000 DERNIERES BERLINES "15" RECOIVENT A TITRE QUASI EXPERIMENTAL UNE SUSPENSION ARRIERE HYDROPNEUMATIQUE QUI PREFIGURE CELLE DE LA FUTURE "DS", LA VOITURE PREFEREE DU GENERAL DE GAULLE.

LA "15" NE COMMENCERA SA BRILLANTE CARRIERE QU'APRES LA GUERRE. EN EFFET SA PRODUCTION AYANT ETE STOPPEE DE 1940 A 1946... CITROEN ETANT CONTRAINT DE FOURNIR A L'ARMEE ALLEMANDE DES CAMIONS JUSTEMENT EQUIPES DU 6 CYL. DE LA "15" (MAIS AVEC REGULATEUR LIMITANT LE REGIME A 2000tr/m) DE 1940 A 1943... CE N'EST QU'EN 1948 QUE LA "15" S'IMPOSE VRAIMENT SUR LES ROUTES DE FRANCE.

D'ABORD PARCE QU'ELLE SORT EN QUANTITE SUFFISANTE POUR QU'ON LA VOIE, ENSUITE PARCE QUE SES PROPRIETAIRES SONT DES GENS QUI SE DEPLACENT BEAUCOUP ET VITE, ENFIN PARCE QUE C'EST LA SEULE GROSSE VOITURE FRANCAISE DE SERIE A PRIX ABORDABLE.

VOITURE DE PRESTIGE CERTES...MAIS AUSSI CELLE DE LA GESTAPO, DE CHARLES DE GAULLE, DES POLITICIENS ET DES GANGSTERS. LA FAMEUSE TRACTION FAIT PARTIE DE LA CULTURE FRANCAISE COMME PIAF OU LA BAGUETTE.

ET CINQUANTE ANS PLUS TARD, ELLE EN FAIT ENCORE REVER PLUSIEURS ET FAIT DE SES PROPRIETAIRES ACTUELS DE VERITABLES FANATIQUES DE LA MARQUE. GOD SAVE THE QUEEN...COMME ILS DISENT EN FRANCE.



Summer of '69

by Roger Hamel

"We know the car,
-But Which one is
Roger? -Ed.



This story of international intrigue and adventure began eighteen years ago in Ottawa, Canada. It was a time when most of us were college students, with little or no money in our pockets and only a siphon hose in our trunk. But still, a guy had to take holidays.

We wouldn't have much time. Only a week in early September 1969, but we were determined to make the best of it. Weeks before our departure, Jacques, Gaston and myself made careful plans. The car for our trip was to be my 1961 British racing green Austin Healey 3000.

Part of our preparation involved shoehorning one of those monstrous Healey engines into place under the bonnet. That little operation set me back a whole \$100.00!

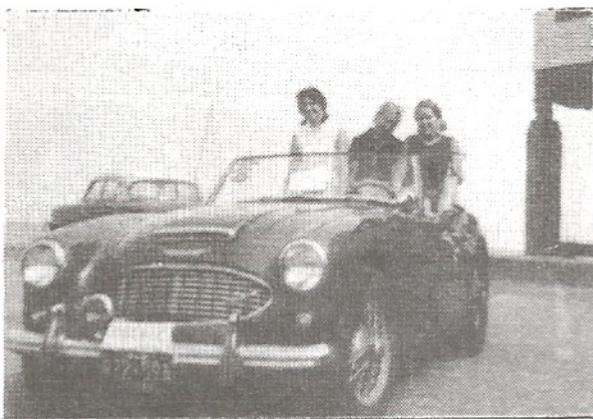
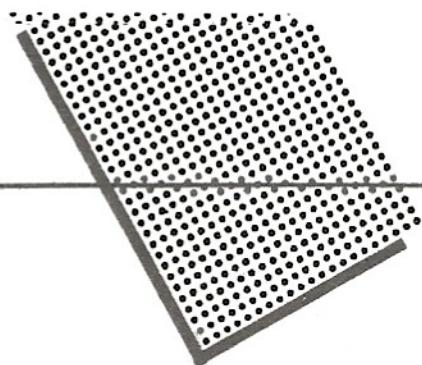
Next, we gathered our personal belongings, and at last we were ready to set out on what would be for me the most memorable trip in my life.

Our first stop was New York City. Taking one of the exits off the expressway, we managed to blunder our way straight into Harlem. Harlem on a hot Sunday evening. No sooner did we drive a few blocks, than a rubber gas line broke, and the Healey stopped dead. We found ourselves at a street corner crowded with people, all of whom descended on our car. Under their unblinking scrutiny, I uneasily made my way to a nearby gas station. There, after some deliberation, the attendant managed to find a suitable piece of rubber hose on an old engine behind the garage. He sold it to me for a couple of dollars, which I gladly - and quickly - paid.

Meanwhile, back at the Healey, my two friends were being harassed by a youngster who wanted to climb aboard the car. He claimed he had been kidnapped and insisted on being taken along. Looking back on it, I think I could have won an award that night for the fastest fuel line replacement in automotive history.

The moment the engine kicked over, I hit that accelerator and we were out of there! For what seemed like an hour, I drove feverishly before we finally found our way downtown to New York city. After visiting the "Big Apple", we set forth once again to Wildwood beach. Fortunately, the Healey was running fine.

We had arrived. We finally set foot on the beach at 9:30 a.m. on a September Monday. The gods must have been with us, for we were the only ones there - except for three girls who happened



to be sitting about 1000 yards away. Gaston and I strolled off to chat up some real live American girls, while Jacques stayed behind to check the luggage, and maybe get over his timidity.

As we approached, to our amazement, we could hear the girls speaking French. Introducing ourselves, we learned that all three worked in a Montreal hospital. They too were visiting the Eastern U.S. coast for their vacation.

After spending a very enjoyable day with the girls, we learned that they were planning to hitch hike to Virginia Beach. Now, we just couldn't have three little ladies wander off like that, so naturally we offered them a ride in our already crowded 2 + 2 convertible. And they accepted, provided that they could get all their luggage into the car.

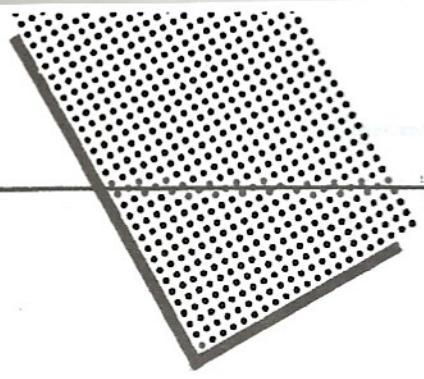
Soon, the three girls' pack sacks were strapped into place, standing up on the ski rack. Then we stretched our sleeping bags across the back seats, and crushed our underwear, shorts, socks sweaters onto the floor, and between the seats. One of the girls rode on the transmission tunnel, resting her back against one of my friend's legs in back. My lucky friend in the back in turn had a girl in each arm.

It was time to set off for Virginia Beach, with a Canadian flag flapping from the antenna. May I point out that I don't remember a single car passing us without waving a friendly "hello" in our direction.

After spending three days with the girls, we dropped them off in Washington D.C. This ended for us a very enjoyable 500 mile trip. Since our vacation lasted only one week, we had to be heading north. The girls, meanwhile, decided to find their way from Washington up to the Niagara Peninsula.

Back home, we three boys decided to keep very quiet about our American vacation. We had, after all three steady girls waiting for us. But the following Friday, I received a phone call from Lise, one of our three vacation partners. Lise told me that she and her friends had arrived in Ottawa and would be staying there for the night. It took me less than a minute to dash out of the house and rev up the faithful old Healey. I picked them up and we all headed for my father's cottage.

Back then, I would have found it hard to believe at the time that eighteen years later, I'd be riding around in a lovely rebuilt Healey, with the same girl beside me - and three boys back home all of whom want to drive it. I wonder why!



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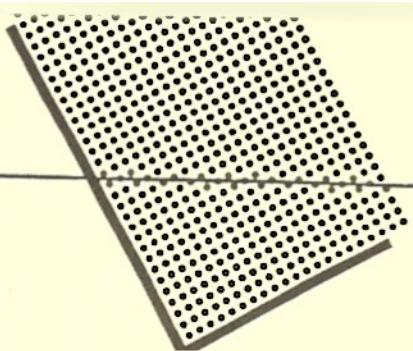
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Le Calendrier de L'Autosiaste

An Enthusiast's Calendar



July 9, 10, 11 contact	VARAC Vintage Festival Jamie Brown, 694-6928 or Tom Merson, 626-7209	Shannonville, Ont.
July 17	Molson Indy	Toronto, Ont.
July 23, 24	Pittsburg Vintage G.P.	Pittsburg, Pa.
August 6, 7 contact	Concours d'élegance VAQ Raid Franco-Acadien	Ville LaSalle
August 12, 14	Stowe	
August 19, 20, 21 contact	Bridgehampton Vintage Revival Jamie Brown, 694-6928	Bridgehampton, N.Y.
August 19-21	Laguna Seca Historic Weekend	Montery, California
August 28 contact	Brunch and Economy Run Roger Hamel 335-0333	VEA
September 18 contact	APPLE PICKING Serge Boissonneault, 467-5443	VEA
September 30-oct. 1 contact	Exhibition of 15 VEA cars in Quebec City (cars by invitation only) Roger Hamel 335-0333	VEA
October 6-8	Hershey	
October 16	Targa Florio Retrospective	Sicily, Italy
October 22, 23 contact	Vintage Fall Finale Jamie Brown, 694-6928	Lime Rock, Ct.
October 28 contact	VIN, FROMAGE Richard Boudrias, 697-9037	VEA
November ?	London to Brighton Run	London, England
November 13 contact	GAMAY NOUVEAU, BRUNCH	VEA
November 24 7 pm contact	Tour of G.M. plant at Tes. Therese Roger Hamel 335-0333	VEA
Nov. 28 - Dec. 4	Bahama Vintage Grand Prix	Grand Bahama Island

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