

# Road Trip Across the Sunny Southern USA — Part 1

by Dale Brown

On the Friday after the Hibernation Party, Lise and I left Windsor with our travel trailer in tow in search of warm sunny weather. We headed south spending our first cool night in Kentucky and continued toward Tennessee. It was already starting to get warmer. We had made plans to meet up with former Club member, Jeff Branch and his wife near Chattanooga but at the last minute, something came up for Jeff and weren't able to hook up.



*Our house on wheels for two months*



*A neighboring camper travelling in style*

After Knoxville we headed to Savannah Georgia where we experienced a nice Sunday afternoon festival in their historic downtown area.

After several overnight stops in southern Florida, we made it for a few days in Key West. Eventually, we returned to the Kissimmee/Orlando area where we spent more than two weeks. During that time, I was able to attend two days of the 12 Hours at Sebring.

One of the highlights of the "day before" races was a historic race which featured sports cars from the 50's, 60's and 70's including many British cars. I follow the new Tudor Race series especially the Corvette Racing Team. Unfortunately, although one of their cars lead their class for a major part of the race, a spin out and some mechanical issues, they ended with a very frustrating finish.

Later on during our stay in Florida, we visited our friends Jan and Jeff Zorn. They are still members of our club and Jeff was treasurer and president for many years. One afternoon, after enjoying lunch on a beach in St. Pete's Beach, we met up with friends of Jeff and Jan who own a British car business in England but also have a Condo in St. Pete's. We went to their place for tea but also viewed his many MG's stored in his garage including



*Jan, Dale, Lise & Jeff at an Italian market.  
(Standing in front of two Italian cars)*



*MG's in a condo garage*

and automatic MGCGT, an A and several other B roadsters. Great afternoon!

After leaving Florida and also making other overnight stops along the way, we were in New Orleans and by pure coincidence met up with fellow club members Ozzie and Terry Pillon who were there for the

New Orleans British Car Show. (Small world isn't it?)

As the trip progressed westward, we visited San Antonio and saw the Alamo and the wonderful River Walk. Eventually we made it to San Diego.

In San Diego, we visited friends Wayne and Dee Johnson and spent the day touring the city in their 1959 MG Magnette. What a great experience! Thanks Wayne and Dee.



*Can you spot three more MG's?*

*A Mini on the streets of New Orleans*



Wayne and Dee took us to several landmarks including the USS Midway aircraft carrier which is now a museum on the waterfront and also to Point Loma which overlooks San Diego Bay and the US Navy base on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other side. Wayne admits he is a very lucky MG owner. He has a large garage which houses several MG's and some projects. He is currently restoring a MG WA which is apparently one of only 12 left in the world. It sure will be awesome when complete. I've never seen an MG that big.



*Our tour vehicle for the day, a 1959 MG Magnette*



*Wayne, Dee and Lise*



*Wayne and Dee's other Magnette, an award winning 1958*



*Their MG WA undergoing restoration*

Our next stop for several more days was Palm Springs, California. We were able to go on a nice day long ride on our bikes around the city. You can see from the pictures that we came across another British car.



*A Sunbeam Alpine on the streets of Palm Springs*

I'm finishing Part 1 of this story from the shores of the Pacific about an hours drive north of Santa Barbara. We'll be here exploring highway 1 between LA and San Francisco for several days. It also just so happens that the next Tudor Race series happens in Long Beach in the middle of April. Hmm. I wonder if I can get to that one too!

We'll be watching out for more British Cars and events. Stay tuned for Part 2 next month.



*Just to stay in the British flair, here's Lise with her vintage Raleigh bicycle*

## Road Trip Across the Sunny Southern USA — Part 2

by Dale Brown

When I wrote the article that appeared in the April edition of the Can Am Connection, Lise and I were relaxing at our Campsite along the Pacific Ocean between Santa Barbara and Monterey. We took a day trip to Monterey along the Pacific Coast Highway. What beautiful scenery and a perfect MG road. (Wish I had mine.)



*While shopping near our campground near Pismo Beach, Lise spotted this nice MGA complete with vintage suitcase on the rear luggage rack.*



*The view along the Pacific Coast Highway south of Monterey*



*The beautiful beach and harbor in Santa Barbara*



*On our bike ride in Santa Barbara, we came across this early MGB. A little rough, but had great wheels and tires!*

It was sad to finally leave California and the beautiful weather but we didn't miss the heavy traffic. Soon we were on our way after a few stops to a nice campground resort 10 minutes from the strip in Las Vegas. Wonderful weather again and we extended our stay to 5 or 6 days just to have time to relax at the campground. (Two pools, hot in ground spa and even a restaurant. They don't make campgrounds like they use to!

Next month I'll finish off my story including a trip to the Corvette Factory and Corvette Museum. So stay tuned!

A couple of days later we took another day trip into Santa Barbara. We had a chance to ride our bikes again along a really nice bike lane along the ocean. Great beach areas and a cruise ship stopped for the day. We enjoyed sitting on the roof deck of a nice restaurant on the pier and watched the ending of the Santa Barbara weekly sailing races.

On our way back to Pismo Beach from Santa Barbara, we took a ride over to Moss Motors which was only 15 minutes south. It was closed by that time, but still light enough for a photo opp.



*Standing in front of the Moss Motors office just south of Santa Barbara, California.*

## Road Trip Across the Sunny Southern USA — Part 3

by Dale Brown

When I left off Part 2 in the last newsletter, we were getting ready to leave sunny California and headed east. We spent almost a week at Oasis RV Resort in Las Vegas. We took in the strip a couple of times, toured Red Rock Canyon and enjoyed the resort with its restaurant and beautiful pools and spas.

We eventually pulled out and made it to the Grand Canyon near Flagstaff, Arizona. We had been travelling on Interstate 40 most of the way home and by coincidence, it is that highway that follows along the original historic Route 66. There were many times that we were able to go into the little towns and explore the original highway. Old style motels with the neon signs, vintage cars, cafes, diners and of course lots of antique shops.

Several days later we were exploring Albuquerque and Santa Fe for a couple of days by way of a wonderful train very similar to the great trains of Europe.

After that, we were in Amarillo Texas where we experienced the Cadillac Ranch and then the biggest Texas restaurant that we've ever been in. (Free 72 ounce steak dinner if you can eat it in an hour. We didn't try that one!)

Missing tornados along the way, we experienced the great music of Memphis and Nashville for a few days each. Before staying over in Louisville the day before the Kentucky Derby, we were lucky enough to get a guided tour of the Corvette Factory in Bowling Green. The new C7 is assembled there and it is truly an amazing all new sports car. After that we went to the National Corvette Museum and even saw the sink hole and all 8 cars that were destroyed in the collapse.

When we got back to Windsor at the end of the first week in May the first thing I did after cutting my lawn was to start up the MG. One try and varoom. So nice to be home and driving the MG again!



*Vintage cars are abundant on the streets. This one in Santa Fe, New Mexico*



*The Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo, Texas*



*Outside the Corvette factory in Bowling Green*



*The National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green*



*A convoy of 25 to 30 Mini's on the highway home*