

## President's Patois - from John Horne.

**Author:** Extraordinary - is it not? Two pictures of me taken of me years ago turning up out of the blue. One was of me receiving the 'Overall Concours Winner' Trophy from Heather True, and the other this historically important photo of finding the ex-John Hodge Singer 9 racing car for the second time.



**Lector:** How can you discover a car for the second time?

**Author:** Simple - when it keeps disappearing and turning up in the most unusual places. The first time I saw this car, which no-one knew about at the time, was at a garage near Chichester on the road to Arundel. I must have had a tip off, so went along to see what it was. And there, out at the back of this garage among a number of wrecks brought in from road crashes, was this Singer. I realised it was something special and approached the manager of the Garage, telling him just how important this find was and not to scrap it.

**Lector:** Wait a minute - isn't that the Garage near Tangmere, a WW2 fighter airfield?

**Author:** Correct, it could only have come from there. It was the type of car the young pilots drove about in during the war, and sadly some never came back. When I got home I consulted the Pocket Book of Racing Cars by Denis Jenkinson, where I found a picture of the very car I had been looking at and realised just what a find it was. And then it disappeared again. The next thing I heard was a letter from a dealer who lived near Chinnor, who from his description had the Hodge Singer, and told me the only thing missing was the exhaust manifold.

Oddly enough I had a racing exhaust manifold in a collection of spares I had bought from a man in North London and realised it must have come from this car.

**Lector:** What on earth was going on?

**Author:** Something amazing - that's what was going on, as then the car disappeared again. A few years went by and I was then contacted by two young lads who now had the car.

As you can see in the picture, it was dumped at the bottom of a garden in a deplorable state. The garden belonged to the the lads' father, who was the owner of an old Bentley and a Bugatti, and when I contacted him he gave the impression that he viewed Singers with disdain, which was typical of those types back in the sixties.

There is a lot more, as the car popped up now and again - the last I heard was in a report in the Sept-Oct 2012 Mascot on a Singer visit to the McLaren Works.



**John H.**