

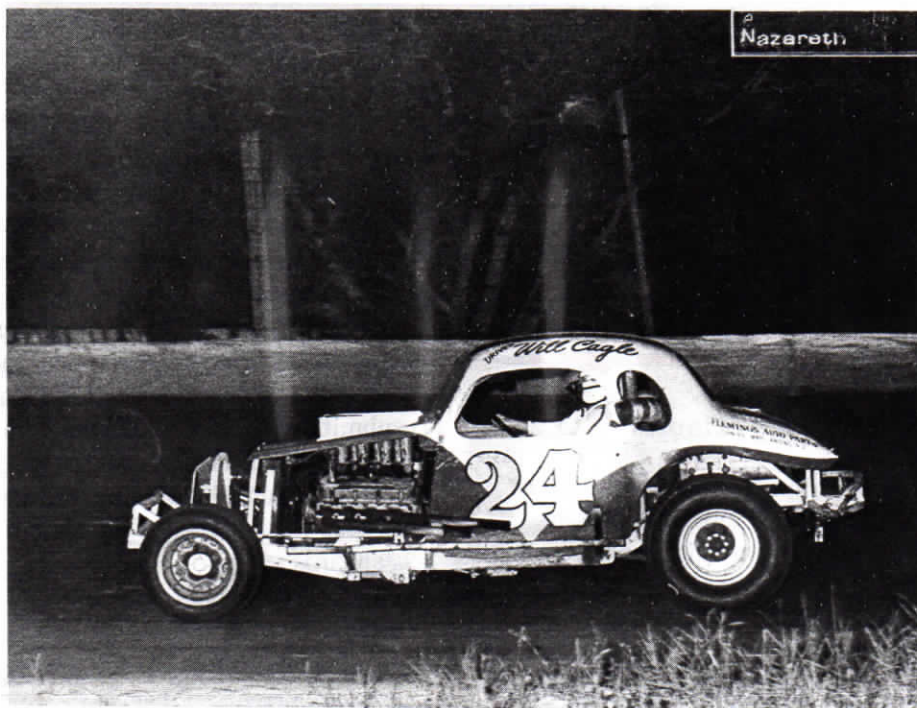


# Vintage Views

Dedicated to the Preservation of Stock Car Racing History  
July, August, September 2008

## "WILY WILL CAGLE" As remembered by Harold Rulon #1

In the early years at East Windsor promoter Don Jones scheduled a 100 lap race with time trials, unusual for East Windsor. He put up a \$100 bonus for fast time. Will Cagle set fast time. At the payoff he was told it was in the breakdown, which it was not. He wanted Don Jones in the pits. When Don finally came over he argued with Don finally paying him the \$100 and told him to load up and "don't come back".



Will Cagle, Nazareth circa 1969-1970 Dave Innes photo

## #2

In the early 60's Will was running East Windsor on Friday, Flemington on Saturday and Nazareth on Sunday.

A yellow for an accident sent Cagle to the pits. He was in the pit gate behind the hub rail but beyond the inside chain link infield fence. The field was on the pace lap between turn 3 and 4. The pit steward held up Cagle as the field entered the fourth turn. I guess Cagle thought they should wait for him. The field came off four and Cagle pulled out in front of the waving green flag and stopped in the middle of the track forcing a yellow and wrecking a lot of cars in the process.

Mr. Cagle was promptly disqualified and told to load up and was escorted out of the track and told not to come back. I do believe he was allowed to race later that year in an All Star Race at Flemington that was sanctioned by the All Star League.

This was when "Wily Will Cagle" moved his racing operation from New Jersey to New York State though he did return some years later.

GSVSCC meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the West Long Branch Firehouse, 7:30 pm, Rt. 71 (Monmouth Road) and Cedar Ave. West Long Branch, NJ. For directions call 732-840-6307 or 732-223-9388.



### May 21, 2008 Club Minutes

The May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the GSVSCC was called to order at 7:40pm by President Ray Shea with 25 members in attendance.

Paul Hayes presented the club financial statement. As of March 31, 2008 there was a balance of \$25,910.30.

Ray announced that help was needed to go to our storage unit to see what items can be done away with so we can discontinue the storage unit to help reduce the clubs overhead.

Our Mountain Speedway show had 15 cars and the track would like to have us back. New Egypt Speedway had 16 cars and they put on a good show. Marty VanDrueten said there were 10 cars at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Vintage Celebration in Loudon, N.H. All went well and everyone had a good time. Next year the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Vintage Celebration will be May 12- 13-14<sup>th</sup>.

George McKelevy, a tech inspector and a member of the First Responder Speedway Safety Training Organization was kind enough to address the membership in regards to race car safety on and off the track, car construction and safety equipment for car and driver. His presentation was in depth and extremely informative. We thank him for taking the time to attend our meeting and sharing his wealth of knowledge.

Ray made the membership aware that the newsletter will now be published 4 times a year. Anyone with any news or articles please contact Nancy Shea.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

John Malsbury, Secretary



### June 21, 2008 Club Minutes

The June meeting of the GSVSCC was called to order by President Ray Shea at 7:45pm with 19 members present.

The clubs financial statement was presented, as of April 30<sup>th</sup> the total balance was \$25,578.54. The statement was presented by Ray Shea in the absence of Treasurer Paul Hayes.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS;

October 11, 2008 there will be an exhibit at the Manalapan County Library. Their theme this year is the history of sports in Monmouth County. Ray mentioned that the club supplied material for the history of "Long Branch Speedway".

Also on October 11, 2008, at the Thomas Warne Museum on Rt. 516 in Old Bridge Twp. there will be an Old Bridge Speedway Reunion. We will have several cars on hand along with Old Bridge memorabilia.

Ray thanked the members who participated in the "Ronald McDonald Cruise to the Jersey Shore". John Fitzgerald, Richard and Bob Caramella displayed their cars. Ray Shea and Grandson Adam, along with Cheryl Liss and Loretta Tymko collected \$240.00 for the Ronald McDonald House doing a 50/50.

Ray mentioned that the club is considering the purchase of an enclosed trailer for use as a mobile museum. It would be used regularly at New Egypt Speedway but could also be taken to numerous other events and shows.

It was also noted that we would like to get phone numbers of members going to club shows in case of a last minute cancelation due to bad weather.

With no further business a motion was made by Ken Pullen and seconded by Stan Hawk to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm.

John Malsbury, Secretary

### July 16, 2008 Club Minutes

The July 16<sup>th</sup> of the GSVSCC was called to order at 7:40PM by President Ray Shea with 22 members in attendance.

The first order of business was a moment of silence for the passing of Parker Bohn, a member of our organization and long time racing competitor who will surely be missed.

Paul Hayes reported that as of May 31, 2008 the club financial balance to be \$27,030.90. The third order of business was a membership vote for a by-law change of Resolution I, Article III, changed to read, "Members dues are due and payable annually and run from June 1st to May 31st.. However anyone joining subsequent to March 1st. shall be deemed to have a valid membership thru May 31st of the ensuing year. It was also noted that the club annual dues are \$22.00 a year.

Ray announced that this year the Executive Board will be picking qualified candidates for the Hall of Fame ballot. Any member wishing to nominate a candidate may do so by submitting a letter stating why their nomination is deserving of this award. This letter to be presented to the executive board for consideration by the board. By doing this we have to keep the integrity of the Hall of Fame to its highest standards.

In the past we have considered the purchase of an enclosed trailer as a mobile museum. It was decided at this time it was not financially feasible for our organization to do so.

It was also noted that Jamie Tomaino is to be honored by the NASCAR Tour for most career starts of 490, more than anyone on the tour. Congratulations from our club and good luck with your 500th.

The club thanked Jim Hall for his financial donation, it is very much appreciated.

It was decided that the club would donate \$100.00 to New Egypt Speedway to go to "The friends of Mike Foundation".

No further business a motion was made by John Fillimon seconded by Bruce Roslin, meeting adjourned at 8:10PM

John Malsbury, Secretary

Don't forget Old Bridge reunion, October 11th & 12th  
at the Thomas Warne Museum  
on Rt. 516 in Old Bridge Twp.





# THE INFAMOUS RIDE OF BRUCE "PEE WEE" GRIFFIN

As remembered by Harold Rulon

It started out as a regular race meet one night in the 60's at East Windsor Speedway in Hightstown, New Jersey. The heats went well.

The 24 car feature took the green and the racing went well, for awhile anyway, but all of a sudden the entire scene changed, 22 cars seemed to disappear. There were only two cars left on the track! Al Tasnady in the Piscipo # 39 and the No. 72 of Bruce "Pee Wee Griffin". Tasnady was between turns 3 and 4 leading the feature, Griffin was just entering turn 3. By intuition I said to myself "Pee Wee is going to spin out", Pee Wee came up a little quicker and as they came off the 4th corner, Pee Wee hit the left rear quarter and spun Tas. Yellow flag! Tas pulled into the infield past the start-finish line and stopped. I believe Pee Wee went another lap and then pulled up near the #39. He got out of the car and climbed up on the hood of the #39, then up on the roof, stood up and jumped up and down on Tas's car. Tasnady did not get out but just sat in the car.

After this Griffin knew he was disqualified, so he got in his car and headed for the pits. To reach his pit spot he would have to turn left and as you can imagine a reception committee was waiting for him. To both competitors and fans amazement Pee Wee made a right turn and raced through the pits and out the pit gate onto Airport Road and then onto Route 33 and then through East Windsor Township and the Boro of Hightstown to his home, in his race car! As far as I know neither police department or the track ever penalized him other than the race payoff.

Al Tasnady waited for the restart finally fired up and headed for the pits, loaded up and never returned to that track!



Bruce "Pee Wee" Griffin Circa 1968. Dave Innes photo

## Parker Bohn, Sr. Passes

From Area Auto Racing News; July 15, 2008

By Earl Krause (edited by N.S. due to space constraints)

Parker Bohn, one of the Grand Master drivers of New Jersey pavement stock car racing from the 1950s through the 1970s has passed away. Mr. Bohn, 90 died at his Freehold residence on Sunday.

From 1961 through the late 1970s Parker drove one of the most-legendary stock cars in the Northeast. That was the GMC six-cylinder powered white & black Chevrolet coupe # 659, which later had a Vega body. The car and motor were built by Parker's close friend Tom Skinner, the No. 659's owner who died in 2006.

This past January, both Parker and Tom were inducted into the Eastern Motorsports Press Association (EMPA) in recognition of their accomplishments.

In 1994, Parker had been inducted into the New Jersey based Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club Hall of Fame; with Tom Skinner also receiving that honor.

Parker's 1st win at Wall Stadium in a Modified car was in 1951. He would win 21 more through 1977. He was the Wall Modified Champion in 1953. He and Skinner also won Wall's Sportsman title as a team in 1965, 66, 67, 68, and 73 in the era when the small-motor cars competed in the same race with the full-Modifieds.

Parker's son Eddie, who had his own Championship and many-time race winning career at Wall in the Sportsman division and then the Modifieds, along with being successful on the New Jersey dirt tracks. Parker's Grandsons-Eddie's successful racing sons Michael, Danny and Andrew.

Mr. Bohn served our country during WWII, in the construction battalion Seabees of the US Navy.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to **Hospice of NJ**, 40 Bay Lea Rd. Suite A202, Toms River, N.J. 08753 or **The Garden State Vintage Stock Car Club** 438 3rd Ave, Brick, N.J. 08724



Jim Smith photo

## Bob Thomas A Special Friend To Racing;

From Area Auto Racing News July 29, 2008

By Earl Krause (edited by N.S. due to space constraints)

When Bob "B.T." Thomas unexpectedly passed away on July 21 at the age of 59, participants of New Jersey's short track racing lost one of their best friends.

From the 1960s through 2007 Bob cheerfully lent a hand and offered sage advice to racers from all divisions at Wall Stadium, the famed third-mile speedway in N.J.

During the week, he was a department supervisor at the International Race of Champions (IROC) shop in Tinton Falls, N.J. with his specialty being the painting and bodywork of those particular racing machines that were seen a tracks around the country for some 3 decades.

Bob had been a part of IROC's team for close to 25years. But he would tell you, "I don't go to work every day! I love what I do at IROC--that's not a job at all!

In the 1970s, he was a member of the shop and race night pit crew of the red "Heavy Chevy" No. 11 Modified coupe drive at Wall by Jim Hoffman-a dear friend as well for the better part of 45 years.

This past Friday, the replica of that No. 11 Hoffman Coupe-owned by Garden State Vintage Stock Club and National Old Timers Auto Racing Club members Frank and Alice Drogan; and one of the IROC cars were appropriately parked in front of the Clayton & MCGirr Funeral Home in Freehold. Inside, the extended racing family of Bob Thomas offered their last respects; and sympathy to his race driving son Carl and daughter Kathy (Thomas) Maravgakis.

Several years ago, Bob was honored to be the recipient of the prestigious "Joe Bullock Memorial Award: from the National Old Timers Auto Racing Club. Named in honor of the late Joe Bullock, who fielded the legendary red No. 76 Modifieds for drivers such as Fred Adam and Gerald Chamberlain in the 19603 and 70s, it was in recognition of the person's "lifelong dedication to racing from behind-the-scenes' mechanical side."

That defined Bob Thomas when it came to his racing life.

But there was another side too. He loved his children Carl and Kathy, and was proud of their accomplishments; and was a proud grandfather, of Kathy's 10 year old son George.

On July21, "B. T." passed from this earth.

In Bob Thomas, you had a man who valued trust, integrity and friendship. He would never steer you wrong, in a race car or life.

The Thomas family has requested that memorial donations in memory of Bob to do so to the **Matheny School and Hospital**, P.O. Box 339, Peapack, New Jersey 07977



Jim Smith photo



### Old Iron Trader



Frames-2 2x3, 6"offset. Early to mid 80's...  
\$150.00 each.  
732-859-3948 or 732-741-3469

Condolences to the family of Ed Farley who passed away Sunday August 10th. Ed was 82 and had been involved in racing for 61 years



**Anyone wishing to attend the event at N.J. Motor Sports Park (Thunderbolt) on September 27-28, must be pre-registered by September 17th. Call Ray Shea @ 732-330-8349 or Wayne Weaver @ 856-327-3486**

Thank you to Harold Rulon for sending some really great stories of days gone by. Thank you!!!

Thank you to Harriet Hawk, Jim Hall and Charles Larew and anyone one I may omitted for doing the 50/50 at New Egypt.

#### Welcome New Club Members

Ralph Broschard, Bob Darde, Harry Fleming, John Kellner and Jim Smith



#### Up Coming Events

8-24 Sun.	New Egypt Speedway	Track/Display
9-6 Sat	Mahoning Speedway	Track
9-27-28 Sun	N.J. Motorsports Park	Track/Display
10-4 Sat.	New Egypt Speedway	Track/Display
10-18 Sat.	Grandview Speedway	Track
10-19 Sun	So. Jersey Racing Reunion	Display
11-8 Sat	Pumpkin Run -Flemings	Display only
11-9 Sun.	Bridgeport Speedway	Track/Display



### Looking Back



Tommy Hughes-Limited Sportsman June 20,1970



Pete Cobb-Limited Sportsman June 10,1972

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