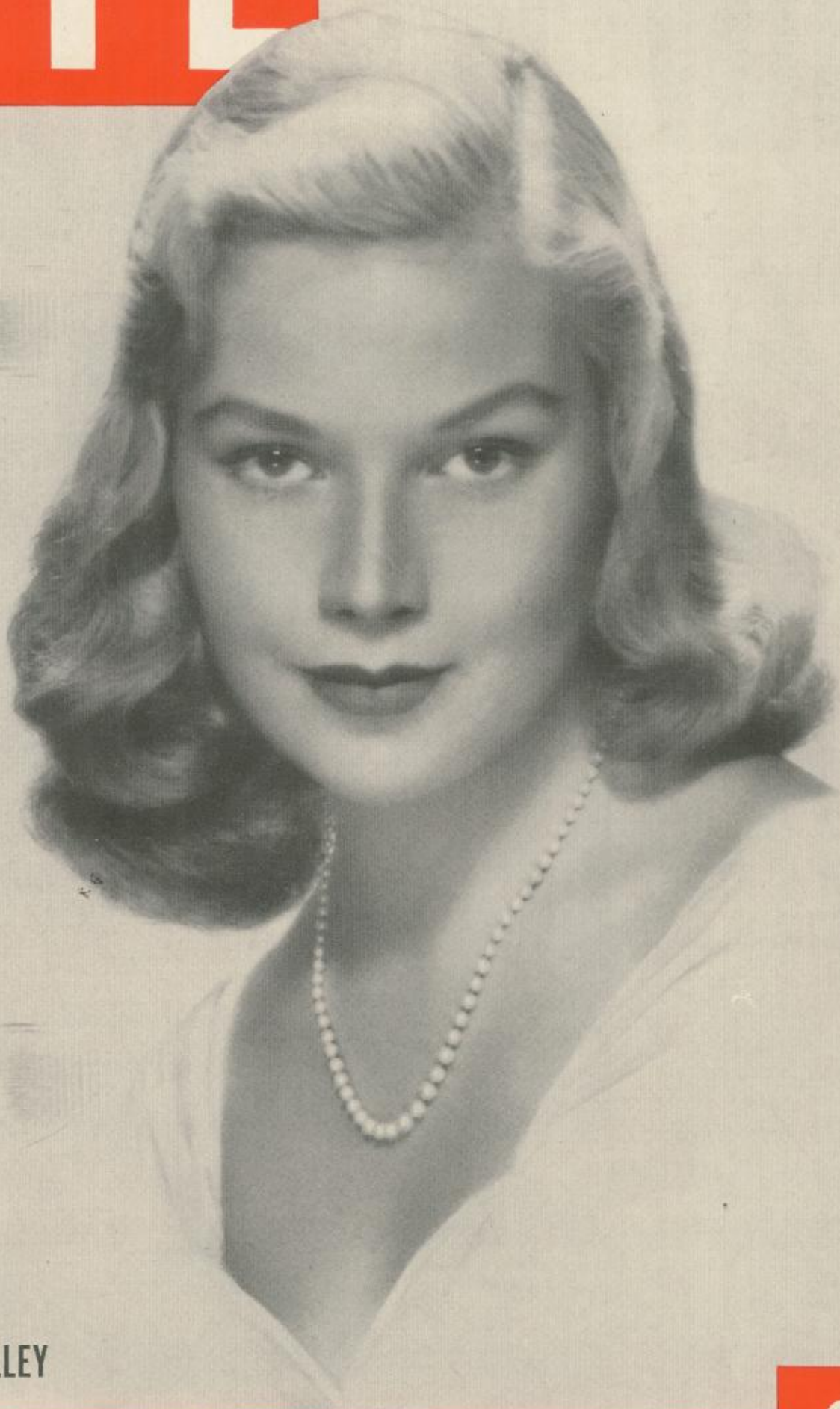


LIFE



DEBUTANTE
JOANNE CONNELLEY

JANUARY 10, 1949 **20** CENTS
YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION \$6.00

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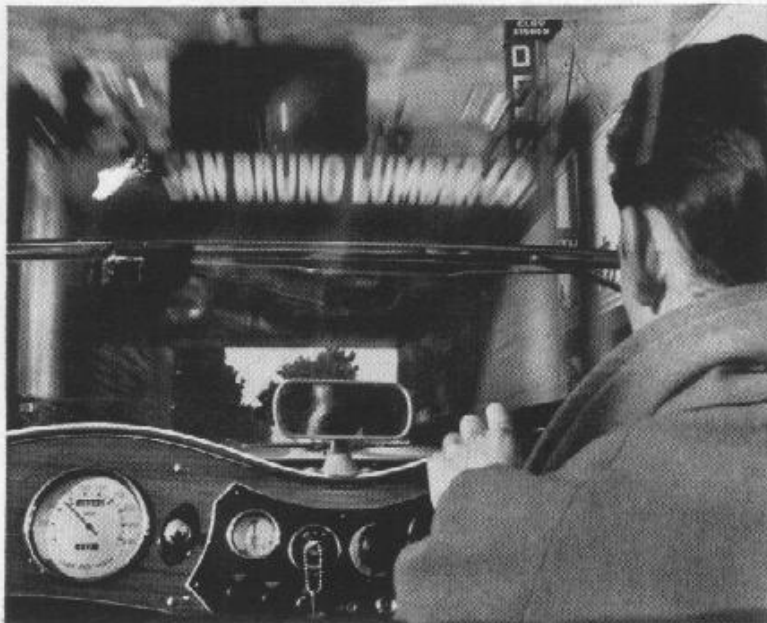
IN SAN BRUNO, CALIF. MG OWNER TED MEIERS WHIZZES THROUGH AN EMPTY 7-TON LUMBER CARRIER WITH ONLY FIVE INCHES CLEARANCE ON EITHER SIDE

MG MIDGET CRAZE

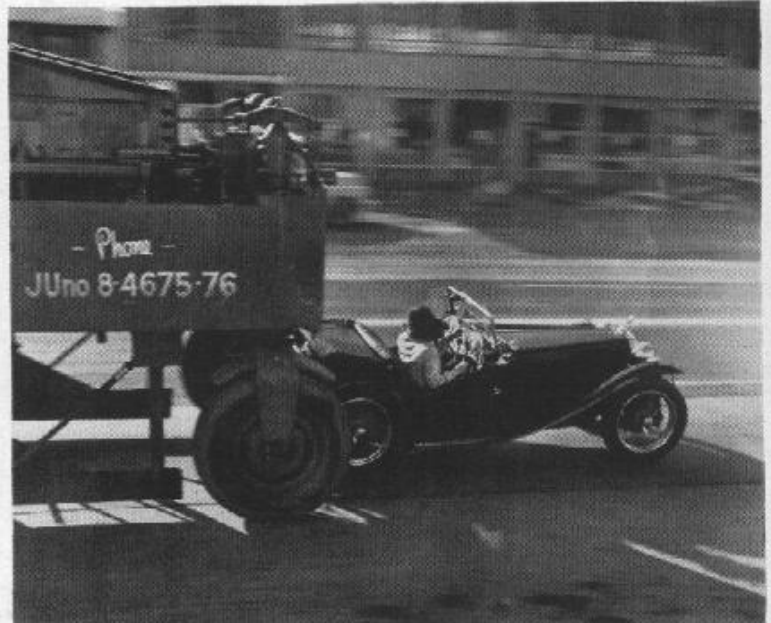
Americans who like a flashy car fall for a tiny British roadster

The whippetlike roadster shown here is rapidly coming to be regarded by American sports-car lovers with the same passionate affection they once lavished on the Stutz Bearcat of the 1920s. It is the 10-hp British-made MG Midget, a wartime favorite of GIs in England. MC stands for Morris Carage, an early, humble name of Carmaker William Morris' big Nuffield Organization. The car, only 11 feet, 7½ inches long, costs \$2,395 in the U.S. Although lighter, it is, like the Bearcat, low-slung,

flashy and fast (93 mph) and has the same appeal for show-offs and gadget lovers, who often trade MGs "to see how she leans." With about 2,000 MG owners in the U.S., the MG craze has now reached a point where MG clubs are springing up all over the country. Recently one club left San Francisco in 16 MGs for a weekend jaunt. After 200 miles of driving, racing and tinkering, two members had enough zeal left to achieve their dream—to whip through a huge lumber carrier (*above and below*).



ENTERING the lumber carrier, which is going some 15 mph, Meiers' MG travels at 35. The stunt, which requires close timing and a sharp eye, is extremely dangerous.



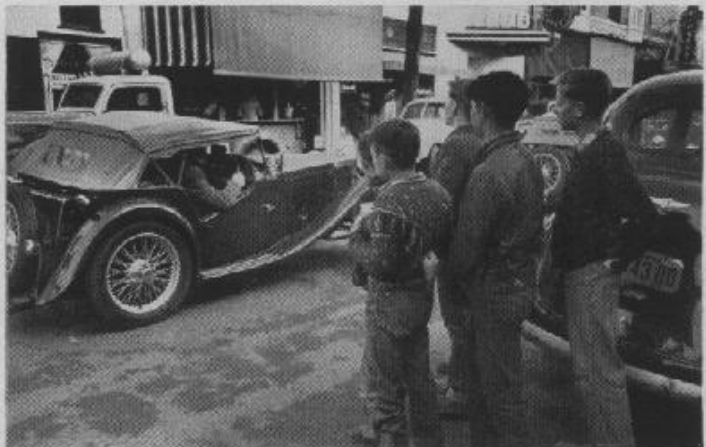
EMERGING from the big carrier with a dented fender is Evelyn Wheeler's little MC. The club got permission to try the stunt from lumber company and San Bruno police.



MGs BURN UP ROAD to Volcano, Calif. Four-cylinder MGs get 30 miles a gallon, have springs with very little give for ground gripping at high speeds.



BEAR RUG is tossed over top to keep it spotless. Owner Ernest Hodges covered his car at every stop while others polished brightwork and tuned motors.



BEMUSED YOUNGSTERS watch the cars as the caravan passes through Jackson, Calif. At another stop, owners gave rides to all kids who wanted them.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 66



WHEEL-CHANGING technique is shown by Club Organizer Bjarne Qvale. Hubcaps which can be "knocked off and on" permit three-minute wheel change.



TINKERING in hotel lounge goes on far into the night. Parts, which have odd names like "dipper switch," "squab" and "scuttle," are obtainable in U.S.



SNUGGED DOWN on hotel porch and lawn, MGs are covered against the 28° cold. Said one owner, "We just like to be different in a nonobnoxious way."