

# A FEW MORE... CELEBRITY-OWNED HEALEYS

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With the microscopic examination given to the backgrounds of the candidates in the recent presidential election, you probably think you knew everything about them that you'd ever need (or want) to know. But you'd be wrong. Betcha didn't know that our new President was a Healey owner. In fact, he may have owned more than one.

After graduating from New York Military Academy in 1964, Donald J. Trump enrolled at Fordham University. According to the biography, *Trump Revealed: An American Journey of Ambition, Ego, Money, and Power* by Kranish and Fisher, he commuted between the family mansion in Jamaica Estates in his "red Austin-Healey." Indeed, one news story describing the first cars of the presidential candidates listed Trump's as a Healey, so perhaps it was this red one.

In 1966, Trump transferred to the undergraduate finance program at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. A classmate, interviewed in the *Tampa Bay Times* in 2015, gave this less than complimentary description of the future president during his time at Wharton: "He was the same Don Trump then as he is now ... He was just a rich, obnoxious, high roller," said the classmate, acknowledging that he and Trump were not close enough to even say "Hi" when passing one another in Dietrich Hall. "I just knew there was a rich kid from New York who transferred in from Fordham, and that he had a white Austin-Healey and he made a big swath wherever he went." So it seems that Donald likely had two Healeys, probably BJ8s, although BJ8 Registrar Steve Byers has no record of a Trump-owned car in his database.

In 1976, Donald met Ivana Zelníčková at "Maxwell's Plum,"

the New York restaurant and singles bar, and he was immediately attracted to the Czech model. They married in 1977, but perhaps Trump wasn't drawn just to her beauty. Maybe it was their mutual taste in cars because while living in Montreal, Ivana "... drove an Austin-Healey and spent Christmas in Aspen," according to *The Fortune Hunters: Dazzling Women and the Men They Married*, by Charlotte Hays. Perhaps they hit it off discussing syncing dual SUs?

As might be expected, Trump has built a collection of high-end luxury and sports cars, but alas, no Healeys in the group now. Now that he has become President, he should treat himself to another. I'd modestly suggest the perfect one for his opulent tastes: "Goldie"!

Strange as it seems, President Trump wasn't the only former Healey owner running in the election. According to the *Detroit News*,



Beautifully restored by David Silberkleit, "The Bugeye Guy."

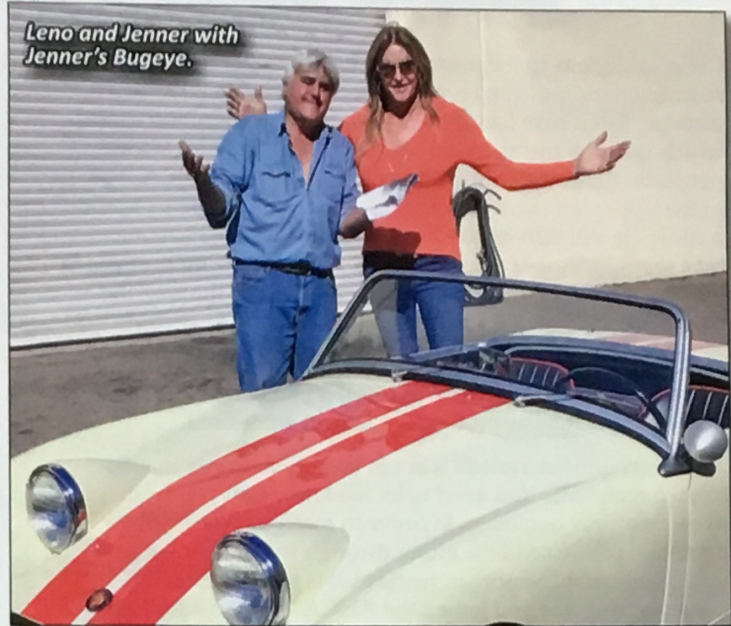
Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson drives a 2003 Porsche Targa, but the "(f)avorite car I ever owned is a 1967 Austin-Healey Sprite," he told the *News* in an email. "Bought it for \$350 with a blown head gasket and fixed it myself."



In addition to the official Trump "First Family," we have a reality First Family ... the Kardashians. And it turns out, one former member is a Healey owner, too. Bruce Jenner thought his first car was going to be an Austin-Healey when his Dad taught him how to drive in Tarrytown, New York, in a grocery store parking lot: "I was 15, turning 15, and he had a little Austin-Healey 'Bugeye' Sprite. It was red with white



You know you're a celebrity when Jay Leno cleans your windscreen!



Leno and Jenner with Jenner's Bugeye.

stripes. And it was the coolest little car; a convertible. It was a four-speed, so he taught me how to drive a stick shift down in the parking lot. That was probably three or four months before I got my license. Of course I snuck it out a few times when he wasn't around. We lived in an apartment complex and I drove it around the complex and never got caught. My sister got caught because she bumped another car, but that's another story. The day I got my license, my Dad sold the car," according to *My First Car* by Matt Stone.

Fifty years later, now as Caitlyn Jenner, she commissioned "Bugeye Guy" David Silberkleit (bugeyeguy.com) to build the car she never got from Dad. Nicknamed "Dad's Sprite," the 1960 Sprite sports a white-with-red-stripes color scheme and gets some extra kick from a supercharger. A 67th birthday present to herself, Caitlyn has been spotted showing it off around Malibu. Imagine the fun of driving a Bugeye on a sunny day along the Pacific Coast Highway! **HM**



Caitlyn and "Dad's Sprite" at a car show.