

Dave & Carol Estell's 1965 Iris Blue MGB

By Dave Estell



The story, as I know it, of my 1965 Iris Blue MGB, (VIN# GHN3L66771), begins with James Downton of Cinti, whom some of you may know. James found the car in a garage somewhere in Kentucky, like a number of our MGs, with varmint nests & years worth of trash inside everything. James cleaned it up as best he could, and I'm told took it to The

Antique Auto Shop in Elsmere, Ky. for restoration. They wouldn't touch it in the condition it was in, so James took it elsewhere to be worked up to the condition that the Antique Auto Shop would put their name on it. From the receipts I have, about \$22,000 later we have the car that motivated me to sell my '78' -B- that Carol had given me for my 50th. Birthday; the MG that so many of you have helped me keep on the road over the years. Carol said I couldn't have two in a 2 car garage, so after about 6 months one of them had to go. But I've gotten ahead of myself. To celebrate completion of the restoration, James and his wife took a vacation, and she came home in a motherly way, and had to quit her job. That was it for Dad's toy car. My cousin John Campbell, a former club member, found the ad for this MGB in the paper for \$12,500. John grabbed it up and joined Carol and I with membership in the MGCCSWOC several years ago. As I knew John would, his enthusiasm for old British sports cars waned after a year or so, and he began talking about selling the -B-. One summer's day in '06, over several brews at TGI Friday's I asked John how serious he was about selling the car. He looked at me slyly and asked how serious I was about buying it. I told him I had a check in my wallet, and our next stop was the OHIO BMV Title Office. When Carol came home from work that night & opened the garage door to park her Avalon, there were instead two cute little MGBs sitting side by side in the garage. I got away with that until autumn, and the rest is history. I had the car professionally appraised for insurance purposes at \$14,500, so I figure I'm 2 grand ahead of the game going in. Of course we all know how long that advantage will last.

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