

Peter Blank.

Horotiu's "Tom Walkinshaw" 1948 - 2024

A Memorial Tribute

By Andy Bryant

Peter Blank, in the 1980's and 1990's, became one of the most accomplished Jaguar Saloon car drivers in Classic and Historic Motorsport - be it at national events - like the Whenuapai "Wings and Wheels" event, or in Inter-Marque relay events at Pukekohe - or further afield, in the Wellington street race or down in Christchurch, on the Wigram Air Force base runways.

He was one of the most competitive drivers, in a group, that included the late Les Parkinson, John Ure, and Mike Westall (all from Auckland) and from Hamilton, Ray O'Fee and Andy Bryant.

Whatever he was in, his 1954 Mk VII, or one of two Mk 1s (3.4 l) - A light blue one or his Imperial Maroon one, or his XJ6 or XJ12 - he drove with great ability.

His confidence in his own modifications, which were always very effective, to the brakes, handling, and most of all, output from the engine(s) meant - he always had an edge on fellow competitors.

Mike Westall and Les Parkinson though, gave him a run for his money - so to speak - as they always had more grunt under the bonnet.

Nevertheless, Peter probably had the fastest Mk 1 in the country and also his racing XJ12, could have been the quickest around.

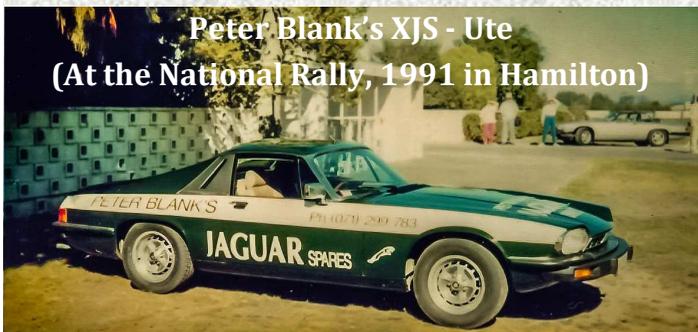
Peter was a highly intelligent, and very technically competent self-taught mechanic, to whom the term passion - could be applied to all things Jaguar.

He, Jan, Andrew and Sally were hospitable, generous people, making one always feel welcome.

His spare parts business, based on about 2 acres in Horotiu, near Ngāruawāhia, made enough money to allow him to go racing.

He always looked like a Jesuit Priest, or an Anglican Friar from the Friary of Divine Compassion in Hillcrest, Hamilton, due to an inner poise, or calm frame of mind, which enabled him to focus on extracting the most speed from his machinery.

Peter Blank's XJS - Ute
(At the National Rally, 1991 in Hamilton)



Jan Blank, Peter's wife, has approved this record of his life as have, his son Andrew and daughter Sally.

Another formal obituary will be published in the Waikato Times after Christmas.

Andy



**Peter Blank's 1958 Mk 1 3.4 l manual
O/D (On 14" Mk 10 rims)**



**Peter Blank's 1958 Mk 1 3.4 l
Manual O/D (A second Mk 1)
Later, Triple 2" SU Carbs
Series 3 XJ6 Head
Free flow 6 pipe exhaust manifold
Piper Camshafts
Saw 178 BHP at the back wheels**



**Peter Blank views Les Parkinson's
Mk 2 3.8 l off at Bay Park - 1989**



**At Whenuapai - 1986
"Wings and Wheels"**



**At Bay Park, Mt Maunganui
Mike Westall's Mk 2
Triple webers**



**At Pukekohe - 1989.
Les Parkinson's Ex Prince -
Hourigian. Group A XJS**