

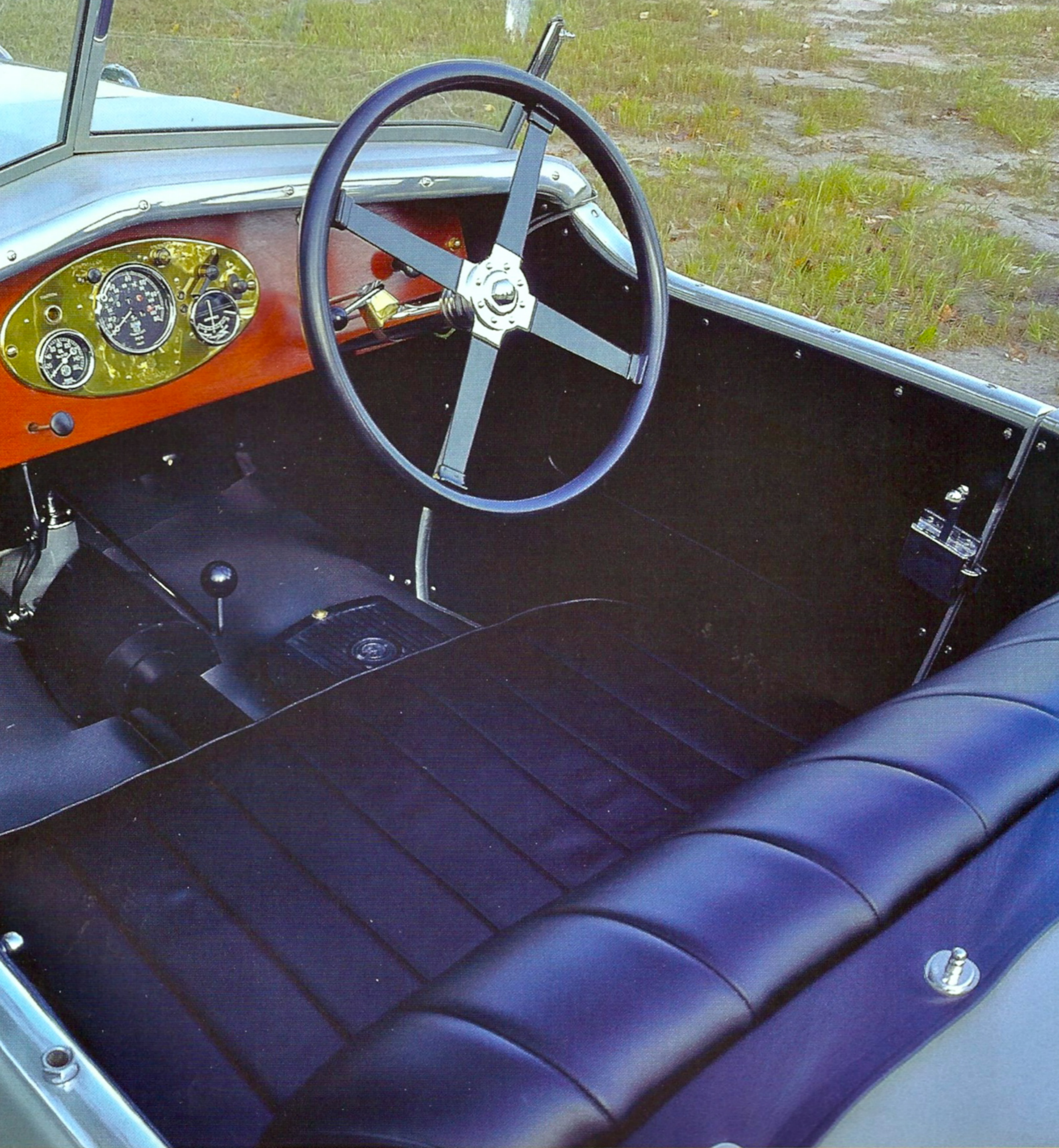
Let's See If He's Someone Famous

By Danny Allen, Tyler, Texas

That's what Andrew, my teenage son, said as he saw me looking at the original sales receipt for my 1930 MG M-Type. The receipt showed that a Joseph Leiter had purchased the M-Type through a shipping company in 1930. The car was completed by the M.G. Car Company factory in Abingdon, England on February 7, 1930.



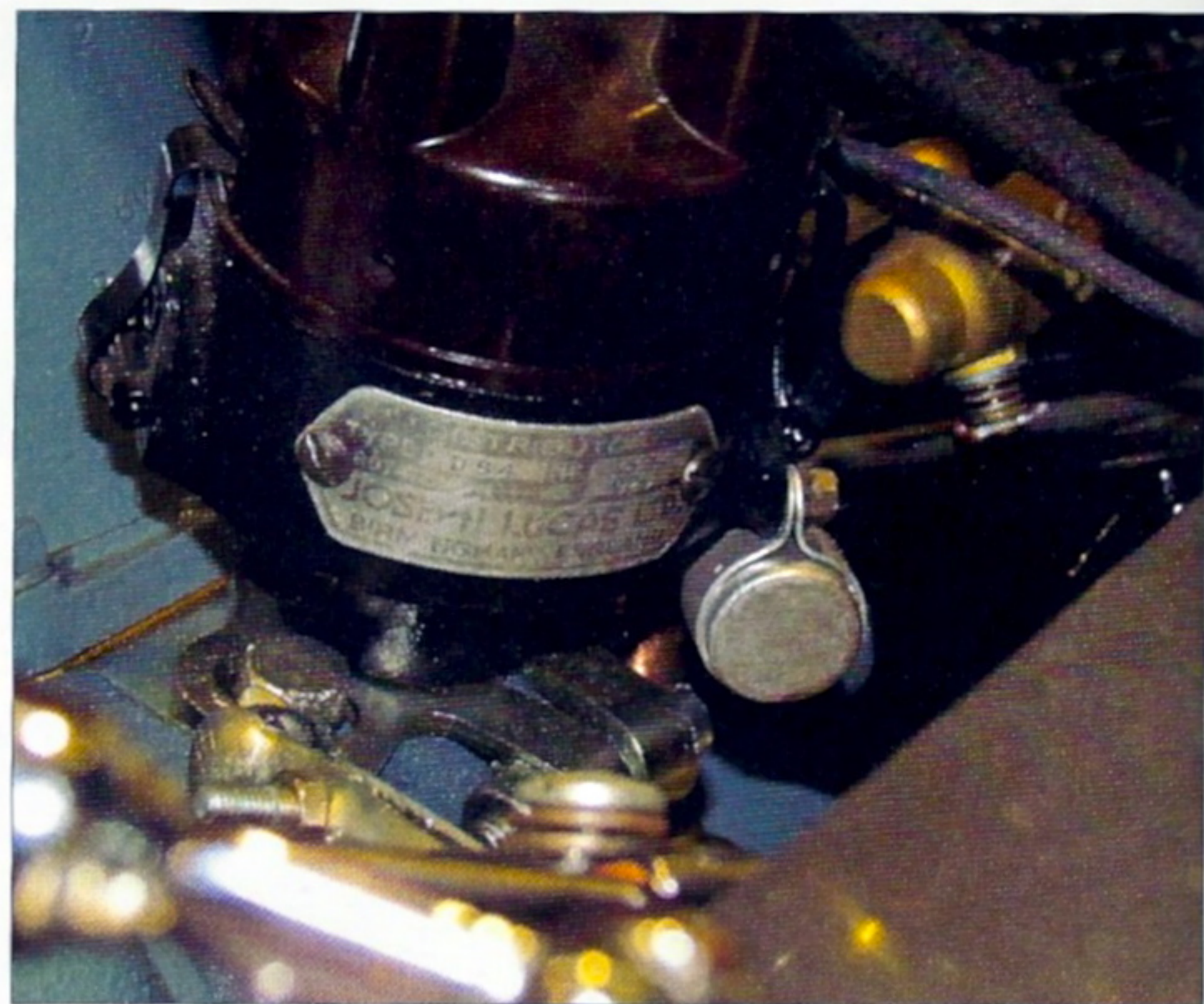
Well, he was a prominent American. His father, Levi Leiter, was one of the original partners in the company ("Field, Palmer, Leiter & Company" in 1867) that ultimately became the Marshall Fields & Company



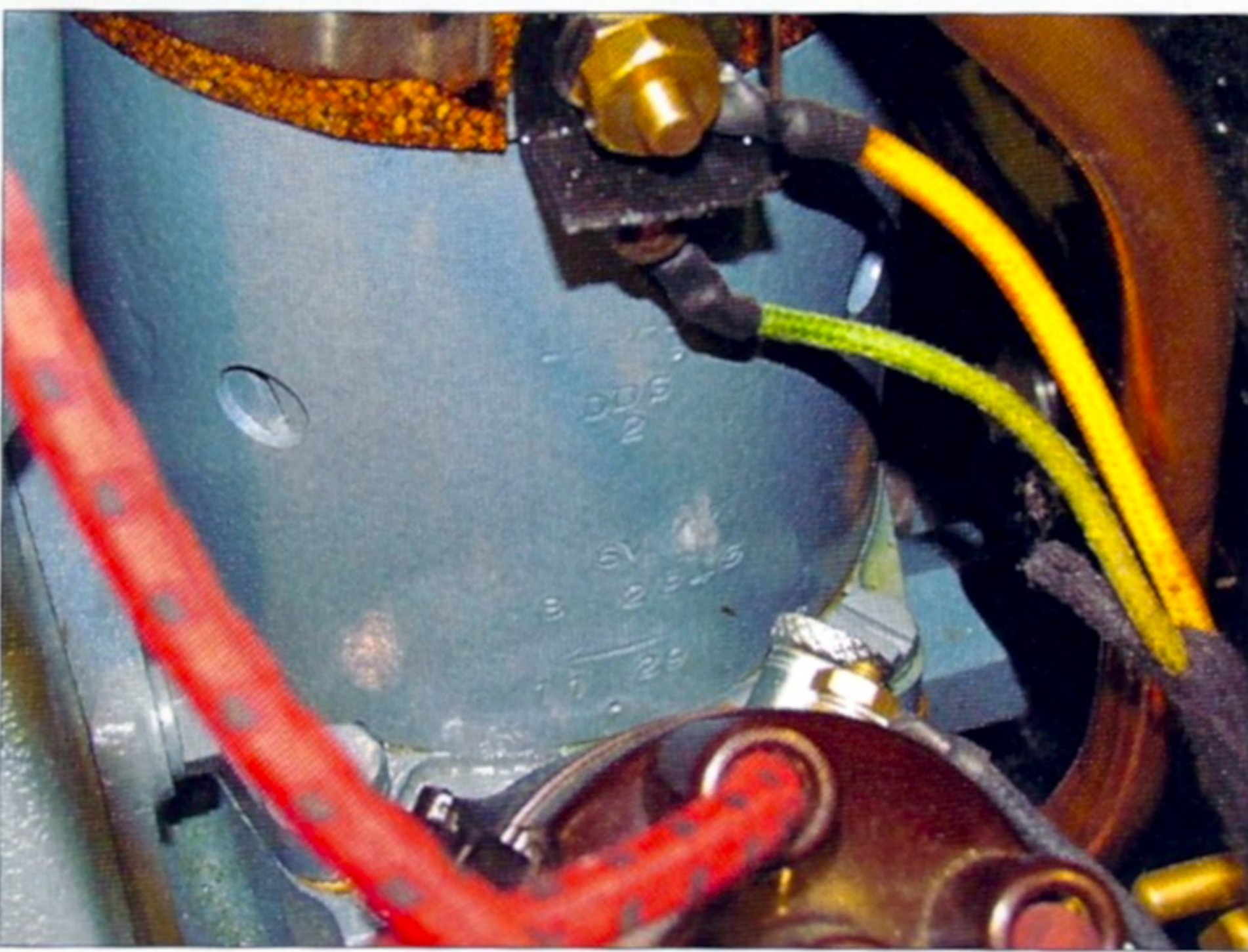
department store chain. I searched and finally found a genealogy site where family members were communicating. I posted a message asking if anyone had any knowledge of an MG having been owned by Joseph back

in the 1930s. There was no response for months. Then, a family member e-mailed me and said I should contact Joseph's great granddaughter, Victoria Mele. I made contact with her and she provided a wonderful history

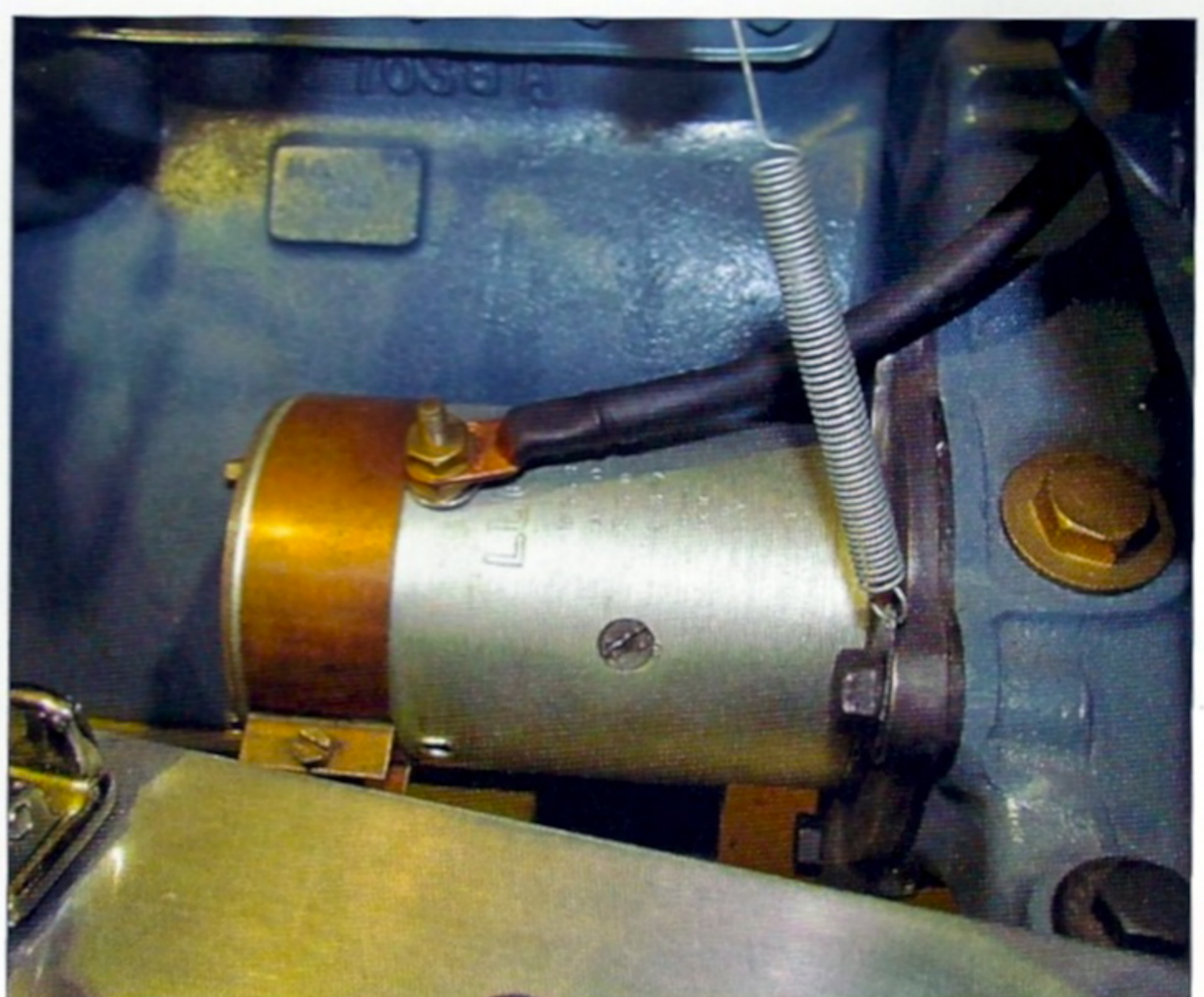
of the car and its involvement with her family. Joseph purchased the car for his son, Thomas Leiter, when he was 18 years old. It seems that Joseph and Edsel Ford were traveling together in Europe in 1930 when they



Original distributor D64/35714.



Original Dynamotor



Left is the manual for the Midget. Above left is the original engine stamp. Above right is the original starter.



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On receipt of this card, duly completed, we shall be pleased to forward a Certificate of Guarantee and Instruction Book. (It is particularly requested that the name be inserted in block capitals, and your kind attention to this will be appreciated.)

Name Joseph Leiter. (JOSEPH LEITER)
 Address of Mann Egerton & Co Ltd 156 New Bond St W1
 Date of Purchase 5.7.30
 Name and Address of Dealer from whom car was actually purchased Mann Egerton & Co Ltd London

MAKERS' CAR NUMBER	ENGINE NUMBER	MARK
959.	713A	University Motors

*Strike out that which does not apply.
 The makers' car and engine number will be found on the plate which is fixed to the metal dash underneath the bonnet.

The M.G. Car Company, Abingdon-on-Thames.

Works History Card.

M.G. Chassis No. 959
 Engine No. M 2 713A
 Rear Axle No. 118
 Steering No. & Type P11 118
 Magneto No. & Type 15714
 Distributor No. & Type 15714
 Battery No. & Type 15714
 Radiator No. 1439/047
 Wheels Wire Ro
 Front Springs 6 leaf
 Shock Absorbers Front
 Wheel Carrier Front
 Greasing system Del mupre

Type ---
 Gearbox No. ---
 Ratio ---
 Carburetter No. & Type M151 52595
 Dynamotor No. & Type 13 2843
 Coil No. & Type ---
 Starter No. & Type M 255 422
 Front Axle Tyre 13 1/8 437
 Rear Springs 7 leaf cord
 Brakes ---
 Frame ---

Date off Line 9.2.20
 Passed to Coachbuilders by ---
 Date to Coachbuilders ---
 Entered by J. P. Mander

Instruments

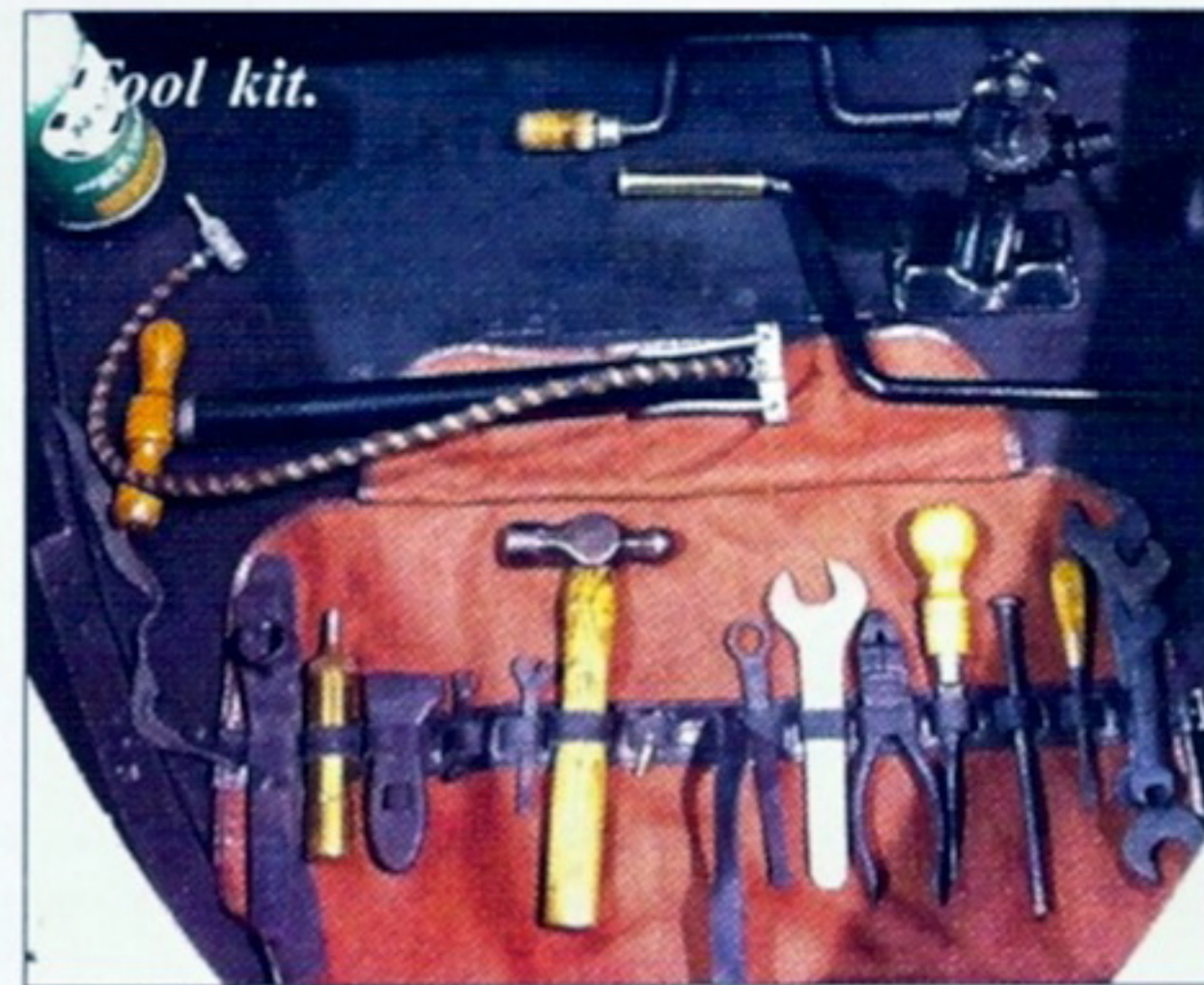
	Type & No.		Type & No.
Clock	"	Speedometer	" P17/144 59806
Electric Horn	"	Petrol Gauge	"
Lamps	" R 27 13	Calometer	"
Oil Gauge	"	Bonnet Fasteners	"
Steering Wheel	"	Dipper Gear (Type)	" M19 MP
Windscreen Wiper	"		
Rev. Counter	"		

Entered by J. P. Mander

is the form I discovered it in. It is amazing that the car still had all the original parts, even if I had to buy another car to recover some of them. The 1931 model is still in parts, although it seems to all be there. The previous owner of this car was planning on making it into a recreation of the M-Types modified for the famous 1930 Brooklands Double Twelve 24-hour race, so it has an original double 12 windshield, completely restored with it. Now the restored car is ready to begin its new life going to various MG events throughout the Southeast. Danny and his wife are even making plans to try to get it out to MG2011 in Reno. Keep your eyes out, this is a real show stopper! Oh yes, young Andrew now has his driver's license and is eyeing the M-Type just like young Thomas did back 80 years ago.

Two of the original documents from the factory.

Kilometres speedometer.



Original chassis and plate as well as a closeup of the plate.

bought two MG M-Type sports cars and had them shipped back together. They were both partners in American Airways and records show that Edsel purchased his MG only 2 days before the repair order for Joseph's MG shows preparation for shipment to the United States. Thomas' widow, Oatsie "Leiter" Charles, a Washington socialite, is still alive and remembers the car and she had told her daughter that the car was covered in fabric. Having never actually seen the car,

Victoria enjoyed finding out about the fabric covering the body of the car her mother had recalled. Oatsie remembered the car being green and when we took the black seat covers off during restoration; we discovered they had been originally dyed green. She also fondly recalls that it "was the best car and they had so much fun in it!"

I had found the car by accident in Arlington, Texas, while I was looking for a covered trailer to transport

my other MGs to events throughout the Southwest. The owner of the M-Type actually lived in Missouri and had sent the car down to Texas to be sold. I visited the consigner on a Friday and the fellow was supposed to list the car for sale on the next Monday. I looked over the trailer I was considering buying and told the fellow that I was going to use it for MG sports cars. He then told me he had this old MG a guy from Missouri had sent him to sell. I bought the car