

Member Featured Car of the Month June 2011

Steve & Jayne Powell's 1955 MG TF

By Steve Powell as interviewed by Ron Parks

Our MG TF was purchased in 1969 for \$600. A young lad had driven it from Massachusetts to Dayton Ohio and he had it advertised in the paper for \$1,200 and I offered him \$600, which he turned down. Then about three or four weeks later he called and said he would accept my offer of \$600 and in that day and age, I did not have \$600. So, we scrounged around and came up with \$600. It was a good buy. It's a 1500 and was built in November of 1955. The engine and body numbers are good and all match. The engine



number on the body and the engine number on the engine match. It's an XPEG engine.

We had it for several years when it was not in terribly good shape. The car needed a new interior and I remember putting a new distributor in because it was just worn out. We drove it for quite some time until around the middle of the eighties when we did an engine rebuild. The transmission is the same one that came in the car. In the early nineties we did an interior job. The car was in its original red paint when we bought it.

Part of the car was repainted five or six years ago when I had hit a deer, damaging the right front fender and other front end parts. The right front fender was replaced and the whole front end was repainted and all the chrome was re-chromed. We talked the insurance company into letting us re-chrome all the chrome so it would match, which we did. So, we actually recovered from the deer hit pretty well.



Since then we have changed the gear ratio in the rear end so that at 3,000 rpms we're doing 53 or 54 mph instead of 45 mph. That makes it nicer to drive on the road. I put chrome wire wheels on it about three or four years ago.

We have probably put 25,000 miles on it in the 42 years we have owned the car. The trip to MG2006 in Gatlinburg Tennessee is the longest trip we have taken in the TF. We took two days on the trip down and one back, experiencing now problems whatsoever with the car. It has only let me down one time and that was locally; a bad coil was the culprit. Other than that it runs very well and everything works, except the clock. Our MG TF is a fine car. We've had lots of fun with it.

