

### GSM Car Club – Dart Histories

| Chassis | Owner          | Address                              | Tel No.     | Original Colour     | Present Colour | Condition in % |
|---------|----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 5813    | Ronnie Roberts | Nin-Rho<br>Lanverwaght<br>Kuilsriver | 021 9032738 | Shell Pink & Maroon | Primer         | 50             |
|         |                |                                      |             |                     |                |                |

Email:

**Known History:** This Dart was used by Willie Meissner as a company car reg no: CL3256 to demonstrate and display as the Dart sales were slow. The car was sprayed “shell” pink and maroon being the favorite color of Willie’s girlfriend. It was also the only 58/59 Dart with external boot hinges. This was to give the Dart a more modern look. Willie and girlfriend Lorraine Wolfaardt got married on the 23 May 1959 and after the wedding Willie and wife left on a racing honeymoon as Willie had entered the Dart in the Autumn Handicap event at the Grand Central Circuit on the Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 1959. Willie’s Dart was the first sports car to cross the line on the day. Soon after Willie returned from honeymoon the GSM factory sold the car to Johan Oosthuizen, a farm foreman in the Stellenbosch area. He sprayed the Dart a brown color. The GSM factory allowed Johan to pay the car off because he raced the car which was advertising for GSM but unfortunately he could not keep up with the payments so the Dart had to be given back to the GSM factory. His best result was a 6th position in the Killarney 2 hour endurance race on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 1959 sharing the drive with Jimmy Fouche. Fritz le Roux who worked for GSM was given the Dart as compensation for his efforts and time at the GSM factory. Fritz had a long “history” working for GSM, in London before the company was formed and then again when the factory was at Bottelary. He also was a GSM “works racing driver,” and had the use of a Dart as a company car. When Fritz left GSM he did not return the Dart, and nobody said a word....! Fritz kept the car all the years. After leaving GSM Fritz became a Boeing pilot and was the shortest pilot ever to fly a Boeing. In 2005 Fritz sold the Dart to Ronnie Roberts for the price of R6000. Fritz died on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2005. Ronnie is in the process of restoring the Dart. (July 2010)