

John's old saloon set for 8,000-mile spin

Trio plan to join celebration rally from Peking to Paris

By CHARLES MILLER

MOTORIST John Fergusson plans to take his 30-year-old car on a bit of a run—from Peking to Paris.

John, a community worker, and two friends will use a super-charged MG YB for the 8,000-plus miles outing.

They plan to make the trip as entrants in next summer's Peking—Moscow—Paris world cup rally.

The rally, which will have 400 competitors from all over the world, has been organised to follow the same route as that undertaken by a Frenchman in 1907.

John, of Wildcatgate, Jedburgh, said yesterday: "It is going to take a month to complete and we will certainly give it a good try.

"None of us are trained mechanics but we all know the car very well and the rally will be

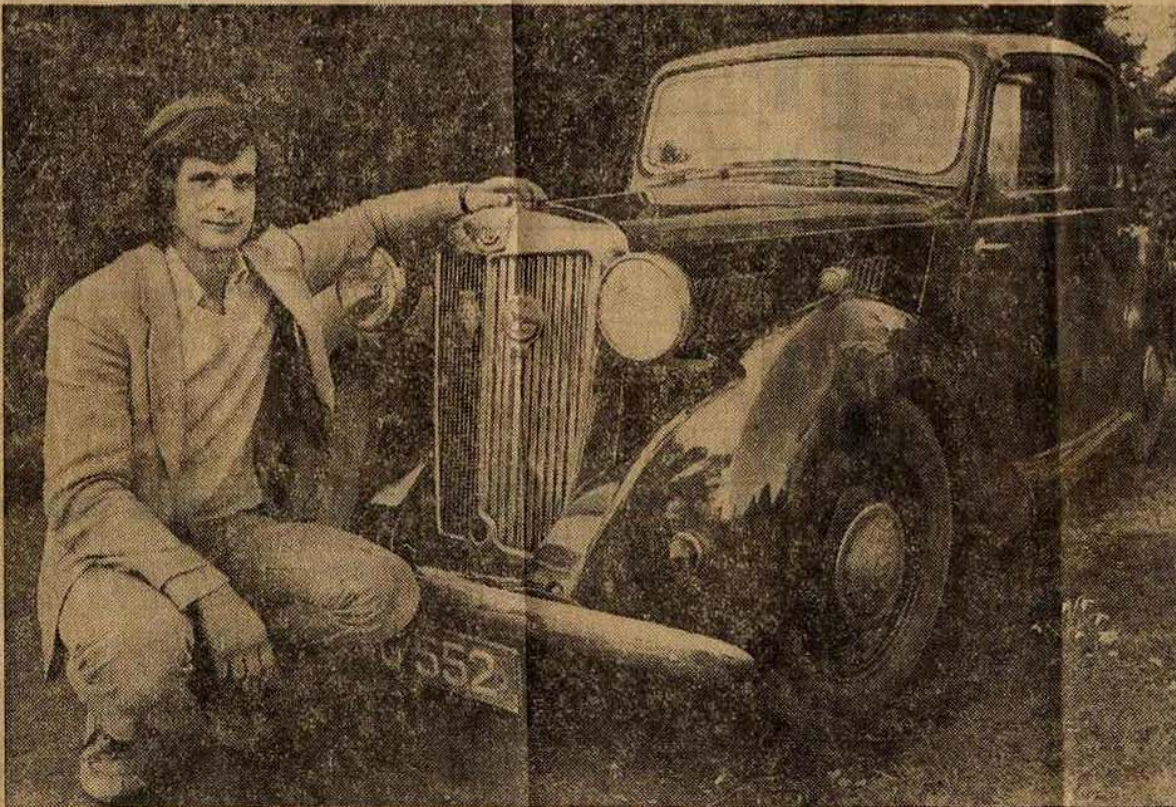
carried out in the same spirit as the original one."

But John, aged 26, and his friends Hugh Sutherland, aged 22, of Glasgow and Jim Willink, aged 26, of Marlefield, Morebattle, who studied agricultural engineering at Newcastle University, have a major cash problem.

They have estimated the rally will cost them about £10,000.

"We have approached several local and national firms but so far we have only managed to raise about £250, although two or three others are thinking about sponsoring us," said John, who works with the Borders Regional Council.

"We certainly hope we will be able to raise the money as it is the chance of a lifetime and the organisers reckon that people along parts of the route have never seen a car since the 1907 journey."



JOHN FERGUSSON and his 30-year-old MG

Originally published in the *Newcastle Journal*, 14 March 1981