

Tempus Fugit.

by Jim Milne

As one approaches another year-end, and still yet another birthday, thoughts go to what has passed and, following various escapades on the roads of Riyadh, cars seem to be uppermost on my mind. I suppose as one of the most expensive things that we are ever likely to purchase, other than a house, they do seem to stick in your mind and some even take on characters of their own.

First memories of being behind a wheel were in the Army and having to suffer the hard seats, no heaters and forty gallons of petrol directly under your bum in a Land Rover. Tough they certainly were, however, after passing my test in one I discovered the fact that a Land Rover can't go everywhere. They do topple if driven sideways up to steep a slope. They do stop if the river you are trying to drive

impoverished soldier, an engine that you could strip out and work on without any problems. No electronics, no computers and nothing that a pair of mole-grips and a bit of chewing gum couldn't put right. I eventually got rid of it by selling it to my



brother-in-law who demolished it by running into the back of a police car.

Leaving the army and arriving in a remote area of Zambia necessitated the swift purchase of something to get us around. Cars were in short supply, as was cash, and we ended up the proud owners of a 1950's Dodge Kingsway. It was huge, a flight deck on the trunk, wings that would have fitted a 747, if they had been invented then, and more chrome that you could imagine. It drank petrol at an unbelievable

along is more than four feet deep. And, in those days before there were notices everywhere advising you to drive carefully, they definitely had a tendency to tip over when driven round a corner too swiftly.

Then comes the great day, your very first car. 1966 was the momentous year and £180 bought me an Austin A40. Not new but in very reasonable condition at least for the first week until I ran into the back of another car at a set of traffic lights! It did have all mod cons though, a heater, a starting handle and, most importantly for an

