

# Member Car

## Bob & Jeanne Hanseman's '51' MG TD

by Bob Hanseman



I bought my 1951 MGTD in 1972 from a friend while I was stationed in Munich West Germany. I was a Captain in the US Air Force stationed at a US Army military Intelligence installation. Being one of only a few Air Force "pukes" stationed with the Army was a real cultural experience, but that is another story.

The car was in good shape when I bought it and I knew the car since I had helped my friend work on it a few times. I paid \$2000 for the car and really had no idea as to its value. I liked it and especially liked the fact that it was a right hand drive. The car was originally sold new in Middlesex England. I have all the documentation and I am the fifth owner.

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While in Munich I drove the car around Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Italy. In 1974 I received orders to Mountain Home AFB Idaho. In those days the US government would not pay to ship a foreign car, so I found a private company and drove it to the port of Bremerhaven W. Germany and had it shipped to San Francisco. I eventually towed it from San Francisco to Idaho.

In 1980 I was assigned to Wright Patt. So (are you ready for this?) I towed the MGTD with a 1959 MGA I had acquired in Boise from another friend. I made a trailer hitch for the MGA. My wife Jeanne followed me in a 1965 Rambler pulling a boat with a BMW Munich police motorcycle and side car in the boat. All went well until the second day when the sun went down near Laramie Wyoming. Black Ice formed on the road and the next thing I knew I looked out the left window of the MGA to see the TD coming around the left side of the MGA. The resulting torque made me do a 180 degree turn on the freeway. Jeanne averted running into me. The hitch and tow bar were OK so I drove on only to have the same thing happen again. I abandoned both MGs on the road, drove the Rambler very slowly to Laramie and retrieved the



MGs the next day. I then drove only the MGA on to Dayton with Jeanne following in the Rambler and trailer. I later went back to Laramie and towed the MGTD back to Dayton.

The only major work I have had to do to the MG is replacing the clutch. This winter I plan to have the front shocks rebuilt and I will replace the front bushings and the MG style king pins.



Remote Controlled Mirror



View from the Passenger Seat