

Member Featured Car of the Month

Bob Kraft's '51' MG TD

By Bob Kraft as interviewed by Ron Parks

I found my MG TD when a guy in Indianapolis had it advertised for sale. When I went to look at it I was much impressed with its surroundings. The guy lived on the ninth hole of a golf course in what was probably a half million dollar home with a hot tub on the deck that would seat probably twenty people. He had a garage built especially for the car next to the house. We went out to look at the car, which hadn't been started in a year or so. After looking at the car I made him an offer, which he turned down.



So, I came back home and a week later he called and said "I'll tell you what; the car's yours if you want it." About a week after that I went to get the car. When I went inside his house, I noticed some pictures on the wall and there was one of a Jaguar XKE. This guy is eighty five years old. And I looked at the XKE and asked "Is that your XKE?" He told me that he had just sold it. Next the XKE was a picture of a twin engine Cessna. He looked at me and said, "It's for sale if you'd like to buy it, I'm getting rid of that too." He was unloading everything.

We put the car on a dolly to bring it home. And, you know a dolly doesn't have plates on it and neither did the car. I said to a friend of mine who came with me that we really had a problem if we get stopped; cause we don't have any plates anywhere. We'll get a ticket for sure! Well, my friend thought that the cops wouldn't bother us. Well, we were still in Indiana on the way home when a state highway patrolman got behind me and followed us for a few miles. I thought well this is it. Finally, he started to pass me and as he did his thumb went up and he said "Nice car!"

I was amazed looking through the paperwork after I got back home. I can tell you exactly who bought the car new in 1951 in England and all the owners since. There were three owners in England and then was purchased by someone in Cleveland Ohio who raced for several years, then sold it to the person from whom I bought it.

The engine was supposed to have been rebuilt by the prior owner. However, I could only drive the car a short distance before the plugs would foul and the engine would quit. I finally gave up and took it to Steve Miller at MG Automotive. The TD engine has three rings on the pistons, but whoever rebuilt this one had left out the last ring. This is why oil was getting past the pistons and fouling the plugs.

I am looking forward to getting it put back together and enjoy driving the car this summer. Well, that's the goal. We'll see how that goes. Stay tuned.



History of MG

Registration Mark: LVU100
Make: MG
Color: Green
Chassis Number: MGTD6901
Engine Number: 7262

04-13-1951 Purchased by: Malcolm Holroyd
77 Bywell Road
Dewsbury Yorks

xx-xx-xxxx Purchased by: Frank Richard Leach
Briarlands 6
Scott Lane
Riddlesden, Hr. Keighley
Yorkshire

xx-xx-xxxx Purchased by: Michael Horner
Haverlands
Pontefract
Yorkshire

xx-xx-xxxx Purchased by: West Riding Motors, Limited
80 North Diamond Street
Mansfield, OH

05-16-69 Purchased by: Terry J. Yuncker
Box 158
Loudonville, OH
Serial Number: 631967954

08-18-1980 Purchased by: Howard Belford
1633 Hallworth Court
Columbus, OH 43227
Serial Number: 631967954

04-10-1989 Purchased by: Robert L. Vicars
6188 Hillcrest Lane
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-251-7565
Serial Number: 631967954

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