

Roger Clark's First Car

By Colleen Clark & Bruce Jamieson.

While still at school Roger always dreamed of all things mechanical. On his bedroom walls were clippings of cars, sports cars that is. Under his bed magazines (Motoring of course) and his favourite Popular Mechanics - the American magazine which shows you how to build and repair. The ultimate DIY magazine.

After leaving school, Roger bought his first car, a Ford 10. No Power, no cornering ability and of course no brakes. We all know what they were like, but when Roger ventured into Opotiki on Friday nights with one of his farming mates, it didn't make much of an impression on the local young ladies.

That car didn't "do the job" as his mate told him. What we, or you need, is a real car - a sports car "Yep you're right" said Rog. Not to be beaten, Rog thought, if that's what's needed that's what I'll do, but one big problem 'No Money'. I'll fix that, if I can't buy one, I'll make one. Roger knew how, he had read about Fibre glass kit cars in Popular Mechanics.

First thing to do is to build a small shed on the farm, and then sort out a fibre glass body and chassis.

The Buckler design chosen was similar to a Daimler Dart SP250, the motor and running gear came from his Ford 10.

A year at Massey doing a Sheep and Beef Diploma put a halt to progress, but on his return home to the farm the project continued at a steady pace, but time

was limited due to farming commitments. It was finally completed, off to get a WOF and Registration. No bureaucratic rubbish in those days. It looked fantastic in its coat of white and a removable fibre glass top, but no folding top. Top off and heading into town or to the beach, one eye was always on the weather.

It looked great, even the local traffic cop took a lot of unwanted interest in it (not sure why!!!)



Much effort was put into that motor. Every horse power was extracted from it. It went like hell in a straight line, but that 1938 running gear didn't help the cornering or braking. Roger's good ideas department, in his passenger's seat, said it might go faster if it had racing stripes and engine performance oil stickers on the side, as he had seen them in a race car magazine and they looked the part. Only 2 seats, 2 blokes, but not that practical, even if it was great fun. A practical 4-seater might be a better option for the picking up of the "birds".

About this time his mate suggested they go to the Waimana Dance on Saturday night. Great idea, car cleaned, shoes polished, new white shirt

and tie bought, pants and blazer dry-cleaned and the boys were off to check out the talent. That little car and the boys were going to make a big impression when they pulled up outside the Waimana Hall. It must have worked because one of the young ladies that Roger danced with was very impressed, and asked if she could get a ride home after the dance, as she was very impressed with the car. Bigger thought Roger I have my mate with me. Roger asked if they could have a date later that month. The young lady was thrilled to be going out with this bloke with a sports car. On his arrival to pick up his date, she was mortified and to her disappointment he turned up in his new pride and joy, but where was the sports car!! Yes, Roger had emptied his piggy

bank or mortgaged the horse and dogs and bought a brand new Mini!!

Well although she didn't get a ride in the sports car the date was a great success, but I had to wait another 40 years to get a ride in one of Rogers sports car. A real one this time, his Blue E Type Jaguar.

Colleen & Bruce



Great legs—and the car is not bad either