

Louie DiPasquele's 1961 MGA

Louie DiPasquele as interviewed by Ron Parks

It all started at the Sons of Italy club, when Tim Oricko was talking about a Triumph Spitfire for sale. A fellow member wanted to buy it, but couldn't afford it. So, Tim told me where it was, gave me the phone number and I went over to look at it and bought it.

It needed a little work done so I took it over to MG Automotive. I walked in there and saw this MGA that Steve Miller was restoring. I immediately fell in love with the car and had to have it. I asked Steve if it would be for sale and he said it would be for sale when they finished the restoration. I said, "When it's finished, I'd like to have first crack at it." So, when the restoration was complete, I bought it.



The car, a 1961 MGA 1600, came from New Mexico and was originally painted "Alamo Beige," a color sold only in the southwest. It was purchased at Mid-Ohio in 1985 by an Ohio man who began restoration. He took it to a body shop where the car was stripped and left outside to rust. After some negotiation and hassles, the man got the car back from the body shop in sad condition. When the car was purchased by Bob Mason of MG Automotive, it was a basket case. The body was completely covered with rust and the restoration, although not worked on full time, was four years in the making. See photos of each step of the process. MG Automotive did the mechanical work on the restoration and the paint and body work was done at a body shop in Clayton OH.

The car had been raced in New Mexico and at Mid-Ohio, in the Vintage class, but is now a concours show car. I do, however, drive it on the street to car shows and club events.

I added wide whitewall tires to the car, since I've owned it. I thoroughly enjoy owning and driving the car. The car has won several awards at various car shows: Second place at Cleveland Rocks MGs Roll, First place in Holiday at Home Car show, First place at BCD2000 in Dayton, OH and Second place at a Langs Chevrolet car show. I drove the car to Cincinnati for British Car Day. I have applied to Concours de Elegance in Cincinnati.

While this is the first MG I've owned, it's not the first one I've driven. I was stationed in England for three years during the war and drove MG TDs over there. I've wanted to own a British sports car ever since and now I do.

