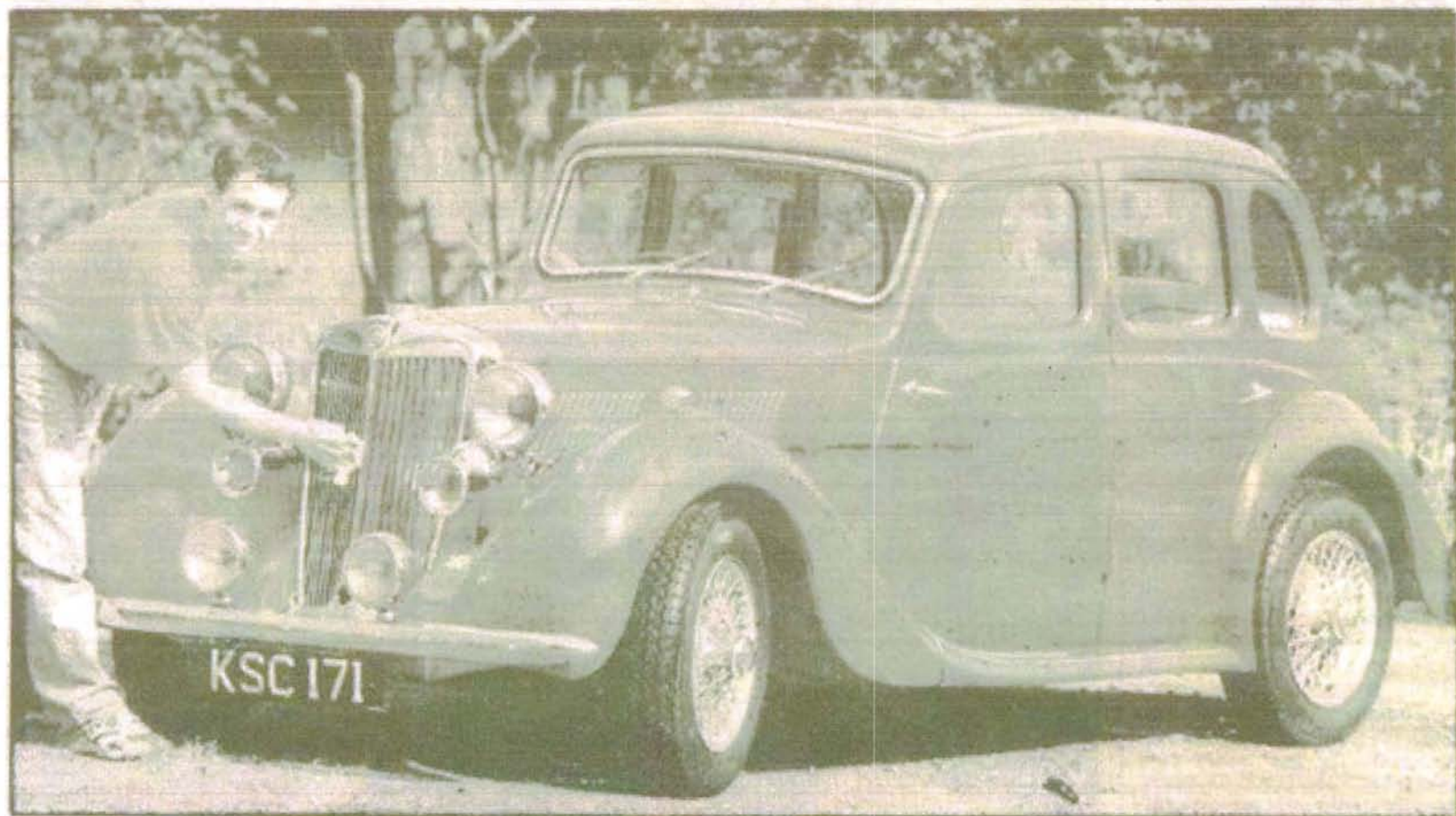


DRIVING: *Classic MG saloon is geared up to fulfil owner's ambition*



USA BOUND:

Craig Smith of Naylor Brothers adds some final gleaming touches to the restored vehicle before it is shipped to the States

Restoration firm helps an American dream

An ex-pat Brit is looking forward to cruising America's freeways in his classic car this summer thanks to a Baillon firm.

Staff at Naylor Brothers Restorations on Hollins Hill have spent 1,000 man hours over the past four years painstakingly restoring the 1950 MG YA saloon to its former glory.

The bright red car, complete with silver wire wheels and magnolia leather upholstery with red piping, was yesterday starting its journey to be reunited with owner David McGirr on the other side of the Atlantic.

Mr McGirr, who originally came from Glasgow, bought the car as a 19-year-old student in 1974.

He put the car into mothballs in his parents' garage when he moved to America to do a business studies degree in 1976.

Mr McGirr, 42, who is now married with four children, kept it ticking over during trips home but has not driven the car since it failed an MoT in the late 1970s.

Then three years ago Mr McGirr, now president and chief executive of a New England

insurance company, asked Naylor Brothers to restore the car and have it shipped out to his home in Connecticut.

Naylor Brothers owner Alastair Naylor said the restoration job had been a real labour of love, which had cost thousands of pounds.

He said: "It had been laid up in his parents' garage for years and when we first got the car it was in a very severe state of decay."

Speaking from America, Mr McGirr said he could not wait to drive the car again.