

My 1953 MGTD Mark II

By Brad Charnas (Guest contributor from Cleveland)

I purchased my 1953 MGTD Mark II from a fellow in Columbus in 1976. I knew he had purchased it in Michigan and then moved to Columbus but I didn't know much more about its history.

When the PIB reunion was coming up I decided to try to learn more. I still had the seller's name (Robert Proddger) and I tracked him down- he still lives in the Columbus area. In June of 1968 he lived at 208 North Ely Drive in Northville, MI and purchased my car from the Lyman Warnock, who lived across the street from him.

Lyman has since passed on but his wife is still living and she not only knew who Lyman had purchased my car from, she still had his contact info. His name is Norm Lubeke and I was able to track him down from her contact info.

Norm had purchased the car in the spring of 1963 from a car dealer (Chevy?) in Ann Arbor. He could not remember the name of the car dealer and had no information on who the car dealer had acquired the car from. After he purchased the car, he took it to his parent's house in Ypsilanti where he and his dad restored it in their garage. It was fully restored including a new coat of paint and only needed to be rubbed out. But on May 23 1963 at 8:25 PM, there was an unfortunate fire in the garage which radically damaged the car. As a side note, I did a total restoration of the car from 1980

through 1984 and found ample evidence of the fire here and there.

Not long afterward, his father saw an ad in the Ann Arbor News for the body of a 1950 right hand drive MGTD. They drove the pickup over, bought the body pieces parts, and took them back to the garage where they fitted them to the chassis, which was still in decent condition. He was an education major at that time and was to start his student teaching in the fall. That's where he met Lyman Warnock, a fellow teacher, which is how Lyman came to own my car. For a while I believe they both taught at a school in Farmington.

As for specifics, the chassis is TD/C24851 EXLNA and the engine is XPAG/TD3/25150. I'm told that the EXLNA stands for EXport, Left hand drive, North America. The body is from an early (June 21st, 1950) MGTD, right hand drive with chassis #TD2143 EXRU and engine #XPAG/TD/2065. The car was red when I came to own it but the original body may have been white- I am not sure.

I would love to know the history of either of the cars that became my car. If anyone can shed some light, I would be enormously grateful. ■

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