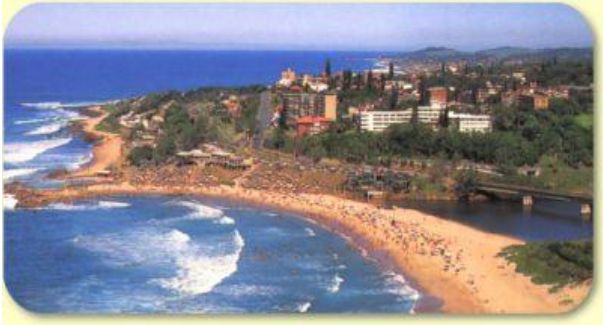




Our Dumpy!

This is “Dumpy”, a 1954 split-screen 4-door saloon. Dumpy was bought brand new off the salesroom floor either towards the end of 1954 or early in 1955 (actual date unknown). Dumpy was bought at Tom McLeod Motors in Benoni, South Africa, by my Dad, Eric Williamson Cramond.



This was a real family car and as such travelled often down to the coast for family holidays. Not unusual, except that we were a family with seven kids. Four girls, three boys, Mom and Dad, plus Granny all packed into our little Morris and off on holiday, down to Rennishaw, Scottburgh on the South coast of Kwa-Zulu Natal, in South Africa.

Our holiday packing was something to witness. We had clothes, bedding, food, drinks, toys, books and anything else we thought we might need, packed into every available space. And in those days the roads were narrow and bumpy, and we had to make plenty of pit stops for relief, refreshments and fuel. Our trips would normally take at least 12 hours (often longer) to cover about 375 miles!

In 1967 Dad bought a new VW minibus in 1967, which was obviously more appropriate to carry a family the size of ours. So our little Morris was parked inside the garage with the intention of spending time on it doing repairs. However, this project never got off the ground. Finally in 1999, some 30-odd years later when Mom & Dad decided to move into a retirement village, the Morris was found under piles of junk in the garage and given to me.

Dusty, dull and in need of TLC, I started the restoration project on my Dad’s old Morris and in 2000/2001 stripped her down, rebuilt her and gave her some much needed attention to bring her back to life and be the car that stands before you. We named her “Dumpy” after a small, rounded Castle (South African) beer bottle, and which was a nickname for me from friends.

When we moved across to England in December 2001, Dumpy was stored in South Africa until I could arrange to have her shipped. Eventually, in 2004, Dumpy set sail from South Africa and landed on Blighty and transported up from Southampton to Darlington. She suffered a couple of injuries during shipping but mainly cosmetics around the paintwork.



Dumpy’s first outing here in the UK was a very sad occasion – she formed part of the cortege for Ray Goldie’s funeral on the 8th November 2006, which was also my birthday. Her second trip was to our Branch Rally last year (Wallington – June 2008) and she proudly won “The Car Everyone would like to take home” Trophy, which strangely enough was always awarded to Ray Goldie’s car – I was very proud to receive this award! I guess Ray would have been smiling down on Dumpy that day!

And this is the story of Dumpy – one owner – my Dad - and now me – Grant Eric Cramond. She’s got many more stories still to come and to tell.....

