

MARION'S MEANDERINGS

By MARION WEBER



In the past few months since "Meanderings" began appearing in ROAD & TRACK, I have received a lot of letters asking the question, "Who are you?" . . . meaning what part do I play in the MG Mitten enterprise. Well, for these folks and others who may have wondered the same thing, a little explanation may be in order.

A few years ago, we (my husband and I) were bitten by the sports car bug, the same as thousands of other Americans, and bought a little TD. He drove it to downtown Los Angeles every day and parked it in a public lot. Being a meticulous individual, he wanted to protect the little gem from the effects of the sun, dust and smog, so he tried a succession of car covers . . . plastic, parachute silk, etc., but none of them worked to his satisfaction. After listening to his complaints for several months, I made one to his specifications out of lightweight canvas with aircraft shock cord sewn in the perimeter to hold the cover snugly around the car. Not only did this make Charles and the MG happy, but others saw it and wanted duplicates. My daughter, Bevvie, named the cover the MG Mitten and I went into business on a modest scale producing "Mittens." The Jaguar Jacket, Porsche Parka, Triumph Tunic, VW Vest, Healey Hugger, Corvette Cap and Thunderbird Teepee followed in short order and we have had a wonderfully successful business. In the time since I made the first Mitten, I have expanded my operations manifold because I truly like sports cars and the people who own them. I am gadget happy, too, and when I see a good, well-made accessory for either car or driver and it appeals to me, I am sure that my friends would like it too . . . and I do my best to make it available to them. Our Grand Prix Driving Gloves, for example . . . It is quite a struggle to import them from Italy, but I feel that such leather and workmanship could not be equaled in a domestic glove . . . plus the fact that they are the choice of our topnotch race drivers. The same holds true of driving glasses . . . the ones we handle were developed at the Optical Institute of Paris . . . scientifically designed to help you see better and protect your vision under driving conditions. Interchangeable lenses, green, amber and shaded corners, snap into light metal frames to give you three pairs of glasses in one. Our convertible tops, custom styled with a huge rear window, are made for us by the world's largest specialty house (tonneau covers, too), and this applies to any item you read about in my ads . . . it'll be the best value for the money that I can locate.

Prices? Oh yes, almost forgot. (1) Gloves, Men's sizes 7 1/2-10, Ladies' 6 1/2-7 1/2 . . . Only \$7.95; (2) Driving Glasses . . . \$2.98; . . . and, of course (3)



MG Mitten } \$17.95 Lightweight canvas
Healy Hugger } \$24.50 Butyl (not plastic)
Triumph Tunic } Water repellent

Jaguar Jacket }
Porsche Parka } \$22.95 Canvas
VW Vest } \$29.50 Butyl
Corvette Cap }
Thunderbird Teepee }

For information on Tops, Tonneau Covers and a big group of other interesting gismos, write me at:

MG MITTEN
Box 121 Tel. CUmberland 3-1410
South San Gabriel 3, California

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All items post paid if remittance accompanies orders. 25% deposit required on C.O.D.'s.



by John Franklin Fellows

AS WE head into 1956, the big news here in foreign cars is the way leading importers are going after the parts situation. Max Hoffman, importer of Mercedes-Benz, Porsche, BMW and Alfa Romeo, claims his mechanics virtually could build any one of the aforementioned cars out of the hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of parts he has stocked in his enlarged depot at 403 E. 76th street, New York. Carl Grasso, parts manager, and his able core of assistants seem really eager to prove Max right.

Jaguar gives its owners here the advantage of a large parts depot at 42-50 21st street, Long Island City, and another at 33-49 55th street, Woodside, Queens. The latter location, just completed, also houses a new Jaguar service station and showroom. It will be presided over by Alfred Momo, who continues handling Maserati and Osca parts through the Momo Corporation.

With Bill Knouf as factory liaison man, Rootes not only has a complete stock of everything Rootes-wise at 42-32 21st street, Long Island City, but also is establishing stricter service policies across the country.

Austins and Austin-Healeys now are being sold through Hambro Trading, but Andy Woods, 2227 Webster avenue, Bronx, New York, will continue with enlarged and improved facilities, to supply parts to dealers here and throughout the U. S. (A San Francisco depot will supply the West Coast.)

In addition to these auto people, there's increased activity among parts importers. For example, Smiths Instruments now have 180,000 cars to service in the U. S., which means Nisonger, 146 E. 74th street, New York City, indeed is busy. The same firm also has taken on distribution of SU carbs and fuel pumps for eastern U.S.A., while Peter Snow, the firm's KLG plug expert is promoting the sale through dealers hereabouts not only of the entire KLG line but also of the more expensive (about \$4.00) platinum point plugs for Mercedes, Porsche, Jaguar, MG and other cars.

If the winter weather gives you the sunshine urge, you will discover that your sports car and you will feel just as much at home in Florida as any place in the U.S. Whatever your sales or service needs may be, there are plenty of outfits with competent staffs ready and eager to cooperate. In West Palm Beach Red Byron's place has complete and expert service available; equally helpful is Geo. Roberts Motors (VW). Down at Delray Beach, stop at Freddie Hemphill's on U.S. 1; and if you get over to the Tampa-St. Petersburg area, call on the boys at Import Motor Cars. Other spots where courtesy and celerity are watchwords: Waco Motors, Miami; Import Motors, Ft. Lauderdale; and Seabreeze Motors, Daytona. Better plan your shake-down cruise down Florida-way!



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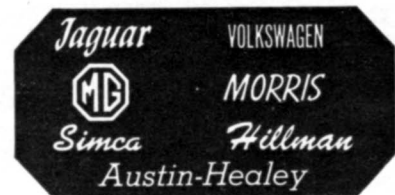
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