

Vintage Views

*The Official Newsletter of the
Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club*

APRIL 1995

VOL 4 NO 5

WALL OPENER 1965



Racing action at Wall Stadium early in the 1965 season.
#84 Fran Myroncuk, #68 Dave Hulse, #0 Bill McCarthy, #14
Joe Kelly. (Fitzpatrick photo, Wall Stadium collection.)

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 19, 7:30 pm, West Long Branch
Firehouse, Rt 71 (Monmouth Rd) and Cedar Ave., West Long
Branch, NJ. For directions call 908-223-9388 or 908-840-6307.

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF STOCK CAR RACING HISTORY



President Ray Shea called the March 15, 1995 meeting of the GSVSCC to order at 7:40 PM. He then asked Bob Farlee our treasurer for his report. we have a balance of \$7822.92 in the treasury.

Brad Gray was welcomed to the meeting. He is recovering from heart surgery. Also Al Matthews was attending for the first time.

The president thanked Nancy Shea and Ray Liss for their very hard work in making the raffle a huge success. The total added to the treasury was \$1429.19.

Ray said that the recent mall shows were very successful. He then reminded us about the annual banquet and our annual picnic which will be July 16 at Shark River Park.

Bill Erbe said that large patches and decals were being ordered. He also asked for models and photo albums to be displayed at the banquet. Deadlines for the newsletter will be shortened by a week since it will now be sent by bulk mail resulting in a savings for the club.

The following shows were announced. Rt.9 Flea Market, Howell July 9, Long Branch, Ocean Blvd. May 20 & 21 and a change in date for Wall Stadium from May 20 to May 13.

There was a drivers meeting March 12. For anyone who wasn't there see Ray as soon as possible. Also there will be a drivers reunion in South Jersey. See the president for details.

It was announced according to the Ocean County Observer that there will be a new division forming at Wall Stadium. Pick-up trucks. More info later.

The Fillimon Brothers show March 11 at Jackson Mills firehouse was a great success. Ray thanked Chuck Weinberger, Bruce Rcslin and Greg Roman for having their cars at the show.

President Shea introduced Bruce Pernitza who came to the club to ask for any help members could give him to get New Egypt race track operational again. He is leasing the track and plans to open June 7, 1995.

Bill Force brought in some pieces of memorabilia from tracks of the past for the membership to see.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.



by Michael Shea

Drivers have always been subjected to the demands of their sport of auto racing. Because many had jobs, businesses, families, and other interests outside racing, few could dedicate themselves enough to change a hobby into a profession. Webster calls a hobby a subject or pursuit of absorbing interest undertaken primarily for pleasure during one's leisure time. Those that have participated in chasing the thrill of victory can attest to, that the part time only commitment easily can turn into an obsession. Only those drivers that have a balanced outlook and the ability to keep in perspective the other interests in their lives can say they are in control of their hobby, their hobby is not in control of them. Being controlled by your hobby can lead to where many have gone, down the road being burned out, out of money and negative toward a sport that only controls you as much as you let it. One driver who was able to keep it all in perspective and in doing so enjoyed racing without sacrificing his other interests in his life was Pat Keeley.

It was opening night at Wall in 1950 when the Nichols would entertain not only a action awaiting crowd but a 7 yr old boy who would one day press the pavement at some of N.J.'s finest speedways. Throughout his childhood Pat was surrounded by the sounds of stock cars. Neighbors drove cars, fellow businessmen whom his father did business with owned cars and with the track being so close to his house was a weekly

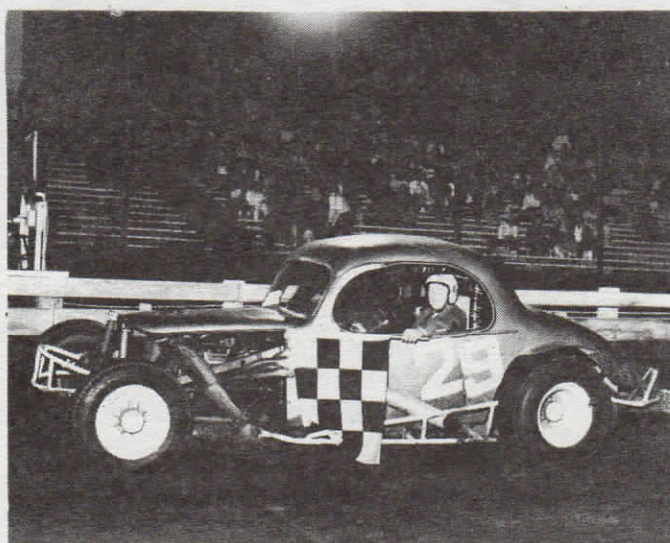


Pat Keeley with starter Pete LaVance in Wall Stadium's victory lane in May of 1963. (Fitzpatrick photo, Wall Stadium collection)

attendee at the races. By age 16 the pits behind his house had provided some great lessons of driving against other cars as friends entertained themselves on many occasions.

In 1961 at the age of 18 Pat's chance to race had finally come around as a few friends built a '46 Ford for the Wall Novice division. Although the first year proved to be just a learning experience the dream of competing like his boyhood heroes of Kelly, McCarthy and Hoffman had finally arrived. When the next season started, a action packed week at Fort Dix, Vineland, Wall and Old Bridge proved to be just what this rookie needed, some variety. This would pay off by years end when he was crowned the 1962 Fort Dix Novice Champion.

When Wally Dallenbach's 35a became available to purchase Pat stepped up and bought the car to run modified in 1963. Like many who stepped up in horsepower the speed took some time to get used to. By 1964 and a year of modified competition under his belt, Pat felt the demands of his business requiring more of his time. 1965's costs were increasing as equipment was becoming more sophisticated. The 1966 season provided the fans with a new class at the Fort Dix Speedway. The new sportsman class would allow Pat to run a stock V-8 motor in his #K-18. After winning a bunch of races that year Pat decided that his business was more important and withdrew from racing until 1973. When that season started few would of thought that after a 6 yr absence that Pat could of been as



Pat Kelly in the #29 in 1965 at Wall Stadium. (Charles Taylor photo, Wall Stadium collection)



Pat Kelley in the #29 Gremlin wins a 30 lap feature at Wall Stadium in 1974. (Wall Stadium collection)

competitive as he was. Not only was he competitive but the man who ran a '61 Valiant Limited Sportman #29 on the track throughout the season would teach the competition something about coming back as he won the 1973 Wall Stadium Limited Sportsman Championship. When the following season started Pat ran modified on occasion in the Allied Diesel sponsored #29 machine. In 1974 Pat bought another car, Les Sculthorpe who owned the 2jr's was selling his former Ray Hendrick car. This car would never race because of the continued demand to be a successful business owner and occasional new forms for risk evaluation by financial companies continued pressure to give up the sport. Pat's hobby had permanently taken a back seat to his business for good.

Running a business is no easy task. Although many continue to balance themselves between racing and their livelihood, Pat's decision to leave the sport on a winning note was certainly beneficial to his businesses. Today he enjoys the financial security of owning several locations of Pat Keeley's Nationwide Radiator and Transmission shops. When looking back on his career, Pat says there are few things he would have changed. Although the aspirations to drive an Indy car and a Grand National car never came to pass Pat enjoys reliving the memories of when they called him champion. With people like this in our club there is no doubt that we establish ourselves as a "family of winners." Pat thanks for the memories...

CAR NO.: 9A
OWNED BY: DEAN APPLGATE
YEAR & MAKE: '36 CHEVY COUPE
COLOR(S): METALLIC SMOKE BLUE
ENGINE: 327 CHEVY
DRIVER(S): DEAN APPLGATE
TRACKS RUN: FLEMINGTON AND E. WINDSOR
ACCOMPLISHED: '72 E. WINDSOR SPORTSMAN
CHAMP

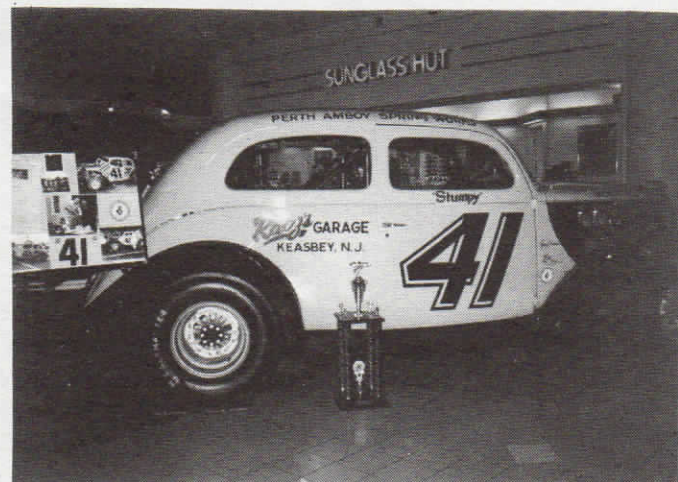


(Harvey Lashin photo)

CAR NO.: 104
OWNED BY: JOE MERLINO
YEAR & MAKE: '39 FORD
COLOR(S): BLUE AND WHITE
ENGINE: 327 CHEVY
DRIVER(S): JOHN FLAKE, JACK YARDLEY,
RALPH ENSIGN AND BILL WACKER
TRACKS RUN: ATCO, ALCYON, VINELAND, NEW
EGYPT, PLEASANTVILLE, FLEMINGTON,
WILMINGTON DE, HARRINGTON DE AND
GEORGETOWN DE
ACCOMPLISHED: DELAWARE VALLEY STOCK CAR
RACING ASS'N 1ST PLACE SPORTSMAN DIV.
'57 THRU '59



(Harvey Lashin photo)



(John Fillimon photo)

CAR NO.: 41
OWNED BY: GREGG ROMAN
YEAR & MAKE: '37 FORD SEDAN
COLOR(S): YELLOW AND BLACK
ENGINE: 312 FORD
DRIVER(S): PETE FRAZEE, TOMMY ELLIOTT,
DON STUMPF AND FREDDIE ADAM
TRACKS RUN: WALL, OLD BRIDGE, VICTORY
AND NAZARETH
ACCOMPLISHED: '57 WALL AND OLD BRIDGE
MODIFIED CHAMP, '60 WALL MODIFIED CHAMP,
WON '57 AND '63 G.S. CLASSIC, WON 200
LAP FEATURE AT OLD BRIDGE AND RAN IN
THE R.O.C. AT LANGHORN



(Bill Gibbons photo)

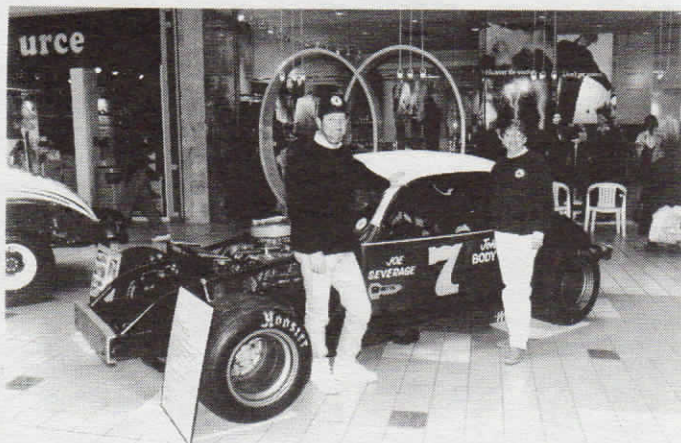
CAR NO.: 10
OWNED BY: RAY LISS
YEAR & MAKE: '70 AMC GREMLIN
COLOR(S): RED, WHITE AND BLUE
ENGINE: 339 CHEVY
DRIVER(S): RAY LISS
TRACKS RUN: FLEMINGTON, HIGHTSTOWN/
E. WINDSOR, BRIDGEPORT, READING,
SYRACUSE, 5 MI POINT, BROCKVILLE, CA
AND CORNWALL, CA
ACCOMPLISHED: 28 FEATURE WINS;
6 IN A ROW AT E. WINDSOR

PLAY AT MALL SHOWS



(Bill Gibbons photo)

CAR NO.: XL-1
 OWNED BY: AL GEHRUM
 YEAR & MAKE: '37 FORD COUPE
 COLOR(S): PINK, WHITE, RED AND BLACK
 ENGINE: 368 LINCOLN
 DRIVER(S): JOE KELLY, WALLY DALLENBACH,
 PETE FRAZEE, TOMMY ELLIOTT, MARIO
 ANDRETTI, LOU CERILLO, JOHN ROBERTS,
 RED FARMER AND LEROY YARBROUGH
 TRACKS RUN: WALL, OLD BRIDGE, VINELAND,
 DAYTONA AND TOO MANY MORE
 ACCOMPLISHED: '60, '64 & '68 MODIFIED
 CHAMP AT OLD BRIDGE, '64 AND '67
 MODIFIED CHAMP AT WALL, '64 MODIFIED
 CHAMP AT VINELAND, WON '64 AND '66 G.S.
 CLASSIC, WON '64 TRENTON 200



(Harvey Lashin photo)

CAR NO.: 7
 OWNED BY: RAY SHEA
 YEAR & MAKE: '37 PLYMOUTH COUPE
 COLOR(S): BLUE AND WHITE
 ENGINE: 427 CHEVY
 DRIVER(S): JOE SEVERAGE, RAY SHEA AND
 TOM McCANN
 TRACKS RUN: WALL AND VARIOUS TRACKS ON
 LONG ISLAND
 ACCOMPLISHED: '75 WALL MODIFIED CHAMP

CLUB CALENDAR

The GSVSCC will have cars on display at the following dates and tracks. Some of the tracks will also allow the vintage cars on the track. Details for each date will appear in the newsletter as they become available.
 April 22, Bridgeport Speedway.
 May 13, Wall Stadium.
 July 1, Evergreen Speedway.
 July 15, Garden State Classic, Wall Stadium.
 July 23, Monster Truck Show, Wall Stadium.
 August (date not set), Flemington.
 November, Turkey Derby, Wall Stadium.
 Call Ray Shea for information on any of these events at 908-840-6307.

The Second Annual GSVSCC Picnic is being held on Sunday, July 16 at Shark River Park in Neptune, NJ. If you want to help out, keep an eye on this newsletter for info.

The Richmond NASCAR bustrip is back! Raceday is Saturday September 9. Reservations are being taken now. Tickets and bus are included, price will be announced next month. Call Ray Shea with your reservation at 908-840-6307. First come, first serve basis.



An 'aerial' view of the club cars on display at Seaview Square Mall. (Harvey Lashin photo)

Checkered Past



GSVSCC HALL OF FAMER "GENTLEMAN JOE" KELLY
WON THE WALL STADIUM OPENER ON SATURDAY,
MAY 1, 1965

By EARL KRAUSE

With Wall Stadium beginning its 46th consecutive stock car racing season this month, we look back thirty years ago in this issue of VINTAGE VIEWS to the 1965 Wall inaugural, held on Saturday night, May 1 -- with "Gentleman Joe" Kelly (modified-sportsman), Jack Mulvahill (Novice), and Ed Leip (Foreign Compact) winning feature events in their respective divisions.

The Jersey Shore region was cloudy and cold on that date, with a threat of rain. That didn't stop a big crowd from attending the Wall opener, and the pit area was packed as well. Then as now -- opening night was always special!

During warmups, an unpainted but sleek-looking race car -- a 1935 Chevy "business coupe" on a 1955 Chevy chassis -- caught the attention of the early-arriving spectators as its driver ran some quick laps. Only recently finished, this was the brand-new "Flying Zero" driven by builder and co-owner Bill McCarthy -- and ultimately Bill and this car would go on to win the 1965 Wall modified title. John Katerinas, the owner of Pixie's Bar not far from Wall, was McCarthy's partner as co-owner of the Zero. On this night, Bill would run into "new car" problems in the main event after an impressive qualifying run with the fuel-injected Pontiac-powered mount.

Racing began at 8 p. m. back then. The fast-paced heat races made the spectators forget about the cold temperatures, and heightened everyone's anticipation about the features to come. Jack Mulvahill, a GSVSCC member now living in Florida but then from nearby Neptune, won the first Novice heat. Jack was driving the light

yellow No. 61 coupe that had been built by Ron Buck and 1964 division driving champion Bob McGuire. Originally, it was to have been McGuire's ride, but a rule back then was that the top three drivers in Novice points the previous season had to "move up" to the M-S division. So, with McGuire unable to run it, Mulvahill got behind the wheel for the opener. As the 1965 season went along, George McDowell became the regular driver of the No. 61 -- and took the season title. That No. 61 was

later painted red and became Ray Rocket's No. 31, then Mel Cain's No. 3; and was a fixture at Wall for many years.

Also winning Novice heats on May 1, 1965 were GSVSCC president Ray Shea, and Al Whitehouse. Today, Al owns the street stock which Rocco Infante drives with great success at East Windsor.

The 12-lap modified-sportsman heats that evening were taken by Bill Brice, Joe Kelly -- in Dick Barney's brand new Olds-powered red No. 14 coupe; and Tommie Elliott, driving Matty McMann's potent entry. That season, Matty had both the purple No. 4 and 5 sedans. He brought both to Wall that night -- and Elliott qualified each one. Tommie stayed with the No. 4 for the feature, with Bob Finger taking over the No. 5. In that second heat, Bill McCarthy had finished second to Kelly -- and the new Zero looked strong.



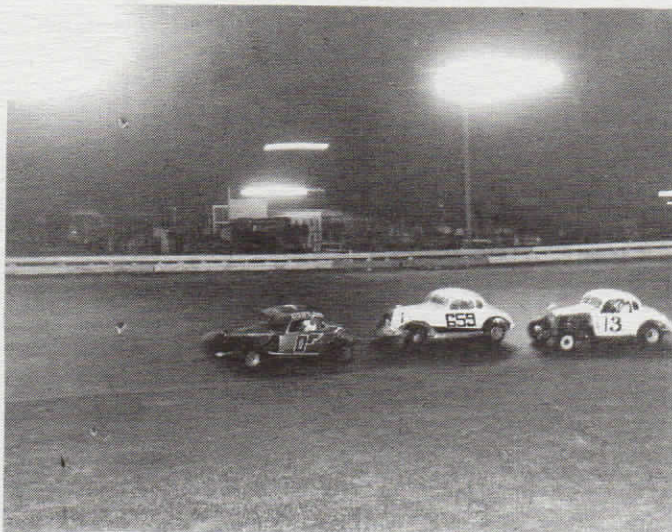
Bill McCarthy in the #0 and Joe Kelly in the #14 at Wall Stadium. (Larry Jendras collection)

But, McCarthy never had a chance to get going in the 30-lap feature -- as the car began leaking fuel and was sidelined. As usual, Parker Bohn had Tom Skinner's famed GMC sportsman No. 659 running like a fine watch, and took the early lead in the main event. Bohn led through the halfway mark, but Kelly in the No. 14 was on the move. On lap 18, Kelly took over first -- and then continued to extend his margin to finally take flagger Pete LaVance's checkered as the winner. "Gentleman Joe" Kelly -- inducted in the GSVSCC Hall of Fame in 1992 -- went on to win six more features at Wall that season, his last regular campaign at the stadium before he switched to the dirt tracks.

Parker Bohn outdueled the powerful modifieds behind him to get second place honors. Parker had another fine season in 1965, and became track champion in the sportsman division. Third in the opening night M-S feature was Charlie Kremer Jr., with Tommie Elliott, and Dave Hulse completing the top five. Of interest is that Jim Hoffman finished sixth -- driving the Don House No. XL-1 instead of his familiar red No. 11 coupe.

The 25-lap Novice headliner was another very competitive event, with Jack Mulvahill driving the No. 61 to victory for a clean sweep on the night. Ed Geibel was second, with Bob Patterson third in the blue and white No. 39 coupe. Then came earlier heat winner Al Whitehouse and Russ McCurdy. Russ drove brother George's blue and yellow No. 00 coupe.

The Foreign Compacts made their first appearance on the stadium high-banks that



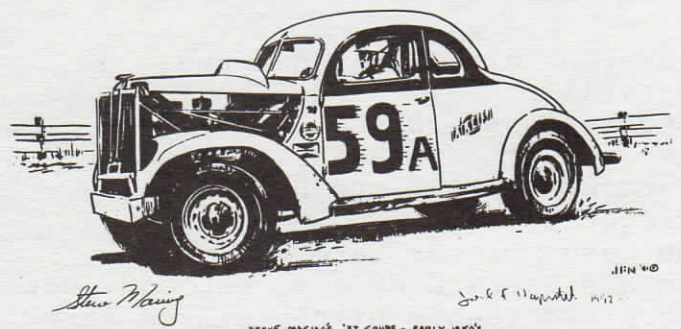
Bill McCarthy leads Parker Bohn and Tom Green at Wall Stadium in a 1965 race. (Fitzpatrick photo)



Joe Kelly stands next to Dick Barney's #14 in the pits at Wall Stadium in 1965. (Larry Jendras collection)

evening, but as their popularity and numbers grew, became a regular division at Wall over the next few seasons. Ed Leip of Trenton drove an Anglia, and won the 15-lap feature. Leip became the 1965 and '66 Wall Compact titlist. Ed would later go on to run the "full size" stock cars at Wall, and was 1971 stadium sportsman champion. Two familiar names from the "full size" stock cars were second and third. The runnerup was Dick Lewis, who drove an orange Morris Minor No. 9-X. That was the same number as his Wall modified, which was a 1955 Studebaker. Finishing third was young Larry Taylor, who had started racing Novice stocks in 1964. By 1966, Larry took over the ride in Vic Gilbert's modified No. 147 at Wall, and became the stadium's Rookie of the Year. Larry also had a fine career right through the '80s as a modified driver at East Windsor and Flemington -- as did his late, twin brother Lee.

That's a look back some thirty years to "Opening Night 1965" at Wall Stadium -- "Home of Auto Racing at the Jersey Shore"!



Joel Naprstek's rendition of Steve Maciag's #59A coupe.

Old Iron Trader



FOR SALE:

Wide 5 magnesium wheels (2 pc.), \$50 ea.; Dirt tires, good condition; Tobias frame, \$100; Profile frame, \$50; Hubs, drums, and backing plates; Ray Liss, 908-477-9422.

'37 Plymouth Coupe stock car, just built fall '94, new roll cage, bumpers, rub rails. excellent body, uncut windows, and cowl, orig. hood, Ford frt. axle, Franklin QC or nine in. Ford floater, Buick brakes and rack, fuel cell, Alum. seat, belts, lots of parts to finish, \$2000 or will separate, Jim Banks, 914-831-0658.

Spring Sale: '36 Chevy Coupe, former Mat McMann Purple #4, body, frame, radiator, inner sheet metal, headers, plus other accessories; Winters quick change rear, new, never used; Steel gas dump cans; 350 Chevy blocks; 3ft. metal lathe; '50's Ford truck straight axle; '37 Ford front and rear ends, wheels, drums, etc.; #50 Camaro Modern Stock, former Butch Colosimo car; Zonker, 908-363-2795.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jim Applegate, Toms River, NJ.
David Bentley, Richmond, Va.
Steve and Mary Brust, Morganville, NJ.
Vinny Chevalier Sr. and Sophie, Sayreville, NJ.
James and Judy Dunne, Wall, NJ.
Jim and Cathy Hagaman, Lakewood, NJ.
Francis and Charlene Hancock, Bridgeton, NJ.
Bob Hess, Bamber Lake, NJ.
Sam and Barbara Hyland, Fanwood, NJ.
Butch and Connie Lispi, Wilkes Barre, Pa.
Ethel Sigle, Milltown, NJ.
Gerald and Patricia Thompson, Beachwood, NJ.

TRIVIA CORNER

Answer to last month's question:

Q - Richard Petty's first career top ten finish came at what speedway?

A - Richard Petty was 8th on July 26, 1958 at Wall Stadium, his first top ten finish.

This month's question:

In 1954, Al Keller won a NASCAR GN at an unusual site. Also odd was the type of car and its famous owner. Can you puzzle this together?

GRANDSTAND GAB...



Collected by Eleanor Hagerman, call her at 908-222-4408 with news.

Our condolences go to Steve Pinzino for the recent unexpected loss of his mother and to Gene Salfelder on the death of his brother.

Our banquet was held March 18 at the Castle in Lakewood. Thanks to Nancy Shea for arranging a very nice affair. There were 164 in attendance. Earl Krause did a great job as MC.

Anyone interested in serving on the banquet committee for next year, contact Nancy Shea at 908-840-6307.

Thanks to the following people who donated the great door prizes which were given out at the banquet: Bill Force, Pete and Doris LaVance, Mark Oswald, Jim and Anita Nadue, Wally Weaver, Mrs. Nicol and Wall Stadium, Earl and Pam Krause, and Greg Roman.

VINTAGE VIEWS

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Joyce Peak, 80 Oceanport Ave., West Long Branch, NJ, 07764.

