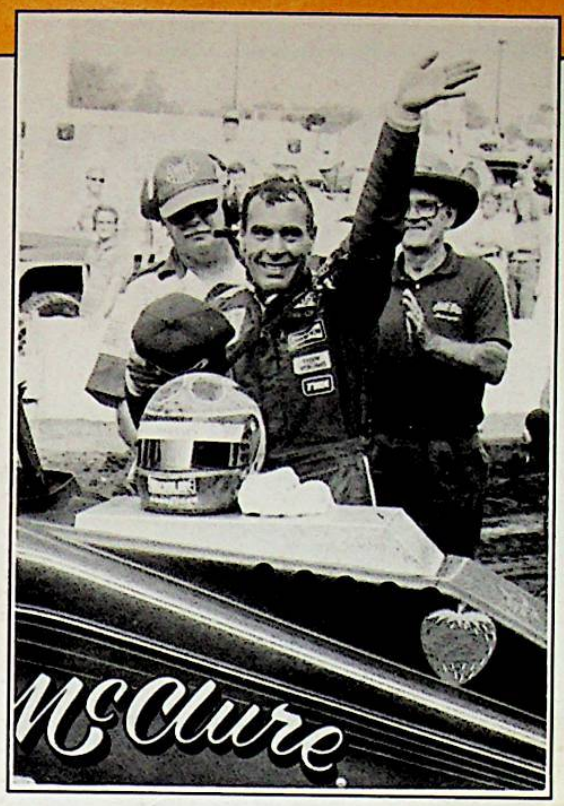
ILLINOIS STATE FAIR

100 MILE BIG CAR RACE

August 19, 1989



Steve Chassey
1988 Champion

PHOTO BY DON FIGLER

TONY BETTENHAUSEN MEMORIAL

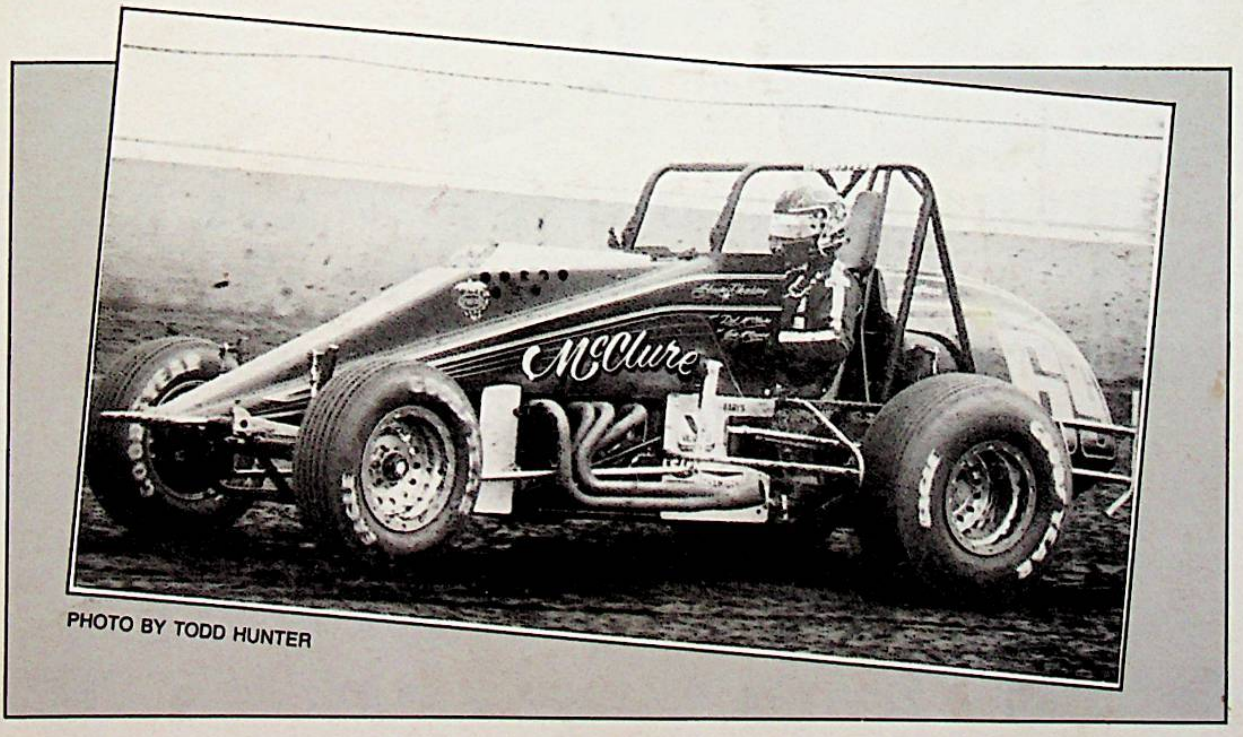


PHOTO BY TODD HUNTER

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ILLINOIS STATE FAIR

STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD 62706

JAMES R THOMPSON
GOVERNOR

August 10, 1989

Welcome to the 1989 Illinois State Fair!

When I was campaigning at the State Fair in 1976, I was appalled by the conditions at the Fair. Beautiful old buildings were in a horribly worn out state. The grounds were not clean. It just wasn't a very appetizing place to come by yourself, much less with your family.

I said to myself that if I was fortunate enough to be elected Governor, I would turn the Illinois State Fair around. I hope that after you finish your visit here you will feel that I have kept that promise.

The Illinois State Fair is the best of the old and new. It traces our State's proud history and gives you a look at the best of our present and a look at the future. The Grand Champion Auction is the "World Series of Illinois Agriculture." The world's finest symphony orchestra -- the Chicago Symphony Orchestra -- will once again be back to entertain without charge to you. Tractor pulls, auto racing, the drum and bugle corps competition, pari-mutuel racing and a great entertainment line-up will highlight activities in the Grandstand.

Many of the old buildings have been renovated, including my personal favorite, the Artisan's Building. It houses the best of arts and crafts from all over Illinois. The Exposition Building has been recently re-worked, along with the Grandstand.

We work very hard to keep the fairgrounds fresh looking and spotless. In short, the kind of place you would like to bring your family.

Returning the Illinois State Fair to the kind of fair people want it to be is one of my happiest achievements as Governor. I am very proud of the State Fair and so are the people who work here. Please enjoy yourself and I hope that our efforts have earned your continued trust and patronage.

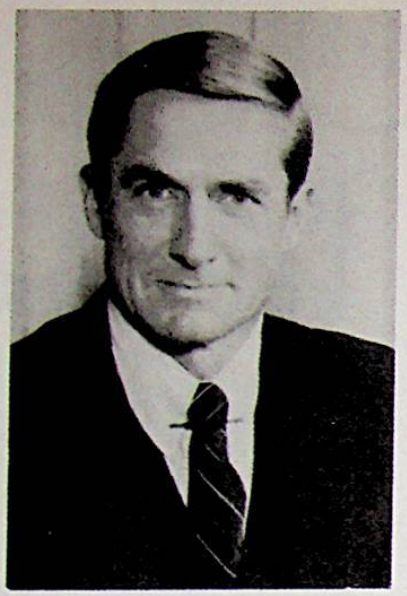
Sincerely,

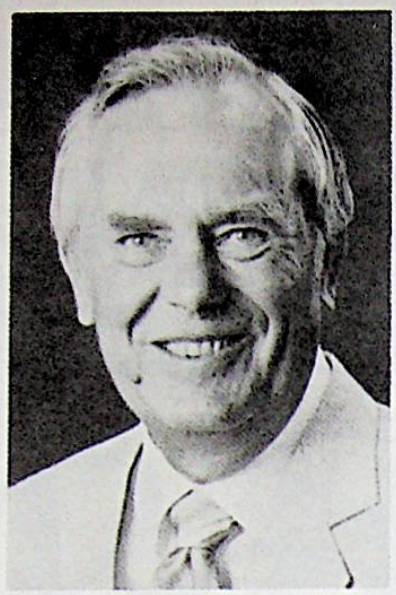
James R. Thompson
GOVERNOR

JRT:law

Sincerely,.

James R. Thompson
GOVERNOR





Director's & Superintendent's Foreword

The Illinois State Fair is widely recognized as the Showcase for Illinois Agriculture, and as one of the premier Fairs in the nation.

It features one of the world's largest livestock shows and a Farm Expo loaded with state-of-the-art machinery and technology. An extra bonus this year is an improved Swine facility and a beautiful new Poultry Building.

The original Poultry Building, renovated prior to the 1988 State Fair, was the home last year for the Artisan's Exhibit. It also housed a special showing of films featuring the Illinois State Fair as it was in the 1930's. The exhibit and showing was so popular that we plan to expand the hours this year to allow a greater opportunity for our fair visitors to see this unique exhibit.

As always, pari-mutuel wagering on a full slate of high caliber horse races, Championship Auto Racing, and evening grandstand performances by top national stars, will provide a wide variety of entertainment for the entire family.

Join us for the fun in 1989.

LARRY A. WERRIES
Director, Dept. of Agriculture
State of Illinois

MERLE E. MILLER
Supt., Div. of Fairs & Horse Racing
Manager, Illinois State Fair

1989 Official Pace Car

The official pace car for the Illinois State Fair Motorsports Weekend of racing August 19 and 20, is through the courtesy of Wayne Woodrum Chevrolet, Oldsmobile, Cadillac, Pontiac, Buick and GMC of Macomb, Illinois.

The 1989 Pontiac Grand Prix, 'The Silver Bullet', powered by a 3.1 liter hi output engine, rallye tuned suspension on all four wheels independent of any other, rides on Goodyear Eagle G.T. tires.

It has four wheel disc brakes and aluminum sport extra strength wheels.

This pace car is capable of speeds in excess of 120 mph, and will be driven by an experienced race driver.

The pace lap is held to a practical speed of about 70 mph, with the start of the race about 90 mph.

Illinois State Fair Officials

LARRY WERRIES ..... DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE
MERLE MILLER ..... STATE FAIR MANAGER
BILL OLDANI ..... MOTORSPORTS DIRECTOR
GARY LEE (Indianapolis, IN) & JIM CHILDERS (Joppa, IL) ..... ANNOUNCERS

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STATISTICIAN & HISTORIAN ..... DONALD DAVIDSON

Official Entries—Tony Bettenhausen Memorial

U.S.A.C. Silver Crown Series 100 Mile Dirt Car Championship—Illinois State Fair

No.	Driver/Hometown	Owner/Sponsor	Make of Car
1	Steve Butler/Kokomo, IN	Kenneth Jarrett/Kenneth Jarrett Farms, Inc.	Chevy 355
2	Mark Alderson/Brownsburg, IN	Boles Racing/Boles Racing	Chevy 355
3	Open	Ben Leyba/Ben's Hoosier Tire/Gerte Engine	
5	Larry Rice/Brownsburg	Dave LeFevre	350
11	George Snider/Bakersfield, CA	Snider & Foyt/Skoal Classic	Chevy 355
12	Gary Bettenhausen/Monrovia, IN	Delrose-Holt Racing Assoc./Terre Haute First National Bank	Chevy 355
16	Rich Vogler	Wilke Racers/Try-Cut Sanding D. SCS-Future Electric	Chevy
17	Manny Rockhold/Pekin, IL	Automotive Machine/Fel Pro	Chevy 355
18	Tony Elliott/Warsaw, IN	Joe Conroy/Conroy Racing Ent.	Chevy 355
20	Bob Frey/Wickenburg, AZ	Gene Nolen/Columbus Container, Inc./LJ Mold & Niebel Engines	Chevy 355
22	Larry Hoppes/Anderson, IN	Same/Casey's Truck Salvage	Chevy 355
23	Jim McElreath/Arlington, TX	Shirley McElreath	Chevy 355
27	Danny Milburn/Indianapolis, IN	Same/Newkirk Trailer Supply/Milburn Garage Door	350 Chevy
30	Chuck Gurney/Livermore, CA	Trans. Computer Sys./Plastic Express/George Middleton	Chevy 355
33	Ronnie Burke/Houston, TX	Ronnie Burke	Chevy 355
34	Chip Thomas/Belleville, IL	Charles Thomas/Bollmeier Hobby Shop Special	Chevy 355
37	Johnny Parsons, Jr./Brownsburg, IN	Charlie Scruggs Racing, Inc.	Chevy 355
41	Terry Crousore/Sandpoint, Idaho	Herb Spivey	Chevy
42	Ronnie Dunstan/Allentown, PA	AC/FelPro/Surplus Sales in Allenton, PA	Chevy 355
44	Greg Staab/Lawrenceburg, IN	SMS Racing/Emery Transportation Co.	Chevy 350
48	Gary Irvin/Noblesville, IN	Shorthorn Racing/McCord Auto	Chevy 355
46	Donnie Beechler/Springfield, IL	George Egan/Kwik-Way Mach	Chevy
50	Jim Mahoney/Peru, IL	Aviators Racing, Inc.	Chevy 355
53	Herb Crawford/San Diego, CA	Crawford Enterprises Sp/Pyrotect/Sign World/Crawford Enterprises	Chevy 355
64	Open	Rob L. Babb/Engion Room Machine Shop	Chevy 355
66	Gary Hieber/Langhorne, PA	E.W.H. Service, Inc./Bucks Country Int'l, Inc.	Chevy
67	Jeff Bloom/Bangor, MI	Same/Help!	350 Chevy
69	Dave Feese/Saybrook, IL	Del McClune/McClune Special	Chevy 357
79	Scott Weyant/Springfield, IL	Jim Martin/Jim's Boat Tavern	Chevy
85	Andy Hillenburg/Indianapolis, IN	Ron McMahon/Oz-Car, MPD Racing Prod., B & B Tavern	Chevy 355
88	Wayne Hammond	Jack & Jami Nowling/Quick Load Alum. Boat Trailers	Chev 355
91	Perry Ferrell/Memphis, TN	Ferrell Racing/Shea-Paul's Live Bait Shop & French Deli/Magnum Chassis/Shaver Specialities	Chevy 355
97	Darryl Haugh/Fresno, CA	John Hajduk	Chevy
98	Jerry Nemire/Toledo, OH	Bob Lesko Ent., Inc.	Chevy 355
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USAC Silver Crown Series Track Records

Illinois State Fairgrounds (1 Mile Dirt Track) Springfield, Illinois

Distance	Date	Driver	Time	Speed
1 Lap*	8/22/87	Jeff Swindell	30.919	116.433
8 Laps	8/22/87	Manny Rockhold	4:32.25	105.785
10 Laps	8/19/78	Kramer Williamson	6:00.10	99.972
12 Laps	8/17/83	Larry Rice	6:48.48	105.758
100 Miles	8/22/87	Jack Hewitt	56:07	106.920

*-Record established in qualifications

Silver Crown Championship Series Drivers

Jack Hewitt
Troy, Ohio
Birthdate: July 8, 1951

Jack dominated the Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown Championship Series for the second year in a row in the J.W. Hunt Produce Chevy wrenched by Bob Hampshire. "Do It" Hewitt captured the 1987 title by 310 points over runnerup Steve Butler and added two more career victories to bring his total to 8 wins, which is only one win away from tying Gary Bettenhausen's record of 9 wins—the most ever in series history. Hewitt's 4-race winning streak ended in the 1987 opener at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa but he scored back-to-back victories in the "Tony Bettenhausen 100" at Springfield, IL and the "Silver Century" at DuQuoin, IL. Shedding his "dirt-track" image, Jack took advantage of Gary Bettenhausen's misfortune in the "Pepsi-Cola 150" pavement race at Indianapolis Raceway Park in July and was leading on the final lap but a sour magneto left him stalled on the backstretch, giving the win to Jeff Bloom.

Steve Butler
Kokomo, Indiana
Birthdate: Sept. 26, 1956

Steve finished as runnerup to Jack Hewitt in the Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown Series for the second year but also captured his second consecutive Crestliner Vans/USAC National Sprint Car title. His second-place position in the Silver Crown Series was a result of consistent "top" finishes including several hard-charging drives. At the opening event in Tampa, FL, Steve worked his way from a 17th starting spot to a 4th-place finish and at DuQuoin, IL he started back in 21st position and again ended up fourth. Among his eight starts were a trio of 3rd-place finishes. These were at the "4-Crown Nationals" and in the two pavement races at Indianapolis Raceway Park and Phoenix, AZ International Raceway. In 1986 Steve was second to Ken Schrader in the 150-lap I.R.P. Silver Crown race and second to Hewitt in the 100-miler at the DuQuoin State Fairgrounds.

Jeff Swindell
Memphis, Tennessee
Birthdate: January 1, 1961

Jeff has blazed his own trail in the Sprint Car world while following after his famous brother Sammy and his father, Sam. In 1987, the youngster proved himself equally as formidable in the Valvoline/USAC Silver Series with a third-place position in the series points. He subbed for Gary Bettenhausen in May in the Delrose-Holt Terre Haute First National Bank machine and scored a stunning upset in the "Hulman Hundred" at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Swindell was outstanding in his 27th-to-1st drive, leading the final 35 miles to grab the series point lead away from Tampa, FL winner Larry Rice. In his seven starts, Jeff finished in the "top-10" five times. In addition to winning the May 100-miler, Jeff also finished 3rd at the DuQuoin State Fairgrounds, 4th in the "Hoosier Hundred" in September and 5th in the "Pepsi-Cola 150" at I.R.P. in July and set a new track qualifying record at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield.

Kenny Jacobs
Holmesville, Ohio
Birthdate: April 24, 1955

A graduate of the tough Ohio Sprint Car circuit, Kenny impressed USAC regulars in 1986, winning the "Rookie of the Year" honors in both the Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown Championship Series and the Crestliner Vans/USAC Sprint Car Series. In 1987, the personable Buckeye native ranked fourth in the final Silver Crown points with four "top-3" placings in seven starts. Voted STP's "Most Improved Driver" in the series, Jacobs scored his initial victory in the prestigious "Hoosier Hundred" at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. His come-from-behind triumph over Dave Blaney was a remarkable accomplishment for the determined driver who suffered very serious leg injuries in a Florida Sprint Car race in February.

Jeff Bloom
Kalamazoo, Michigan
Birthdate: August 1, 1949

Jeff scored an amazing win in the "Pepsi-Cola 150" at Indianapolis Raceway Park enroute to fifth in the final 1987 Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown Championship Series standings. A talented pavement racer (twice winner of the famed "Little 500" Sprint race at Anderson, IN), Bloom led only one lap at I.R.P. but it was the one that counted—lap 150—to take the win as Jack Hewitt's machine coasted to a stop on the backstretch with magneto trouble. Jeff also has two USAC Sprint wins and one Stock Car triumph in addition to his Silver Crown win. Competing in six of the '87 Silver Crown events, Jeff garnered a win, a second to Hewitt at Springfield, IL and a 5th in the Phoenix, AZ pavement race.

Rick Hood
Memphis, Tennessee
Birthdate: July 15, 1952

Rick's consistent finishes during the 1987 season garnered him a sixth in the final Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown Championship points. In eight starts, he had five "top-5" finishes and set fast qualifying time at the "4-Crown Nationals" at Eldora Speedway in Rossburg, OH. He followed that with his best finish of the year—a third—in the 50-lap main event. The 1983 Silver Crown "Rookie of the Year", Hood captured the series championship in 1985, as well as the Crestliner Vans/USAC Sprint car title (he also won the '84 Sprint Car title). He ranked fifth in the 1986 Silver Crown standings and was runnerup to Steve Butler in that year's Sprint points. Rick is the son of legendary "outlaw" racer Hooker Hood.

—1988 Winner—

Larry Rice
Brownsburg, Indiana
Birthdate: March 24, 1946

One of the most popular drivers in USAC Silver Crown, Sprint and Midget racing, Larry captured two wins in 1987 Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown competition to rank 7th in the final standings. His wins came at the season-opener in Tampa, FL and at the "4-Crown Nationals" at Rossburg, OH. In addition to his pair of wins, Larry also scored three other "top-10" finishes in eight starts. Larry won the pole for the 1986 "Hoosier Hundred" in Indianapolis and his second-place finish there behind Jack Hewitt helped him to fourth in the '86 Silver Crown standings. A 2-time series titlist (1977 and 1981), Larry is also a former USAC Midget Champ (1973) and was co-"Rookie of the Year" a the Indianapolis 500 with Rick Mears. The 1981 "Hoosier Hundred" is among his 23 career USAC victories in various racing series.

Steve Chassey
Carmel, IN
Birthdate: Feb. 27, 1945

Another Indianapolis 500 veteran who competes in the Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown Series, Steve has his best two finishes in the Pavement races on the '87 calendar. He was runner-up to Ken Schrader at the series-ending "Checker Classic" at Phoenix, AZ and was seventh in the "Pepsi-Cola 150" at Indianapolis Raceway Park. He competed in his second Indianapolis 500-Mile Race after qualifying for the 1987 event. In 1986 Silver Crown action, Steve started up front at DuQuoin, IL and Indianapolis, but had trouble posting a "top-10" finish. The 1984 winner of the "Hoosier Hundred" in Indianapolis, Steve was also the 1980 USAC Sprint Car points runnerup and was voted STP's "Most Improved" Championship-car driver in 1983. He owns 14 career USAC feature triumphs.

Dave Blaney
Hartford, Ohio
Birthdate: October 24, 1962

Dave has been hard-pressed to duplicate his 1984 season, when he won the Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown Championship in his "rookie" year. In '86 he took third at Hagerstown, MD and followed with a fourth at I.R.P. He finished with a fifth at Rossburg, OH to end up ninth in the points. In 1987, he dropped one spot to rank 10th in the final tally, but nearly won the prestigious "Hoosier Hundred" in Indianapolis, IN. After winning the pole and leading most of the 100-miler, he succumbed to Kenny Jacobs' late-race challenge and ended up second. A badly-worn tire was the culprit. An extremely quiet youngster, Dave is well-known as a hard-charging Sprint Car driver in his own right. In 20 Silver Crown starts since '84, he has posted 13 "top-10" finishes.

Duke Cook
Sidney, Ohio
Birthdate: Nov. 22, 1943

STP's "Most Improved Driver" in the 1985 Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown Championship Series, Duke is the longest active driver in USAC Sprint Car ranks and finished 20th in the 1987 Silver Crown points. His best Silver Crown finish came at the Tampa, FL opener, where he placed third. He also scored a 12th in the "Pepsi-Cola 150" at Indianapolis Raceway Park after being relieved by Ken Schrader. Duke won a USAC Sprint race at Orrville, OH a few years back and has been a Silver Crown competitor since 1978.

Tony Elliott
Warsaw, Indiana
Birthdate: January 24, 1961

Tony took seventh in the season-opener at the Tampa, FL State Fairgrounds and ended up 21st in the final Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown Series standings. He was also 10th in the "Pepsi-Cola 150" at Indianapolis Raceway Park and 11th in both the 'Hulman Hundred" in Indianapolis and the "Hoosier Hundred" at the same track. A USAC Sprint Car regular, Tony ranked 7th in the 1987 standings after scoring his initial USAC feature wins at Hinsdale, IL and Rossburg, OH. The Hinsdale triumph came in front of a live ESPN television audience.

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

Bob Cicconi
Prospect Park, Pennsylvania
Birthdate: Dec. 23, 1952

Competing in seven Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown Championship events, Bob's best 1987 finish was a 7th at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. He ranked 22nd in the final standings. Bob also competes with the USAC Midget Series and is a former ARDC Midget titlist. In 1986 he led all 50 laps to win a USAC Speedrome "Regional" Midget feature which was telecast "live" by ESPN. He finished sixth in the USAC Mini-Indy Championship in 1978.

Silver Crown Championship Series Drivers

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

George Snider
Bakersfield, California
Birthdate: Dec. 8, 1940

USAC's 1981/82 Gold Crown National Champion won the first Silver Crown title in 1971. In 1987 his best Silver Crown finishes in four starts were a 10th at both the Indiana State Fairgrounds in May and at the DuQuoin, IL State Fairgrounds in September. A 22-time veteran of the Indianapolis 500-Mile Race, George opened the 1987 USAC Supermodified season with a new World's Record qualifying speed of 146.110 mph at the Phoenix International Raceway.

Rich Vogler
Indianapolis, Indiana
Birthdate: July 26, 1950

Rich competed in all but one of the 1987 Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown Championship races, his best finish a 10th in the "Hoosier Hundred". He was runnerup in the USAC Sprint Car, National Midget and Indianapolis Speedrome Regional Midget Series and remains one of USAC's winningest drivers in recent years. He's won three Silver Crown features and the 1980 USAC Sprint Champ and 4-time Midget titlist also competed in the 1987 Indianapolis 500-Mile Race.

Tom Bigelow
Winchester, Indiana
Birthdate: Oct. 31, 1939

Making only four starts in the 1987 Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown Championship Series, Tom ranked 29th in the final points. He scored five "top-10" finishes enroute to third in the final 1986 Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown standings. His best finish was a fourth at DuQuoin, IL but he was fast qualifier for the Hagerstown, MD race in June. A former USAC National Sprint and Midget Champ, Tom won the Indianapolis Speedrome's 500-lap Midget race for the second consecutive year in 1986.

Rusty McClure
Ashland, Ohio
Birthdate: Sept. 3, 1958

Rusty ranked 10th in the final Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown standings. He had a consistent season, with four "top-10" finishes in seven starts. His best finish came in the "Tony Bettenhausen 100" at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield where he was fifth. He also is a frequent campaigner in the USAC Sprint Cars.

Brent Kaeding
Campbell, California
Birthdate: Sept. 5, 1957

Ranking 11th in the final 1987 Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown Series points, Brent was very impressive considering he only made three starts. He finished third in the "Hulman Hundred" at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, 14th in the "Hoosier Hundred" at the same mile dirt oval later in the year, and charged from 20th starting spot to a fourth-place finish in the series finale at Phoenix, AZ.

Andy Hillenburg
Indianapolis, Indiana
Birthdate: April 30, 1963

Twelfth in the final Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown standings, Andy scored a third-place finish in the "Tony Bettenhausen 100" at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. He also recorded a sixth in the "4-Crown Nationals" at Rossburg, OH. Andy also is a frequent competitor in USAC Sprint Car events.

Jim Childers
Seffner, Florida
Birthdate: May 7, 1943

Jim competed in six Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown Championship races, and scored an impressive fourth-place finish in the "Tony Bettenhausen 100" at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield, winning that race's "Rookie of the Race" honors. He also took an eighth in the "4-Crown Nationals" feature at Rossburg, OH and ended up 13th in the final series standings.

Warren Mockler
Westfield, Indiana
Birthdate: January 4, 1954

Warren was the 14th-ranking driver in the final 1987 Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown Series standings, his best finish an impressive runnerup to Larry Rice in the season-opener at Tampa, FL. He also did well on the pavement with an eighth in the "Pepsi-Cola 150" at Indianapolis Raceway Park. Ranking 12th in the 1986 Silver Crown points, Warren was voted STP's "Most Improved" series driver.

Ron Dunstan
Coplay, Pennsylvania
Birthdate: March 17, 1943

Ron started in seven of the eight Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown races in 1987, his best finishes a sixth at Springfield, IL and an eighth in the "Hulman Hundred" in Indianapolis, IN. He was 22nd in the 1986 Silver Crown points with an admirable performance at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, taking sixth.

Mark Alderson
Timber Lake, South Dakota
Birthdate: April 18, 1945

Mark made his Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown Championship debut in 1976 and has been a regular in the series since 1981. His best series finish was a third at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis in 1983. In 1987 his best showing was eighth at DuQuoin, IL and a pair of ninth-places at Indianapolis Raceway Park and Rossburg, OH.

Tray House
Chesterfield, Indiana
Birthdate: April 8, 1964

Tray is one of the outstanding "young lions" that has emerged on the USAC Silver Crown and Sprint Car scene. Making his Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown debut in September at the "Hoosier Hundred", Tray was behind the wheel of the former Sheldon Kinser mount. Although he only competed in the last three Silver Crown races of the season, Tray raised a few eyebrows by establishing the fastest qualifying time for the "Checker Classic" on the paved one-mile Phoenix International Raceway. Tray is also a talented Sprint Car veteran and is a frequent competitor in the USAC Sprints.

Gary Bettenhausen
Monrovia, Indiana
Birthdate: Nov. 18, 1941

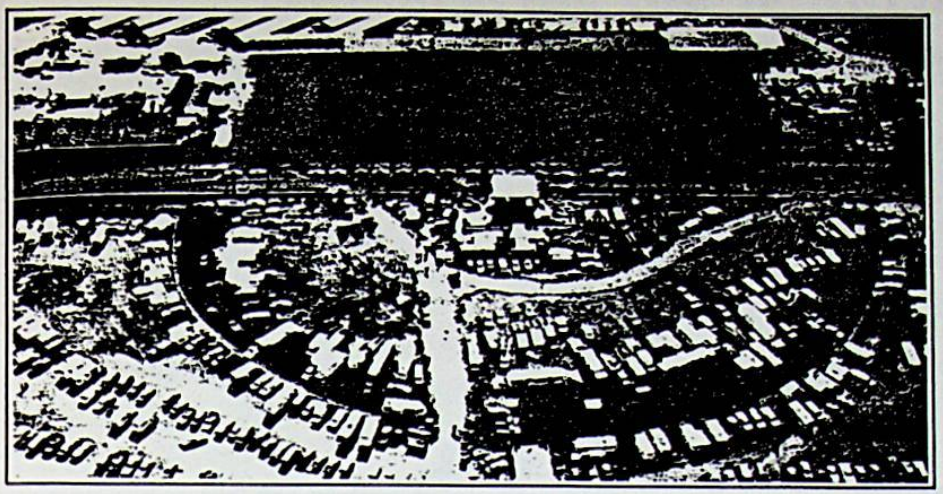
Making only four starts in the 1987 Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown Championship Series, Gary appeared to have the "Pepsi-Cola 150" at Indianapolis Raceway Park in the bag until magneto trouble forced him out near the finish. At DuQuoin, IL he suffered a badly lacerated ankle in a practice crash. The winningest driver in USAC Silver Crown history (9 wins) is a veteran of 16 Indianapolis 500-Mile races and placed fifth in the 1987 "500". He's a 2-time Silver Crown titlist (1980 and '83) and in '87 switched from the Delrose-Holt team to the A.J. Watson Leader Card team. Winner of 80 USAC races during his distinguished career, Gary won the 1969 and 1971 USAC Sprint Car title and in 1980 was voted winner of Valvoline's prestigious "Jimmy Caruthers Memorial Award" in recognition of his spirit and determination.

PICTURE NOT AVAILABLE

Bill Engelhart
Madison, Wisconsin
Birthdate: March 20, 1942

The 1979 Valvoline/USAC Silver Crown Series runnerup, Bill only made two starts in 1987. In '86, however, he started and finished the 1986 Silver Crown Series by finishing second behind Jack Hewitt at Indianapolis, IN and Rossburg, OH respectively. Those placings helped him take sixth in the final standings. Bill was also the USAC Midget Series runnerup in 1972. He owns 27 USAC feature victories, including the 1978 "Hoosier Hundred" and is just one of the many Indianapolis 500-Mile Race veterans competing in the Silver Crown Series.

"World's Fastest One Mile Dirt Track"



THE HISTORY OF MOTORSPORTS

Automobile racing was unknown in 1894, the year the Illinois State Fair settled in its permanent location.

For its first forty-one years, the Fair had been held in no less than eleven cities. But in 1894 the Illinois Legislature gave into popular demand and chose a fixed site for the festivities. Several new structures were proposed for the 156 acres north of Springfield, along with renovation of the one mile race track already existing on the grounds.

The Fair opened on September 24 with the track as its focal point. Thousands of people attended the horse races and other demonstrations performed before the covered grandstand.

It wasn't long before automobiles became part of the track's entertainment. By 1905 Barney Oldfield included the Illinois mile on his barnstorming circuit and regaled and crowd with breathtaking laps in his Peerless Green Dragon.

Oldfield returned in 1910, driving his Blitzen Benz in a special match against an airplane! His car overturned, causing him to lose the contest, but the famous showman walked away uninjured.

Regular auto races were also held during the 1910 Fair. Art Bisch of Springfield won the St. Nicholas Hotel Trophy by guiding his Jackson Racer over the line first in a five mile event. That same October 1st afternoon saw the death of LaRue Vredenburgh. His Stoddard Dayton overturned on the eighth lap of a twenty mile contest.

Motorcycles and auto polo were added to the motorized attractions through the years. But the open cockpit racers remained the spectators' favorite.

A new grandstand was constructed for the 1927 Fair, and the track was resituated. No longer would the fans have to look into the late afternoon sun.

Finally, in 1934, the State Fair management took a step which would make the track known throughout the country; they staged an AAA 100 mile National Championship race.

Just a handful of tracks conducted such events in 1934. So the contest made national news. Billy Winn not only won the race, but also began a tradition which lasted half a century. Through Depression and Watergate, through Roosevelt and Reagan, through Korea and Vietnam, 52 races have been run and thirty-four drivers have been victorious on the fairgrounds dirt.

Other paved tracks have long ago been plowed up and paved over. Only Springfield remains in its original form.

Stock cars, sprints and midgets have also shared the limelight. But it is the open cockpit championship cars which have consistently held the fans' attention. The crowds returned to Springfield year after year to experience the best championship racing in the country.

Illinois State Fair
One Mile Dirt Track Records

Date Type of Race Driver Time & MPH Distance

5/25/86 AMA Motorcycle/Rick Graham
14:33.271/103.06 25, AMA Championship

8/17/85 USAC Silver Crown Dirt Champ Cars
Joe Saldana 31.144/115.592 MPH*
1 Mile (lap) Qualifying

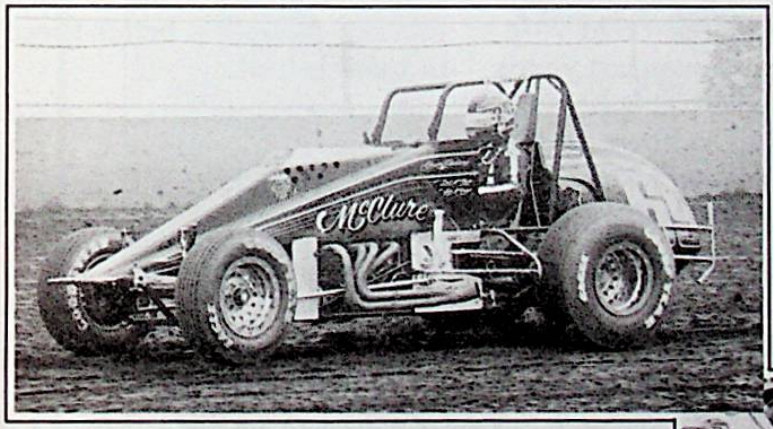
8/15/82 USAC Silver Crown Dirt Champ Cars
Larry Dickson 1:00:28.04/99.217 MPH*
100 Miles

8/18/86 USAC Midgets/John Parsons
35.25/101.5 MPH*, 1 Mile (lap) Qualifying

8/18/86 A.R.C.A. Stocks/Scott Stoval
35.483/101.457 MPH, 1 Mile (lap) Qualifying

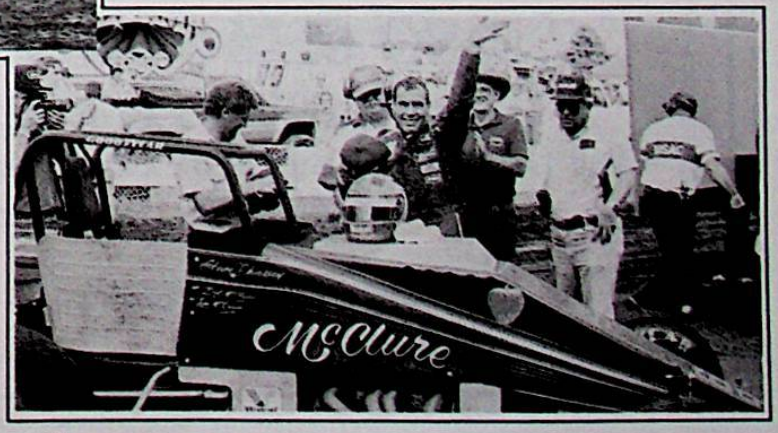
8/18/86 A.R.C.A. Stocks/Dean Roper
1:22:21.48/72.753 MPH, 100 Miles
End On Yellow

*—World Record



#69, Steve Chassey, Winner Tony Bettenhausen Memorial 100 Mile Valvoline Silver Crown Race. 3/22/88—Springfield, IL

PHOTO BY TODD HUNTER



Winner Steve Chassey, popular driver in the Valvoline Silver Crowns, waving to the huge crowd . . . 8/22/88.

PHOTO BY DON FIGLER

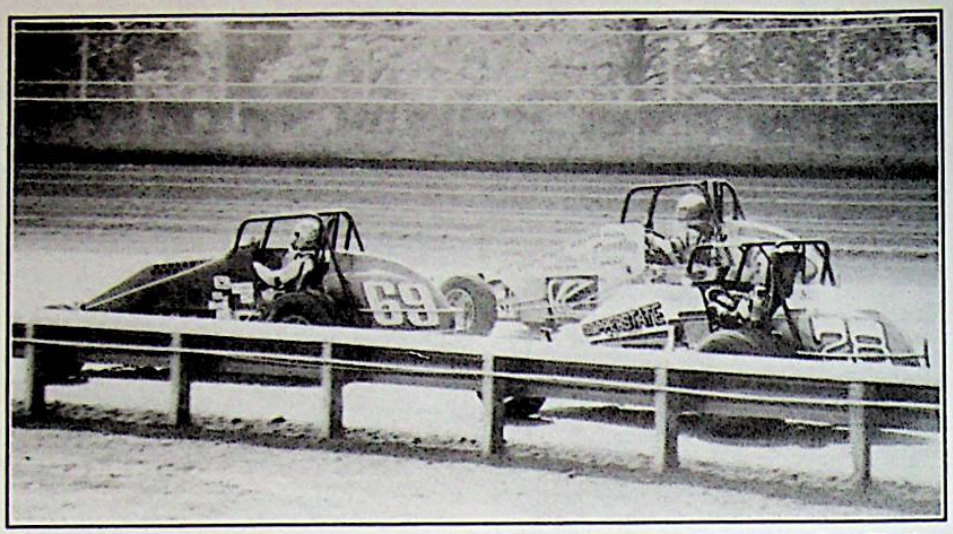
"Tony Bettenhausen Memorial"

By Dick Jordan

Welcome to the "Tony Bettenhausen Memorial" 100-mile USAC Silver Crown National Championship Race, dedicated to the memory of one of Illinois' finest athletes—the great veteran from Tinley Park, IL—Tony Bettenhausen.

Tony won the USAC National Driving Championship in 1958 and was previously the 1951 National Driving Champion under the sanction of the American Automobile Association (AAA). He excelled in the type of racing you'll be witnessing today on the 1-mile Illinois State Fair oval, referred to for years as "Championship Dirt-Car Racing" and now called "Silver Crown Championship Racing".

Tony won this race in 1947, then returned to win it again in 1950 and repeated again in 1951, so it's fitting that his memory is honored today. His son, Gary, has since become one of the finest racing drivers in the United States and he too won this race—in 1978 and again in 1983—and hopes to repeat today.



Racing Action, heading for the finish line, Steve Chassey, winner . . . followed by Tom Bigelow and Ron Dunstan in the Tony Bettenhausen 100 Mile Silver Crown Valvoline Championship car race 8/22/88.
PHOTO BY GERALD WALKER

Tony was nearing the culmination of his driving career—a victory in the Indianapolis 500-Mile Race, when tragedy struck him at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in 1961. While test-driving a car for a driver friend, he crashed on the front straightaway and suffered fatal injuries. Many thought that he would have gone on to win the 1961 "500".

Steve Chassey won last year's 100-mile race here at Springfield and the list of winners of this prestigious race, which dates all the way back to 1934, includes the top race drivers of all time—A.J. Foyt, Mario Andretti, Jimmy Bryan, Rex Mays, Wilbur Shaw—just to name a few.

This track is one of the fastest of its type in the world and Jeff Swindell established the 1-lap record of 116.433 mph average while qualifying for this race in 1987. He'll undoubtedly be among hopefuls trying to erase that record with a better speed in today's trial.

C. LEO SHAUGHNESSY JEWELERS

Continues to Contribute to Motorsports for the 11th Year and Donates a Beautiful Wrist Watch To the Fastest Qualifier of Todays' Race.

Presenting the Watches is Danny Shaughnessy

Announcing the Winners in the Dale Mueller Photo Contest - 1989

FIRST PLACE
John Kozy
5951 W. Bottsford Ave., Greenfield, WI
Trophy and $200.00

SECOND PLACE
Gerald Walker
1261 N. 475th East, Columbus, IN
Trophy and $150.00

THIRD PLACE
Russ Garrett
2268 S. 10th Street. Springfield, IL
Trophy and $100.00

The competition was very brisk in this years' photo contest, held annually in the name of Dale Mueller, photographer, killed in a freak accident at the Illinois State Fair . . . (see accompanying article).

The photo contest is held in memory of free-lance photographer Dale Mueller. Mueller was killed at the 1966 Illinois State Fair when the wooden platform holding him and another photographer toppled onto the dirt track minutes after the first car began hot laps. Both photographers were killed in the accident as was an electrician who was hit by the falling structure.

Entries were judged by a panel of photographers for composition, originality and appeal. Photographers were allowed a single photograph or a series from any of the 1987 State Fair races. Mounting was optional; however, attractiveness of the display was taken into account in the judging. Prize money of $200, $150 and $100 was awarded to the winners.

First, second and third place plaques will be presented by Mueller's widow, Mrs. John E. Sullivan, Jr. on Saturday, August 19, between time trials and the actual dirt car race.

STEVE CHASSEY

Steve Chassey, winner of the 1988 Tony Bettenhausen Memorial 100-mile USAC Silver Crown National Championship Race, was severely injured at Michigan International Speedway. Steve, who is recovering from a back injury, will be out for the entire season.

Tony Bettenhausen Memorial 100 Race

In the Winners Circle . . . Tony Bettenhausen Memorial 100 . . . 8/22/88 . . . Steve Chassey, winner, flanked by Gary Bettenhausen and Bruce Field . . . Steve Chassey led the final five miles to win the 100-miler after starting 20th in the field of 30 champ cars.

PHOTO BY DON FIGLER

J.W. Hunt Produce Checkered Flag Award

At the conclusion of todays 100 Mile Event the winner will receive the J.W. Hunt Produce Checkered Flag Award. This award, new this year to the Valvoline Series Races, is a beautiful trophy draped by the checkered flag that the flagman will use to signal the winner of the race. Prior to the race the flag will be autographed by the entire field of drivers in todays event. Accompanying the award is a $1,000 bonus for the win and the trophy will be presented by Mr. J.W. Hunt, one of USAC's staunchest supporters.

J.W. Hunt Produce Checkered Flag Award

$1,000 cash plus a trophy and autographed flag will be awarded to the winner of each race.

Event Contingency Awards

PRO-FORMANCE SHOCKS . . . . . $100 - Product
McCREARY TIRE . . . . . 1) $200, 2) $150, 3) $100
CLEAR RHEA FACE SHIELD UNITS . . . . . $50 - Product

Pinkerton Tobacco Co., Richmond, VA

August 20 — Awarding winner of Tony Bettenhausen Memorial 100 Mile Silver Crown Race . . .
Beautiful Trophy

August 21 — Awarding winner of the Coors Allen Crowe Memorial 100 Mile Permatex Super Cars . . .
Beautiful Trophy

August 21 — Awarding winner of the Rex Easton Memorial 25 Mile Midget (USAC) . . .
Beautiful Trophy

Presenting these trophies on the dates above will be: Mr. Harry Kelley, Illinois Association of Tobacco and Candy Dist. and Frank E. Smith, Pinkerton Tobacco Co. Representative.

Silver Crown Championship Series Year-End Point Fund Contingency Awards

STP - $5,000
Goodyear Tire & Rubber - $3,000
Canon, USA - $5,500
Hoosier Racing Tire - $6,000
Champion Spark Plug Co. - $2,500
Valvoline - $5,000 Plus Fuel Price Surplus
Earl's Performance Products - $1,200 - Product
Clear Rhea Face Shield Units - $250 - Product
Stenger's Ford Rookie of the Year - $1,000
Livingwell Fitness Centers

IN DEDICATION . . .

Ray "Bones" Fletcher

Ray "Bones" Fletcher was in racing before 1950 as a builder and racing Micro Midgets. He won the Canadian-American Championship in 1958. In 1961 he switched to building and designing full Midgets and continued until his passing five years ago. "Bones", a nickname given him by his friends, had a reputation for helping the new guys, the "rookies". Some of these "rookies" were: Parnelli Jones, Merle Bettenhausen, Jan Opperman and Larry Rice.

A good friend of "Bones", Howard Lehman, of Springfield, another dedicated friend of racing, developed outstanding Sprint and Midget Racers. Carol, "Bones" wife, will present the trophy and cash in a joint effort of their friends and merchants of Gridley, IL, where "Bones" lived all his life.

Harley Graves

Harley Graves, a Life Member in the United States Auto Club, passed away six years ago. Harley was an avid and sincere race fan, and for many years an attendant here at the Illinois State Fair. Friends of Harley from his hometown of Macomb, IL, have donated a cash sum, and a beautiful trophy in his memory. This memorial was instituted at the Champ Car race in 1983, and will be presented to the BEST SPORTSMAN following todays race.

Dale Mueller Memorial Award

They called him the No. 1 auto racing fan in the country . . . traveling to auto races for over 32 years of his life, promoting the sport, taking auto racing movies, and he died doing it.

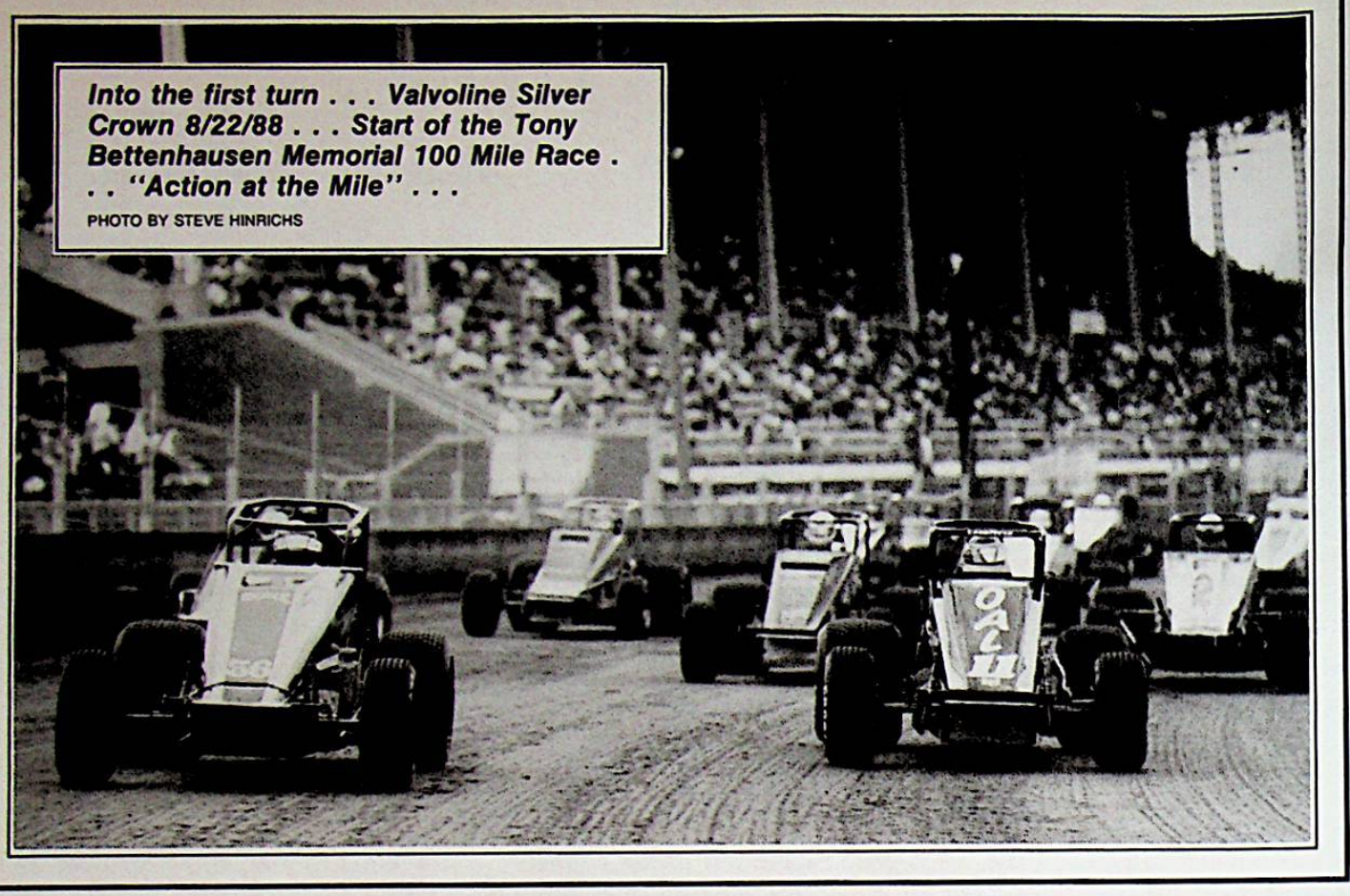
His movies are now housed in the Museum of Speed in Indianapolis, Indiana. On August 20, 1966, Dale climbed up on the roof of the grandstand at the Illinois State Fair, all the better to get racing movies of scenes below. He and a friend were preparing to take pictures of hot laps and qualifications, during an exhibition by the Army Green Berets. The Berets had tied a rope to the platform on top of the grandstand on which the photographers were setting up. The other end of the rope was fastened to a wrecker across the track. The rope was pulled too tight, and the platform came down with Dale on it. Dale and the stage hand below were killed instantly. To these men the Dale Mueller Photo Award is dedicated.

Pat Vidan

Pat Vidan passed away on April 1, 1983, after a short illness. A brief resume of his contribution to auto racing is here presented. In memory of Pat, a plaque is presented to the driver who displays the "Best Performance".

Pat Vidan retired from his job as chief starter for the Indianapolis 500 in 1979 after 18 years. He had an intense interest in race drivers, particularly those in the early part of their careers. Pat was a rugged man, a fitness advocate who operated a health studio for 14 of his years at Indianapolis. Vidan was a multi-talented person, as Rolla Vollstedt recalls, "If we had a delay to repair a fence or something, Pat might borrow a motorcycle and then come down the homestretch doing a handstand on the seat. He was a terrific athlete." As a youth he did tumbling and acrobatics, raced motorcycles, and was a member of the nationally known Multnomah Sheriff Stunt and Drill Team. He won the Tri-state 3 Meter Board Diving Championship four consecutive years.

Pat was often seen walking along with his arm over the shoulder of both novice and proven race drivers, giving advice and a "pat" on the back when it was called for, and a little criticism when it became necessary. Hence, it is appropriate to name this award, "The Pat Vidan Memorial."



Into the first turn . . . Valvoline Silver Crown 8/22/88 . . . Start of the Tony Bettenhausen Memorial 100 Mile Race . . . "Action at the Mile" . . .

PHOTO BY STEVE HINRICHS

Tony Bettenhausen 100 . . .Past Winners

1934	Billy Winn	1952	Bill Schindler	1965	A.J. Foyt	1979	Bobby Olivero
1935	Billy Winn	1953	Rodger Ward	1966	Don Branson	1980	Pancho Carter
1936	Wilbur Shaw	1953*	Sam Hanks	1967	A.J. Foyt	1981	George Snider
1937	Mauri Rose	1954	Jimmy Davies	1968	Roger McCluskey	1982	Larry Dickson
1938	Tony Willman	1955	Jimmy Bryan	1969	Mario Andretti	1982	Bobby Olivero
1939	Emil Andres	1956	Jimmy Bryan	1970	Al Unser	1983	Gary Bettenhausen
1940	Rex Mays	1957	Rodger Ward	1971	A.J. Foyt	1984	Chuck Gurney
1947	Tony Bettenhausen	1958	Johnny Thomson	1972	Al Unser	1985	Chuck Gurney
1948*	Myron Fohr	1959	Len Sutton	1973	Mario Andretti	1986	Jack Hewitt
1949	Mel Hansen	1960	Jim Packard	1974	Mario Andretti	1987	Jack Hewitt
1949	Johnnie Parsons	1961	Jim Hurtubise	1975	Al Unser	1988	Steve Chassey
1950	Paul Russo	1962	Jim Hurtubise	1976	Tom Bigelow		
1950	Tony Bettenhausen	1963	Rodger Ward	1977	Larry Rice		
1951	Tony Bettenhausen	1964	A.J. Foyt	1978	Gary Bettenhausen		

Prize Money Distribution

1. $9,000	7. $1,400	13. $700	19. $500	25. $300
2. $4,500	8. $1,200	14. $600	20. $500	26. $300
3. $3,000	9. $1,100	15. $500	21. $400	27. $300
4. $2,000	10. $1,000	16. $500	22. $400	28. $300
5. $1,800	11. $ 900	17. $500	23. $400	29. $300
6. $1,600	12. $ 800	18. $500	24. $400	30. $300

Point Fund Deduction - $2,000 *Race Organizer Point Fund - $1,500*

Champ. Appearance - $500 *Feature Purse - $36,000*

GRAND TOTAL - $40,000

FIRST QUALIFYING RACE

TONY BETTENHAUSEN MEMORIAL

The first five finishers shall transfer to the 100 Mile Event

	Car No.	Driver and Home	Type Car	Qualifying Speed	Finish Position
Row 1					
Row 2					
Row 3					
Row 4					
Row 5					
Row 6					
Row 7					
Row 8					
Row 9					
Row 10					
Row 11					
Row 12					
Row 13					
Row 14					
Row 15					
Row 16					
Row 17					
Row 18					
Row 19					
Row 20					
Row 21					

SECOND QUALIFYING RACE

TONY BETTENHAUSEN MEMORIAL

The first five finishers shall transfer to the 100 Mile Event

	Car No.	Driver and Home	Type Car	Qualifying Speed	Finish Position
Row 1					
Row 2					
Row 3					
Row 4					
Row 5					
Row 6					
Row 7					
Row 8					
Row 9					
Row 10					
Row 11					
Row 12					
Row 13					
Row 14					
Row 15					
Row 16					
Row 17					
Row 18					
Row 19					
Row 20					
Row 21					

1989 ILLINOIS STATE FAIR

Tony Bettenhausen Memorial Starting Line Ups

	Car No.	Driver and Home	Type Car	Qualifying Speed	Finish Position
Row 1					
Row 2					
Row 3					
Row 4					
Row 5					
Row 6					
Row 7					
Row 8					
Row 9					
Row 10					
Row 11					
Row 12					
Row 13					
Row 14					
Row 15					
Row 16					
Row 17					
Row 18					
Row 19					
Row 20					
Row 21					

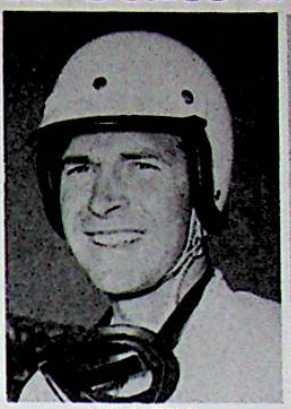
TIME TRIAL RESULTS

Car No.	Driver	Qualifying Time	Qualifying Speed	Starting Position	Finishing Position	Pit Notes

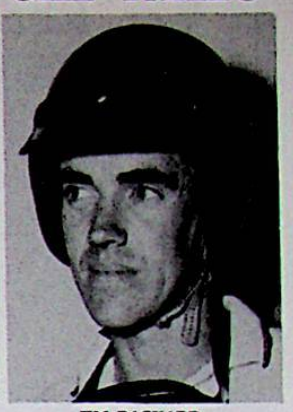
Past Winners on the Illinois State Fair Mile

RODGER WARD
1957 & 1963 Winner

JOHNNY THOMSON
1958 Winner



LEN SUTTON
1959 Winner



JIM PACKARD
1960 Winner

JIM HURTUBISE
1961 & 1962 Winner

A.J. FOYT
1964, '65, '67 & '71 Winner

DON BRANSON
1966 Winner

ROGER McCLUSKEY
1968 Winner

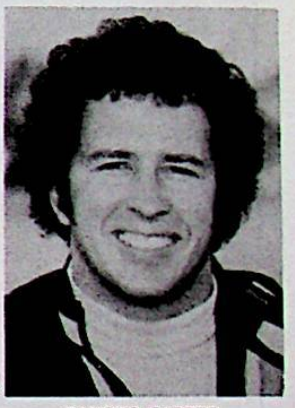
MARIO ANDRETTI
1969, '73 & '74 Winner

TOM BIGELOW
1976 Winner

LARRY RICE
1977 Winner

GARY BETTENHAUSEN
1979 & 1983 Winner

BOBBY OLIVERO
1979 & 1982 Winner



PANCHO CARTER
1980 Winner

GEORGE SNIDER
1981 Winner

LARRY DICKSON
1982 Winner of Added Event

CHUCK GURNEY
1984 & 1985 Winner

JACK HEWITT
1986 & 1987 Winner

STEVE CHASSEY
1988 Winner

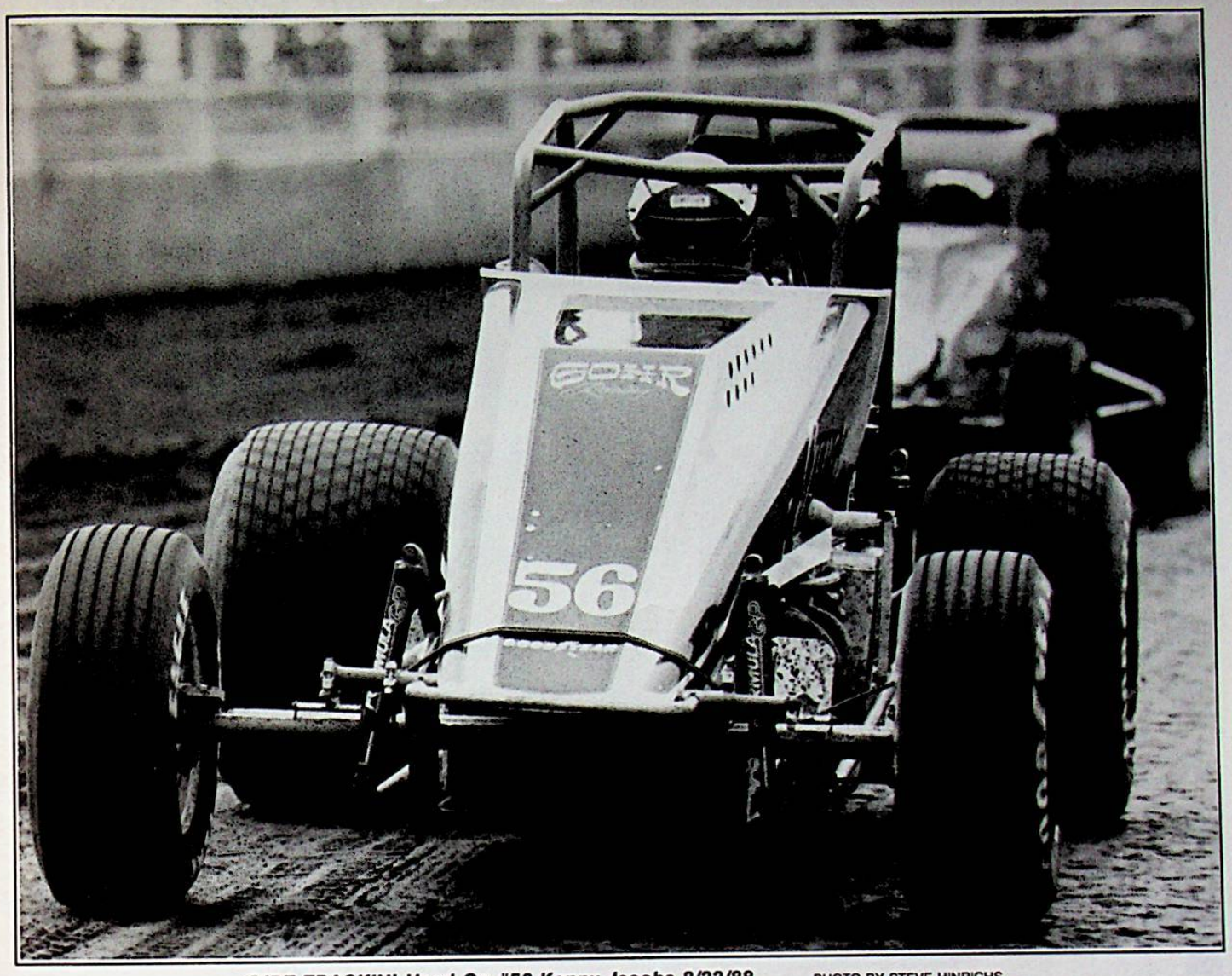
Keep A Record of Leading Cars by Miles

CHECK OFF THE FIRST 10 LEADERS DURING THE RACE

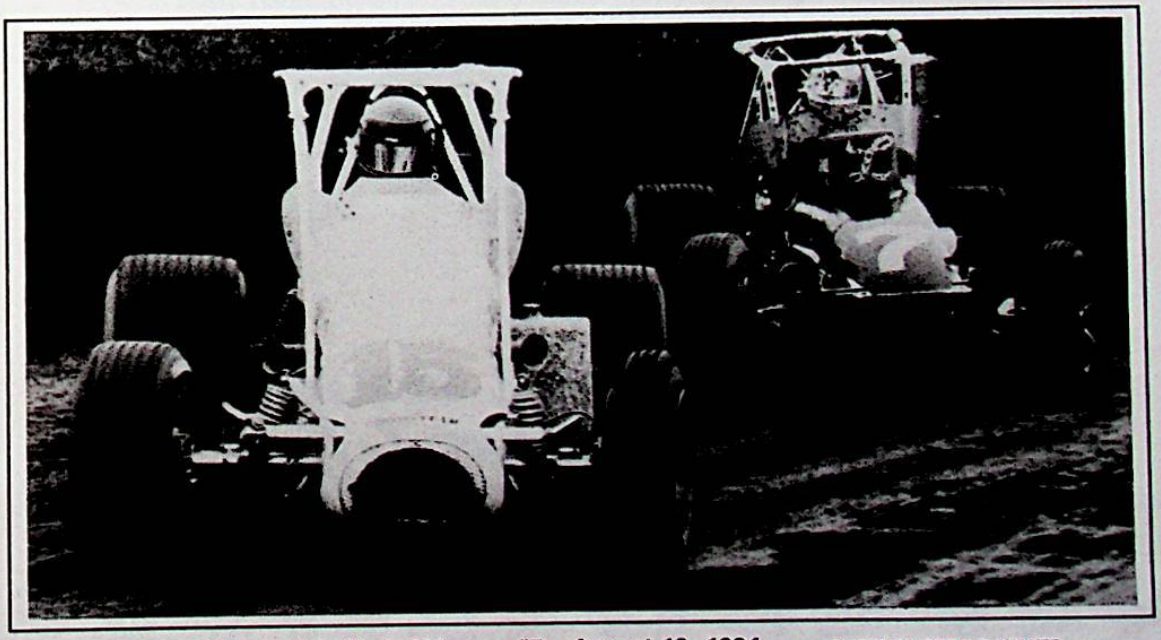
10 LAPS	20 LAPS	30 LAPS	40 LAPS	50 LAPS
1. _____	1. _____	1. _____	1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____	4. _____	4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____	5. _____	5. _____	5. _____
6. _____	6. _____	6. _____	6. _____	6. _____
7. _____	7. _____	7. _____	7. _____	7. _____
8. _____	8. _____	8. _____	8. _____	8. _____
9. _____	9. _____	9. _____	9. _____	9. _____
10. _____	10. _____	10. _____	10. _____	10. _____

60 LAPS	70 LAPS	80 LAPS	90 LAPS	100 LAPS
1. _____	1. _____	1. _____	1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____	4. _____	4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____	5. _____	5. _____	5. _____
6. _____	6. _____	6. _____	6. _____	6. _____
7. _____	7. _____	7. _____	7. _____	7. _____
8. _____	8. _____	8. _____	8. _____	8. _____
9. _____	9. _____	9. _____	9. _____	9. _____
10. _____	10. _____	10. _____	10. _____	10. _____

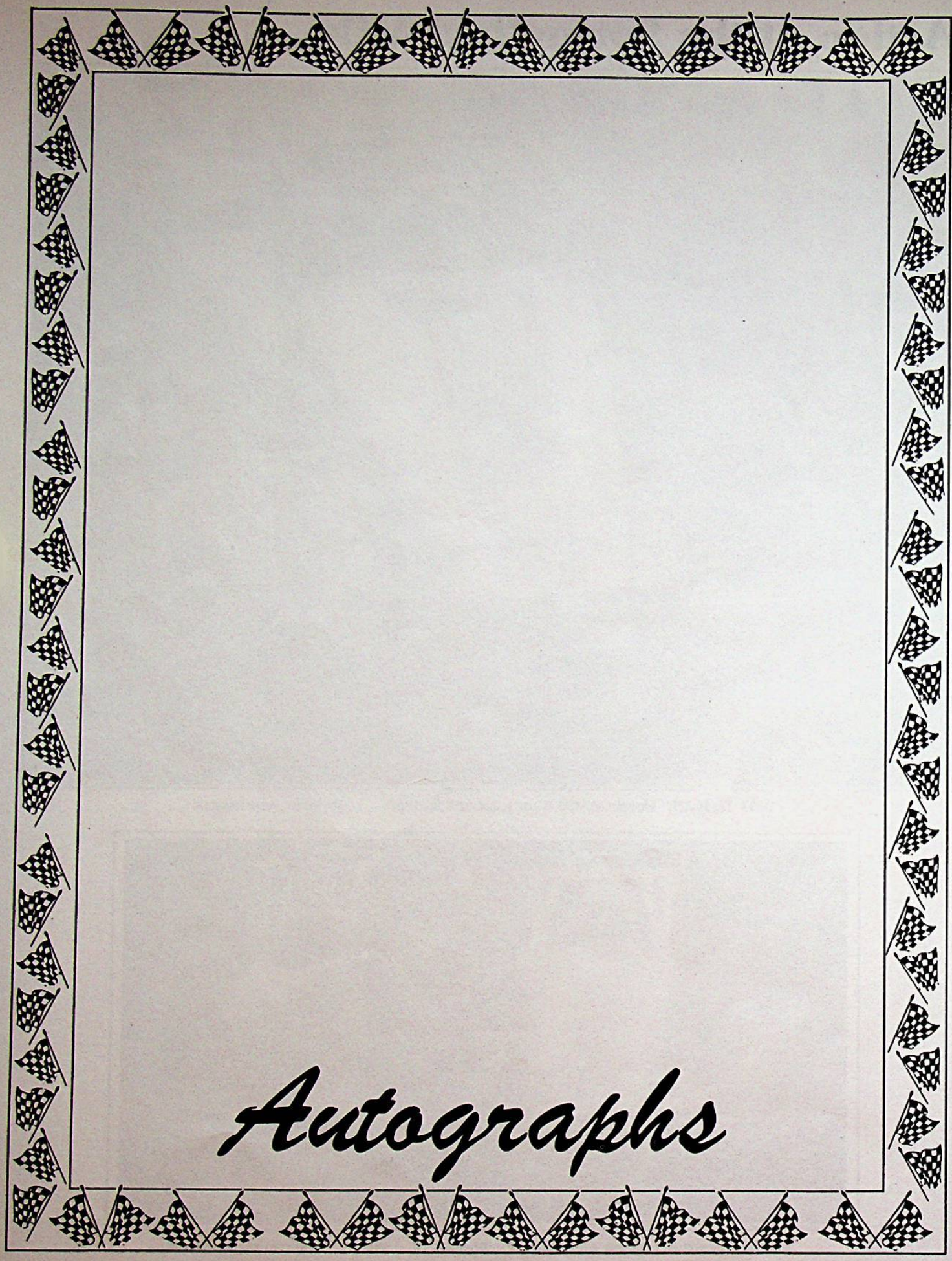
Action at the Springfield Mile . . .



'DIRT TRACKIN' Head On #56 Kenny Jacobs 8/22/88 PHOTO BY STEVE HINRICHS



Bobby Olivero #15, Mark Alderson #7 August 19, 1984 PHOTO BY GERALD WALKER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Good Luck

Jack Hewitt

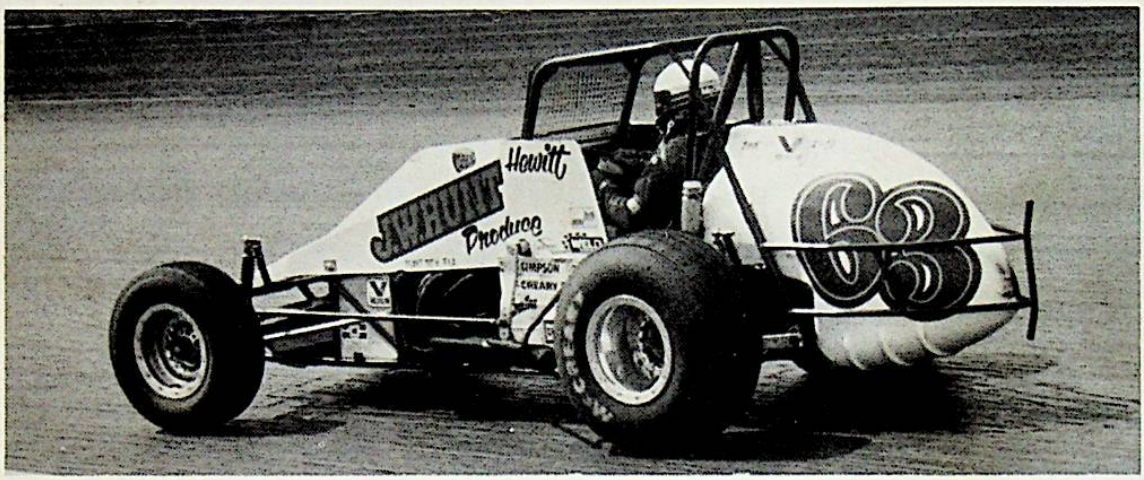

Photo by Todd Hunter

J.W. HUNT PRODUCE

PLANT CITY, FLORIDA