

The man or woman who, when tempted to do a dishonest thing "while no one is looking", and resists such temptation, does prove to stature and faithfulness of character; to such people come, invariably, rewards at the hands of Divine Law.

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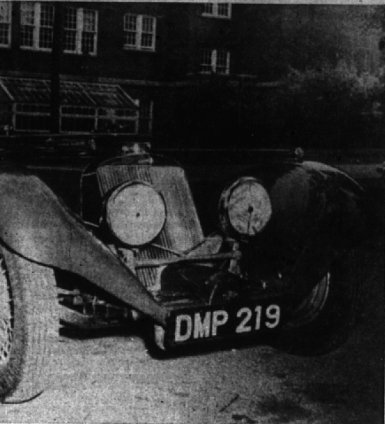
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DAVISON POSES AT THE WHEEL OF HIS ENGLISH SPORTS CAR Has lots of special features—but no ignition key. (Eccentric Staff Photo)

Davisons Hold 'Open Garages'

By RUTH ANNE SILBAR
Special Writer for The Eccentric

Mrs. C. H. A. Davison, of 1115 Buckingham, has been holding a series of "open garages" because her husband, Charles Davison, is now the proud owner of an English, fire-man-red Squire sports car, and sports fans for miles around have been coming to see it.

After a lengthy international correspondence and two years of searching, Davison succeeded in locating and purchasing the Squire and immediately became the center of attention of an exclusive group of hobbyists.

A sports car enthusiast, Davison's interest lies in the traditional style of sports car which was developed in England and Europe during the years 1930-1940.

He has owned four foreign cars in the last few years. The first one was an Austin, made in England in 1948. His second acquisition was a low, sleek English Jaguar. The third model he owned was a French Simca, and now he has a Squire, a 1936 model, but timeless in the annals of sports car design.

THE SQUIRE was developed

in England by the late A. M. Squire and was, it must be admitted, most expensive, but it was built to an idea.

The manufacturer built only about 20 cars, Davison said, and because the high cost of production could not ensure a good financial return the concern went out of business after a short time. In 1936 a model of Davison's car sold for \$5000 which would be the equivalent of about \$15,000 in today's market, he said.

Altho no expense was spared in the manufacturing of these autos and each car was practically hand made; the manufacturer did not put an ignition lock in the car. The car simply cannot be locked, and there is no key with which to start it.

HOWEVER, you have to have the know-how to get the car started and know which buttons to push and which levers to pull down, so Davison is not at all concerned about someone taking off with his prized possession.

According to Gregor Grant's book "British Sports Cars," a kind of a catalogue the "Squire" first appeared toward the end of 1934 and there is no doubt that it was one of the most attractive sports cars ever built. Its low build and general look of a thoroughbred made it one of the most talked about cars of the time.

Davison is almost sure it is the only Squire in this country.

Of course he is mighty proud of it and has really only one complaint. The car is very low and as he says, "it must have been built for a man about 5 feet 2 inches tall, with a size 8 shoe." He is 6 feet, 2 inches and wears a size 13 shoe, so he is constantly barking

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BITS OF BIRMINGHAM

Apparently Birmingham is not the only community having parking problems. An overheard conversation dealt with the fact that customers have to park such a long distance from one man's store that his trade is falling off. Quoth the out-of-town merchant: "The people in my town are too lazy to walk to the store and too lazy to walk through it when they get there. I tell you, some of these days I'm going to buy me a train, put counters and shelves down one side, kick out all the windows and then just throw the groceries at my customers while they drive

course, so Davison had to inveigle some helpers at the pier in New York to push the car thru busy New York traffic to get to a gas station. The fact that the Queen Elizabeth docked at the same time didn't help the traffic situation either.

Soon he was on his way back to Birmingham with only one mishap... he lost a fender in Pennsylvania and had to stop in at a blacksmith to get it fixed.

When he arrived at Dearborn, he called home to let the family know he was coming. Word got around to several fans from the Sports Car Club and they were on hand to greet him and the new car.

A PARTY was held on the spot, with champagne and everything. Davison was too tired to enjoy it—he went to bed.

Davison by vocation is a commercial artist and has his own studio in Detroit. He is the Detroit regional executive of the Sports Car Club of America which has a membership of 170 in this region and about 2,800 nationally.

Davison does not race his car, altho he knows his Squire can go over the 100 miles per hour mark, but many members of the Sports Car Club do enter in various races. Last February and March, the Detroit region held races on the ice of Lake Orion and Davison as the head of the Detroit region was in part responsible for the successful event.

THE SQUIRE came over on a freight boat without gasoline, of his shins getting in and out of it.

IN TALKING about his hobby, Davison says some people consider it an expensive one, but it is really only the initial investment that is expensive. After you get such a car, it seems that the object is to take it all apart and polish and shine and grind off all or any rust on even the smallest part, and then put the car back together again.

You have to like to tinker, Davison says, and he does.

"You can drive an old car," says Davison, "but not a ratty old car, so you spend the time and energy to fix it up so it gleams."

If and when a part breaks down and a new one is needed, it can be replaced generally by modifying some American made part. The only trouble he ran into in obtaining parts was with the French car when he had to send back to France to get them.

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Joan Crawford
*SEE A B. & N. OPT. PATENTEE
...You saw it in THIS WEEK Magazine

by" Well, parking's tough in Birmingham, but it hasn't reached that point, yet!

The efforts of Birmingham's League of Women Voters seem to be coming in for some national attention. The Eccentric received a letter last week from a New York advertising agency asking for full information on the LWV activities concerning their recent Torch Light parade. Information

will be used along with that of other groups to make up the content of a pamphlet scheduled for national distribution to radio stations, newspapers, luncheon clubs and women's organizations throughout the country.

While wandering around town last week, looking for a cool breeze, this Wanderer noticed a car literally plastered with stickers expressing approval of "the

for President." They expressed the desire, in several ways, but some joker (?) had written in the dust across the back of the car, "He likes Kefauver."

★ Smile a Minute... Marriage may be compared to a cafeteria in that one grabs something that looks good—and pays for it later.

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