

# Jaguar XKSS

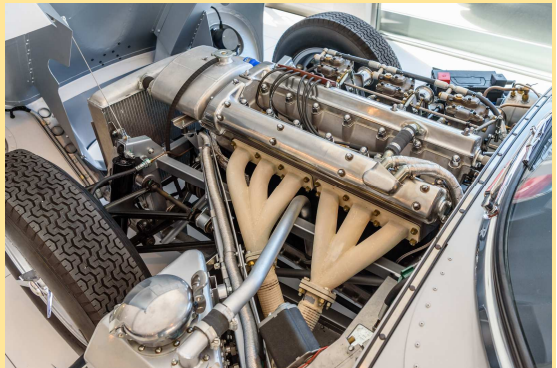
## To be at our Car Show - October 16th

*By Tony Johnson*

The New Zealand Classic Car magazine termed this Jaguar XK-SS – the rebirth of a legend. The XK-SS was originally built as the road going version of the 1955/'56/'57 Le Mans winning race car, the D-type. Sir William Lyons recognized the value of the racing pedigree and planned to build the unused 25 D-types into road cars. It has been touted as the worlds first supercar. It could reach 100 kph in 5.8 seconds with a top speed of 235 kph. Pretty remarkable for 1956.



Steve McQueen owned one so how cool does that make this factory car. In 1957 the Browns Lane Jaguar factory went up in flames and 200 vehicles, including 9 of the 25 XKSSs at various stages of build were destroyed. Only 16 original XKSSs were completed before the disastrous fire. In 2016 it was announced that the 9 cars lost in the 1957 fire were to be rebuilt – from scratch and by hand,



just as they were originally.

It was a mammoth undertaking to remake a “new original” version. The result is Michaels magnificent XKSS finished as per the originals. It has a 195 kW (262 bhp) 3.4 litre straight six engine, paired with a four-speed racing Moss gearbox with race clutch. We hope we can hear the throaty roar of this machine.

*Tony*

