

# The Classic 'Y'



*Issue No.177 December 2003*

The Newsletter of The M.G. "Y" Type Register

## EDITORIAL

As promised in the last issue, this time I am starting to reproduce some material which has been kindly supplied to me by the company historian for what was once the John Thompson Group of companies in Wolverhampton, Mr. Stanley Barnett. (John Thompson Motor Pressings Ltd. manufactured the chassis frames for the Y-Type M.G.).

Overleaf you'll find a listing of original M.G. literature available from Walter Miller of Syracuse, New York; the listing was sent to me by Bob Gibson of Thornville, Ohio. Bob also told me that Y/3363, the maroon left-hand-drive "Y" Saloon which I'd last seen in California in 1982, and which is pictured on pp.23 & 24 of my book, was for sale. In the photos he sent me it looks just like it did back in '82.

It only remains for me to wish members of the Register and all my correspondents around the world,

**a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Successful New Year!**

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# ORIGINAL FOREIGN SALES & SERVICE LITERATURE

Item #:

## M.G.

|          |  |        |
|----------|--|--------|
| 1934     | Lot Of 2 Factory Letters & 1 Factory Letter & Envelope, \$90.  | 57751  |
| 1936     | Factory Letter & Envelope, \$40.   | 57752  |
| 1937     | Lot Of 2 Factory Letters & Envelope, \$80.   | 57753  |
| 1937     | Factory Photo, 3 1/2 X 2 1/2, Printed In 1940's, \$12.   | 82393  |
| 1927-39  | Magazine Road Test, 63 Sheets, \$60.   | 44756  |
| 1940-49? | Dealer's Stationery, "Mg", One Sheet, \$9.   | 56831  |
| 1946-49  | Owner's Handbook, Midget, Series Tc, Soiled, \$65.   | 122243 |
| 1949?    | Photo, 14 X 11, Tc Drawing, Folded, \$10.  | 66333  |
| 1949     | small part color catalog, "BEA Passenger Ticket and Baggage Check", 2 flight coupons missing, has M.G. logo, printed by British Motor Corp., \$25. | 141570 |
| 1949     | Part Color Folder, Ty Tourer, \$65.  | 32644  |
| 1950     | Sales Brochure, Specify Model***, \$35.  | 74206  |
| 1950     | Non Color Sheet, Td, \$15.   | 32652  |
| 1950-51  | Illustrated Parts Book, Body And Chassis, Midget, Series Td, Mint, \$100.  | 116667 |
| 1951     | Sales Brochure, Specify Model***, \$35.  | 74207  |
| 1951     | Non Color Catalog, Special Tuning, Td, \$45.   | 32658  |
| 1951     | Owner's Handbook, 1 1/4 Litre, Series Y, Mint, \$100.  | 116668 |
| 1950-52  | Non Color Sheet, Td, Shows All 1950-52 Models, \$15.   | 32648  |
| 1950-52  | Owner's Handbook, Td, \$75.  | 44764  |
| 1950-52  | Owner's Handbook, Td, Soiled, Torn, \$45.  | 44773  |
| 1952     | Color Catalog, "Safety Fast!", Td, Mint, \$75.   | 122245 |
| 1952     | Color Folder, Td, \$60.  | 44777  |
| 1952     | Sales Brochure, Specify Model***, \$35.  | 74208  |
| 1952     | "Arnolt Soundings", Factory Magazine, March, Vol. 7, No. 3, \$20.  | 122246 |
| 1952     | Small Non Color Catalog, "International Sporting Calendar", \$40.  | 59045  |
| 1950-53  | Illustrated Parts Book, Td, \$75.  | 44770  |
| 1951-53  | Factory Workshop Manual, 1 1/4 Litre, Series Yb, Mint, \$125.  | 116669 |
| 1952-53  | Illustrated Parts Book, Body And Chassis, 1 1/4 Litre, Series Yb, Mint, \$125.   | 116670 |
| 1953     | Factory Letter, Regards Lit, \$25.   | 122247 |
| 1953     | Sales Brochure, Specify Model***, \$35.  | 74209  |
| 1953     | Cigarette Card, Magnette, \$5.   | 97359  |
| 1953     | Owner's Handbook, 1 1/4 Litre, Series Yb, Mint, \$85.  | 116671 |
| 1949-54  | Non Color Catalog, Runyan Mg Accessories, Covers All 1949-54 Models, \$40.   | 32640  |
| 1953-54  | Part Color Folder, Letter, Sheet, Orig Env, Judson-td, \$35.   | 32676  |
| 1954     | Color Catalog, "New", Tf, \$65.  | 122248 |
| 1954     | Color Folder, Magnette, 1 1/2 Litre, \$20.   | 44781  |
| 1954     | Color Folder, Tf, \$35.  | 44782  |
| 1954     | Factory Workshop Manual, Za Magnette, \$75.  | 32672  |
| 1954     | Illustrated Parts Book, Za Magnette, \$75.   | 32669  |

WALTER MILLER, [REDACTED]

PHONE: [REDACTED]

FAX: [REDACTED]

NEW YORK, [REDACTED]

USA

# JOHN THOMPSON MOTOR PRESSINGS Ltd.

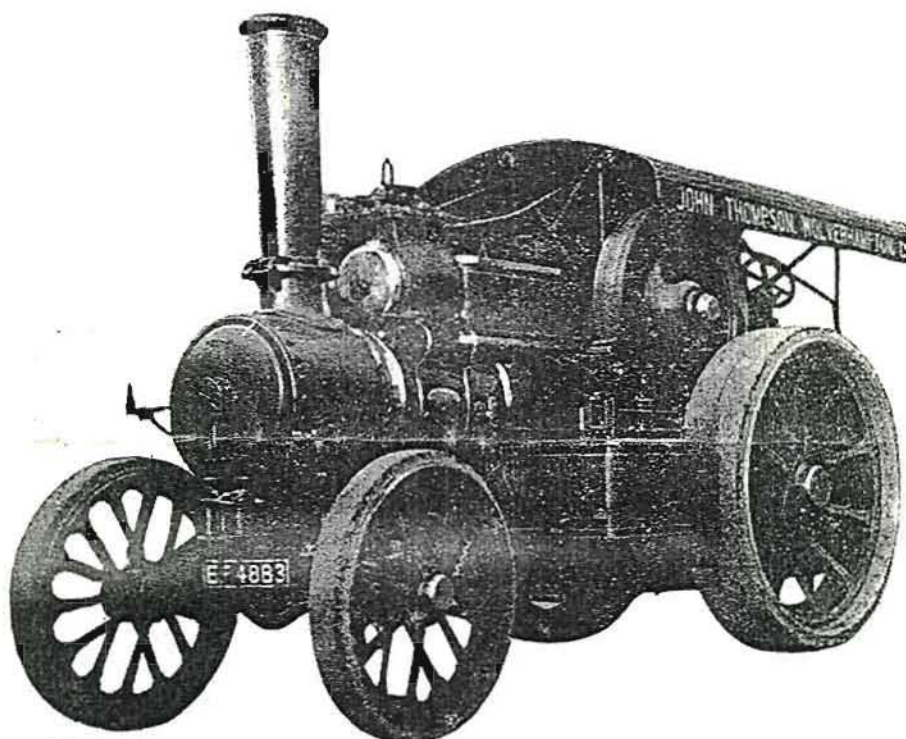
## Chassis Manufacturer

PL1

### THE NORTH WEST VINTAGE 1/- AND VETERAN TRANSPORT RALLY

AT  
HAYDOCK PARK RACECOURSE  
LANCASHIRE

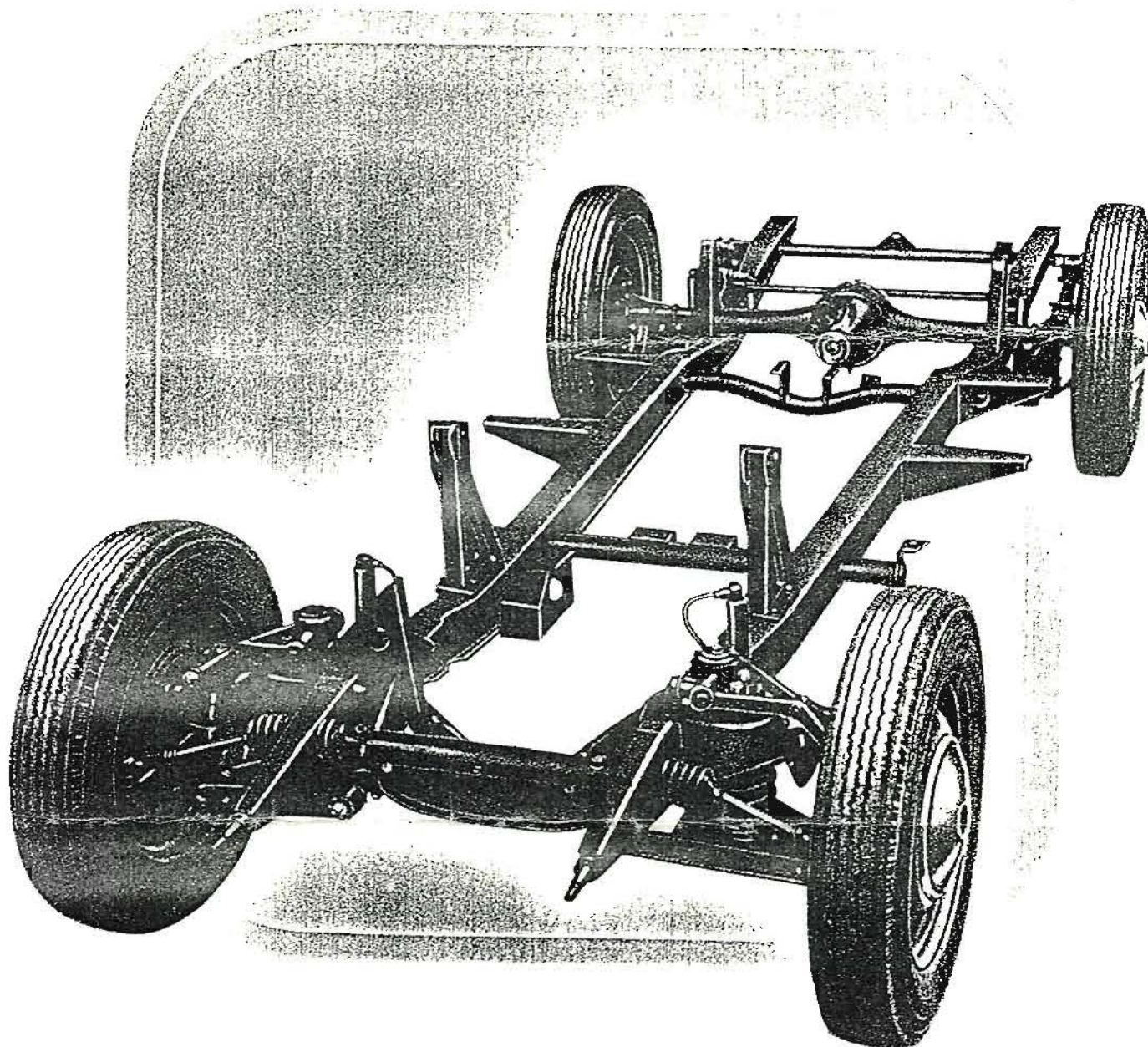
on July 16th and 17th. 1966



One of two traction engines owned by the John Thompson Group of Wolverhampton. As recently as 1963 the engines were in regular use handling heavy pressure vessels about the 80 acre John Thompson site. The Group's interest in the old engines is not surprising for the original John Thompson company, founded over 125 years ago produced a wagon boiler and today the main products of the Group are still associated with steam—water tube boilers for major power stations, shell boilers, and Multipac—Britain's best-selling package boiler, plus all types of ancillary equipment—pipework, water treatment plant, coal and ash handling plant, stokers, etc.

John Thompson produced chassis frames from 1904 to 1970, when Clarke Chapman took over. They continued chassis manufacture, as did Rockwell International/Rockwell Thompson from 1972 to 1986. The Parkfield Group plc. then continued until 1990. There was then a buy-out, and United Pressings & Fabrications Ltd. continued the business. The company was "floated" in 1994 as the U.P.F. Group Ltd., but went into receivership in December 2001. G.K.N. Autostructures purchased the business in April 2002. During the tenure of John Thompson Motor Pressings, chassis and chassis parts were supplied to virtually every car maker in the U.K. (other than Ford), and every Rolls-Royce from 1908 until B.M.W. took over the company recently was built on a Thompson chassis or sub-frame/suspension unit set; Bentley vehicles still are.





This illustration of a "YA" chassis appeared in a John Thompson brochure *Car Frames For The Motor Industry* of around 1949. On the opposite page in the brochure was a similar illustration of a TD frame (which will appear in a later part of this series). Thompsons' involvement with M.G. started in January 1936 in producing the chassis for the TA and continued right through to cessation of production of the MGB in 1980 (they made the front cross-member for the 'B). When the Naylor (later Hutson) TF 1700 came along in 1984, "Thompsons" produced the chassis for that vehicle also. They did not have any of the original tools or equipment still left from original TF chassis production, so the Naylor version had to be made by semi-prototype methods (and they were made in small quantities only).

J 3298

J 3299 M.C. Riley. (CLARKS) A.C.B. 5000. W. LOCKETT 11-6-54.  
SIDE MEMBER  
J 3300 WOLSELEY (WELD) A.C.B. 5201/2 J. WOOLTON 27-5-54  
BRACE ASSY.  
J 3301 WOLSELEY (WELD) A.C.B. 5201/2 J. WOOLTON 27-5-54.  
BRACE ASSY.  
J 3302 WOLSELEY (WELD) A.C.B. 5197. H. FENNEL 17-5-54.  
BRACE STIFFENER L.H.  
J 3303 WOLSELEY (WELD) A.C.B. 5196. H. FENNEL 17-5-54.  
BRACE STIFFENER R.H.  
J 3304  
J 3305 WOLSELEY (DRILL) A.C.B. 5160-1. H. FENNEL 6-5-54  
BRACE STIFF. PEDAL BRKT.  
J 3306  
J 3307  
J 3308 WOLSELEY (DRILL & TAP) A.C.B. 5163. H. FENNEL 2-6-54  
MASTER GYL. PLATE.  
J 3309 WOLSELEY (DRILL & TAP) A.C.B. 5164. H. FENNEL 2-6-54.  
MASTER GYL. PLATE.  
J 3310 WOLSELEY (S. WELD) A.C.B. 5182Z H. FENNEL 21-6-54.  
R3 CROSS MEMBER.

On this page and the next are photocopies taken from the John Thompson tooling record books. Some other entries which may be of interest are reproduced below. Further photocopied sheets will appear in a later issue.

|             |                            |  |  |
|-------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| 1936 -      | M.G.                       | Set of tools for frame liner                 | Part No. 81454/5                       |
|             | M.G.                       | Blank tool for M.G. side-members             | 81451/2                                |
| 1946 -      | M.G.                       | Form tool for side-member                    | Part No. 127662/3 W                    |
|             |                            | Form tool for front cross                    | 126803 W                               |
|             |                            | Form tool for liner                          | 127664 W                               |
|             |                            | Form tool for front extension                | 126829/30                              |
| Dec' 1953 - | M.G.                       | Side-members - carbon arc weld jig           |  |
|             |                            |  | Part No. ACC 8350/1 (Riley & Wolseley) |
|             |                            |  | ACB 5027/8 (Riley & Wolseley)          |
| June 1954 - | M.G. (Riley)               | Checking fixture for ACB 5000 frame assembly |  |
|             | M.G. (Riley) (Riley 1 1/2) | Checking fixture for ACH 5805 frame assembly |  |
|             | M.G. (Wolseley)            | Checking fixture for ACC 5158 frame assembly |  |
| July 1954 - | M.G.                       | Side-members - carbon arc weld jig           |  |
|             |                            |  | Part No. AHHI 5004/5 (poss. MGA)       |
| Oct' 1961 - | M.G.                       | Front suspension cross-member                | Part No. AHHI 6196 (MGB)               |



John Thompson apparently did not stamp any numbers on the chassis frames they produced. All chassis numbers for all customers were applied by the latter in their own factories when the vehicles were assembled.

At a later date, however, some individual pressed items were marked with a batch code during the pressing operation, but this was not introduced until well after involvement with M.G. vehicles ceased. These batch codes related to the material used and the pressing operations.

|        |                                    |          |         |         |
|--------|------------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|
| J 3315 | WOLSELEY (WELD)<br>* DUPLICATE JIS | APC 5196 | G LEWIS | 20-3-57 |
| J 3316 | WOLSELEY (WELD)<br>* DUPLICATE JIS | APC 5197 | G LEWIS | 20-3-57 |

Chassis were manufactured for the Riley Pathfinder saloon car and the Wolseley.

For the MGA, box section side-members, the front suspension cross-member and some brackets were supplied to Abingdon for them to build the chassis.

For the MGB, the front suspension cross-member, the gearbox cross-member and a small cover bracket were supplied (from introduction up to the mid-1980s).

|        |   |                |           |         |
|--------|---|----------------|-----------|---------|
| J 3311 | WOLSELEY (WELD)<br>N° 3 CROSSMEMBER         | A.C.G. 5183Z   | J WOOTTON | 25-6-54 |
| J 3312 | WOLSELEY (WELD)<br>TRANSVERSE ROD BRKT      | A.C.G. 5189    | H FENNELL | 2-6-54  |
| J 3313 |   |                |           |         |
| J 3314 | WOLSELEY (S.WELD)<br>JACKING BRKTS          | A.C.G. 5229-30 | H FENNELL | 1-4-54  |
| J 3315 | HG WOLSELEY (WELD)<br>BRACE STIFFENER PLATE | A.C.G. 5196    | H FENNELL | 6-5-54  |
| J 3316 | HG WOLSELEY (WELD)<br>BRACE STIFFENER PLATE | A.C.G. 5197    | H FENNELL | 6-5-54  |
| J 3317 |   |                |           |         |
| J 3318 | WOLSELEY (WELD)<br>N° 2 CROSSMEMBER ASSY    | A.C.G. 5208    | J WOOTTON | 2-6-54  |
| J 3319 |   |                |           |         |
| J 3320 |   |                |           |         |
| J 3321 |   |                |           |         |
| J 3322 | ALVIS (WELD)<br>NUTS & BOLTS ENDS FORK      | F.V. 118982    | A BUTLER  | 6-5-54  |
| J 3323 | WOLSELEY (WELD)<br>CROSSMEMBER ENDS         | A.C.G. 5156/7  | H FENNELL | 25-6-54 |