



WILLIAM J. BRIGHTON



April 14, 1976

Welcome to Terre Haute and the Sixth Annual Tony Hulman Classic.

I extend on behalf of the citizens of this community my warmest regards to the racing enthusiasts, promoters of the race and ABC Television's Wide World of Sports.

This effort has brought distinction not only to the exciting sport of dirt racing but to the City of Terre Haute as well.

We are proud of the Terre Haute Action Track and the city's many other faciltities, and we trust you will have the opportunity in the future to again take advantage of them.

Sincerely,

wm J. Brighto

Mayor

"Twenty-Five Years of Action"

by JOHN A. FUGATE

This year marks our nation's 200th birthday, and the 25th year of racing at the Wabash Valley Fairgrounds Track. It all was to start on Nov. 4, 1951 with a AAA sprint car race, but some one didn't tell the weatherman who sent snow to the Wabash Valley that afternoon. It wasn't until June 15th, 1952 that things got rolling with Joe James winning the inaugural event and Frankie Luptow had the quick time during qualification of 24.359. This one lap record stood until Tommy Hinnershitz broke it on June 13, 1954 with a 24.21 clocking.

In between these two sprint car track records, midgets, stocks, and sprint cars dueled over the low banked clay oval. It was during this early period that Joe Quinn ran the auto racing for the Wabash Valley Fairgrounds track. It was on Oct. 10, 1954 that Quinn staged the longest midget race in the track's history. It was a 200 lap affair (for those of you without pocket calculators that is 100 miles) and was won by the great Duke Nalon. In victory lane Nalon remarked he had to win, since Quinn had introduced him 11 times in one day as the greatest midget driver in the country.

By the 1960's Don Smith had taken over running the track and a group of youngsters were making the headlines in the sprint cars. The track was now well known as a place where the men were separated from the boys. Some of those drivers who came as unknown kids and left their name in the records book were Jim Hurtubise, Roger McCluskey, A. J. Foyt, Parnelli Jones, Johnny Rutherford, Bobby Marshman, Bobby Unser, Greg Weld, Mel Kenyon and many more.

It was during this period of the track's history that the late Gene Powlen of National Speed Sport News gave the Wabash Valley Fairgrounds Track the name "Action Track."

Auto Racing has become the sport of the 1970's and the names in the record books and the newspapers have changed. Today the fans come to see Larry Dickson, Gary Bettenhausen, Bruce Walkup. Pancho Carter, Joe Saldana, George Snider, and A. J. Foyt. Yes, at a time when most of the names of the 1960's have turned their attention to Indianapolis, A. J. Foyt still finds time to come to Terre Haute.

In just a few short years the "Tony Hulman Classic" has become the biggest sprint car race in the world. It annually starts the "Action Track" season of auto racing. "ABC Wide World of Sports" has telecast it every year, and this has given it the exposure to the sports world that is needed to make more racing fans each year.

The 1975 "Action Track" season was another "biggie" with Pancho Carter taking the "Tony Hulman

Classic" on the 4th of May. Heat wins were posted on that Sunday afternoon by Carter, Tom Bigelow, Thad Dosher, and Sam Sessions. The 12 lap consolation race was taken by Bill Puterbaugh who was to win "Rookie of the Year" honors at Indianapolis later in the month. The semi-feature was won by Bruce Walkup.

On June 1, 1975 Bruce Walkup set quick time, then broke and had to watch Joe Saldana win the 40 lap sprint feature. Saldana, Carter, Lee Osborne and George Snider won heat races, with Dosher winning the semi.

Gary Bettenhausen drove Willie Davis' sprinter to victory in the Aug. 3, USAC show. Walkup changed rides (some friends bought a slightly used sprinter from A. J. Foyt) and set fast time again. Osborne won the semi, with heats going to Walkup, Puterbaugh, Rollie Beale, and Saldana.

On Sept. 5th the annual "Hut Hundred" midget race was held at the "Action Track." Billy Vukovich was to drive for Howard Linne, but after doing a "number" in a dirt car the day before at the "Hoosier Hundred" he stayed home with stitches in his foot. Linne was able to line up a "kid" from Texas who was looking for a ride by the name of A. J. Foyt. The "kid" didn't look too bad with quick time, 3rd in the dash and leading the first few laps of the feature before retiring from the race with mechanical problems. Pancho Carter took the checkered first followed by Bob Wente, Billy Engelhart and Jimmy Caruthers.

The final event of the 1975 "Action Track" season came on Sept. 21. Tom Bigelow won the 40 lap race over Bettenhausen, Beale and Sheldon Kinser. Gary B. took home the money in the semi, and heats were won by Jerry Miller, Puterbaugh, Bigelow, and Billy Cassella. Pancho Carter set a new one lap track record of 22.73 in qualifications.

The "Action Track" has been the scene of some of the most incredible moments in auto racing history from the antics of Eddie Sachs, to the duels of Parnelli Jones, Foyt, and Hurtubise. It was the place Roger McCluskey won a stock car race by moon light, and it nearly drove car builder and owner Wally Meskowski nuts when the newspapers carried the story of the great "Sloughfoot" Struble having a private practice session. Meskowski and a good many fans and drivers were surprised on race day to find out Struble was a local Terre Haute businessman whose car was an old Indianapolis roadster powered by a small pig. The past 25 fun packed years of action in Terre Haute, Indiana, have not all been auto racing.

For all the fans who have attended these 25 glorious years of racing we say thank you and please come see the next 25 years.

ABC WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS

Tony Hulman Classic

Heat Race No. 1 (\$25 per lap) WTHI

Heat Race No. 3 (\$25 per lap) Freitag-Weinhardt, Inc.

Heat Race No. 2 (\$25 per lap) The Root Store

Heat Race No. 4 (\$25 per lap) Sycamore Agency, Inc.

SEMI-FEATURE (\$25 per lap) **Smith-Alsop Paint Products**

FEATURE (\$50 per lap)

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- Viquesney Office Products Center
- American Fire and Safety
- Repp & Mundt, Inc.
- Repp & Mundt, Inc.
- Poise 'n Ivy 10
- 11 Terre Haute First National Bank
- 12 Adams Pontiac—GMC
- 13 Adams Pontiac—GMC
- 14 Pepsi-Cola Bottlers of Terre Haute
- 15 Pepsi-Cola Bottlers of Terre Haute
- 16 Mineweld Co. of Indiana
- 17 McDonald's North
- 18 Larry Helman Realtors
- **Howard Johnson Motor Lodge**
- 20 Howard Johnson Motor Lodge

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- WTWO-TV, Channel 2
- 23 Terre Haute Concrete Supply Corp.
- Merchants National Bank 24
- 25 Merchants National Bank
- Lovelace Truck Service, Inc.
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- Wabash Valley Fan Club
- 28 29 Gibson Coal Co.
- 30 Malooley's Saratoga Cafe
- 31 Terre Haute First National Bank
- Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Terre Haute
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- J. A. Sears Inc. Excavating & Slurry Seal Contractor
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- 38 WIIL-TV Channel 38
- Wabash Federal Saving & Loan Association
 - Indiana Driver Education Teacher's Assn.



"9 Remember Jimmy"

by JOHN A. FUGATE

What can you say about a guy who almost made it to his 31st birthday and then dies? If his name was Jimmy Caruthers you can say a lot.

Jimmy Caruthers drove race cars, and drove them well, but that alone did not set him apart from other men, his life style did. Jimmy lived by the code "if it makes you happy, do it." He was happy in jeans and a T-shirt, so that's what he spent most of his life wearing. The only time he changed was to dress up for a banquet or to go to work, then he had to don his flame retardant driving uniform.

Jimmy's introduction to speed was first hand. His father Doug, owned racing cars since he was born on January 18, 1945. His passion for speed covered it all, be it on land, he drove race cars and motorcycles with equal skill, on water, he loved to spend summer afternoons with his Jet Ski or in the air where he was an accomplished pilot. It was only natural he become a race driver, and expected he be a good one. Jimmy out did the expectations winning the USAC Midget and Championship Dirt titles in his all too short career.

Jimmy's small stature gave him a child like quality that he kept long after his teenage days were past. He never developed that small man, big mouth syndrome that many his size do. He was just a friendly, easy to know, little guy who never had a bad word for or about anybody. He did his best to enjoy life and hoped those about him also did.

A little over a year ago Jimmy found he had cancer. Although he knew from the start it was a bad scene he never complained, just went about doing what he liked best, driving race cars. By the middle of the racing season he joked about his problem to the point most thought it was gone. In the fall he became sick again while touring high schools with fellow driver Bob Harkey, as a part of the Champion Spark Plug Highway Safety Speaking Team. Jimmy went home to Anaheim, California and a few days later checked out of this world.

Jimmy left all who knew him with fond memories, and a sense of dignity about death that consumes us all.

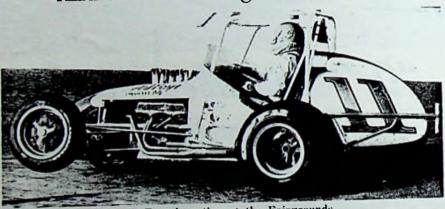
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A. J. Foyt in action at the Fairgrounds.

1976 Schedule

Friday night, May 28

WSAC Sprin

Saturday night, August 28

Sunday afternoon, August 29

Saturday afternoon, September 11 USAC Dirt "HOOSIER HUNDRED"

(mile)

For additional information call or write: Racing Department, Indiana State Fair, State Fairgrounds, Indiana apolis, Indiana 46205.

DRIVER APPRECIATION DINNER PHOTOS

(Only the drivers are identified—their sponsors at the dinner shall remain nameless but maybe you know them.)



Larry Rice



Steve Cannon



Jimmy Caruthers



Jim McElreath



"Pancho" Carter



Rich Vogler



TERRE HAUTE ACTION TRACK FIRECREW AND FRIENDS

Left to Right: first row—Ray Sollars, unidentified Honey Creek Fireman, Dick Roberts, Ray Gant, Don Vibbert, Bruce Clinerman, John Shipman Jr., John Shipman Sr., Bud Sollars, Jerry Rowley, Bill Shipman, Carl Collins, Honey Creek Firechief.

Second row: Don Shepper, John Robinson, Larry Van Sant, Jack Hirth, Larry Gibson, Larry Condor, Jerry Allen, Jim Camp, Bob McGruder, Norval Blankenship, Dan Budd, Jim Sappingfield, Bob Pond, infield and pit security chief, Bill Beeler Brazil Firechief, John Raley, Jim Watkins, Honey Creek Fireman, Ron Milner, unidentified Honey Creek Fireman

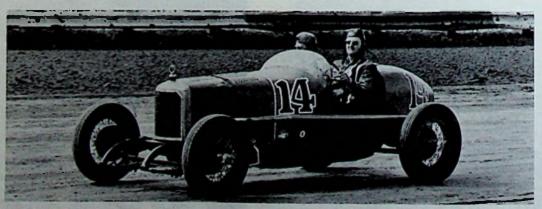
Honey Creek Fireman.

Third Row: Bill Barnett, Don Bradberry, Jim Monko, John Nichols, Ralph Wellman, Keith Shaw, Cecil Walker, Tony Farrell. Not pictured—Jerry Lankford.

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The way it used to be long before the "Action Track" but around the time of Sunflower. This was during last year's "Hulman Classic" as the old machines warmed up.

PHOTO BY JIM MORRISON

1976



1976

TERRE HAUTE ACTION TRACK RACE SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 6— USAC Sprint Cars

Wednesday, July 28— USAC Midgets

(Twilight - tentative)

Sunday, August 1 USAC Sprints

Sunday, August 15—

A.M.A. Motorcycles

Sunday, September 12— HUT HUNDRED

USAC Midgets

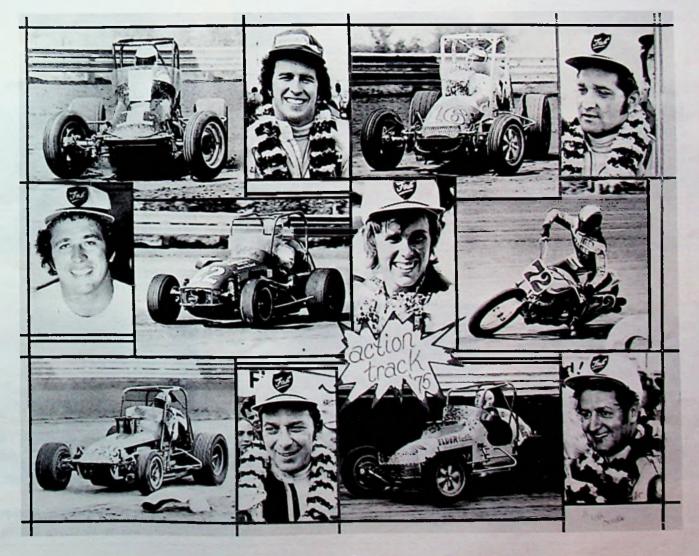
Sunday, September 26-

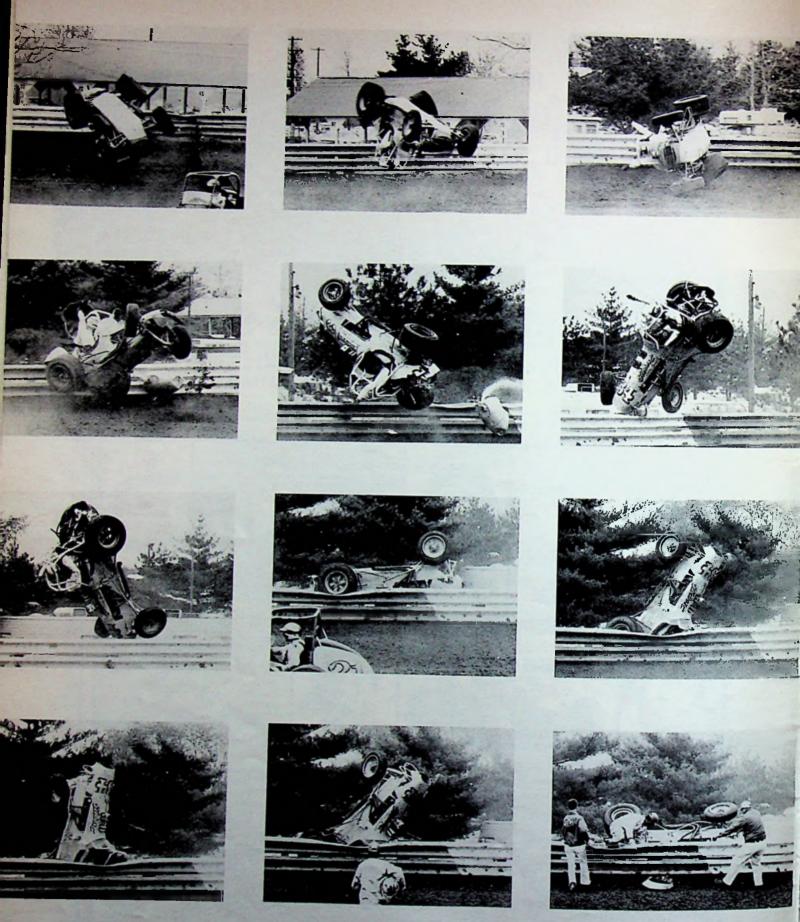
USAC Sprints



Motorcycles too are an integral part of the "Action Track" season and the AMA National Championship race every August is as competitive as any other type race. Here 1975 National Champion Gary Scott (=64) almost goes down as Corky Keener (=62) tries to miss him.

PHOTO BY TROTTY HECK





A 12 shot sequence of the violent crash of Jim McElreath on the first lap of last year's "Tony Hulman Classic." McElreath went over numerous times suffering serious enough injuries to keep him out of the 1975 Indianapolis 500.

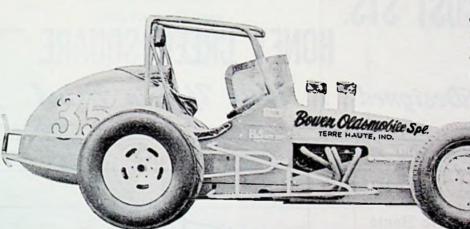
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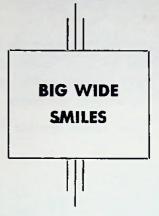
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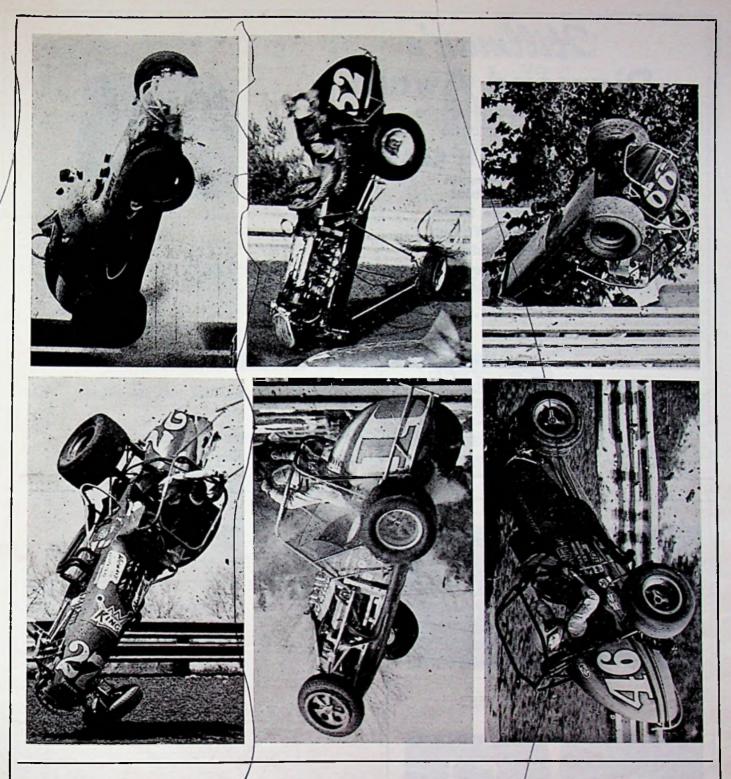
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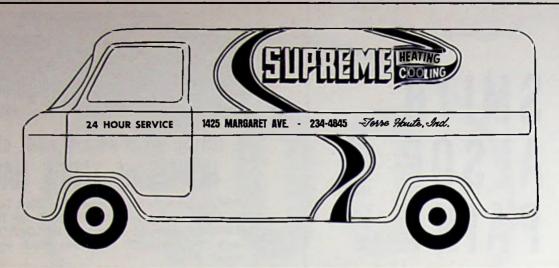
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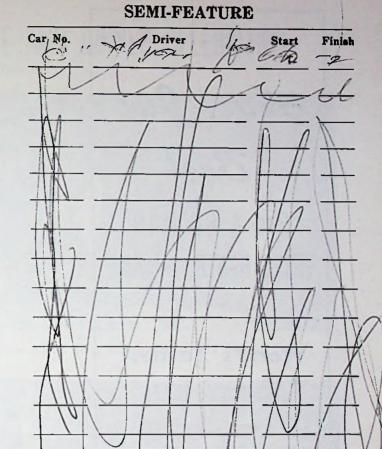
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TONY HULMAN CLASSIC RACE AND DINNER CELEBRITIES

(all identifications from the left)



Actors Phil Harris and Andy Devine and Terre Haute Tribune Race drivers Peter Revson and Parnelli Jones. Managing Editor Marsee Cox.





The ABC-TV crew of Chris Economaki, Chet Forte, Jim McKay Marc Beeson and race drivers Mario Andretti, Jim Hurtubise and Chris Schenkel.







Television star Kent McCord and super race promoter J. C. Driver Lee Kunzman, actor Phil Harris, Indiana University football coach Lee Corso and Terre Haute Star City Editor Jess Williams.

TONY HULMAN CLASSIC RACE AND DINNER CELEBRITIES



6.
Former professional football player Dr. Paul Humphrey of Terre Haute standing behind Bill Bergey and Jim Beauchamp of the Cincinnati Bengals.



Actor Phil Harris, Terre Haute's most illustrious citizen Tony Hulman and actor Jackie Cooper.



Another ABC-TV broadcasting group of race driver Jackie Stewart, Chris Economaki and Keith Jackson.



Dr. John Haslem of Terre Haute, actor Richard Anderson and Indiana University basketball star Steve Green.



1925 Indianapolis 500 winner Peter DePaolo, Indiana State Uni-Politician driver Larry Cannon and Indiana Secretary of State versity football coach Tom Harp and driver Fred Agabashian, Larry Conrad.







David Felstein, 1972 "Hulman Classic" winner Bruce Walkup Indiana Secretary of State Larry Conrad, 1925 Indianapolis 500 winner Peter DePaolo, race fan Kenny Coy, band leader and former boat racer Guy Lombardo and Indianapolis Motor Speedway owner Tony Hulman.

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF STEVE LINGENFELTER EXCEPT NO. 14 WHICH WAS TAKEN BY RICHARD WALLACE.



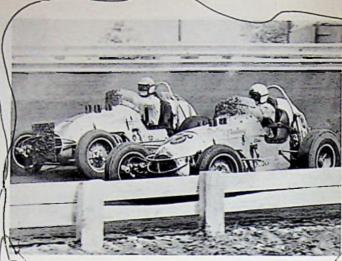
1973 "Hulman Classic" winner Joe Saldana and the Indiana University trio of gymnastics coach Roger Counsil, assistant basketball coach Bill Hodges and assistant Athletic Director Jerry Huntsman.



Celebrities in their own right these three drivers, Jan Opperman, George Snider and A. J. Foyt enjoy the dinner.

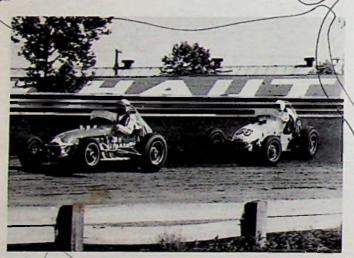


Seven time "Action Track" sprint car victor Gary Bettenhausen talks with the great A. J. Foyt during the 1974 Classic" as midget car owner Dick Heerboth listens. PHOTO BY STEVE LINGENFELTER

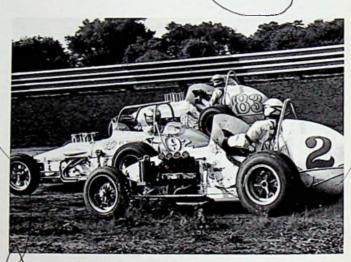


Two of the fastest plumbers in the nation, Parnelli Jones in the No. 1 Fike Special and Jim Hurtubise in the No. 56 Sterling car. This competition took place in 1962.

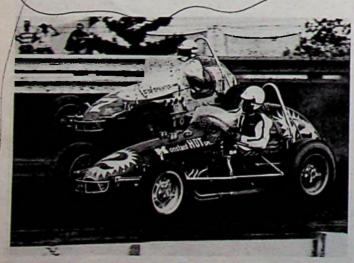
PHOTO BY STEVE LINGENFELTER



Master sprint car builder Steve Stapp in his driving days being chased by Jim Hurtubise in this shot from 1963.
PHOTO BY KEN COLES

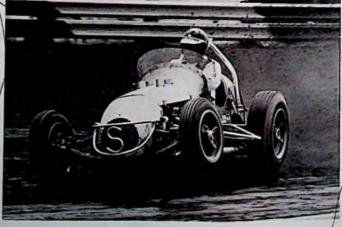


Great wheel to wheel competition in this 1968 picture of A. J. Foyt No. 2, Greg Weld No. 92 and Sam Sessions No. 83.



Roger McCluskey No. 2 and Don Branson No. 7, two great sprint car champions, locked in battle at the "Action Track" in 1963.

PHOTO BY HARRY GOODE



Another shot of Steve Stapp, this time qualifying in 1963. Stapp's driver now is Duane "Pancho" Carter.
PHOTO BY KEN COLES



A young Billy Vukovich with his car owner Leonard Faas and the Fair Queen after a midget victory in 1969.

PHOTO BY BOB KLUESNER



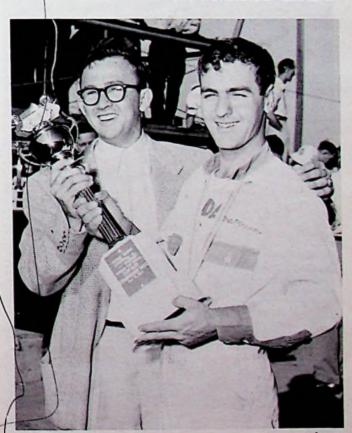
1975 "Tony Hulman Classic" winner Duane "Pancho" Carter, receiving part of his hardware from "Miss Action Track;" Linda Deakins,

PHOTO BY STEVE FITTING



The five "Tony Hulman Classic" winners in a posed shot taken earlier this season. Standing is George Snider, Gary Bettenhausen and "Pancho" Carter. Kneeling is Joe Saldana and Bruce Walkup.

PHOTO BY STEVE LINGENFELTER



Sports Editor Jep Cadou presenting the winner's trophy to Pat O'Connor in 1953.



1975 "Rookie of the Race" Thad Dosher flanked by the award sponsor Terre Haute Holiday Inn manager, Jerry Pecher and trophy queen Linda Deakins.

PHOTO BY STEVE FITTING



1975 USAC national sprint car champion Larry Dickson #80 dueling with Jimmy Caruthers #18.

PHOTO BY BOB KLUESNER

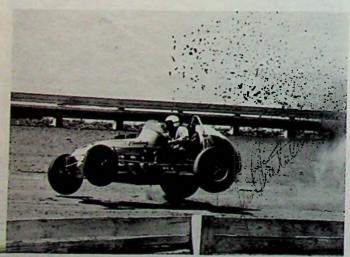


Articulate Bruce Walkup MC'ing the "Golden Ball" award presentation to Jimmy Caruthers while Miss Deakins looks on.
PHOTO BY STEVE LINGENFELTER



Another very popular "Action Track" picture taken in 1972. The three drivers, Larry Dickson, Sam Sessions and Rollie Beale were all tied at that time in the point standings as well as June Cochran.

PHOTO BY HARRY GOODE



One of the most widely used and asked for photos ever to be taken at the "Action Track." That's Jim Hurtubise in the sterling Plumbing car.

PHOTO BY HOWARD WOODRING



A young Johnny Rutherford partaking in some of the victors spoils after a sprint car win in 1965. Johnny set a one-lap track record that day that was to stand for 10 years until broken last year by "Pancho" Carter and his amazing 22.73.

PHOTO BY BOB SCOTT



Don Branson receiving his trophy from Terre flaute businessman Bill Niemeyer in 1964. PHOTO BY BOB SCOTT

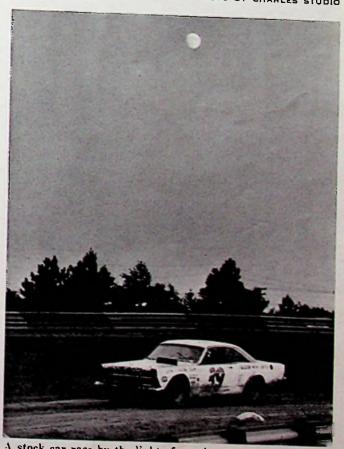


PHOTO BY CHARLES STUDIO



Seven time east coast AAA-USAC sprint car champion Tommy Hinnershitz seated in the Pfrommer Special, Tommy won the main later that day in 1958.

PHOTO BY CHARLES STUDIO



A stock car race by the light of an almost full moon in 1968. That's Paul Feldner in the car. PHOTO BY BOB KADEL





Two famous fathers, 1950 Indianapolis 500 winner Johnnie Parsons (standing) and 1958 national champion, Tony Bettenhausen, prior to a staged stock car race, PHOTO BY BOB KADEL

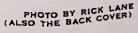


Who will ever forget the Caruthers Brothers, Jimmy No. 1 and Danny No. 5 battling it out in the 1971 "Hut Hundred" midget race in the "Man and Boy" cars. Danny set a one lap mark of 23.14 for the midgets that stands today.

PHOTO BY PHIL WHITLOW



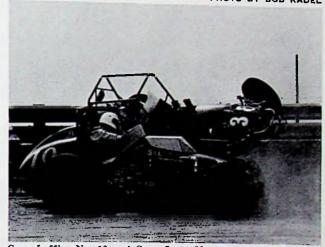
Rollie Beale, Chuck Booth #21, Larry Dickson #80 and Tom Bigelow #55 broadsliding past the ABC "Wide World of Sports" sign last year.





The first driver to ever win a feature at the "Action Track", sprint car driver Joe James in 1952 accepting a cash award from championship car owner Tom Sarafoff.

PHOTO BY BOB KADEL



Greg Leffler No. 19 and Gary Irvin No. 38 going the wrong direction and trying to get out of the park during one of the preliminary races of last year's "Classic."

PHOTO BY RANDY LOWE

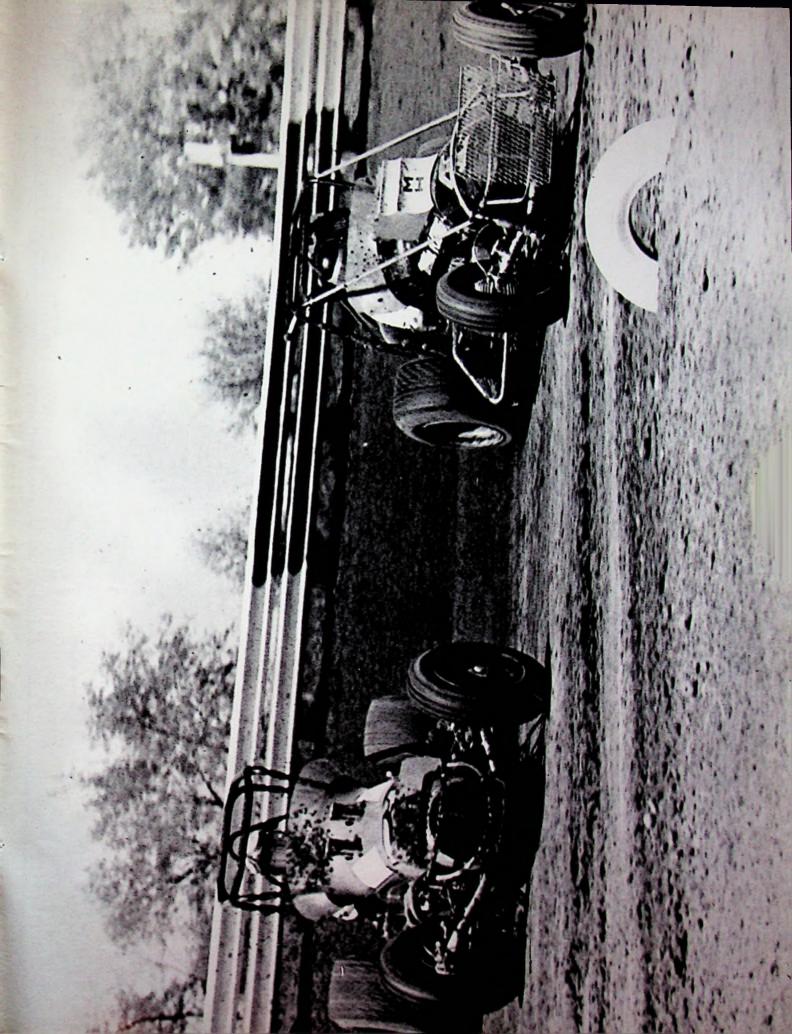


Famous stock car drivers A. J. Foyt #3 and Roger McCluskey #1 giving it a go in 1971. Roger won and A. J. finished 2nd, #1 giving it a go in 1971. Roger won and A. J. finished 2nd, #1000 BY STEVE LINGENFELTER

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