

## THE CLASSIC 'Y'

The Newsletter of the M.G. 'Y' Type Register.  
Volume 16. No.115. October 1993.

### EDITORIAL

I had a request recently from James Hunter of Peachtree City, Georgia to publish an up-date of the appendix in my 1988 book which lists all "Y" Types known to exist at that time. I was intending to do just this sometime soon so, without further ado, in this issue I will start with the 1947 cars; and the rest should follow in the months ahead.

Those of you who have been subscribers to this newsletter from way back in December 1979 (Issue No.23) - and that would be about half-a-dozen of you, I think - may remember an article taken from "Practical Motorist" entitled "Cars Worth Keeping - M.G. YB" by Phil Reckless. This article described one of the best (and quickest) "Y" Type restorations that had been undertaken to date. But, there was a second part to that article which, thanks in large part to the eccentricity of your editor, has never appeared in "TCY"! I intend to remedy that oversight in the December 1993 mag! But first, for the benefit of the majority, who have probably never read part one, you will find it at the back of this issue.

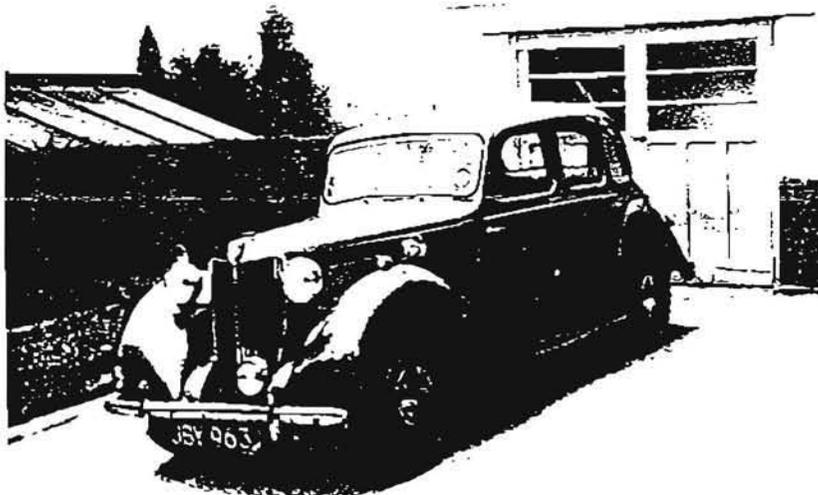
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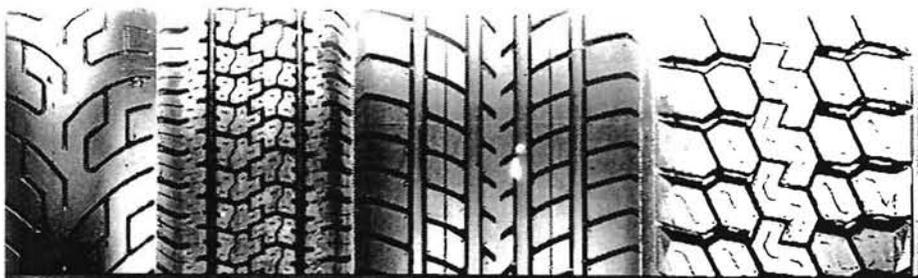
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The M.G. 'Y' Type Register of South Africa: [REDACTED], Republic of South Africa.  
M.G. Y Register Danmark: F.Meumann, [REDACTED], Denmark.

'The Classic Y' is published by Skycol Publications.

## Register Movements

0042. A "NEW DISCOVERY". 1949 YT. Y/T/EX(U) 3107. Engine no. TL/12972. This car was purchased by the current owner, Mr. David R. Misner of North Hills, Pennsylvania, from his father, who had owned it since 1960. Misner Snr. was the second owner, the car originally being purchased from Foreign Motor Sales Inc., of 124 Highway #35, Neptune, New Jersey. (Incidentally both YT3105 and '3106 still exist today, both being in Ontario, Canada). '3107 has been in storage since 1964 and has done less than 20,000 miles. During its life it has acquired TD over-riders, "D" lamps with no dividing bars and replacement sidelamps with no "red dot" medallions. It is presently finished in DuPont Bentley (dark) Green, although its exterior was originally red in colour.
0163. Readers may recall mention in TCY114 (December '92) of "NHW358" which resurfaced after many years, having originally been spotted by member Lionel Morriss in Essex in the sixties. Mr. Morriss had the foresight, all those years ago, to jot down and keep the registration numbers of the "Y" Types he saw on his travels and, some years ago, let us have a copy of his list. Well, now another of "his" cars has turned up. This time it's "UMG808", a 1952 YB with chassis no. YB0645 and engine no. SC2/17518. This green car (with green interior), last seen in [REDACTED] Essex, on 7th February 1964, was offered for sale in Sotheby's auction at the R.A.F. Museum on 4th September this year.
0326. A "NEW DISCOVERY". 1949 YA. Y3403. Body no. 2639/2677. Currently being restored by Steven Jefferies in [REDACTED], Victoria, Australia.
0328. And still they come...! Another "NEW DISCOVERY". 1950 YA. Y5909. "JBY963". Engine no. SC/15789. Body no. 4603/4577. Owned by Mr. T.P. Raven of [REDACTED], Dorset. This car has been in the present owner's family for the last 33 years, originally belonging to his father. The first owner of the car lived in [REDACTED] and once showed Mr. Raven a copy of "Autosport" (possibly) in which "JBY963" was featured, it being the first car to use the road/rail system from London to Scotland.





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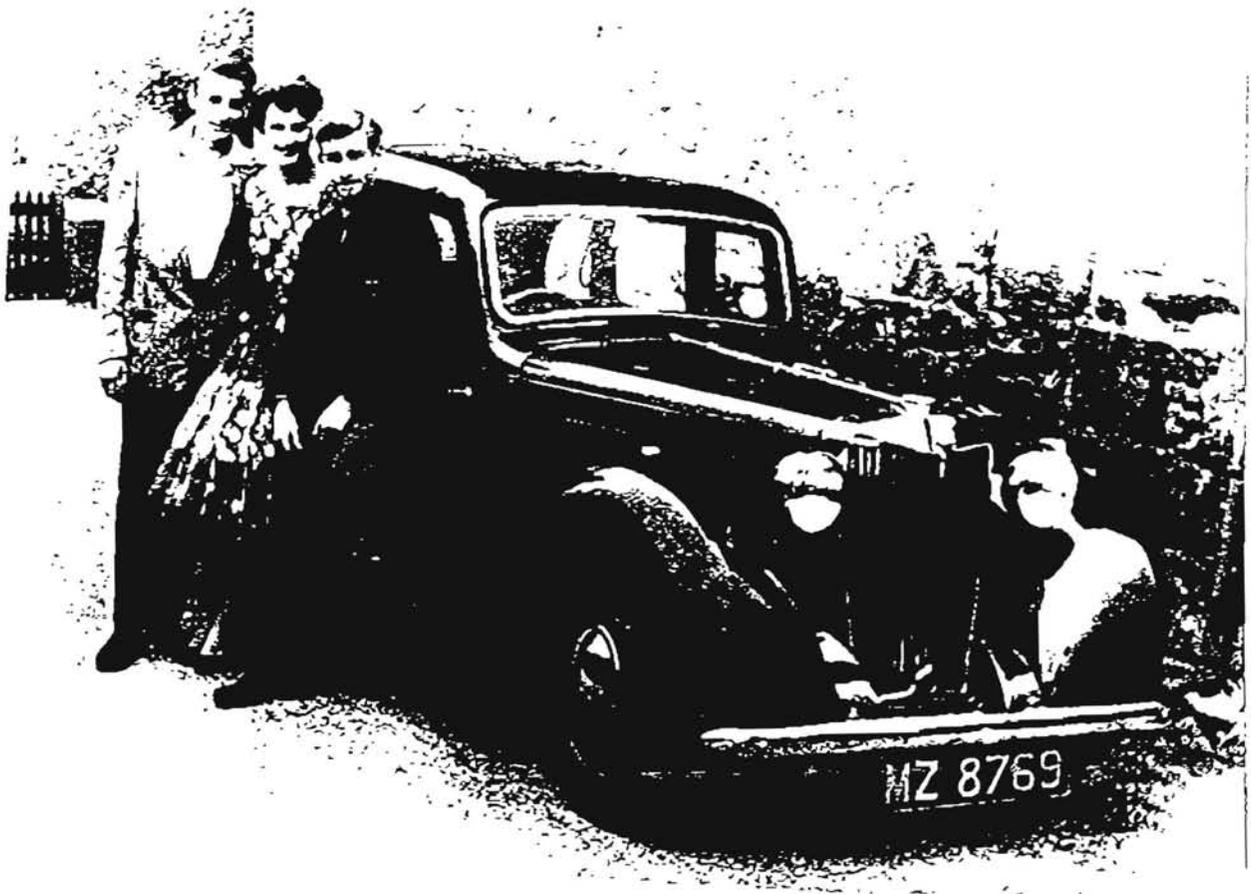


List of all existing cars with brief details of locations

1947

Y 0263	Cheshire	England
Y 0264	London	England
Y 0296	Virginia	USA
Y 0336	Dorset	England
Y 0340	Staffordshire	England
Y 0343	Cambridgeshire	England
Y 0358	Kent	England
Y 0361	Derbyshire	England
Y 0363	Warwickshire	England
Y 0364	W.Midlands	England
Y 0405	Middlesex	England
Y 0419	?	England?
Y 0426	?	England?
Y 0436	South Carolina	USA
Y 0481	Oxfordshire	England
Y 0485	Sussex	England
Y 0512	Cornwall	England
Y 0543	Florida	USA
Y 0558		Belgium
Y 0559	NSW	Australia
Y 0572	Dorset	England
Y 0593	?	England?
Y 0596	Queensland	Australia
Y 0602	Avon	England
Y 0606	Schwarzenburg	Switzerland
Y 0614	Nottinghamshire	England
Y 0630	W.Australia	Australia
Y 0672	Cornwall	England
Y 0673	Lancashire	England
Y 0674	Cheshire	England
Y 0734	Avon	England
Y 0785	Oxfordshire	England
Y 0795	Washington DC	USA
Y 0811	London	England
Y 0816	W.Australia	Australia
Y 0833	New York	USA
Y 0847	Victoria	Australia
Y 0859	Cumbria	England
Y 0865	NSW	Australia
Y 0883	Dunedin	NZ
Y 0890	NSW	Australia
Y 0902	Hampshire	England
Y 0963	S.Australia	Australia
Y 0972	Queensland	Australia
Y 0983	Mutari	RSA
Y 1000	NSW	Australia
Y 1006	Queensland	Australia
Y 1033	Victoria	Australia

Y 1041	-	Singapore
Y 1052	Yorkshire	England
Y 1057	NSW	Australia
Y 1064	NSW	Australia
Y 1091	Victoria	Australia
Y 1098	Victoria	Australia
Y 1099	S.Australia	Australia
Y 1126	Victoria	Australia
Y 1138	Victoria	Australia
Y 1141	Tasmania	Australia

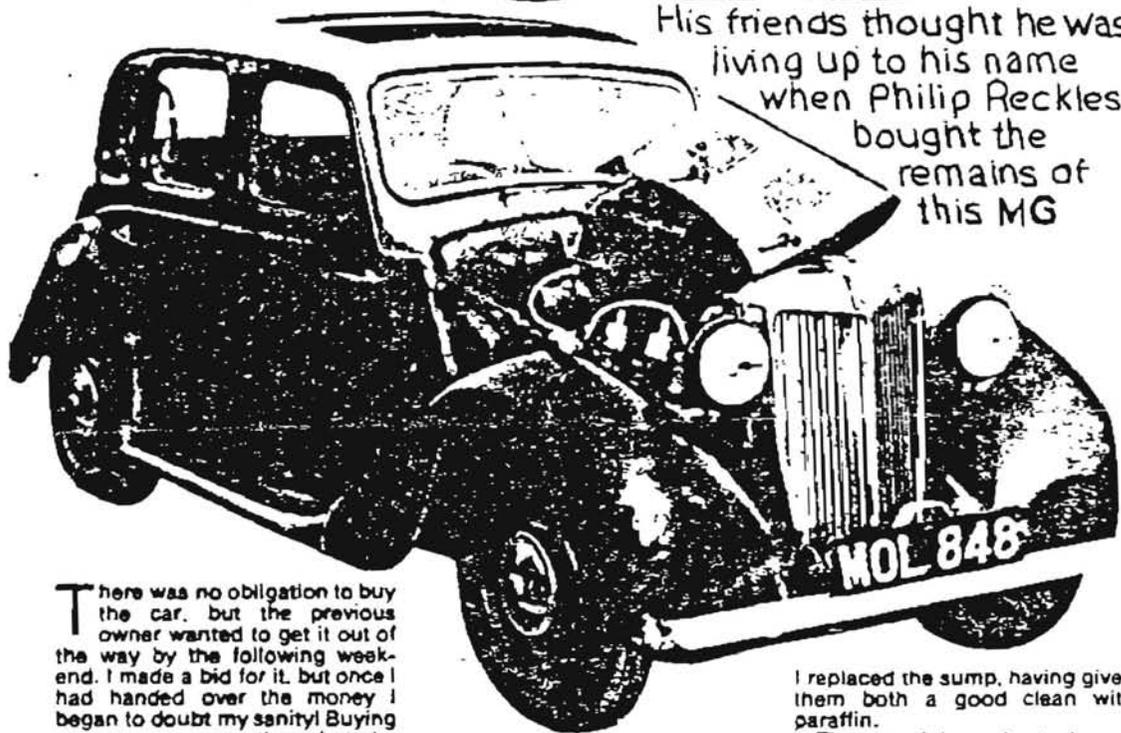


Nick Murray of Omagh, Co.Tyrone, currently restores "T" and "Y" Types. Here, he is pictured as a schoolboy in 1959 or 1960 with his father's 1950 YA.

*(photo via David Hullen)*

# CARS WORTH KEEPING

# MG YB



His friends thought he was living up to his name when Philip Reckless bought the remains of this MG

There was no obligation to buy the car, but the previous owner wanted to get it out of the way by the following weekend. I made a bid for it, but once I began to doubt my sanity! Buying a scrap car was one thing, but why this one? Instead of sitting back and wondering why I had saddled myself with an apparently hopeless task of restoration I started work; and work I did, like a beaver.

First I tried turning the starting handle to ascertain if the pistons were free or had rusted in the cylinder bores. I was right out of luck so I removed the sparking plugs and squirted some Redex in, hoping to ease the rings. It was left until the next day so the Redex could work itself well in. Sure enough, the engine moved when I turned the handle — but only a fraction; any further effort to turn would have resulted in scoring. I knew that the engine was otherwise in a good state mechanically, so off came the

cylinder head and the sump. At the bottom and I found that, with the car having stood untouched for such a long time, the connecting rods and the inner cylinder block had acquired a film of rust; but this was a very minor problem. Next I removed the big end bolts and had a look at the bearing shells. These were slightly scored so all were replaced.

One piston was drawn out through the bottom of the block — not out of the top as can be done with modern cars. I found that the base of the bore was tapered, so enabling me to push the piston back up inside without recourse to a ring compressor. Incidentally, the rings were okay, so I put them back. After checking the oil pump

I replaced the sump, having given them both a good clean with paraffin.

The next job — the brakes — was the big one. I found they were of a type one could truthfully refer to as air-brakes — not to be confused with those on lorries; they were full of air! Time and rust had taken their toll and it was obvious that the pipes and hoses would have to be replaced. For help I turned to Brian Poole, a motor factor in Kidderminster, who has been of the greatest assistance to me and who made up a set of metal pipes to pattern and ordered the correct flexible hoses from Lockheed for delivery the following Friday. Another weekend was spent fitting all the pipes and over-

hauling the master cylinder side under the floor, similar to the Morris 1000. Apart from it requiring new seals, I found that the brake light switch was broken.

As I found with this car when undertaking a major overhaul one develops new skills, particularly in repairing old parts and making new ones. But unlike the enthusiast with a veteran car many spares are still available.

The broken switch was similar to that for the hand-brake light on the Commer van, but as the component was not available elsewhere I set about repairing it. A metal tipped Bakelite lever is attached to a metal shaft which rotates when the brake pedal is pressed, thus bringing the metal tip between two normally open contacts and completing the brake light circuit. In this case the metal 'wedge' was missing. The application of a little Araldite to the offending part soon effected a repair.

## brake problems

Incidentally, when using the two-mix strength adhesive it is worth remembering that if some of source of low heat is available drying time is reduced from approximately 72 hours to 2 hours.

Turning to the brake drums both the shoes and the wheel cylinders had been replaced with new parts at some time, so I left them alone and concentrated on bleeding the system. With the replacement of the brake pipes the only fluid in the system was in the master cylinder. Air was my enemy and I had to get rid of it.

I recruited an assistant and when he pressed the brake pedal opened the bleed nipple on the rear side rear wheel. Air was certainly forced out but was sucked in again when the pedal was released. It was suggested that I should beg, borrow or otherwise obtain a tool used by the trade to force fluid through the pipes, rather like a giant syringe. Few people seemed to know of this special tool and those who had one seemed loath to lend it.

An alternative method was to press the brake pedal open it



One advantage of older vehicles is that there is plenty of room to work — note the clear layout of the wiring

## TECHNICAL HISTORY OF THE 'Y' TYPE

The story starts in May 1947, when MG announced a four seater YA saloon conceived during the latter part of the last war. It featured many pre-war designs such as sun-roof, opening windscreen, rear window blind, separate headlights, running board and, best of all, a built-in hydraulic jacking system operated by a manual pump in the engine compartment.

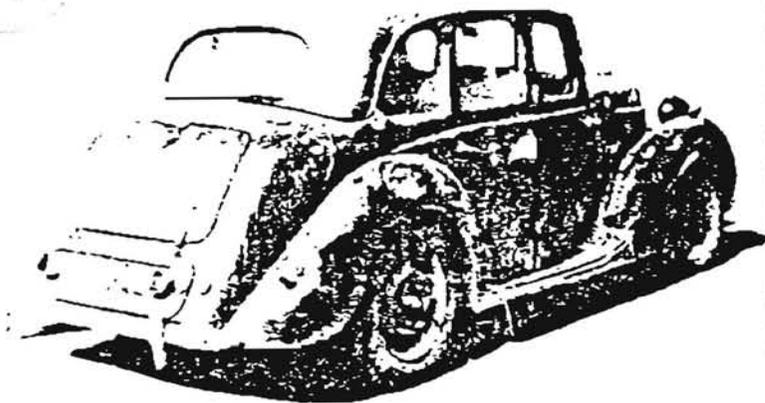
The car is powered by a 11hp (1250cc) engine with a single SU carburettor. All the sports cars had the same engine but were twin carburettored SUs and had a 56 as opposed to 46 brake horse power in the saloon. The rear axle was a modified Morris 10 Devel type with a lateral control link fixed to the rear suspension. Wheels were 16inch and the brakes were also modified Morris 10.

In October 1948, a twin carburettor version of the saloon called the YT became available. Sadly, eighteen months later, it was discontinued

The YB of 1952 was a very much improved version of the YA saloon, with stronger dampers and jacks, better brakes, front anti-roll bar and smaller 15 inch wheels, but the biggest improvement was the new hypoid axle. The only noticeable difference visually was the deeper valance on the rear wings. After nearly 5 years and a half years production the YA saloon was discontinued to make way for the Z type Magnette in September 1953.

Of the total production of 8,336 — 6,158 were YAs, 877 were YTs and 1,301 were YBs.

When the 'T' type sports car started to increase in value during the late 1960s, many owners bought YAs and YBs for spare parts, sharing most mechanical items but now the Y types are gaining popularity so the price of these is rising rapidly. The YTs are sought after followed by the YBs last but not least the YAs come up behind.



bleed nipple, hold the pedal down, close the nipple and release the pedal; then repeat the sequence of operations I went through the drill about thirty or forty times until the fluid came through. The whole job occupied an entire week of spare time to complete.

Having got the car into running order it was ready for its first MoT and was duly booked in to a local test centre. In its first test it failed, on account of a poor handbrake response on the offside wheel. I checked the handbrake adjustment again and found that it was the source of the trouble, although it was previously in order. I only know that prior to the MoT it was working perfectly when I left home. I have yet to find the home of the Gremlins who cause these

petty but aggravating faults!

When the car was submitted for test again I collected it and a Pass Certificate along with it. I had reached the end of Stage 1, getting it on the road.

On the first of October I started the second stage of the restoration, the vehicle having been in use from the beginning of June until the end of September. During this period I covered two thousand miles.

I was particularly astonished with the popularity of the car — people were offering me various sums of money to part with it and every time I had to say no, because I too had been bitten by the nostalgic bug.

Having run the car, I had a good idea of which parts were needed

In June 1952 Nullfield Products Ltd. number V410 met chassis YB 1111 for a 1.3 litre saloon at the MG car company in Abingdon, Thames, Berkshire. It was to complete an order placed by an MG dealer in Birmingham. All MG chassis numbers begin at 0251 with every new model series because that was the telephone number of the factory.

On the 5th September 1952 the vehicle was registered, MOL 848, the name of Dr G.P.G. Rowe, resident, Whittly Lane, Ribery, Birmingham. The car was listed at £75 basic price with purchase tax an extra £34.5s.6d. total price £109.5s.6d.

Tax extras were optional, but the extras on my car were radio £24

13s. 2s and heater £10. 17s. 10d. Road Tax was £10 for 12 months and £2. 15s for 3 months. It was increased in January 1953 to £12. 10s Annual and £3. 8s. 9d. Quarterly.

The next owner was Mr John E. Jeffery of Ludlow, Shropshire who in December 1958 was employed by the Austin motor company in the experimental department. He was also a racing enthusiast. Having stripped the engine down and rebuilt to MG TD specification, this is in the car now, the original being replaced in January 1959. The mileage recorded when I bought the car was 70,204, which is believed genuine.

Incidentally, if Dr Rowe or any of his dependents wish to contact me they are most welcome.

#### ENGINE

1250cc (1100) XPAG Series Bore and stroke 66.5x90mm, overhead valves, push rods and 4 valves 4 cylinders Compression ratio 7.2 to 1. 46bhp at 4,800rpm. MG TD 54.4bhp at 5,200rpm. 34.2mph per 1,000rpm in top.

#### CAPACITY

Fuel tank 8 gallons Oil Sump, 17.5 pts. Cooling System 13.5 pts.

#### WEIGHT

Over: 30rs Front: 10cwt Rear: 10cwt 30rs

#### DIMENSIONS

Wheelbase 35.3in Track front: 37.1in, rear 4ft 2in Length 13ft 6in (overall) Width: 4ft 11in (overall) Height: 4ft 9in. Ground Clearance 6in. Turning circle: 23ft 6in Steering wheel turns: 2.5

#### STEERING

Rack and pinion  
FRONT SUSPENSION  
Independent with wishbones and coil springs anti-roll bar

#### REAR SUSPENSION

Half elliptical springs.  
GEARBOX AND CLUTCH  
Four speed, 2nd, 3rd, 4th gears synchromesh. Oil capacity 1 1/2 pts. Clutch type: Single dry plate, Borg and Beck. Diameter: 8in.

#### REAR AXLE

Semi-floating hypoid type. Oil capacity: 2 1/2 pts.

#### ELECTRICAL

12 volt system 52 amp hour battery Trafficator signals

#### PERFORMANCE

Top speed: 77mph (single carb), 98mph (twin carbs) Mile per gallon overall 27, touring 34, single carb Overall 24, touring 28.5 (twin carbs) Standing quarter mile: 24.8 seconds

#### TYRE SIZE

5.90x15 155x15.

#### JACKS

Hydraulically operated, built-in Oil capacity: 1.65 pts.

and ordered in good time, so that when the restoration started, hold-ups should not be a problem. These take up time which is valuable and up-sets the rhythm. One has got to minimise the risks.

I am a member of the MG Car Club — joining the organisation is a must. The MG fraternity is indeed lucky in having a choice of three clubs and numerous firms do MG spares.

Restoration takes a lot of planning and thought, it is no good just pulling a car to bits because how are the parts going to go together three months later unless sketches are made, bolts and parts put in boxes with labels?

I started by taking the wings off, not an easy job because the bolts, especially the rear ones, had rusted solid. Hammer and chisel prove handy tools. Next came the running boards with the same results. Having checked the wings and running boards for dents, which were knocked out carefully, I put them in the shed for safe keeping.

The doors were attended to next. They were held by two bolts each side. I proceeded to strip down to the bare shells, glass, window channelling, doorlocks, winding mechanism, because the bottoms had all rusted.

All four doors had rusted parts welded with new metal, hand made to pattern. An effective job. When the doors were finished I used a good paint stripper to get down to the bare metal, treated the rust and painted. I then re-assembled with new window channels, weatherstrips, locks and reconditioned winding mechanisms. The doors were then put away until final assembly, complete.

Inner wings, boot lid, spare wheel cover, bonnet, front apron, radiator grille, windscreen, sunroof, all came off gradually during October and November to be checked for dents, rust and distortion.

In early November I received the club magazine *Safety Fast* and,

looking through the spares for safe section, I found that someone wanted to dispose of YB parts cheaply. So I contacted him and took a trip down the South Coast, a distance of about four hundred miles round journey.

The parts required were two front seats (original type); one front bumper with brackets; one trafficator ring switch; various bits for the Standard engine manifold and a heater. The heater was optional to the price in 1952. I also tried to purchase an interior light switch, but this has proved elusive so far.

The only parts needed were three overriders as fitted to the Austin models just after the war. They are very similar to those on the Morris 1000.

On my return, I started removing the plywood floor, to enable me to get to the chassis bolts and make new sills, which had rotted away. As I did not have a pattern for the sills I had to make them from memory but, before I welded them on, I spotted a 'YA' at Churchstoke, near Montgomery, Powys. This I used as a reference and so get as near to the original as possible.

Over the next few weeks I made rapid progress, welding new metal — 18g steel sheet — cut, hand beaten and shaped along the inner wings. One thing I had to remember was where the captive nuts ran, drill and weld these to new metal from pattern.

As the chassis would obviously need more than a 3 1/2oz bottle of Jenolite and the 5 litre size was not available locally, I ordered some from outside. The chassis being well exposed I could work on it while waiting for the Jenolite, so off came the rust and grease with a wire brush and paraffin. It is ideal for this job as it is only necessary to brush on, activate with steel wool, and leave for five minutes. It can then be wiped off and painted after twenty minutes. I must praise this product made by Duckhams, as no other rust remover comes up to my standards.

Now I could get on with putting everything back together again, in a fully proofed and prepared state, as told in the concluding article.

Post War  
Motobuild Ltd.  
128 High St.  
Hounslow, Middlesex

NTG Motor Services Ltd.  
21 St Margarets Green,  
Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 2BN.

MG Cars period 1929-1939  
Sports and Vintage Motors  
Shrewsbury Ltd.  
Upper Battlefield,  
Shrewsbury SY4 3DB.

Post war, some pre-war  
Toulmin Motors (1962) Ltd.  
103 Windmill Road,  
Brentford, Middlesex.

MG 'T' Type  
Naylor Bros.  
Airedale Garage,  
Hollins Hill,  
Shipley, W Yorks. BD17 7ON.

Mr Barry Walker,  
The Pre-War MG Parts Centre,  
1a Albany Road,  
Chislehurst, Kent.

Octagon Classic Cars Ltd.  
Chart Sutton, Kent ME17 3RX.

MG CLUBS  
MG Car Club Ltd  
273 Green Lane,  
Ilford, Essex IG3 9TJ

MG Owners Club,  
13 Church End,  
Over, Cambridgeshire.

The other is Octagon Car Club,  
Hon Secretary — Mr N. Crutchley  
Queensville Ave, Stafford. Phone  
0785 51014. (PRE 1956 MGs).

If involved in the full restoration — or merely the basic running repair — of any car which is now of little interest to the makers, the assistance given by the one-make car clubs can be immense. It is also well worth finding out the lineage of your car. Often many parts are compatible with later models, where detail differences do not disguise the fact that attachment points and so on are identical, or easily modified.