The Octagon

The Newsletter of The Classic MG Club of Orlando

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May 2021

President's Thoughts

April's club meeting was scheduled to be our first face-to-face meeting since the pandemic put a halt to everything. Unfortunately, the location I chose closed its doors just two days before we were sched-



uled to meet. Thanks to Scott Buie's quick help, we were able to put together a Zoom meeting in time. It goes without saying that the Tavern at Rock Springs is on my list of things that are "dead to me".

After some scrambling, Carol came up with Sam Snead's Oak Grill and Tavern in Maitland for May and beyond if we wish. One person looking for a place to meet is not very productive, but twenty people looking and coming up with suggestions could get us many viable alternatives, and I would like to see us rotate locations. The venue requirements are as follows: seats 20-35 people; serves dinner and libations from a menu; has a room that closes off to allow quiet for meetings; and accepts separate checks. It would be ideal to have enough choices so we could better serve all geographic regions where we have significant membership.

For those who missed the April Zoom Meeting or the impromptu awards ceremony at the All British Car Show, you need to realize that you are reading the best monthly MG newsletter in the country according to the New England MG T Register! Our hardworking, talented editor Glen Moore received the national Gardiner Mulvaney Award for Best Chapter Newsletter for our Octagon. The letter stated that The Octagon "...continued to show the MG and Register spirit is still going strong." Quite an honor for the club and especially for Glen. So, continue reading this Octagon with due reverence.

Safety Fast,

Mike McCormick

Classic MG Club of Orlando

The Classic MG Club of Orlando

April 15, 2021 ZOOM Video Conference

April Meeting Notes



Submitted by Jim McSweeney and Carol McCormick

In Attendance: Scott Buie, Carol and Mike McCormick, Lonnie Cook, Patrick Raley, Dodie Beach, Jim McSweeney, Allen and Sharon Wyman, John Spadaro, Tom Redditt, Kathy and Al Cook, John Avallone, Glen Moore

Call to Order 7:00 PM

Treasurer's Report

Dodie Beach reported no change to the bank account and approved payment to Patrick Raley for the yearly CMGC incorporation fee.

Old Business

John Spadaro reported that the March 20th Sanford Zoo and Lunch at the St. Johns River Steak and Seafood event was well attended and successful despite the blustery weather making it necessary to eat inside.

Several members volunteered that the Henry's Depot venue for the April 10th All British Car Show was a great success with close to 190 cars in attendance. It was announced at the end of the show that the Central Florida All British Car Club had already signed the Depot up for next year's show.

Patrick Raley and Scott Buie displayed sample license plates on screen so the members could vote on an official format for the CMGC License Plate Frame. It was decided that the members should use a chrome frame with silver/black lettering with both caps and lower case, and that the Square 721 font was most readable with extra spacing between words. Patrick will email the website and specific instructions to all members so they can purchase the frame if they wish.

New Business

Scott Buie reported that the logo for the 2022 GOF South is almost completed. He mentioned having "teasers" in *The Octagon* monthly to promote the GOF, and that he would like to see major sponsors receive a set package benefitting their company. He would also like to highlight the MGB 60th anniversary.

Mike McCormick stated the CMGC should be very proud of editor Glen Moore for our Octagon earning the NEMGTR Gardiner Mulvaney Best Chapter Newsletter Award for 2020. Mike will read the award letter when all are present at the next in-person meeting. Photos of the awarding of the certificate and pewter dish at the All British Car Show have been sent to the NEMGTR.

Glen Moore suggested that we should consider offering more than one event activity a month so that members with different interests and locales can be included.

Allen Wyman reported that Lakeridge Winery does not allow you to bring in any food, drink or coolers.

Carol McCormick has made arrangements for the May 22nd visit to the Warbirds Museum in Titusville to be followed by lunch at the Dixie Crossroads.



John Spadaro requested that he be allowed to make a Feb 5th 2022 reservation now with club funds for the large pavilion at Lake Idamere in Tavares. The location will be used to host our friends in the Chesapeake Chapter of the NEMGTR at a picnic/barbeque.

Lonnie Cook would appreciate it if we all view our LOST members on the recently emailed CMGC Excel List. If you know a LOST person, please make contact with them and determine their status with the club.

Meeting Adjourned 8:00 PM

Thursday, May 20th Meeting at Sam Snead's Oak Grill and Tavern

1801 Maitland Blvd, Orlando 32810

6:30 Tire Kicking 7:00 Meeting

Finally! On Thursday, May 20th we will be meeting face-to-face in the private room of Sam Snead's Oak Grill and Tavern located in the large parking lot of the RDV Sportsplex Athletic Club.

Lam Ineads

This area was previously accessible from Maitland Blvd., but since the new Maitland extension was built as part of the I-4 project, it is only directly accessible from surface roads into the parking lot. We used 434, Gateway Drive, N. Keller Rd. and the Maitland Center Parkway.

You can see reviews and previous menus of food at their website <u>http://samsneadstavern.com</u>, but the new COVID dinner menu is not yet online as their website is not up to date. However, the new menu is fairly inclusive--appetizers, flatbreads, salads, burgers, and entrees.

Because this is our first meeting post-Covid shots, we do not have any idea how many folks are attending. Please RSVP for this first meeting to Carol McCormick at <u>cmcarol17@gmail.com</u> or 407-257-1953 (cell) by Wed May 19th if you plan to attend so we can contact management about room arrangement and staff requirements. Hope to see you there!

Sanford Zoo and St. Johns River Steak and Seafood

Kathy Cook

The trip to the Central Florida Zoo in Sanford on March 20th was successful! The weather was cool, perfect for a visit and walk around the zoo. We had 23 people join us and enjoy having lunch at St. Johns River Steak and Seafood. It was very windy on the lake, so we ended up eating inside. Plenty of food and beverages were consumed before our departure.



New Members

Paul and Caroline Whitehouse



It was by pure chance that I found our 1955 MGTF 1500 last October. While walking through an auto yard, it was the twin SU's poking up above bits and pieces of an old Chevy that drew my attention. The car was dismantled, in various locations and had been that way since 1990. I swapped a Ford truck for it and crossed my fingers that it

could all be found, or at least most of it. It wasn't!

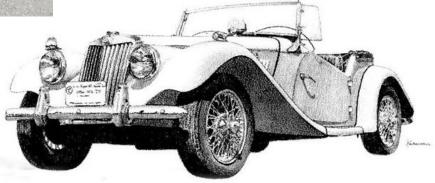
Anyhow, timing could not have been better since Caroline and I retired in January so now I won't be under her feet all day! Originally from the UK, we have been in Florida for 20 years and as a much younger man I tinkered with MG's, so I (we) couldn't be happier with the latest project!





Ken and Lynn Ball

Lynn and I have been happily married for over 50 years. I was born in Canada, immigrated to California in 1984, became a USA citizen, and just love it here. Lynn owned a 1961 MGA when we met. We have been automotive enthusiasts most of our lives. Our second MG is a recently acquired 1954 TF 1500, currently in baskets and boxes, soon to be restored. We are located in Port Orange. Looking forward to meeting new friends with MGs as our common interest.



Classic MG Club of Orlando



MG Calendar of Events

Note - Exposure to COVID-19 is an inherent risk wherever people meet. Please weigh carefully your personal risk before deciding to participate in our functions. CMGC expects all to adhere to CDC guidelines and take appropriate precautions. You alone are responsible for your health. Stay healthy, for everyone's sake!

May

- 5/20 **CMGC Club Meeting,** Sam Snead's Oak Grill & Tavern, 6:30 Tire Kicking, 7:00 pm Meeting, RSVP Carol McCormick, cmcarol17@gmail.com or 407-257-1953
- 5/20-23 Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance, Cars & Coffee 5/22, Concours Show 5/23
- 5/22 Valiant Airbirds War Museum, Titusville, Dixie Crossroads lunch, Carol and Mike McCormick

June

- 6/14-17 MG 2021 International, Atlantic City, New Jersey, click here for info
- 6/19 Sandford Brewery Tour, Sanford, Ellen and Mark Tidwell

July

7/17 **Clermont Restaurant TBD**, Clermont, Ellen and Mark Tidwell

August

8/21 Black Hammock Restaurant, Oviedo, Jim McSweeney

September

9/18 **Fiddler's Green Lunch & Darts**, Winter Park, Kathy and Al Cook

October

- 10/22-23 St. Augustine Overnighter, Pat and Bob Moore
- 10/28-31 Classic 24 Hours of Daytona, Daytona International Speedway

November

11/21 Flankey Picnic/Chili Cook Off, Apopka

December

- TBD Christmas Party
- 12/16 Paul Plasschaert Memorial Tour of Lights, Winter Park, Ann and Jeff Plasschaert

January 2022

1/22 Eaton's Beach, Weirsdale, Tom Redditt

February

 Winter Tour Picnic, Tavares, Lake Idamere, John and Sharon Spadaro
SVRA Vintage Races, Sebring International Raceway, Mark Buringrud To RSVP or obtain more information, contact Mark at carpbar@gmail.com

March

3/3-6 Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance, Cars & Coffee 3/5, Show 3/6

3/12 St. Pat's Party and Planning Meeting, Lithia, Kathy and Al Cook

April

4/22-24 GOF South 2022, Mission Inn, Howey-in-the-Hills, Scott Buie

Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum and Dixie Crossroads

Our May 22nd event will be a pleasant drive via East SR 46 to Titusville to visit the Warbird Museum at the Space Coast Regional Airport. We are registered as a group to take the interesting guided tour of the 3 large buildings housing more than 50 historic combat aircraft ranging from prewar-WW1 to postwar-Vietnam eras. We will have more than one guide if our group is large, and our reduced entry fee for individuals in groups is \$10. Take a look at some of the aircraft at <u>http://valiantaircommand.com</u>



We also have reservations for a private room at 1 PM at the Dixie Crossroad Seafood Restaurant, a Central Florida favorite since 1983. The restaurant is a 15-minute drive back north on US 1 and is on our way home. Check out the menu at <u>http://</u><u>dixiecrossroads.com</u>

Face masks are required at both the museum and the restaurant.

We are meeting at 9 AM at the RaceTrac Gas Station at the corner of E SR 46 and East Lake Mary Blvd and leave at 9:15 AM to arrive at the museum at approximately 10:15 AM. We leave for the restaurant at 12:45.

Please Note: the McCormicks would really appreciate an RSVP if you are attending all or part of the event. Please contact Mike at <u>trouble150@gmail.com</u> or 407-782-9887 (cell) by Friday, May 21st if you plan on going. Hope to see your smiling faces!!

May 22nd Valiant Air Command Warbird and Dixie Crossroads Event Itinerary

9 AM Meet at the RaceTrac Gas Station at the corner of East SR 46 and East Lake Mary Blvd in Sanford. To travel to this RaceTrac from 17-92 heading north in Sanford, turn right onto East SR 46, also called East 25th Street in Sanford. The gas station will be on your right. *RaceTrac address:* 4115 E. SR 46, Sanford 32771

9:15 AM Leave for museum. Continue on 46 East to Titusville. Turn south on US 1. Exit US 1 at the 405 West exit. Almost immediately on your left, you should see Tico Road and a sign for the airport and museum

Museum Address: 6600 Tico Road, Space Coast Regional Airport, Titusville 32780

12:45 Leave for Dixie Crossroads. Turn right on 405 East and quickly turn north on US 1. In Titusville, turn left on Garden Street. The large Dixie Crossroads building will be on your left in a few blocks. You can turn into the parking lot before or after the restaurant. *Dixie Crossroads address: 1475 Garden St. Titusville 32796*

After lunch, we will continue on US 1 North and turn left on SR 46 going West to head home.

The Gathering of the Faithful, 2022 Update:

We have been working hard to make sure it's the best GOF yet, and it's coming together nicely. I will be revealing more details in future newsletters, but for now, I'd like to take a moment and introduce our new logo!



A special thanks goes out to *Jim Nolan* for his efforts in creating this design. Jim has been a long-time member of the MG Classics of Jacksonville and has served as their newsletter editor. It could not have been accomplished without him, and I for one would like to thank him for all of his help!

I will be including updates about GOF 2022 in each of our upcoming newsletters; everything from event activities, local attractions, and more, so stay tuned!

For now, please get ready to come join us:

April 22-24, 2022 The Mission Inn Resort & Club, Howey-In-The-Hills, FL

Until next month, enjoy your Morris Garage classics!

Scott Buil

Scott Buie GOF 2022 Chair



May 2021

Classic MG Club of Orlando





Sanford, Florida

Glen Moore

The Central Florida British Car Club conducted its 36th annual All British Car Show on April 10th. A new venue, Henry's Depot in Sanford, was the last-minute option. It turned out to be a good choice.

A great choice, actually, having space for the over 200 cars that showed up and multiple places to grab lunch in Henry's Depot Culinary Collective, housing multiple restaurants. The planned location was a park in Winter

Springs, but the city government disallowed large gatherings of people in the park due to the continued spread of Covid-19. This resulted in the cancellation of the event, that is until the owner of Henry's stepped in and offered to host the event. The city of Sanford, downtown merchants, and Henry's all worked diligently to get the event permitted and supported.

The official number of entries was 195, but add in all the British cars parked around the show field, bringing their owners to the show, well over 200 British cars were in attendance. Over 45 MGs were signed in and judged in seven classes.

The members of the CFBCC again presented a well-organized event. Parking by class was lined-off with ample room between the cars, registration was quick and efficient, and an atmosphere of fun and friendship prevailed. If viewing all the cars was not enough to keep you entertained, there was a 50/50 drawing, silent auction, and door prizes. Oh, and the quality of the cars presented was outstanding. Even if your MG was still up on jack stands, it was well worth a trip in your daily driver to attend.

Congratulations to all who attended, making this event a success. And, of course, to all those taking home awards. Thanks, Central Florida British Car Club, for making a fun event available to us.





MG Class Award Winners

MGTC

1st Mark Tidwell

MGTD

1st	Mike McCormick
2nd	Pete Rogers

3rd Robert Flanagan

MGTF

1st	Pete Rogers
2nd	Tom :Lovett
3rd	Pete Rogers

MGA

1st	Jill Moore
2nd	Lisa McDuffie
3rd	Glenn Lenhard

MGB Chrome Bumper

1st	Michael Patterson
2nd	Phillip Coon

3rd Gary Cardamone

MGB Rubber Bumper

1st	John Powling
2nd	John Spadaro
3rd	Allen Wyman

MGB/C GT

1st	Carl Tierney
2nd	Doug Rothwell















The Annual British Invasion

As explained John Debelius

It is time for a little social refinement to end our year and a half of home confinement. We are all tired of the car tour abstention during the cruel pandemic home detention. Just as the 17-year cicadas are now invading the north, we will soon once again invade the south. For those of you who have heard rumors or even had occasional sightings of this group of MG wingnuts who come to your state every year or so, it is time to address the rumors and flush out some answers about this elusive group of whackos. Are we British? Are we nuts to drive 70-year-old cars all over Florida? Are we fugitives? Are we freeloaders? Where do we come from and where do we go? When will the next invasion take place?

Not all these questions lend themselves to easy answers, but I will endeavor to address them.

The When and Who

First, the easy answer...we are now planning our **Florida Winter Tour for February 3-17, 2022**. As to the "who", we are the Chesapeake Chapter (Maryland, Virginia, and DC area) of the New England MG T Register, and we all have MG TCs, TDs, or TFs. We aren't British, though I am bringing my Australian brother-in-law this year from the farthest reaches of the Empire. Just like you, we have been ensnared by the vintage British car mystique. Many of us are retired, but some of us are still working stiffs. Among our participants, we have some men, some women, some couples, some solos, a wide range of political persuasions, and we claim diverse occupations running the gamut from flight attendant to teacher, CFO, accountant, event planner,



A few Wingnuts on Location



entrepreneur, stockbroker, lawyers, and a judge. We have even brought psychologists in past years to insure against emotional breakdowns on the trip. We are diverse on so many levels. Some of us have Lucas windshield wipers that work, some of us rely solely on Rain-X.



Why us and why Florida?

The fault really lies with Amtrack and the Auto Train. By February of each year, we are tired of winter, but no one in his right mind would drive an old MG from Washington, DC, to Florida. The Auto Train makes it easy to get to you, leaving from Lorton, Virginia one afternoon and arriving in Sanford, Florida the next morning. Those sailors among you can appreciate what it feels like to enjoy an evening ration of rum in a crowded bar car followed by a night's "sleep" in a rocking train bunk. Once we arrive in Sanford, we fire up the powerful 49 horsepower engines and off we go.

Where do we go, and can you avoid us?

We try to change up the destinations and routes each year. We believe that life is to be enjoyed and old cars are to be driven. Our drives have taken us as far north as Savannah and as far south as Key West and hit just about everywhere in between. The common theme is that for the most part, we stick to back roads and stay away from big cities. We would rather drive at a leisurely pace through majestic tunnels of Live Oak trees with dangling ghostlike Spanish Moss than drive through clover leaf interchanges and toll booths requiring Sun Passes. As to whether you can avoid us, it is unlikely, as sooner or later we will come to your town.



We have collaborators among you

While we carefully plan our routes, hotels and restaurants in advance, we have been honored and fortunate to have help in past years from a number of Florida MG enthusiasts, to name just a few: John Spadaro, who has organized multi-club British car shows for us to participate in, Glen and Jill Moore, who have welcomed us to their home, arranged a visit to an impressive private car collector's estate, and suggested various stops of interest, and George Butz, down in Winter Haven, who hosted us for a fabulous luncheon at his home. We have also been the beneficiaries of unexpected assistance from passers-by, such as Craig Jones in Marco Island, who came upon us on the side of the road as we dealt with a mechanical breakdown. He pulled up in





Highlights of past trips

We have listened to a bell tower concert at Bok Tower Gardens in Lake Wales, walked the track and visited the museum at the Daytona Speedway, participated in the Cars and Coffee (where even pikers like us are welcomed) at the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance, walked the huge antique flea market at Mt. Dora and participated in car shows

his Wolseley, hailed us with an Australian accent and broke out a set of Whitworth wrenches from his trunk, then lead us like the Pied Piper back to his home, where he pulled his Rolls Royce Silver Cloud out of the garage to make room to repair a wounded TD. Honorable mention must also go to Debi and Karl Weinert, who had Barbara Vanover's car towed to their home in Tavares and assembled a volunteer work crew, and to Sherri and Pete Rogers, who put Barbara and her copilot Karen up at their home, lent them their own modern car to finish the trip in, and had her TD towed to the train station. A hearty thanks to these good folks who went above and beyond friendship to assist. We are undeniably fugitives from winter, and while we don't like to think of ourselves as freeloaders, we have certainly enjoyed the generosity of fellow MG enthusiasts all over Florida.



organized by John Spadaro, including one with a picnic hosted for us by MG Classics of Jacksonville at Fort Mose in St. Augustine, attended an AACA meet and show in Ocala, visited the REVS Automotive Institute in Naples, taken air boat tours in Everglades City, toured the Everglades National Park, and even posed with Marilyn Monroe in Key West. But as the saying goes, it is not really about the destinations, but the journey. We enjoy the people we meet as much as the places we go.



Classic MG Club of Orlando

How much driving do we do?

The total trip distances have ranged between 800-1200 miles. We do it in small daily bites of something between 40 and 120 miles. Our cars are old, but generally mechanically sound. We travel as a pack and divide up responsibility for bringing the spares most likely to be needed in the event of breakdown. There are a few shade tree mechanics among us and we are usually able to sort out the normal array of bad fuel pumps, flat tires, leaking brake hoses, electrical poltergeists (Lucas, but then I repeat myself) and clogged fuel filters.

The planning is actually pretty involved. We divide planning responsibility among our members for routes (with electronic route



Milt and Shaun taming the Prince of Darkness

books), activities, points of interests, hotels, and restaurants. In truth, we also have a secret weapon . . . Milton Babirak. He rallies the troops and is incredibly detail oriented. Every trip needs a Milt. We have also occasionally been known to enjoy the companionship of Jim Beam and Captain Morgan in the evenings.

Where will the 2022 Winter Tour take us?

While not yet cast in stone, the itinerary for this trip will likely include Mt. Dora, Lake Wales, Clewiston, Florida City, Key West, Key Largo, Weston, Okeechobee, St. Cloud and back to Sanford. We are hopeful of meeting up with some of our Florida MG friends again this year, and perhaps a few of you with MG Ts will consider joining us for at least some of the trip. We will be happy to share with you our itineraries, schedules, and routes, though you would likely need to make separate lodging arrangements so that we don't over-whelm the motels. Feel free to contact Milton Babirak at mbabirak@icloud.com or John Martin at imartintouring@gmail.com.

Keep in mind that the Auto Train runs both ways, and you are welcome to bring your MGs north to get away from all that sunshine and good weather. Fall is a wonderful time of year to visit our neck of the woods and we have some wonderful October car shows. We would be pleased to return your hospitality. Please be assured of our assistance and welcome if you choose to come North, with or without your cars.

Reciprocity



Classic MG Club of Orlando





A Postcard from Karel

Reinout Vogt

Karel, my friend in the Netherlands, collects old postcards from places around the world, which happen to have an MG in them. I am a collector of MG images as well. I have a shoebox full of greeting cards, some for an occasion such as the holidays, some with a commercial background, and some just because they have wonderful art on them. The shoebox full of cards has been sitting on a shelf in our office for years and moved with us from Chicago to Decatur. Recently, we decided to use them as, well . . . , greeting cards, for whenever we need to send a card to an MG friend. But, before we do, I thought I would share them with other MG enthusiasts through newsletters, along with Karel's postcards.

This postcard is from John O'Groats, a village in Scotland at the far northwestern tip of the mainland of



The United Kingdom, and sort of the opposite from Land's End. The car in the foreground is one of the large saloons that were the beginning of MG. It looks much like a 14/40 or 18/80 from the late 1920s.

This month works out well. Karel has a card with a 14/40 or 18/80 MG and I found an old holiday card with the same MG model. Although it is Spring and a card with snow seems out of place, it makes for a nice first time to publish two cards together in a series. Hope you enjoy.

Editor's Note:

Many of you may have met Reinout at the 2019 GOF South. He brought his 1931 red, fabric bodied M-Type MG, known as Emma. He has added *The Octagon* to the list of newsletters to which he is sharing his images.

Reinout immigrated to Chicago from the Netherlands 33 years ago, then moved south to Georgia in retirement recently. He serves the Peachtree MG Registry as Regalia Chairman and is Co-Director of their technical events and technical newsletter articles.

Reinout's contributions of historical MG art will add interest, color, and history to the pages of *The Octagon* from time to time.





MG Marketplace



1970 MGB GT

Pete Rogers has placed one of the cars in his collection on the market, an MGB -GT. It is painted in the rare factory color Black Tulip. It is equipped with air conditioning, Kenwood radio, a new overdrive transmission, new beige interior, stainless steel exhaust, and Michelin tires on alloy wheels. Great town and country car with a high cruising speed provided by the overdrive. Car cover included! 93,100 miles. \$16,000 Call Pete at 352-406-1948 or email: <u>pfrslot@gmail.com</u>.

MGTD Side Screens - Ted Boiman has a set of side screens that need a new home. \$100 Contact Ted at: tedboi44@gmail.com or 941-276-7506





1972 MGB - Bought in 1971, Engine rebuilt twice, last time 5 years ago, no mileage on this rebuild. All running gear replaced along with the fuel tank and pump. Original SU carbs. Repainted around 1995. Have put in over \$5,000.00 in rehab. Make offer. Rod Gasche dagasch@msn.com Cell 850-445-4217

Wanted to Buy - Cylinder head for XPAG or XPEG motor. Please call Dean Sprague 407-765-2780

Adverts are free. Send information to editor.cmgc@gmail.com.

Contact the editor each month To keep your ad current.



Second Harvest Food Bank is the official charity of the Classic MG Club. Many people in Central Florida go to bed hungry every night. In the U.S., 50 million people are food insecure - one in four children. As a club, and as individuals, we can make a major difference in our neighbors' lives.



Second Harvest is an efficiently-run charity with 97%

of contributions going directly to help local people in need. Every \$25 donation can provide 100 meals for struggling families and kids.

Donate Online: <u>www.tinyurl.com/GOF-FoodBank</u>

By Mail: Checks payable to Second Harvest Food Bank of Ctrl FL, 411 Mercy Dr., Orlando, FL 32808

The MG Community is special throughout the world. Thank you for any support that you can give to the Food Bank and to your MG friends who may need help and a kind word.

The Classic MG Club of Orlando is an affiliate chapter and active supporter of:





Ann Plasschaert's MGTF parked in front of a historic building in Micanopy. Once a thriving town involved in the citrus distribution business, it now survives off the tourist industry. It is south of Gainesville, not far from the community of Cross Creek, author Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' home and the title of one of her books.

