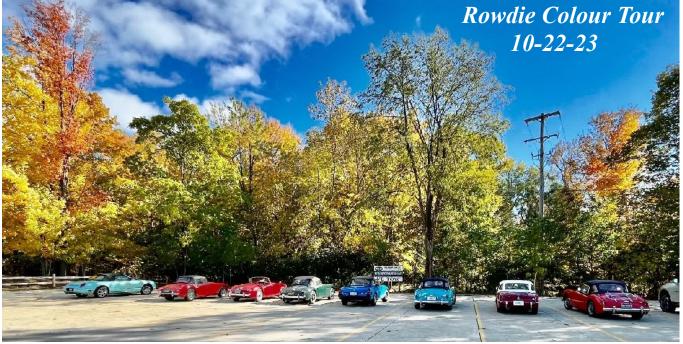


# A-Antics











Miracle On 28th Street
Rowdies Colour Tour
Watkins Glenn Walk Of Fame
Dayton Concours d'Elegance



#### MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF NORTH AMERICAN MGA REGISTER

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**A-Antics:** Published every other month. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily of NAMGAR or the Chapter. Every effort is made to use appropriate material. The editor reserves the right to edit material for length and content. No placement is guaranteed. The entire contents are copyrighted, Michigan Chapter.

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**History:** The Chapter was established August 14, 1976. It was NAMGAR's first chapter. We are a low-key club, dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of our MGAs. Anyone is welcome to join our chapter and they are asked to join NAMGAR as well.

Chapter Dues: \$25 annually (\$40 for printed

newsletter)

Nickname: Rowdies
Motto: People First!

**Rowdies Site:** 

http://www.mg-cars.org.uk/michiganrowdies/

MG Car Council Site: http://www.mg-

cars.org.uk/mgcouncil/

NAMGAR Web Site: www.namgar.com

#### **Past Chapter Chairpersons:**

1976-1980	Bruce Nichols
1981-1982	Tom Latta
1983-1984	Dick Feight
1985-1988	Dave Smith
1989-1990	Dave Quinn
1991-1994	Mark Barnhart
1995-1995	Herb Maier
1996-1996	Tom Knoy
1997-1998	Neil Griffin
1999-2002	Bruce Nichols
2003-2004	<b>Bob Sutton</b>
2005-2008	Gordie Bird
2009-2015	Dave Quinn
2016-	Bill Weakley

## Rowdies Website: Larry Pittman, Webmaster

http://www.mg-cars.org.uk/michiganrowdies/

Larry Pitman's Database Report: 67 Active and Paid-Up Members

Deadline for submitting material for the next

issue is: December 20, 2023

## **Register Your MGA With NAMGAR!**



and support group second to none. All this for just \$37.50 per year (North America), or \$52.50 (International). **Get more information at http://www.namgar.com, or contact registrar@namgar.com.** 



## MEMBERS PAGE

#### Welcome New Members

Name: Scott Miller

Address: 2611 Woodside St

City: Dearborn State: MI, 48124 Cell ph:313-686-9352

Email: <a href="mailto:scottpmiller1371@gmail.com">scottpmiller1371@gmail.com</a>
Type of MGA: 1961 Roadster-1600

NAMGAR Member? Yes

Other Comments: had an MGA in the early '80 but sold that to fund sons' college tuition. Was a NAMGAR

member then. Not a Rowdies member.

About 5 years ago I met some of the Rowdies at Waterford racetrack. One of your members referred me to Tom Newton who had an A for sale. Purchased that car from Tom and still have it.

Name: **Adam Weakley** Significant Other: **Ko Shih** Address: 804 Cliffs Drive, #205

City: Ypsilanti State: MI, 48198

Cell phone: 810-813-4702

Email: <a href="mailto:adamweakley@hotmail.com">adamweakley@hotmail.com</a>
Type of MG: 1965 MG Midget

## **Letters**Ain't That The Way



#### Tech Tip:

I recently made a couple changes that I am very pleased with. I've owned MGAs for over 50 years that were red, green, and white but it was the white one that drove me nuts because of the glare in the windshield. Something I never noticed in the others. In 2011 I placed

a stealth protective matte film by XPEL below the windshield to stop glare, but it didn't really help much. Finally, I said, enough is enough. I don't care about originality as much as driving pleasure. I installed matte black vinyl below the windshield.





Before and after pictures. Oh, my, I wish I had done that from the time I bought the car. No more glare when driving.



And my second improvement was to replace the original SU air cleaners with K&N air cleaners. MPG went from 26 to 28 and the car had a definite improvement in performance. **Dave Quinn** 

#### Sold Two, Bought One

The MGA is now in Virginia, and the Miata is at a Kalamazoo dealership. Instead we have a Chrysler minivan with wheelchair equipment, and looking for a power wheelchair. No need to be missing any more MG events.

\*\*Bill Gallihugh\*\*

(Editor: Great Bill, we're all looking forward to seeing you and Trudy again soon!!)

#### Vote Of Appreciation

Hi Guys, (aka Larry Pittman, Bill Weakley, Ken Nelson, Bruce & Willie Mann)

Latest A-Antics just arrived and I want to express our appreciation for all the effort and quality time that goes into each and every issue. Although we are in New Mexico and far from Rowdie doings, we still feel part of the club through your work. Wish we could be there to participate. I think the Michigan chapter is unique in that it still carries on the MGA spirit so faithfully. You are a great bunch of folks. Hope to see many of you at the next GT.

## Sincerely, *Don and Linda Holle* Edgewood, NM

(Editor: Thanks Don and Linda for your kind words. Plans are underway for quite a few Rowdies to be seeing you both at GT-49. Thanks for keeping the satellite Rowdie station manned out West!)

#### GT-49 Coming Soon

Willie Mann writes in:

Now that GT 48 is in the rear view mirror and Memphis is just a good memory, it's time to look ahead to Welches, Oregon. GT 49 is scheduled for next summer July 15-19 at Mt. Hood Oregon Resort.

While registration is not quite available we are making our travel plans. We are planning to take a train ride, something we have not done before and something we have always wanted to do. We expect the sites to be spectacular and the comfort of leaving the driving to someone else is appealing.

Thanks to Steve and Diane Mazurek for getting us started on the right track and we have made our reservations. The link below is a good review that can help, if interested, make the decision for what works best for you and your train travel plans should you choose this route.

We made a call and talked directly to Amtrak at 1800-872-7245. I would suggest doing the same. https://rail-away.com/2023/08/05/amtrak-empire-

#### builder/ Willie Mann

(Editor: There are several other couples already planning on this route as well. It would be great if we could all be on the same rowdy Rowdie railroad car together!)MG & LBC Owners:

## To See or Not to See-Is That The Ouestion?

On occasion we tow our LBC with a vehicle equipped with Bulb type Headlights. These systems are known to

yellow, due to UV radiation. The amount of oxidation will vary and Kits are made to handle mild to severe challenges. These kits are not designed to clean our LBC convertible back and side windows.

There are about 8 different distributors for cleaning kits. Some are Priced around \$6.00 and top of the line is about \$25.00 However, the cheap kits use imported (guess where) sandpaper and will clog and become useless almost immediately. These kits also use 400 or 500 grit to remove the oxidation. This grit must be VERY carefully used to prevent deep scratches in the headlight cover. Many of the kits also use a pad for your hand drill. Excess pressure and pad speed while using the coarse disc, can put scratches that cannot be polished away.

I selected the Meguiar's Heavy Duty Kit # G2980. The oxidation disc is 1000 grit, but it does not clog, and removed my heavy oxidation within minutes. The disc is driven by an easy to grip hand held sander. Very easy to control pressure and speed. The polish disc is 3000 grit, and left the surface very smooth. Again, the work is done in about 3 minutes. The Kit does have a polish pad, used with the polish liquid to finish the surfacing. This pad is driven by a hand held drill. I used a Dewalt Battery powered unit.

Finally the surface is sealed with a headlight protectant. This protectant keeps the oxidation away for 1 or more years. Note that the protectant in the cheaper kits does not harden quickly, and can remain sticky for some time. Items not in the kit are: Masking tape for

painted surfaces. A water spray bottle to lubricate the 1000 and 3000 grit discs while in use. A microfiber towel to clean and dry the surface between steps. I also recommend a pair of gloves to be worn while applying the protectant. This stuff is quite volatile.



When my Pickup was done (see photo) I used this kit to service the plastic headlights in my RV. I noticed NO breakdown in the performance of the two discs. There was plenty of polish and protectant product remaining after the RV was done. This kit may do a third set of headlights. Both the RV and Pickup looked years younger after this project.

Dave Smith

#### \*Rowdie Christmas Party and Dinner!\*

Keep Sunday, Dec 3rd free for our annual Christmas Party and Dinner to be held once again at The Chelsea Train Depot. Our menu, now in the planning stage, will again feature offerings from Knight's Catering. We will send an update shortly. Bring a favorite beverage. Coffee and soda will be provided.

Don't forget to also bring a wrapped gift for that "Rowdie Exchange" we all look forward to all the year.

The cost is still \$30.00 per person at the door with children free

What: Annual Rowdie Christmas Party and Dinner

When: December 3rd, 2023 Sunday at 1:00 pm with Dinner at 2 pm. Where: The Chelsea Train Depot 125 Jackson Street, Chelsea, MI

Please RSVP to John Alexander at king\_alex@msn.com by Nov 22nd so we can get an accurate count for dinners.

Weather expected to be in the low 40's w/clear sunny sky and, most importantly, no salt spread on the roadways! Drive those MGAs!!!

Hope to see everyone there.

Safety Fast, John,

Carolyn, Kevín, and

Norma





#### Dear Rowdies.

**Bruce Mann** has worked hard to arrange a great way to make a lot of customized Rowdie clothing available. The following information is from Bruce:

The Michigan Rowdies have entered into an agreement with a regalia supplier, WAGNER SIGNS & PRINTING, that offers many different types of clothing articles and will custom add the MICHIGAN ROWDIES' logo. Items are not just limited to the items shown on our Rowdies website, we have access to many more items by clicking the link to Wagner Signs and Printing, this allows you to select from all their stores and they will custom apply our Michigan Rowdies logo on any item you select.

Our regalia website is now up and running and available for placing orders. Log on and give it a try. It should be a user friendly experience. The item you order will be sent directly to your home. If you would order any clothing regalia November 1st through Dec 15, 2023 you can get a 15% discount for all items listed on the web site. In addition, with your purchase of an item you will also be entered into a drawing for a gift card worth \$50.00

Please give it a try and enjoy the variety of items available for purchase. If you have any questions placing an order, or navigating the website, please Email Bruce Mann at bwmann@att.net Safety Fast, *Chairman Bill* 

#### VOL 48, NO 6, Nov-Dec, 2023



#### Chairman's Chatter

Here we are at mid-October, and MG driving season is winding down. I miss summer already. I hope you have all been taking advantage of the limited time we have left to enjoy our MGs here in this pleasant

peninsula. At this latitude, we have about six months with leaves on the trees and six months with none. I would certainly enjoy having a longer green season, but I wouldn't want to trade away our pleasant summers. In the meantime, I am lining up my MG projects for the winter. If you don't have a heated garage, you should probably spend the winter in Florida.

Speaking of summer, next summer's GT-49 will be in Welches, Oregon, on the slopes of Mt. Hood. For those who have not been there, Mt. Hood is a spectacular volcanic peak. The top is high enough that it is usually possible to ski year-round. I've had relatives in Oregon since the '50s and have visited there three times. The last time was in 1981, the year after the Mt. St. Helens eruption. So, I think I am overdue to visit again. We haven't decided how to make the trip yet. Some Rowdies have already committed to taking Amtrak to Portland. That means leaving the MGA at home. I haven't talked to anyone planning to drive their MGA out there. I'm sure some folks in the eastern US are making plans to do just that. I remember from the GT in Ottawa that some intrepid NAMGAR members drove all the way from San Diego up the coast to Vancouver and then across Canada to Ottawa. It will be interesting to see who the long-distance winners will be next year.

It wasn't an especially long-distance drive, but we had a nice color tour on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The day started out cloudy and cold but ended sunny and warmer. The colors were about perfect, in my opinion. We had five MGAs, Tom Fant's V8 powered MGB, our Midget, driven by son Adam, a modern Thunderbird and two Detroit SUVs. With 25 people, we had a nice lunch at the Beach Bar on Clark Lake in Jackson County. Ken Nelson would have gotten the long distance award, if there had been one.

After lunch, Mary Ellen and I, along with Adam and friend Ko, continued on to Meckley's Flavor Fruit Farm near Somerset. We lived near there many years ago and remember when the orchard owner first switched from wholesale only and started selling apples retail before opening a bakery. Now, fall weekends are a major festival with a brewery, craft vendors, pony

rides and music. The doughnut line was almost a half-hour long. It's nice to see the family-owned business so successful.

The next event on our Rowdie calendar will be the Christmas party on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. It's not too soon to find a gift for the gift exchange/steal fun. The party will be at the Chelsea depot, as in recent years. There will be a charge per person attending, as there was last year. More details will be disseminated soon.

#### Chairman Bill





New Members Ko Shih and Adam Weakley (does the name sound familiar?)

## Miracle on 28th Street

#### Allen Bachelder



You probably recall the Brigadoon myth about a place that is idyllic, unaffected by time, [and] remote from reality. The legend of Brigadoon is the story of a mythical village in the Scottish Highlands. The village became enchanted centuries ago remaining unchanged and invisible to the outside world **except for one special day every hundred years** when it could be seen and even visited by outsiders. This enchanted day is spent in joy and celebration.

And now, we take you to the corner of 28<sup>th</sup> and Patterson in Grand Rapids Michigan. It looks totally normal. Just ten blocks north of the Gerald R Ford International Airport, a well-developed string of hotels, restaurants and bars line up on 28<sup>th</sup> Street, seemingly for miles – everything to comfort the weary traveler. But there is also a Miracle that occurs on 28<sup>th</sup> Street: an infrequent event not unlike *Brigadoon*, right at the corner of Patterson Avenue.

History tells us that for over twenty years from 1979 until around 2000 John Twist, founder of University Motors, and his late wife Caroline Robinson pioneered MG car shows, offering the soon-to-become famous annual *University Motors Summer Parties*, usually drawing 500-600 cars and over a thousand attendees. This event would also become the model for hundreds of other British car events throughout North America. The show itself would be in Douglas Walker Park, out on 84th Street, but "The Hilton" always hosted these events, with overflow visitors filling the Economy Inn across the street on Patterson. While John and Caroline would plan and execute numerous fascinating events to consume our time and interest during our whole stay – often culminating in VSCDA vintage races at nearby Grattan Raceway Park on the final Sunday,

<sup>&</sup>quot;Brigadoon." Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Brigadoon. Accessed 27 Aug. 2023.

<sup>[1]</sup> https://www.glenlaurel.com/about-us/blog/the-legend-of-brigadoon/#:~:text=Definition%20of%20BRIGADOON%20from%20Websters,village%20in%20the%20Scottish%20Highlands.

most memorable were the spontaneous "tire kicking" parties that would erupt nightly on the

Hilton rear parking lot – running long into each night.

If you're in the neighborhood, stop by the Hilton sometime when traffic is low. Around 11 AM on a Sunday might be a good time. Park your car and walk around that rear parking lot. It is nearly empty, and without distraction, in your mind's eye you'll be able to see hundreds of MGs. Bend over near the pavement and listen to the jovial voices of the hundreds of MG friends from all over North America reveling in their annual opportunity to hang out and tell lots of MG stories - many of them true! These sights and sounds are the ghosts embedded in that sacred pavement.





But the magic continues. John Twist's University Motors Summer Party Reunions mysteriously re-appear at random and unpredictable intervals. *It happened again on August 18th-19th 2023: MG Brigadoon!* (Perhaps that's what "MGB" stands for...) These photos are proof. This past August, over 100 MGs were apparently spotted here on this sacred site.

Unlike Brigadoon, this event lasts a little longer than one day, and the random intervals are much less than a hundred years. They are accurately predicted on the University Motors Online website: https://universitymotorsltd.com. Bookmark it and check it frequently so you won't miss the next one.

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Hi Rowdies,

My college friend Craig has been restoring a 1959 MGA Twin Cam he acquired in 1988 in Michigan City, Indiana. He was asking me if I knew anyone who could help him set the timing, etc. and I suggested fellow Rowdie Forest Johnson. After taking his engine to the Rusty Moose Garage my buddy told me he was super impressed with the shop. the restorations, and the staff. He asked if I had visited it. Nope. I recall Forest saying he was going to build a shop but Grand Haven is not right around the corner for me. So I decided to look up the website. Wow. I was really impressed and I want to share it with you. His business is transitioning as Forest is looking at retiring and Ben Sobolik will take

on more of the load. If you would like a closer look, check the site out, which I'm told is not up-to-date but still impressive.

https://rustymoosegarage.com/ 616-301-2888 12777 N. Cedar Drive Grand Haven, MI 49417





By the way there was a small group of Rowdies who made it to John Twist's Summer Party today. There were about 100 cars; mostly MGBs, as expected. Rowdies included Forest Johnson, John Alexander, Allen Bachelder, Bill Weakley and myself. Sorry if I missed anyone but I was a very late arrival. Sleeping till 10:30am does not get you there too early since it's a two hour drive. But it was a beautiful top down day.(*See Allen's article above*)

Safety Fast, Dave Quinn

#### Another Battle Scar - By Dave Quinn

We drove the MG to Shipshewana, Indiana to see an old bones show (at least that's what I called it) with Frankie Avalon, Fabian, and Lou Christie (82, 80, and 80). I've told the story before that I knew Lou when I was in high school. His name in those days was Freddie Sacco. I was finally able to me up with him 16 years ago after a performance. I didn't have the opportunity to meet him this time. It had been a long enough day. A driver in a Jeep with KY plates drove into the side of me in Coldwater, MI and did not stop!! I was sure the backend was smashed in but by some miracle he only damaged a rear knockoff as the wheels must have come together when he tried switching into my lane. Curt & Steph were following us, saw it



all happen and said the MG moved at least a foot from the impact. My quick-thinking friends did get a photo of the car and plate but it's not worth pursuing.

It was one in a million hit. What are odds of that happening. A foot or two forward or backwards and the results would have been much worse. The fender took some very minor damage. None of us could believe the minimal damage and the car ran great!





## Road Trip Around The Thumb

Stephanie Smith sends in some pictures from a road trip she and Curt took this fall with Dave and Donna Quinn and Steve Holliday. Over nights in Frankenmuth, Port Austin, and return to Frankenmuth with Curt/Step and Steve Holliday. "Road trip 2023 around the thumb area with a caravan of three MGs. We had fun times and great weather!"













## A Picture Tells It All

From Rob Mackenzie. "Just about everybody has seen the MGA showroom handout with the lady by the Tyrolite Green MGA. Here is the complete, un-cropped photo from 1955... From David Knowles' MGB book."





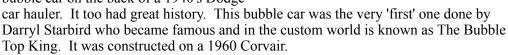
#### Quinn At a Car Show



I rarely attend car shows but I heard of one on a tv station that was being held today just a few miles from my house. I didn't make the 9am kickoff but I did get there just before noon. By then a lot had left but I found three that really interested me and took photos.

The owner said he bought the car from Bob Seeger. He said it was a long story. Too bad he was leaving as I would have enjoyed hearing it.

The second car that caught my eye was this bubble car on the back of a 1940's Dodge



The third car that wow'd me was this Super Clean 1940's rod. No door handles, no trunk handle, no normal running board . . instead just as smooth and matching the body. Everything was remote controlled, along with A/C, etc.

PS - A couple kind folks came up to the MG when I arrived and said they would have voted for me! And a few even took pictures.

\*\*Dave Quinn\*\*









## Battle of the Brits - 9-19-23 Fort Dearborn













### Dayton Concours d'Elegance - Carrillon Park 9-17-23







Dave & Cheri Smith along with Bruce & Willie Mann were invited to enter the Dayton, Ohio Concours d'Elegance car show on September 17, 2023. MG, the car that made America love sports cars, was featured as the marque celebrates its 100th anniversary at the 16th Dayton Concours d'Elegance at Carillon Park on Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023. Other MGs at the show were Lee Jacobson's 1938 MG SA Tickford Drophead

Coupe, a 1934 MG NA Special, and a 1953 Arnolt-MG Bertone Coupe. Bruce and Willie won 2 awards for their 1960 MGA 1600. One was an Award of Excellence and the second was the prestigious Louie DiPasquale Best British Car Award. Dave Smith went down with daughter Katherine to display his #49 Rowdie Race Car along with a beautiful picture of it at 'full race'.





Best British Car



Award of Excellence



## Rowdie Racing at Lime Rock and Watkins Glen 2023 - by Dave Smith

Chari and I decided early in 2023 to take #49 to the 100th Anniversary of MG Race at Lime Rock Park in Connecticut.

Arriving on Thursday, Registration went smoothly and soon we were set up in Paddock B. My last laps here were in a Skip Barber 3-Day School in April 1997. Completion of a Professional School was the quickest and best way to obtain my SVRA

Competition License at the beginning of our Racing career.

Friday was the first time that #49 MGA turned laps here. Saturday had two sessions and my lap times improved considerably from the Friday session. On Sunday, Lime Rock cannot race, so they hold a car show. We rolled #49 out to show some East Coast Friends the innards of a Vintage Car. See Elaine belted in and ready to

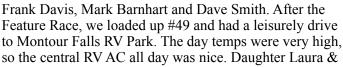




go. The track is beautiful and they had a drivers' lounge with coffee & bottled water all day to combat the heat etc. This is the only track I know with this amenity.

I had a wonderful experience with being the recipient of the Golden Wrench Award from Tierno Racing. Four awards were issued to persons that most contributed to the success of #029 in its initial 5 years. Dave Nicholas,







hubby Dave provided transportation around the Venue. On Wednesday we went out to dinner with Joe Tierno and Bill Green to Jerlando's on Franlin Street. Those two entertained us with memories from The Glen from 1948 to 2023.

On Friday the IMRRC made the Walk of Fame nomination official. The Rowdie

Racing granite block was unveiled on Franklin Street at 6th Street. Nearby is Danica Patrick, David Ash, and most satisfying to me is Canadian Tom Hoan. The weather on Sunday was wet, cold and foggy, however the Collier Cup had a prime spot in the schedule. Jim Holoday of London had a fantastic drive and won the Bucher-Decker Cup in his TwinCam MGA. I sat out this race as my EGT readings let me know that the engine needed a checkup. Engine sounded good but better to be careful.







## Progress Update On Bruce & Willie's Coupe

We all love to see a member's new project come to life and turn into a head turning and prize collecting finished MGA. Bruce and Willie Mann are working on their 4th MG restoration, this time with a Coupe. Here are a few pictures of what

they've been accomplishing in their garage.























Rear parcel shelf fabricated and covered.





### Colour Tour 10-22-23

## JOHN ALEXANDER REPORTS ON ROWDIES COLOUR TOUR!

Saturday 10-21 was the proclaimed day for the official Rowdie color tour of Michigan. Editor Ken had warned John that the weather report for western Michigan that day was "Rain all day long, Cloudy, and a High of 48°, but did John listen? *Oh Noo...*, John did not! So Tom Borden was the only person to show up at Park Lyndon North on that less than optimal day, and a quick rescheduling for the next day occurred. I'll let John take the story from here. Says John:

"The day (Sunday) was SO much better than Saturday with its drizzling rain. Colours were radiant - a beautiful fall Michigan day, with temps in the 60s."

In attendance were Dave and Cheri Smith, Deb and Jeff Smith, Curt and Stephanie Smith (obviously the entire extended Smith family wanted to show up), Adam Weakley and friend Ko, John Alexander and Carolyn King, Bill and MaryEllen Weakley, Ken Nelson, Anita and Tony Dellicolli, Kevin and Norma Peck, and Tom Fant and Lynn Combs.

We had a great turnout considering the 37°F starting temperature. Windows were in place and tops were up on *most* cars except Kevin & Norma Peck. Whoof, it was cool.

The temperature warmed up and the route took just under an hour to wind its way for 40 miles through the Waterloo Recreation area, then south to the Irish Hills area and the Beach Bar at Clark Lake. As we sat for lunch, the sun appeared and cleared off the clouds - ah, 50°F finally! The setting and the colors were gorgeous and the socializing was great as well.

It was good to see all seven MGAs, one MG Midget, and one Thunderbird rolling across Southern Michigan roads, adding our colors to the pretty fantastic art of Ma Nature. We're already looking forward to the succeeding year's "Fabulous Feast of Flashy Foliage" next year.

This was a good way to wind down the driving season. See everyone at Christmas. *John Alexander* 

















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#### Pictures From The Past



A Downtown
Chicago
Theatre in
the 1950s.
There is a
lonely
British car
lurking there
somewhere
in this picture. Can
you find it?



Happy Halloween To All! (Picture By John Edel)



Above is a picture of Falvey Motors in Ferndale, MI. They imported BMC cars from the 1950s to 1970s. Pictured is a shiny new MGA in the back.