

FROM THE CLUB ARCHIVIST

ISSUE 4: MARCH 2022



WELCOME TO ISSUE 4 OF THE ARCHIVIST'S NEWSLETTER.

US DEDICATED CLASSIC CAR OWNERS LIKE TO THINK THAT THE EFFORT AND MONEY WE LAVISH ON OUR CARS IS REWARDED, NOT ONLY IN THE ENJOYMENT WE RECEIVE FROM DRIVING, THEM BUT ALSO FROM OWNING SOMETHING THAT MIGHT APPRECIATE IN VALUE OVER TIME.

IN THIS ARTICLE I'LL EXAMINE THE TRUTH OR OTHERWISE OF A CLASSIC CAR BEING A GOOD INVESTMENT BY REFERENCE TO THREE CARS THAT WERE ADVERTISED FOR SALE IN THE EARLY 80'S.

IT NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME WHAT I FIND HIDDEN AMONGST THE CLUB'S ARCHIVE PAPERS. THIS IS ONE THAT I CONTRIBUTED MYSELF WHICH MUST HAVE BEEN SOMEWHERE AROUND 1981 OR 1982.

IN AN UNDATED ODT ADVERT, SPORTS CAR CENTRE OF BALCLUTHA HAD FOR SALE THREE QUITE DIFFERENT CLASSIC CARS. I HAD PROBABLY SAVED THE CUTTING BECAUSE OF THE 1947 MGTC THAT WAS OFFERED FOR SALE. THIS PARTICULAR CAR COULD BE HAD FOR THE PRINCELY SUM OF \$14,990.



ALONGSIDE THE MG WAS AN 1967 E-TYPE 2+2 JAGUAR WITH AN ASKING PRICE OF \$15,990



AND FINALLY, A POTENTIAL CLASSIC IN THE FORM OF A 1979 MAZDA RX7 DESCRIBED AS “THE SPORTS CAR OWNER’S ULTIMATE” FOR \$22,500



ACCORDING TO THE RESERVE BANK OF NEW ZEALAND WEBSITE, A DOLLAR IN 1982 WOULD BE THE EQUIVALENT OF \$2.71 IN 2022.

THIS MEANS THAT THE \$14,990 MG WOULD INFLATE TO AROUND \$55K TODAY, THE \$15,990 JAGUAR TO AROUND \$60K AND THE \$22,500 MAZDA TO \$84k.

IT MUST BE SAID THAT USING JUST THREE CARS AS OUR SAMPLE IS HIGHLY SUSPECT PLUS WHEN WE DON’T KNOW THE CONDITION OF EACH OF THE VEHICLES IT’S HARD TO MAKE SOLID COMPARISONS. BUT HERE GOES.

FROM A SEARCH OF TRADEME AND EBAY IN 2022, SUGGESTS THAT THE MAZDA COULD BE WORTH IN THE RANGE \$25k - \$35k, THE MG IN THE (VERY WIDE) RANGE OF \$55k - \$95k WHILE THE TWO JAGUARS SHOWN ON TRADEME ARE FOR SALE AT \$200k!

SO, WHAT CAN WE DEDUCE FROM ALL OF THIS?

- 1. CLEARLY THE MAZDA HASN’T LIVED UP TO THE CAR DEALER’S ULTIMATE SPORTS CAR LABEL HAVING “DECLINED” IN VALUE BY \$50K**

2. THE MG BUYER COULD CERTAINLY GET THEIR MONEY BACK, AND PROBABLY MUCH MORE
3. BUT THE WINNER WOULD HAVE BEEN THE JAGUAR AS AN OUTSTANDING INVESTMENT

THERE ARE OF COURSE MANY “IFS AND BUTS” TO THIS ASSESSMENT. ONE OF WHICH IS THE MAINTENANCE AND RESTORATION COSTS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN REQUIRED OVER THE 40-YEAR TERM. I SUSPECT THAT THE EXPENSE INCURRED ON THE JAGUAR WOULD HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN THAT REQUIRED FOR THE OTHER TWO VEHICLES.

HOWEVER, OUR LOVE OF OUR CLASSIC CARS ISN'T ABOUT THEIR INVESTMENT RETURN BUT IT'S ABOUT THE ENJOYMENT OF GETTING TOGETHER WITH LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS IN A CLUB AND ENJOYING THAT HARD-TO-EXPLAIN SENSUAL PLEASURE WE GET FROM OWNING AND DRIVING A PIECE OF MOTORING HISTORY.

THERE WILL BE MANY OF YOU OUT THERE WHO MIGHT HAVE ALTERNATIVE VIEWS ABOUT THE 2022 VALUES OF THE THREE CARS STUDIED ABOVE AND I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS.

OVER THE YEARS THERE HAVE BEEN EXAMPLES OF CLASSIC CAR “ENTREPRENEURS” HAVING TAKEN A RATHER PROSAIC CAR AND ENHANCED ITS VALUE BY CARRYING OUT VARIOUS ALTERATIONS TO CREATE SOMETHING IT WASN'T AND ISN'T.

NOT SO LONG AGO THERE WERE REPORTS THAT ONE COULD TAKE A 50'S BENTLEY SALON CAR, REMOVE THE ROOF TO CREATE A CONVERTIBLE AND HEY PRESTO ENJOY A SIGNIFICANT ADDITION TO YOUR NET WORTH AS A RESULT. THIS IS EVEN AFTER SPENDING HUGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY ON THE CONVERSION TO MAKE SURE IT'S EXACTLY RIGHT COMPARED WITH A GENUINE MODEL. BUT OF COURSE IT ISN'T A GENUINE EXAMPLE REALLY.

THIS CAR BELOW STARTED LIFE AS A FOUR-DOOR SALON (IT WAS NICE ENOUGH BUT DIDN'T HAVE THE RIGHT LOOK FOR TODAY)



AND ENDED UP AS A CONVERTIBLE. A REPAINT IN THE PROCESS TO RED MAKES IT MUCH MORE EXCITING AND ADDS A FEW TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS OF VALUE IN THE PROCESS MORE THAN THE CONVERSION COST. WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE? GREAT FOR SUMMER DRIVING IN FRANCE OR INDEED CRUISING AROUND IN WANAKA.



THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN “SPECIALS, “REPLICAS” AND CARS WITH “RACING HISTORIES” OR HAVING BEEN ASSOCIATED TO A FAMOUS PERSON, THAT MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN GENUINE. WE DO SEEM TO LIVE IN A TIME WHEN WE CANNOT BELIEVE EVERYTHING WE SEE AND HEAR, PARTICULARLY IF IT’S ON SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS.

FAT IMAGES

IN THE PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER, I PROMISED YOU SOME IMAGES FROM THE FIRST FAT EVENT WHICH WAS HELD IN 1988 AND ENDED UP IN TWIZEL. THESE PHOTOS ARE COURTESY OF BEV AND ROSS MIDDLEMASS.



HOW MANY ARE STILL MEMBERS OF THE CLUB? ARE YOU THERE?



WHOSE RATHER SMART MGB IS THIS SPARKLING IN THE SUNSHINE AT MT COOK?

THE FOLLOWING ARE PHOTOS FROM THE 1993 FAT WHICH OVERNIGHTED AT DANSEYS' PASS. HERE ARE SOME WONDERFUL SHOTS OF THE CARS IN THE SNOW AND THE FUN THAT MEMBERS OBVIOUSLY HAD MAKING SNOWMEN (OR IS IT SNOWPERSONS?).



DO YOU RECOGNISE ANY OF THESE PEOPLE? HOW YOUNG THEY LOOKED.



THE DECK CHAIR IS RATHER OUT OF SEASON IS IT NOT?



A RATHER NICE A.



TOP MARKS FOR A STUNNING PHOTOGRAPH

WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE CLUB 48 YEARS AGO?

FOR THAT, LET'S TURN TO THE CLUB'S NEWSLETTER OF OCTOBER 1974. (THIS IS THE YEAR I JOINED THE CLUB). THERE IS A RATHER AMUSING REPORT OF AN EVENT WHICH I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT ENJOY TOO.

I WON'T RECORD THE FULL WRITEUP, JUST SOME OF THE MORE INTERESTING BITS.

THE EVENT AROSE WHEN THE OTAGO POST VINTAGE CAR CLUB INVITED A HANDFUL OF MG CAR CLUB MEMBERS WHO OWNED VARIOUS T TYPES, INCLUDING FOUR TD'S TWO TF'S, A YA (YES, I KNOW IT'S NOT REALLY A T TYPE BUT THE AGE IS RIGHT!) AND A TA, TO PARTICIPATE IN A RALLY TO QUEENSTOWN.

IT SEEMS THAT THE PARTICIPANTS PARTIED UP BIG THE NIGHT BEFORE THE RALLY, AS YOU DID IN THOSE DAYS!

BY THE WAY THERE WERE SOME OTHER RATHER INTERESTING VEHICLES ON THE RUN INCLUDING ASTON MARTINS, FERRARIS, BENTLEYS, PLUS ASSORTED JAGS, A JENSEN, AN AC AND EVEN A MERCEDES OR TWO (46 CARS IN TOTAL)

SO, HERE'S THE WRITEUP BY THE MG CLUB'S PRESIDENT AT THE TIME, KEITH MACDONALD.

“SATURDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, DAWNED FINE – A CRISP CLEAR DAY WITHOUT A HINT OF A DRIZZLE TO SOOTHE THE FEVERED BROWS OF THOSE PAYING THE PREMIUM FOR BACCHARALIAN (THAT IS GOD OF WINE) FROLICS THE PREVIOUS EVENING. BEING SOUND OF WIND AND LIMB (BUT NOT NECESSARILY OF MIND) AND RIGHTLY FREE OF CRANIAL PAIN OR GASTRIC UPSET, THE YELLOW COMPLEXIONS AND PINK EYES OF SOME OF MY FELLOW MOTORISTS WERE THE SUBJECT OF INTENSE AMUSEMENT”.

“HERMIONE T. THRUCKRUTES, FULLY TUNED, POINTS AND PLUGS DONE, ENGINE, GEARBOX AND DIFF. OIL CHECKED, TAPPETS DONE, TOOK TO THE ROAD IMPATIENTLY.” (EDITOR’S NOTE: YES, THAT’S CORRECT KEITH’S CAR WAS INDEED CALLED ““HERMIONE T. THRUCKRUTES”).

WITHOUT INCLUDING A FULL BLOW-BY-BLOW ACCOUNT OF THE RALLY, IT APPEARS THERE WAS PLENTY OF HIGH JINKS GOING ON AND A GREAT TIME WAS ENJOYED BY ALL. KEITH CLOSES HIS REPORT BY SAYING “I LOOK FORWARD TO ABUSING MY LIVER AGAIN IN LIKE FASHION NEXT YEAR”.

IT WAS NICE TO READ THAT THE WINNERS OF THE EVENT WERE BEV AND BARRY RUSSELL FROM OUR VERY OWN MG CAR CLUB.

OVER THE YEARS OUR CLUB HAS CONDUCTED JOINT EVENTS WITH A VARIETY OF OTHER CLASSIC CAR CLUBS. I CAN RECALL WE’VE JOINED WITH THE MX5 CLUB, THE MINI CLUB, THE OTAGO JAGUAR DRIVERS CLUB AND THE MORRIS MINOR CLUB FOR JOINT EVENTS. THESE HAVE ALL BEEN VERY ENJOYABLE AND PERHAPS OUR CLUB MIGHT LIKE TO CONSIDER GETTING TOGETHER WITH ONE OR MORE OF THEM IN THE FUTURE.

UNTIL NEXT TIME.

**REGARDS
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CLUB ARCHIVIST**