THE CLASSIC'Y'

Volume V. No. 51



June 1982

Editors: J. G. Lawson and J. R. Sanderson

Hello again ...

At the end of May we had a visit from Hank and Charlotte Luer of Denville, New Jersey. They had come to England primarily to collect a 1949 'YA' (Y 4144) named 'Blackbird'. The car is generally in good shape and, if I may be ungrammatical for a moment, "very original". We spent one morning of their visit raiding a scrapyard where we found a Morris Oxford and one Morris Minor. We came away with quite a few small parts that are good for 'Y's. Hank tipped out a can of oily water to find several interior door hadles! Altogether a most enjoyable time was had by all and yes, Charlotte, I will keep taking the vita min 'C'!! We hope to have some photos of the car in the August is sue.

S peaking of the August issue reminds me to tell you that I (John L. that is) will be effectively out of the country for the whole of August (World Airways' auditors permitting). The Santa Barbara GoF. the Monterrey Historic Car Races and the Pebble Beach Concours are all to be visited and I am to be shown the delights of Californ ia by Tory Skopecek and David Miller and their families and friends. No, I cannot bring back new crankshafts from Moss Motors in my cabin aggage! And how are the chips, Audrey?!

Next, news from Australia. Ge off Fry owns Y 1057 which featured in 'Australian Imports Part II' (Issue No.28). The importer's records show that it was black with a beige interior. Ge off however tells me that the interior is green and he believes this to be original. So I suppose we can never accept any documentary evidence as 100% a courate?

A new batch of windscreen stickers has just arrived but unfortunately, because of inflation (it is three years since we ordered the last batch) and because our order was for a comparatively small number, they will have to retail at 70p each from now on - sorry!

28th May 1982.

Register News

Recent Additions:

Chassis No.	Year.	Type.	Engine No.	Colour.	Owner's Na me.
Y 0674	1947	YA.	SC/10411 (ori SC/A67662 (cu	g) t/t Gr	een A. Parker.
Y 2300	1949	YA.	SC/X12192	The second secon	een P. Holsgrove
YB 1465	1953	YB.	SC2/18374	Bla ck/	
					L. Jennings. (

Total cars on the Register as at 21st May 1982: 764.

Made up as follows: YA: 366 YB: 169 YT: 155 YRC: 3

Composites/Specials: 4 Unknown (mainly saloons): 67

New Members:



Address Changes:



Members Leaving the Register:

84. W.F. Durst. 342. D. Swackhamer.

AUSTRALIAN IMPORTS PART XVI.

This month, the YTs that were sold 'second-hand' by Ron Ward's of Strathfield, Sydney.

Y/T/EXR2770 XPAG/TR/12635 Cream	Green Red Beige	BB 767 AE 256
	Be ige	
Y/T/EXR 32 92 XPAG/TR/13157 Black		COMPANY OF THE COLUMN TWO
	7	DA 252
Y/T/EXR3299 XPAG/TR/13188 Red		ET 658
Y/T/EXR3479 XPAG/TR/13239 Green Y/T/EXR 3526 XPAG/TR/13439 Red	? Red	EN 326 FB 743
Y/T/EXR 3585 XPAG/TR/13442 Green	Green	FE 519
Y/T/EXR 3588 XPAG/TR/13444 Black	Be ige	DS 867
Y/T/EXR 3631 XPAG/TR/13484 Black	Beigen	DY 135
Y/T/EXR 3707 XPAG/TR/13500 Green	Green	DW 902
Y/T/EXR 3747 XPAG/TR/13485 Black	Green	PH 648
Y/T/EXR 3785 XPAG/TR/13194 Blue	?	GY 792
	Red	AAM 971
	?	RC 041
Y/T/EXR 3875 XPAG/TR/13745 Blue	Be ige	FR 361
Y/T/EXR 3911 XPAG/TR/13757 Red	Red	FG 115
	Be ige	HB 263
Y/T/EXR 391 9 XPAG/TR/13736 Red	Red	LX 504
	Red	AEY 267
	Green	AEA 790
	Beige	KO 083
	?	ALN 350
	Green	HO 500
	Green	GR 302
Y/T/EXR 4118 XPAG/TR/13868 Blue	?	GG 477
	Beige	VE 698
	Green	AAB 726
Y/T/EXR 4221 XPAG/TR/14063 Black ?		KX 037
Y/T/EXR 4262 XPAG/TR/14008 Green I	Beige	Q-505-171
Y/T/EXR 4274 XPAG/TR/14074 Black ?	OCHE STRE	GK 079
Y/T/EXR 4320 XPAG/TR/14284 Black C	Green	LJ 834
	Red	LB 780
Y/T/EXR 4448 XPAG/TR/ 14369 Cream C	Green	KJ 076
Y/T/EXR 4615 XPAG/TR/14624 Black C		HK 171
	Red	HS 565
Y/T/EXR 4956 XPAG/TR/14875 Black F	Red	KV 163
Y/T/EXR 5044 XPAG/TR/14675 Cream	Green	LY 919
	?	ML 948
., . ,	Red	ACE 546
Y/T/EXR 5157 XPAG/TR/14864 Blue E	Be ige	NA 900

Credit: Noel Gerdes, M.G. Restorers Association.

The RESTORATION of 'ENTERPRISE'



And so to the sunroof drainage hoses. The total length of hose required for replacement was 18 feet (two 5º lengths for the front, and two 4º lengths for the rear). Now it is a curious facet of the Brit ish affair with the European Economic Community that nowadays garden hose (and probably any other hose for that matter) can be obtained by the metre (length) but its width (diameter) is still measured in fractions of an inch !! So, confusion reigned. Even more so when it was found that one could only obtain hose with an outside diameter of I". The outside diameter of that originally fitted to the 'Y' Type is 1" (the inside diameter being 3"). Thus it seemed impossible to mat e up the metal piping at the four corners of the sunroof opening with the a vailable hose. Once again in novation came to our rescue. Anyone know what a Croydex Swirlit is ?? (No answers on a postcard, please). A Croydex Swirlit (made in Croydon, of course) is one of those rubber extensions some of us have on our taps (faw cets). The diameter of a Swirlit at its upper end is approximately 1", whilst it narrows down to less than 1" at the extreme lower end. I therefore bought four brand new Swirlits (after my proposal to remove two from the taps in our house didn't meet with too much enthusiasm from my mother). I cut the Swirlits off about halfway down their length and with size 10 Jubilee clips fixed the wide ends over the metal piping on the sunroof. I could now buy my 18 feet (sorry, 5.4864 metres) of ordinary everyday green garden hose .

To make the instal lation of the hose easier it is best to attach some chicken wire through the upper end of the old hose whilst it is still in the car. Then, as you draw the old hose out through the bottom of the car, the chicken wire is drawn through all those inaccessible places. Then you attach the bottom of the new hose to the other end of the chicken wire and, pulling the old hose out of the carthrough the bottom draws the new hose through until it peeps out the bottom. O.K., this was fairly straightforward. I then attached the Swirl its in arrow ends to the hoses, again with Jubilee clips. The only problems we had apart from those already related were that on the right side at the front of the car, the hole through which the hose should have protruded had been welded over when the welding repairs were carried out in 1978 (not by us !) I toyed with the idea of drilling a hole from underneath the car (without a power drill, of course) and decided that it would be impractical at this stage to drill a wide enough hole. An easy, if temporary compromise was reached by pushing the hose through a space at the 28 THE CLASSIC 'Y'

front of the floorboards. The second problem was that the metal piping to the sunroof at the rear on the left had corroded (it was the only one of the metal pipes which had suffered in this way). To solve this problem a copper right-angled bend piece diping was fixed in place with Araldite (and the join was good and strong).

All that remained was to test our work. Some water was poured into the sunroof drainage channel and, sure enough, out it came at the four corners on the ground. To finish off, I fitted Jubil ee clips around the bottom of the hoses where they protruded under the car so as to stop them being pulled up through the hole inadvertantly. This job was completed by 10th May 1980.

John Lawson



Y/T/EXR 3425, Red 1949 'YT' belonging to Chris Green of Norfolk.

We are indebted to the publishers of The Autocar for their kind permission to reproduce the following article, which first appeared in The Autocar 4th August 1950.

It is hoped to reproduce further articles from The Autocar in future issues.



The ti-litre is balanced, unobtrusive, but stylish in the traditional way. And it is still unmistakably as M.G.

THE 11-LITRE M.C. AFTER SIX MONTHS' ACQUAINTANCE

DESERVANT readers (that is to say, no doubt, readers of The Autocar) will have noticed that the pholographs in a certain series of articles frequently feature a 71-litre M.G., which means that the lucky author of that series is accompanied out of town by this admirable product of Abingdon. After six months of companionship I venture with caution, and with the proviso that a similar temperament on the part of the owner is necessary, to suggest that the M.G. is an ideal companion.

As a motorist I lack the virtues of some of my colleagues. Not for me the inclination (or the knowledge) to dissect my car into a super-Moccano set and then to rebuild it. But I like, when it is necessary, to be able to get at the components in need of adjustment and to carry out the work with the tools provided. Not for me, either, the technique of the trials driver or the Alpine Rally entrant; but I like to go fast when occasion demands and to take corners without more than the minimum slackening of speed. As regards styling, I am conservatively inclined, admiring function, proportion and balance, but prepared to sacrifice some of the æsthetic qualities if their presence means a reduction of function.

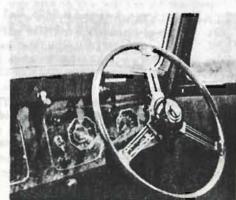
The picture, to the real enthusiast, may be depressing. But he may be cheered by the weakness that I have for a good central gear change, separate front seats, and revs that are not permitted to drop below a comfortable level. In other words, I am completely disinterested in the speed from which a car will pick up on top gear because I enjoy changing down, and I would not dream of letting my 1,250 c.c. pall me away from rom.p.h. on a ratio of 5.1 to 1. No sir; for me, 7.1 or even 10.6 to 1.

As one who was never, in the years 1939-1945, heard to mention rabbits on board ships, I had one misgiving when the M.G. became mine—it was finished in two shades of green, the body light and the wings dark (I nearly called this article Greensleeves). That was bad ju-ju; on the other band, an ex-pilot of World War I had presented me (in 1939) with a St. Christopher which I always carry. That is good ju-ju; and the ratio of good to bad is obviously high. I forgot the two shades of green in a very short time. Right now I like them.

The M.G. is a driver's car. He settles into the seat, adjusts the steering wheel to his liking, and casts an appreciative eye at the black and white dials in the "Kimber octayous" on the polished instrument panel. He notes

that there is an ammeter, an oil pressure gauge, but no thermometer; satisfactory if not ideal. He notes that the switches are plain black knobe, and he blesses Abingdon, for the observation confirms that there is not a single distracting highlight on the facia, a fact which is also evident when the instruments are illuminated. In carping mood, he might complain that the traffic signals, operated by a knurled ring on the steering wheel bose, are returned a little too soon, but they can always be operated a second time. Of the steering wheel itself he can hardly speak too highly, for it is just right. So, too, is the steering, under all but conditions of high stress. It is light, positive, and has adequate castor action. Under real stress—when taking a corner fast—there is a slight tendency to oversteer as the i.f.s. takes its maximum load on the outside front wheel. One is not caught out by this, because such speeds are approached gradually by an intelligent driver.

Polished wood, setting off good instruments and a thin, spring-spoked steering wheel, adjustable telescopically, give the M.G. driver the slight feeling of luxury.





Clean fronts are not necessarily all-enclosed. There is little that is superfluous about this sports saloon aspect.

GREEN - MANTLED : continued

and awareness of the tendency becomes instinctive, ar does counteraction. The driver who is unaware of the capabilities of i.f.s. in fast cornering would never become conscious of it.

The gear change gives me joy. I have a footish liking 're positive mechanical action. Double-pole, springded electric switches, made to carry currents of 50 amps as o, make me feel like a small boy in the cabin of the Royal Scot—if a volunteer is wanted to operate them I'm your man. Consequently the next snick-saick of the M.G. gear lever, with not an atom of lost motion this side of the cogs, gives me the curious, sensory pleasure that belongs to such things. The cogs themselves suit my driving needs, for I have hever bad the feeling that such and such a ratio could do with being a bit higher or lower. A whisper of engine will move the car away from standstill, and the synchromesh is good. Just occasionally I let in the clutch and find that reverse is not properly engaged, but this is a good fault. The casual engagement of reverse is not to be recommended.

The brakes—Lockheed hydraulic—are first-class, and the band brake (mechanical on the rear wheels) is an example of what a hand brake should be. A rigid central lever takes all the driver cares to give it, and the naked compensatory adjustment at its base gives a glimpse of cables that inspire confidence. This is still a Brake, not just a brake.

The Happy Motorist

With all this, one can understand the M.G. driver being a happy man, and that is important, for it means that, free from agitation, half-conscious misgivings, and awk-wardness of manipulation, he can concentrate on the job of driving. When his attention leaves the interior as however the moves off from standstill he is given additional backing. Over the bonnet is an honest side lamp, with ruby glass on top, plainly visible to mark his left side wing. The angular front, at a certain distance from the eye, drops orecipitously to the road, and the positiveness of this point.

I find, of great assistance in judgment of distances, tere is no such positiveness about the curving front, and the vanishing point is a matter of guesswork.

Now this ever-visible dimension is a constant for the eye of the driver, and I believe that the eye subconsciously uses it as a measuring rod for greater distances. Take it away and the eye is left in the position of the man at one side of the valley scanning the hills opposite over a sea of mist. How far off? His answer may be five miles out.

In close quarters the effect is even more beneficial. Small size overall, in conjunction with such visibility, enables the M.G. to be inserted into confined spaces with confidence. In traffic it can take gaps which other cars must shy at. When two vehicles appear abreast, coming in the opposite direction, you can assist the overtaker (even if you disapprove of his methods) by planting the left-side wheel three inches from the verge and staying there. Around the 1½-litre a cosy enclosure of confidence is built by these attributes, and after a few thousand miles with it the driver is fearful only that some other vehicle will commit the foolish error that results in a scratched wing.

I find the 11-litre a happy car when it is crulsing at any speed up to 60 m.p.h. Normally I do not like to see its needle above 60, but on occasion circumstances

have caused me to touch 70 m.p.h. At that speed its quite small engine becomes noticeable, and a transmission hum is evident on my particular model. None the less there is no sensation of stress, nor fear that "something might fly off." From long record and racing experience, M.G. engines have been given the ability to attain high revs, and to keep them going without protest. After prolonged spells at high speed, the 11 engine seems even more keyed up to the job than when it started, and, curiously enough, it frequently forgets to run on after such a burst, although it may do so after a quarter-mile from the filling station at 20 m.p.h. The phenomenon is easily stopped by opening the throttle wide immediately after switching off. One thing that puzzles me is the quick drop of water in the header tank. I believe it is spillage, and having gone down to fager-tip the level will go no farther; but as I like unscrewing the heavy plated cap and balancing it in my hand (I reckon nothing of the h.p. which goes on such vanity) I have not let matters go far enough to be positive.

If I am to utilize figures for an argument I have to force myself to extract the slide rule from its case. Consequently I haven't a clue as to averages on the M.G. Believe it or not, I do not know the exact mileage from my home to the offices of this journal. All I can say is that I have several times driven myself into a corner with regard to time, but that the ri-litre has invariably got me out of it. Petrol consumption is in the region of 30 m.p.g. and oil consumption virtually nil (10,000 miles). Likewise it has reliably started, with minimum use of the choke; indeed, it is easily possible to over-choke. At night, the lights live well up to the speed, and in the half-light I bless the ruby glasses to the side lamps. When they are on the whole world, and the driver, know it.

I would not change a thing on the car, although some would like a larger luggage locker. Hobo-minded, I tend to travel—as does my regular passenger—with a tooth-brush and pyjamas, so we do not mind the comparatively small space; in any case, the back seat is normally uncrupied. Being human, I am a snob at heart. Small boys do not say, "Coo, etc., etc.," but the more knowing ones have been known to point out to their fellows that that is an M.G., and the wealth of emphasis behind the initials shows that they are as fait on their Goldie Gardner, I was immensely flattered the other morning when a near neighbour, an R.A.F. three-ringer with a pleatiful plastering of fruit salad, made a complete circuit of the car as it stood outside my gate, one eyebrow cocked appreciatively. Very flattering.

"The angular front, at a certain distance from the eye, drops precipitously to the road," a help in judging distances, says





Minor Contribution

Cometime ago I ordered a parts catalogue from the Morris Minor Ocentre in Bath to see if there were any parts available from them which could be used on 'Y' Types, Several people had told me over the years that some Morris Minor parts were suitable for our cars and one or two examples I had discovered myself. I must stress here that it is very difficult by simply consulting a parts catalogue to be a bsolutely sure that the parts described therein are identical to or would be suitable for exchange with parts original to the 'Y'. If you intend to act on the advice in this article, then you must make absolutely sure before ordering parts that you are not wasting your money. A copy of the Morris Minor Catalogue is essential plus the a ppropriate 'Y' Type Workshop Manual and any information at a 11 you can gather on part numbers (both of the original part, and of the Minor replacement). Even if you would not chance ordering any of the Minor parts detailed below, this list will be useful for visits to s crapyards where purchasing a part from a used Minor will be fairly cheap and you will be able to see what you are buying and compare it with the 'Y' original probably before you buy.

There are a few Minor parts which we know are definitely useable and I'll start with these:

Min or Centre Description of Part. Part No.

Minor Centre Price (at July '81)

PAN 112 Over-rider.

\$12.00

(very sim ilar to YB original over-rider. Will fit but may need slight adjustment to look perfectly like the original).

DCH 118 Socket Plate (door locator plate) \$1.40 (e xactly the same as those fitted to the rear door pillars of "Y" Types. Would be useful for front doors also if desperate).

DCH 113

Fixing Screw for DCH 118

£0.09

Next I'll list all the parts which seem to be interchangeable:

Part No.		(at July '81)
RBK 112	Rear Brakes Adjuster (803	& 948 cc Minors) P. O. A
RBK 114	Adjuster Mask.	£0.38
RBK III	Steady Spring.	£0.37
RBK 105	Whael Cylinder Assembly	
the front and	Wheel Cylinder Repair Kit, the adjuster and adjuster mask sold rear of the YB, whilst the stead to be the same as those on the r	eem applicable to both ly spring and wheel
CBS 133 (San up	Master Cylinder ne as YB? Fixing bolts and variou the mastercylinder are available	£20.50 as parts which make separately).
W PR 101	Windscreen Wiper Motor	£35.00 (exchg)
W FR 105	Windscreen Wiper Arm	£4.85
S WH 103	Fusebox	£2.96
SWH 127	Dipper Switch	£6.10
S WH 122	Lighting Switch (headlamps/	sidelamps) P.O.A.
S WH 106	Starter Switch	£6.31
MIR 101	Interior Mirror	£2.40
LMP 158	Adaptor (headlamp)	£1.35

Description of Part, Minor Centre Price

P. O. A. (Looks the same. Morris Oxfords of the same era, the ones that look like big Minors, also have a similar wheel - and interior light and sunvisor brackets).

Trafficator Assembly (Semaphore)

Trafficator Bulb (for LMP 175)

MIS. U. H2 Carburettor parts are also available.

Steering Wheel

P. O. A. = Price on application. N. Y. A. = Not yet available

So there we have it. This article is intended primarily as thought provoking. If any of you know any of the above information to be misleading please let me know immediately. And don't forget to check before you buy.

The Morris Min or Centre is at:

Min or Centre

LMP 175

BLB 256

STR 318

Avon. Postage, packing and V. A. T. must be added to the prices shown above. The catalogue costs £5.85 incl p&p.

John Lawson.

N. Y. A.

10.57

Cars

- (263) *1 953 YB. Very good condition. Excellent runner. Open to reasonable offers. Tel:
- (408) 1950 YA. Engine and gearbox rebuilt. Running. £600. Tel;
- (738) *1 953 YB. Unused eight years. Sound and running. Best of fer buys. Tel:
- (753) 1 952 YB. Stripped ready for restoration. Virtually complete.

 Garaged past four years. Space needed. £500 o.n.o. Tel:
- (754) 'YA. Rolling chass is restored. Engine running. Most body parts available. £150. Tel:
- (699) '1 950 YT. 20,000 original miles, tools, perfect condition.
 Telephone Jim Thomas (New Jersey, USA) or
 \$20,000'.
- (756) 'YA. Complete and running. Also XPAG engine (will sell separately). Offers to Mr. A. Booth, Berwick St. John,
 Dorset; Tel:
- (758) Saloon. Has been lying in the open for 12 years and is badly rusted. Contact
 Somerset, Tel:
- (760) YB. With extras and spares. £2,000. Tel:
- (761) '1 952 YB. One owner from new. Well cared for, Full history. Always garaged. Never failed MOTs. Taxed and tested. Might consider part exchange with cash adjustment. Tel:
- (762) 1 950 YA. Reconditioned engine. Selection of spares. Bodywork repairs needed. Offers. Tel:
- (763) Saloon broken for spares. D. P. Lynch, Berks, Tel:

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Cylinder Head Gasket Sets for: MG Y & YB Model 1¹/₄ ltr. TD Eng. 22735 on 1953 YB Eng. 17994 on 1953 TF to Ch. 8173 1953 At£15.00 + VAT =£17.75 per set +£2 p.&p.

Details of other parts for the above model will be sent to you as soon as they are catalogued. Meanwhile, if you are interested in any particular part for the above or other "classic" cars, please contact us, we may have it in stock, even if it is not yet catalogued.

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College		David	TATORY	TGII'

Merse yside,

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Made from Baltic Birch plywood with similar to original, late-pattern burr veneer. Instrument panel and glove-box lid, patterned.

Surrounding dashboard, straight-grained. Complete, ex-works \$125 approx. Contact: Rod Schweiger.

California, U.S.A.

Tips

If you need new wiper bledes, the 9" ones are better than the standard 8", giving helf an inch extra wipe top and bottom and depending on the angle of sweep, should just miss hitting the windscreen surround.

The lighting switch if purchased from the Morris Minor Centre, as listed in John's article 'A minor Contribution' may have to be modified for the MG Y. The knob spindle may have to be shortened and tapped, as the Y type knobs are secured with a grub screw, while the MM's are fixed with a sprung pin. Alternatively, the MM's knob could be filed into an octagon shape to resemble the original knobs.

J.R.S.

9999999

And lastly (sorry, David!) the M.G. Metro - dare I mention it?

BL seem to have discovered the 'Y' at last for, in much of their publicity material on the Metro, they refer to most previous M.G. saloons, including the 'Y'. Indeed, in one hand-out' it says of the Metro that it is a car that continues the long tradition of M.G. sporting saloons set by such classics as the Y-type and Magnette. I sure would like to take some shots of an M.G. Metro and 'Enterprise' together for the magazine!

Until next issue, Careful driving, John & John

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