Star's silver Roller sells for nearly £65,000

A STUNNING Rolls Royce once owned by comedy king George Formby has been sold for almost £65,000.

The luxurious Silver Dawn was bought in 1954 by the star of countless black and white movie comedies, when he was living in St Annes.

The entertainer, who died 50 years ago last month, made his home on the Fylde coast at Little Singleton, Barton and Barnacre before moving to Inner Promenade, where he renamed the former home of Irish tenor Josef Locke Beryldene, after his wife and manager Beryl.

Always a keen motorist, his garages included a Jaguar and several Rolls Royce cars, including the Silver Dawn which he sold on in 1955 to a couple in London who owned it for 53 years.

Singer George's former motor, which has only 44,000 miles on the clock, was sold this week by the Classic And Sportscar Centre in Malton, North Yorkshire, whose director

By CRAIG FLEMING Tourism Writer

James Szkiler said: "We took the car last week, started advertising it on Wednesday and it was sold on Sunday.

"It was bought as an impulse buy, not too far away from the £65,000 asking price, to a resident of South Yorkshire."

Mr Szkiler said: "Formby is often regarded as Britain's most well-known and popular entertainer during the Second World War and is best known for his musical talent.

"But a less well-known fact is that he was based in Norton, Malton as a 17year-old trainee jockey as his father discouraged him from following his own stage career.

"When his father died in 1921 he went home for the funeral and never returned to the stables and started his showbiz career."

The Rolls still sports its original midnight blue over shell grey paintwork and grey leather upholstery.



TURNED OUT NICE: George Formby with his car collection and (inset) the 1954 Rolls Royce Silver Dawn