

Member Featured Car of the Month August 2010 Mel & Itsy Finch's '69' MGB

by Mel & Itsy Finch

We purchased the car, our 1969 MGB in 1987. Having had no experience with MG's, we found an ad for an MG and bought it. Then reason settled in. It was a Flintstone car. All we wanted was something to run around in. It was in no shape to go anywhere. So it sat in the garage for several years. Finally Enora (Itsy) said that if I didn't do something with it she was going to sell it.



The rebuild started in 1993 and took several years to finish. In that period of time I believe I taped every thread in it and in most cases put in new bolts, says Mel. In the process I stripped and re-varnished the steering wheel and door wood trim. I took the carburetors to Tulsa Oklahoma to have them adjusted and have had no problems with them since. Finally I decided to try to start it. It started and in a few seconds stopped. The oil pump was frozen and the pump shaft broke. I should have known better. Earlier I had noticed the oil filter lying loose in the canister.

After purchasing a good engine in Knoxville Tennessee and installing it in the car, we licensed the car with plate number "EBL-POD" and finally took our first trip in the MG traveling to Mount Rushmore. Think about that license plate; we'll decode it for you at the end of this article. We had planned to go on to Devil's Tower, but the weather turned on us and we headed home to get out of the snow.

We rebuilt the original engine in 1997 and put it back in the MG. That engine now has 35,500 miles on it and still going strong. Sometime along the way the MG got an OD transmission and cruise control. Both of which we consider to be a must for driving on long trips.

We made our first trip to Dayton Ohio for the British Car Day and to visit Joe Hooker, a college friend, in 1997. Since then we have missed only one Dayton BCD. *(Note: Mel and itsy attended BCD 2010 in Dayton, but without their MG)*

Later trips in the MG, most of which were taken with our friends Rick and Monica Mills driving their MGB GT were:

Mount Rushmore, again and this time on to Devils Tower. Then we toured through South Dakota on the way home.



Enroute to Wilmington NC, to see Mel's brother, we took the route through Tennessee and Kentucky; taking in the attractions along the way including the Vanderbilt Mansion.

Touring in the MG looking for lighthouses took us through Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin. This took us close to Canada so we crossed the border and spent the night in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario; just to be able to say we had been in Canada.

Enroute to Durango CO to ride the Durango Silverton railway we entered an MG car show in Denver Colorado and then drove across the Royal Gorge Bridge.

We drove the MG to Rockville Indiana in October of 1999 to participate in the fall tour of this club, touring the covered bridges of Park County.

We have also entered local car shows, mostly British, in the Kansas City area every year.

Here are some of the many places we have traveled to in our MG: South Dakota: Keystone, Deadwood, Mitchell; Beavercreek Ohio (British Car Day Dayton Ohio—beginning in 1997); Springfield Missouri; Indianola Iowa; Chattanooga Tennessee; Minneapolis Minnesota; Wisconsin; Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, Canada; Colorado: Loveland, Durango; Wilmington North Carolina; Indiana: Auburn, Rockville;

“EBL-POD” Electrics by Lucas Prince of Darkness

