



NORTH AMERICAN
MMMM
 NEWSLETTER

North American MMM
 Register
 Midget, Magna, Magnette

Spring, 2011

"Once in a great while someone makes an automobile that is a thing apart from all others, an impersonal machine possessing a definite personality.....many a man competent to know will argue that the most completely appealing and unforgettable personality ever built into a car was put into the smallest of them all: the MG Midget."

Ken W. Purdy, *The Kings of the Road*

Let's See If He's Someone Famous

By Danny Allen

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 care of a shipping company in July of 1930. The car was built on February 7, 1930.

Well, he was a prominent American. His father, Ziegler Leiter, started Marshall Fields. They were a very wealthy family. Joseph even cornered the wheat market at one point.

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or

The UK Triple-M

Register web site at:

www.triple-mregister.org

I was skeptical at first. Was this really the same Joseph Leiter? I searched and finally found a genealogy site where family members were communicating. I posted a message asking if anyone had any knowledge of my MG having been owned by Joseph. There was no response for months. Then, a family member emailed me and said I should contact Joseph's great granddaughter. I did and she resonated that she would ask around and get back to me. Again, there was no response for months. Then, there was another email stating that the car might have been bought for Joseph's son Thomas and that they

959

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)
(State Rev., Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Address Mr Mann Egerton & Co Ltd 56 New Bond St W1

Date of Purchase 5.7.30
(i.e., date on which you took delivery of car from the Dealer's Showrooms)

Name and Address of Dealer from whom car was actually purchased Mr Mann Egerton & Co Ltd London

MAKE	MAKE'S CAR NUMBER	ENGINE NUMBER	MARK
*48-80 M.G. Six Sports Two-Seater			
*48-80 M.G. Six Sports Tourer			
*48-80 M.G. Six Sportsman's Saloon			
*18-80 M.G. Six Sports Four-Door Saloon			
*8/33 M.G. Midget Sports Two-Seater	959.	713A.	
*8/33 M.G. Midget Sportsman's Coupe			

**Strike out that which does not apply.*

The maker's car and engine number will be found on the plate which is fixed to the metal dash underneath the bonnet.



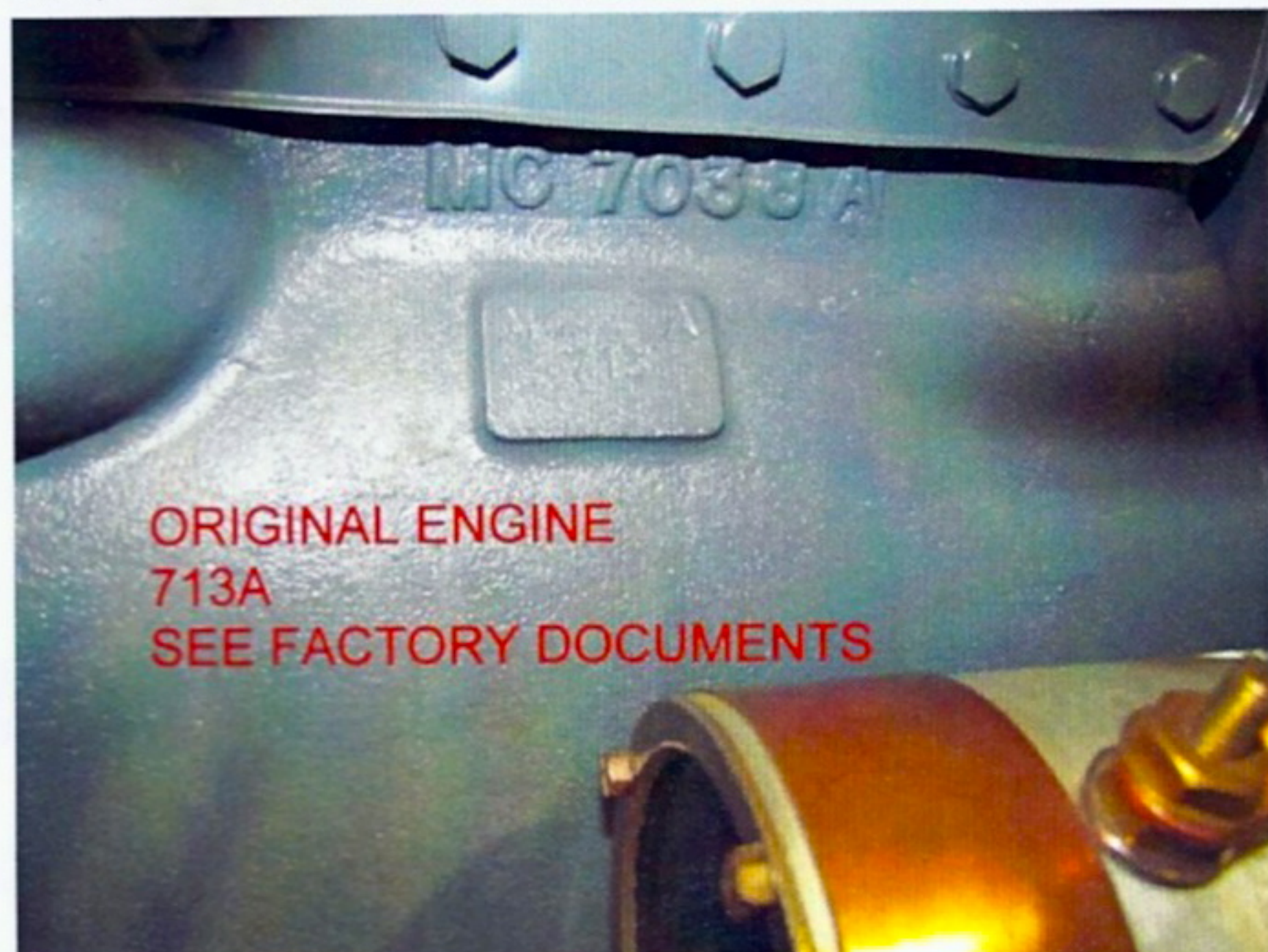
**KILOMETRES SPEEDOMETER
SEE FACTORY DOCUMENTS**

Thomas' widow is still alive and remembers the car. On 11/18/2008 Thomas' widow said "yes he had a 1930 MGM and it was the best car and they had so much fun in it."

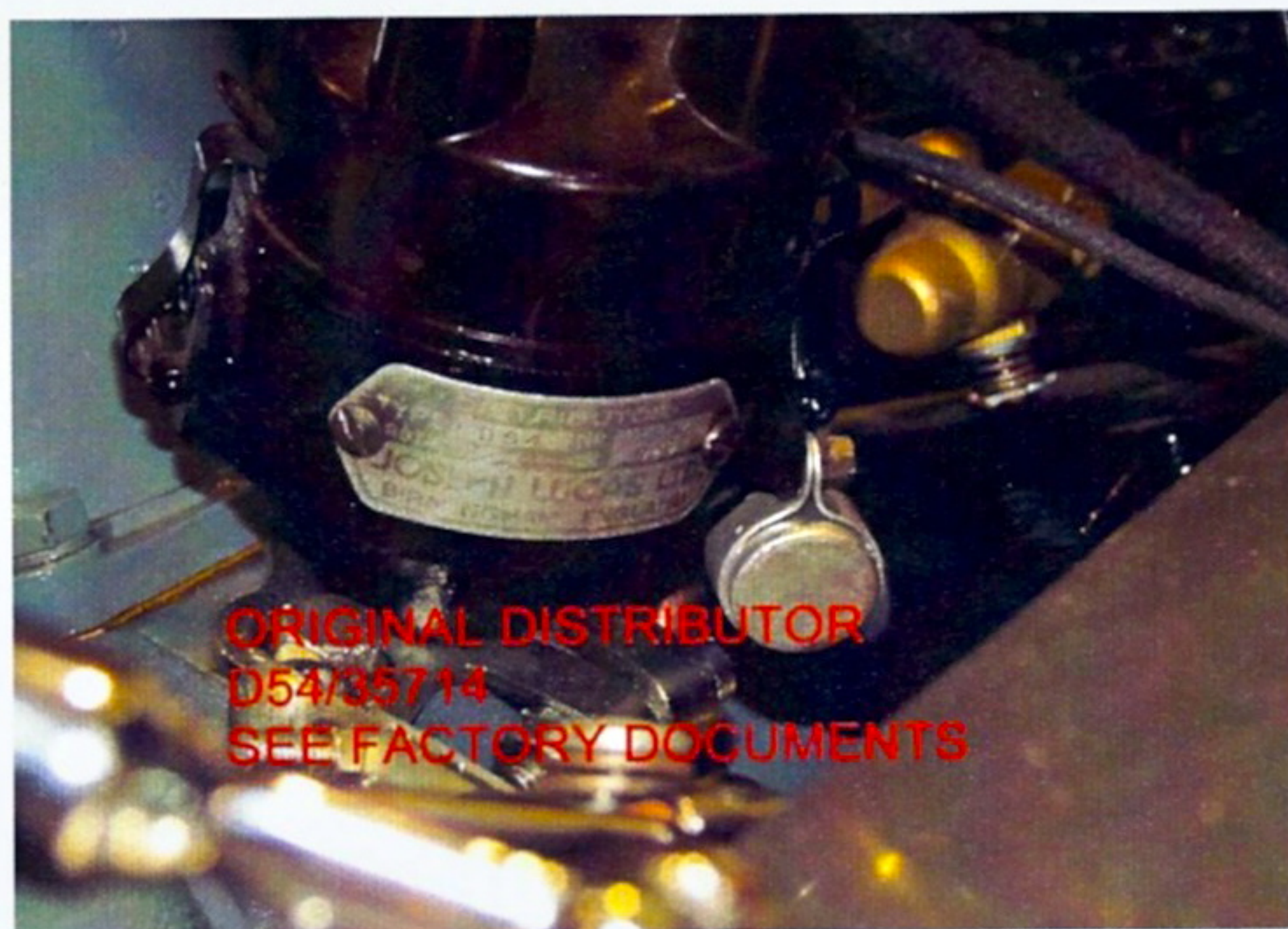
Now, the question is: Was this the FIRST or SECOND MG to ever come to the United States? Edsel Ford supposedly brought the first MG to the United States. It was also a 1930 M-Type. Joseph and Edsel were actually business partners in American Airways. Edsel purchased his MG only 2 days before the repair order for Joseph's MG shows preparation for shipment. Could they have been traveling together?

would talk to the great granddaughter. Then, the response came. Joseph purchased the car in 1930 for his son, Thomas, who would have been 18 years old in 1930.

(Continued on page 6)



**ORIGINAL ENGINE
713A
SEE FACTORY DOCUMENTS**



**ORIGINAL DISTRIBUTOR
D54/35714
SEE FACTORY DOCUMENTS**

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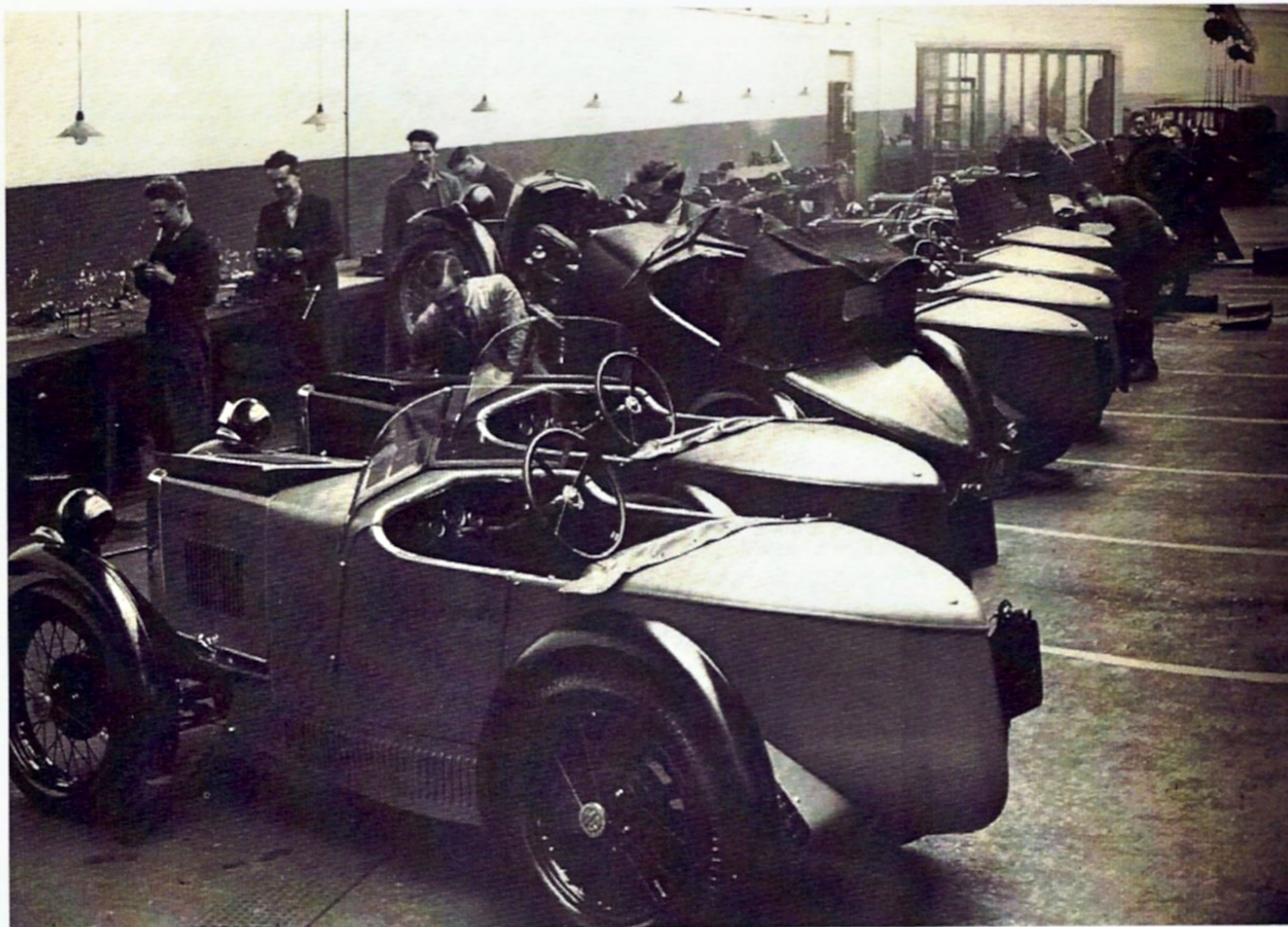
Now, the car's restoration is complete. Amazingly, most of the part numbers listed on the build sheet still match (generator, starter, radiator, distributor, etc.). It has the original kilometer speedometer as noted on the repair order from the factory. All of the instruments in the dash are correctly date coded along with many other parts on the car.

The original hand written body number was discovered on the plywood seat back when the original fabric was removed. I also have the original cloth bound manual (really cool!). I found the original grey rexine leathercloth at a book binding manufacturer in England to cover the car.

So, this car that I found by chance years ago while looking at a used covered trailer in Arlington, Texas has revealed an interesting history. I am still working to find old pictures from the family and try to trace the car's trail from the Leiters to Texas.

Maintaining the breed has never been so much fun!

Danny Allen Tyler, Texas



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