



Dear Rich, Lois and Airflowers,

In 1962 we had a serious problem with the centre section of our CV exhaust manifold which buckled and cracked beyond repair due to excessive local heating down behind the intake manifold. We thought that the story of how we solved the problem may be of interest to members.

As the original section was beyond repair the only other hope was to have new ones made, so we searched around for a pattern maker. Eventually we found the right man, prepared to accept the challenge and who, in a few weeks, supplied us with the pattern as shown in the photos. Next problem .. where could we get the castings made? Here again our good samaritan came to the rescue. He offered to approach his friend, an engineer in charge of an industry which included making castings for railway rolling stock who obliged us by having three castings made. Being of cast steel these will no doubt serve better than cast iron. Then came the problem of machining the castings to match the end sections of manifold perfectly. We had one machined where the

castings were made, but this was not successful. Then my mate and I, during the course of our work, called in to the local University, where we had a talk with the maintenance machinist in the Automotive workshop and the Uni Automotive teacher. They, too, were ready to accept the challenge. I supplied end sections of manifold and a template of the exhaust and inlet ports and studs, and in due course we had two new centre sections, machined perfectly. The ends fitted perfectly, and the castings fitted flush with the block. This project saved the Airflow's life as, without the centre section it would have been grounded. I only had one CV and one CU at the time and both sections on each car were cracked. Guess we were lucky to meet the right people interested enough to help keep the Airflows flowing.

Must mention that, at this time, the Airflow was my only means of transport and, in order to get it back on the road as quickly as possible we didn't go to the trouble of re-fitting the thermostat operated heat deflector vane. The only sad part of the whole affair was that the pattern maker, without whose help we would not have made first base died before he was able to see the finished unit.

*Waltons*

