

Member Featured Car of the Month

“Methuselah” Bruce Miller’s ‘63’ MGB Pull Handle Tourer By Bruce Miller

Cars-R-Us: Hi folks! I am Bruce Miller in Richmond IN. I have been a car nut all my life (Corvairs - oh horrors!, Karmann-Ghias, a '69 Camaro, etc.); the list is extensive. However, the mission I have accepted is to tell you my MG story.

Let's time-travel back to the early '60s. My first experience with an MG was a ride in a 50-something , yellow MG-TD, in the Connersville IN area (where I grew up) as an impressionable high school-aged kid. "That was so cool!", I thought .

So, that ride in a TD set the stage; guess I'm pre-disposed to love cars (anyone else?). Now, let's fast-forward to the late '90s- after all the above various cars. My (now late) wife Linda and I decided we'd choose a hobby we both could enjoy. So, we bought a faded green '73 MG Midget,'

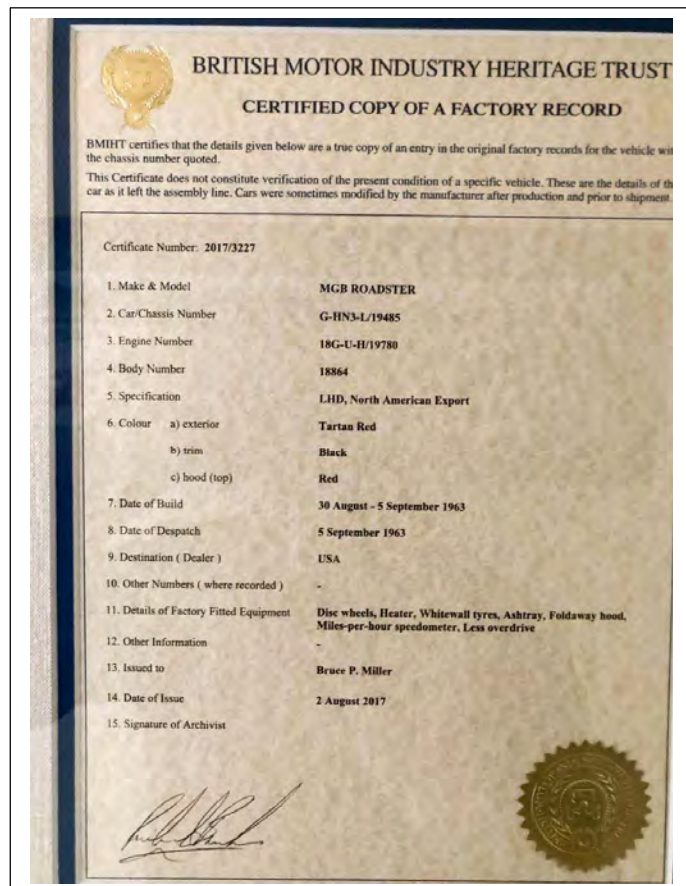


which had the Ochre interior (Mustard-ish; AKA another color of ill-repute!) (Does "Monkey Puke" come to mind?). We called her "Emmy" because she was Emerald green (Green Mallard)..

We hooked-up with the Hoosier MGB club, of the Indianapolis IN area, and went to NAMGBR conventions, as well as Club rallies and tours. Emmy's first appearance was in 2000 at Indy British Motor Days at camp Belzer. Emmy got to circle the Indy 500 track- S-L-O-W-L-Y - at another regional MG convention (2001? 2002?).

Emmy was the car in which Kyle (my son) & I eased around the IU East parking lot , while I was giving teen-aged Kyle his first lessons in driving a stick. Unforgettable! After Linda's passing, I sold Emmy, but the MGs didn't stop.

On April 13, 2005, along came a Tartan red 1963 MGB Tourer - a "pull handle." I mistakenly thought this MG was in good shape, so I bought it. I eventually named this old MGB "Methuselah" - because it's SO old & bedraggled-looking! I still own that '63 B- - or, does it own me? However, I wouldn't mind if another caretaker took-over Methuselah; if so it needs an extensive and expensive restoration. Kyle & I - and Kyle & his buddy Todd - drove Methuselah around for some time, but it wasn't long before we discovered that Methuselah's rear axle wasummm...mislocated, due to extensive rust where the rear springs (are supposed to) attach. Crunch-crunch at every bump ! Why is one rear tire sidewall grinding away ?? At that point, this MG was relieved of duty!But wait folks...there's more! As Methuselah was out to pasture, other MGs came and went.



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For a time , I owned an orange (Bracken? Blaze?) '76 MG Midget 1500 Special : black factory side-stripes. Loaded to the gunwales! I drove that Midget all night, solo, to the big NAMGBR convention in Gatlinburg TN, in 2006. What an adventure- - including that car stalling on I 75 returning from Gatlinburg; it vapor-locked ! Kyle & I drove a white '72 MGB-GT for a while. The white paint covered its original mustard-ish yellow (Harvest Gold) exterior, but it still had the original Navy interior. We fought that GT's SUs as we returned from another fun-filled London-to-Brighton Run (2006 also ??). A yellow (Citron) '77' or '78' MGB was mine for a while.....that is till it blew a head gasket from overheating. In my MG motor pool was a green '77 MGB, for a while.



In 2014, NAMGBR had a convention in French Lick IN. I toured there with the MG Car Club Southwestern Ohio. Yours-truly arrived in a borrowed, black '74 1/2 MGB , with my co-pilot and lady-friend Ethel (who also accompanied me to MG2016 in Louisville KY). Because I didn't have a running MG in 2014, my friend and fellow MG fixer-upper Greg loaned me his beautiful, black '74 1/2 MGB, which he had painted himself. Later, Greg also repaired an engineless '74 (round-arch) Midget. Originally white, it became black too. Greg traded me for an early 1275 Midget engine, which I had rebuilt years prior, and was "just laying around" my garage. That engine went into this black 74 Midget, which I eventually bought from Greg. I drove that Midget for a season, until I eventually "grew out of it". Remember: one does not get into a Midget, one puts them on! Recently, I traded this black Midget back to Greg for - - wait for it - - two Triumph (groaning MG owners) TR7s. One is a brown '80 convertible; the other is a Carmine red (faded) '76 coupe, Victory Edition. Said TR7s will be finding new homes, as well as my Carmine red '79 Spitfire 1500 - which I bought on a whim : nobody does that, right?

Return with me briefly to around 2006. About that time I acquired a green 1970 Triumph GT6 Plus - or more like it, it came to me. This is Kyle's car (to be): "Dad, if you ever sell that GT6, I'll kick your a__!", he lovingly exclaimed! Yes, dear readers, I know the GT6 is not an MG, but it's a fun part of the story of "Cars-R- Us."

Today, January of 2026, I have more than my share of LBCs (reference : above pre-disposition theory). Methuselah still waits patiently for me - or someone. By the way, this old MGB is registered with the NAMGBR Pull-Handle Registry, and it has a proper BMHIT "Birth Certificate" . For you trivia nerds, Methuselah's Car Number is to be found on page 142 in the back of the late

19485 (red hood, Sep 63), 19586 (grey hood, Sep 63)
Improved tailoring of optional folding hood for better fit, affecting hood canopy, frame and header rail.

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Anders Clausager's amazing volume: "Original MGB.....etc.". I suppose an old car can be a bit of MG history.

Life moves on; there's a new kid on the block, as of May 2024. The car rescuer in me saw a tired 1965 Mustang hardtop languishing in Lewisburg, OH. This venerable old car has (what's left of) a white vinyl top, over a faded (Poppy) red body.. "Sally" has her original 289 automatic power train, and a white interior. Now, this is a car I can fit into! Besides, Ethel likes it too. I didn't have to beg: "Hey Ma' , can I bring it home?" So, here at Cars- R - Us, the car adventures continue - be they MGs or other.....I'm incorrigible!

