

BY TAXI FROM LONDON TO SOUTH AFRICA.

The main story may be seen in Press cuttings enclosed.

One or two interesting points not in the press reports might however be mentioned.

At the outskirts of the Desert it was so terribly hot that the oil pressure dropped to only a point above zero and a heavier grade of oil had to be used, but not once on this strenuous journey did the water in the radiator boil. And there was no engine trouble experienced.

~~Next was the...~~

At one point owing to extremely bad roads the front spring broke but wooden blocks cut from the African Forest were fitted in their place to keep the car in position and with this 'Heath Robinson' repair 250 miles were covered at 12 miles per hour.

In the Belgian Congo the three adventurers ran completely out of currency suitable for that country and had to sell some of their clothes to pay for petrol and oil in order to continue their journey to the boarder.

There were times when highly corrugated roads especially in Northern Rhodesia were so bad that the old taxi did a sideways crab crawl, the old fashioned narrow and hard tyres were never intended for this type of road and the adventurers often wondered how the old cab managed to stand up to the terrible battering, yet it did.

If any one is interested enough to come forward and finance these three young adventurers in the same old taxi from the Argentine to Alaska and back to London, up to now the adventurers have done all the financing themselves.

The old taxi was purchased in London for £ 35 after having clocked up approximately 500,000 miles during 19 years of service including acting as a fire fighting vehicle during the 'London Blitz' of World War 2.

*Standard Times 3/1/54*

## New Year Weddings



**OLD TAXI WAS HER BRIDAL COACH:** The old Austin cab which was destined for a London scrap heap two years ago, then bought and driven 20,000 miles in 20 countries by three young South Africans, was given the clean-up of its dusty career yesterday morning. Reason? It acted as the bridal coach for the 25-year-old sister of George Hadiaris, one of the cab's owners.

The picture shows bride Rene Hadiaris followed by bridesmaid Molly Farrow, sister of the groom, climbing

into the jalopy while Walter Wright, one of the adventurers, cranks it into movement. Carrying its bridal cargo and decorated with white ribbon the cab added 3.3 miles to its half-million as it trundled to St. James' Presbyterian Church, Malvern, Johannesburg.

While Miss Hadiaris married Mr. Ian Addison, a Malvern locksmith, a crowd clustered around the old car. It took the couple to the reception, later in the evening stood in the Hadiaris yard while the couple sped to Natal in a 1947 station-wagon.

U.K. to South Africa in 1935 cab



Bride will go to wedding in taxi which has clocked 500,000 miles

Derrick Dixon, of Durban, George Hadiaris and Wally Wright (left to right), of Johannesburg, pause outside the city with their 1935 Austin, formerly a London cab, in which they have travelled from London. Leaving Britain on September 10 they toured Europe before crossing the Mediterranean and continuing their 20,000-mile journey down Africa. The car was used as a taxi for 17 years before being sold to the men.

A BATTERED 19-YEAR-OLD LONDON TAXI will be used by Miss Rene Hadiaris, of Kloof Road, Bedfordview, as her bridal car when she leaves home for St. James' Presbyterian Church, Bedfordview, on Saturday, to marry Mr. Ian Addison, a Malvern locksmith. The taxi rumbled into Johannesburg today with her brother, George, aged 26, and his two companions, Wally Wright, aged 25, of Eighth Avenue, Bezuidenhout Valley, and Derrick Dixon, aged 25, of Umbilo, Durban, completed a four-month trip from London to the Union.

Their trip took them through the north of France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, north Italy, the French Riviera, Spain, Gibraltar, Tangier, French and Spanish Morocco, Algeria, Nigeria, the British and French Cameroons, French Equatorial Africa, the Congo, Northern Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia.

They spent about £175 on petrol and used 14 gallons of oil. They got stuck in sand-drifts five times in the Sahara, and had to replace the two front springs at Kano, Nigeria.

NO TROUBLE

Rivers provided no problems as there were plenty of ferries. The only four waterways they had to ford were in the desert—at Colomb Bechar.

The taxi has now completed 500,000 miles. It gave no mechanical trouble on the trip.

After a delayed Christmas dinner and a few days' rest at George's home in Bedford View, the three travellers intend taking the taxi on to Durban and possibly Cape Town.

Their ambition—if they can raise the money—is to cover America from the Argentine to Alaska in their taxi.

Grand Daily Mail 1/1/54

HE MADE IT

By Bob Connolly

The Star

JANUARY 2, 1954

## A BIG DAY FOR BRIDE —AND TAXI

By a Staff Reporter

In her wedding dress of white lace and net over slipper satin Miss Rene Hadiaris stepped out of a 19-year-old London taxi at St James's Presbyterian Church, Malvern, today to be married to Mr. Ian Addison.

The taxi is the one in which Miss Hadiaris's eldest brother George and two friends made a four-month trip from London through Europe and Africa, a trip in which they arrived at Miss Hadiaris's home in Kloof Road, Bedford View, on Wednesday.

### POLISHED UP

While Miss Hadiaris sat under a drier at her hairdresser's this morning, the taxi was getting its final polish at her home.

"At first they wanted the car and mud of the journey to be on it," Miss Hadiaris told "but I insisted that it had to be polished up."

Mr. Wally Wright, one of the party who made the trip from London, drove the taxi to the church, and Miss Hadiaris and her father travelled in it.





## London Taxi Ran on Paraffin During Trip to Union

**T**HREE young South African adventurers arrived in Johannesburg yesterday after driving "a ton of junk" 20,000 miles through 20 countries.

The three travelled in a 19-year-old London taxicab which they bought for £35 for a trip from England to South Africa. They also toured Britain in it.

The taxi, classed as unroad-worthy after clocking up 490,000 miles during 19 years of service in London, was destined for the scrap yard.

But the three South Africans—George Hadlaris (26) and Walter Wright (25), both of Johannesburg, and Derrick Dixon (25), of Durban—had other ambitions for it.

### Steady 20 m.p.h.

They were working in London for a two-year spell, and at the end of it took the taxi on a 6,000-mile trip around Britain, touring nearly every county from John O'Groat's to Land's End.

On September 10 they set out for the Continent on the first lap of a "Johannesburg by Christmas or bust" journey.

Trundling along at a steady 20 m.p.h., they visited France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy and Spain.

They rode in gondolas in Venice, gambled away £1 in the Monte Carlo Casino, relaxed in the Alps, climbed the Rock of Gibraltar... then they sailed with the cab for Africa.

### Desert Party

Landing in French Morocco they went on to Algeria to take the easy route to South Africa. But they found the road closed, and had to return 500 miles to Morocco and take the hardest route—over 800 miles of the Sahara Desert.

One of the few people the South Africans met in the Sahara was a captain in the French Foreign Legion, who gave them a party at his home in a desert fort.

The next morning the South Africans set out for Nigeria, and

were 40 miles from the nearest town when the petrol in the cab ran out. They weren't very worried, however, and simply poured two gallons of paraffin into the petrol tank and carried on.

They drove through the Congo into Rhodesia, and from there to the Union.

The battered cab—more used to cruising round Marble Arch than roughing it on the veld and desert—proved that it could show up many of the "young 'uns" among automobiles.

It stuck only three times during the desert crossing, and the only spares needed on the trip were two front suspension springs.

The first passenger taken on the taxi during the 14,000-mile trip from Britain was a "Rand Daily Mail" reporter, who met the vehicle outside Pretoria and drove with it into Johannesburg.

### Cab's Future

And the cab's future? On Saturday it will take George Hadlaris's sister, Rene, to the St. James's Presbyterian Church, Bedfordview, near Johannesburg, where she is to be married.

Then, if the three companions can save enough, they will take the vehicle overseas again—to the United States, and then back to London.

Last night the three men had a belated Christmas dinner at the Bedfordview home of George Hadlaris's parents.

**JOURNEY'S END:** The 19-year-old London taxi arrives at its destination in Bedfordview, Johannesburg, yesterday after a trip from Britain that lasted nearly four months.

## Higher Octane Petrol On Sale To-morrow

From Our Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN, Wednesday.

—The new higher octane petrol will be on sale generally on January 1, the official date.

Professor Duncan McMillan, head of the department of mechanical engineering at the University of Cape Town, said recently that the use of the higher octane petrol would improve the performance of many cars, but some of the benefits claimed were exaggerated.