MISCELLAENOUS RAMBLINGS

It looks as if the rotten weather is here, and very soon only the hardy will be venturing forth in their Morgans. No doubt the hardy, and some others will cry, "Rhubarb! Keep the old Mog on the road all winter". Somebody always manages to, so why not this year? The answer is not to let yourself be talked out of the joys of winter Morganning by someone else. Try it and then talk yourself out of them:

This brings us, somehow or other, to the question of what to do for gatherings during the winter months. The obvious choice is that of a social gathering on the other side of the well from the weather. However, although this will be our next accomplishment, if anyone has any ideas or preferences, let's hear about it. If there is sufficient interest in any particular suggestion, we'll do something to implement it.

My other concern of the moment, which those of you who already turn up fairly often may consider I'm flogging to death, is to again point out that we're not looking to break up families. This is not a 100% male organization, interested in Morgans to the exclusion of all else. We are just a group of people with this somewhat tennous connection, of an interest in Morgans. Obviously the basic thought of any gathering is Mogs, but we do discuss other things! So bring the wife or girl-friend (Womens' libbers, read as approriate), and swell the numbers at the next do.

Our thanks for the contributions to the postage fund... it's looking much better. Now if only Sue could get by without licking the stamps:

BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

"Morgan—First and Last of the Real Sports Cars" by Gregory Houston Bowden. 191 pp. 10 in. × 7½ in. (Gentry Books Ltd., 55-61, Moorgate, London, EC2R 6BR. £3.95.)

The Morgan, as the foremost three-wheeler and one of the sole surviving hand-made sports cars, is deserving of a full and accurate history. This reviewer did his best to record the vintage years of the three-wheelers in a 50p book (Grenville, 1971) which is still available from the MOTOR SPORT offices and the active Morgan Three-Wheeler Club got out a rather broader history of the famous tricars at about the same time. So when I heard that there was another Morgan history in the pipe-line, a title which I knew several publishers had been looking for, I thought this must be a really comprehensive account of all the Morgans from that first spidery Peugeot-powered three-wheeler of 1909 to the latest of the Morgan Plus Eights which now use the Rover V8 manual-gearbox power unit complete, instead of the separate Moss gearbox with which it started life and modified for the Earls Court Show, as Peter Morgan himself proudly demonstrated to me, with proper interior door locks instead of pulls!

Disappointment could, therefore, perhaps be excused, when I read in this latest Morgan book, in the author's own words, that "there is a wealth of information which I have either failed to discover or have discovered and been obliged to set on one side for lack of space". This, then, is not a complete history of Morgan and the Morgan Motor Company. It is a very nicely got-up production. It is good reading if repetition from the previous Morgan histories can be tolerated. It was clearly written with enormous fervour by a writer who is a Morgan owner-his Plus Four four-seater, WXA 6, bought secondhand while he was at Oxford, forms the subject of the colour picture on the dust jacket and features in other places within-and it runs from the beginning of Morgan interest in cars, from 1884 in fact, the year Harry Morgan was born, to the present day and the Malvern Link factory and products as they now are. It is just the book the Morgan people themselves might have issued had they been so inclined -come to think of it, they did put out a good little history booklet of their own some years ago, which brings the total to four-and it made me want another Morgan as soon as I looked through it.

It has been written by using the Morgan Company's scrap-books, which were also made available to me, and as these are mostly Press cuttings, the treatment by both authors is somewhat the same, except that Houston Bowden interviewed Dorothy Morgan and gets in a few fresh angles but does not give as much data as I was able to about the three-wheelers in races and trials and record-breaking sorties, or as much intimate technical material about the different models as

does the Morgan Club's book.

What is left? Well, the chapters about the four-wheelers in the 'fifties and 'sixties are interesting and the book ends on a with-it note about the famous and off-beat folk who have bought Morgans. A lot of the pictures, including cartoons and technical drawings, have been seen before but as they are blown up big, although not on glossy paper, they are most attractive, the enormous chapter headings less so, while Houston Bowden's love for his Morgan shines through brightly (there is a picture of it in an Oxford Quadrangle and another of the author, in gown, driving a lecturer in Medieval English in it, the latter apparently about to catch a football), so I was sorry to learn that on his very first outing in it he was caught speeding (at 60 m.p.h.) and fined £15. Interesting that he had that front-wheel shimmy which I used to get on the Editorial Plus Four, and that he is not adverse to coupling girls with Morgans, and I like his story of the Monk and the Morgan. One has the impression that he is not as at home to motor cars as some writers, and so neglects a really good description of the Morgan, the many different engines used in them, and that perhaps he is not very familiar with the three-wheelers. He relies on Press road-tests for assessing the later models and there are one or two puzzles in the story-for instance, when H.F.S. broke an inlet valve during an ACU Six Days Trial we are told that this was "not disastrous"—it usually is -and this Morgan's four gears are not enlarged upon, although later we are told that four ratios were sometimes obtained by having a two-speed gearbox ahead of the two-speed chain-and-dog transmission. There is a tendency to call the bevel-box a gearbox, a gearlever in the picture of a racing Morgan's cockpit is surely wrongly captioned, being the brake lever, and McMinnies is credited with wihning both the sidecar and cyclecar class of the 1913 Cyclecar GP, whereas it is usually said that he was disqualified because the organisers didn't regard his Morgan as a cyclecar and relegated it to the sidecar category. And how does Mr. Bowden know there will be no more real sports cars, even if we concede that, say, a 30/98 had nothing on an Aero Morgan as the first of them?

This is a very good popular story of the Morgan and I love some of the pictures, particularly the one showing the body panels of a modern Morgan being nailed to the ash subframe. You have just got to decide, haven't you, whether you are going to buy more technical Morgan three-wheeler material in a couple of little booklets or spend nearly four times as much to have a proper Morgan book in the bookcase? Now I suppose I shall be criticised as biased and self-interested but perhaps the author won't know, because I don't think he reads MOTOR SPORT.—W.B.

Pritish Racing Green

ESTIMATED ITEM WEIGHTS:

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900 2oz 901......2oz 902.....1LB 903..... 2LB 904. ... 6oz 905.....1202 906.... 2LB 907..... 8oz 908..... 6oz 909 6oz 910 402 911 1LB 912. ... 4oz 913.... 6oz 914.....11LB 915 6LB 916. 12oz 917....25oz 918.... 6LB 919.... 6LB 920......22oz 921.....12oz 922..... 923..... 924 925 926 927..... 928

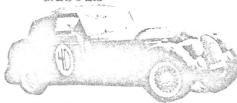
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Photo by Montagu Motor Museum



1960 Drophead Coupe' (Racing at Silverstone)

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FOR SHIPPERS WITH ZIP CODES

184-01 TO 187-99

	184	-01 TO	187-99	
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LeMans Supersport

1962 2-litre Class Winner Lawrence/Shepherd-Barron



Autocar

Effective March 1, 1971

United Parcel Service

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2	17	.60	.64	.69	74	.80	.86	.94	27	11	1.85	2.39	3.07	3.74	4.55	5.36	6.4
3	**	.65	.71	.79	.86	.95	1.04	1.16	28	11	1.90	2.46	3.16	3.86	4.70	5.54	6.6
4	"	.70	.78	.88	.98	1.10	1.22	1.38	29	21	1.95	2.53	3.26	3.98	4.85	5.72	6.8
5	11	.75	.85	.98	1.10	1.25	1.40	1.60	30	31	2.00	2.60	3.35	4.10	5.00	5.90	7.1
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8	**	.90	1.06	1.26	1.46	1.70	1.94	2.26	33	11	2.15	2.81	3.64	4.46	5.45	6.44	7.7
9	"	.95	1.13	1.36	1.58	1.85	2.12	2.48	34	11	2,20	2.88	3.73	4.58	5.60	6.62	7.9
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12	"	1.10	1.34	1.64	1.94	2.30	2.66	3.14	37	11	2.35	3,09	4.02	4.94	6.05	7.16	8.8
13	**	1.15	1,41	1.74	2.06	2.45	2.84	3.36	38	11	2.40	3.16	4.11	5.06	6,20	7.34	8.8
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16	11	1.30	1.62	2,02	2,42	2.90	3.38	4.02	41	11	2.55	3.37	4.40	5.42	6.65	7.88	9.5
17	11	1.35	1.69	2.12	2.54	3.05	3.56	4.24	42	11	2.60	3.44	4.49	5.54	6.80	8.06	9.7
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20	11	1.50	1.90	2.40	2.90	3.50	4.10	4.90	45	11	2.75	3.65	4.78	5.90	7.25	8.60	10.4
21	17	1.55	1.97	2.50	3.02	3.65	4.28	5.12	46	11	2.80	3.72	4.87	6.02	7.40	8.78	10.6
22	11	1.60	2.04	2.59	3.14	3.80	4.46	5.34	47	11	2.85	3.79	4.97	6.14	7.55	8.96	10.8
23	11	1.65	2.11	2.69	3.26	3.95	4.64	5.56	48	11	2,90	3.86	5.06	6,26	7.70	9.14	11.0
24	"	1,70	2.18	2.78	3,38	4.10	4.82	5.78	49	11.	2.95	3.93	5.16	6.38	7.85	9.32	11.2
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> Morgan at LeMans 1952 Photo Louis Klemantaski

