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Eastern Auto Racing
Historical Society

MISSION STATEMENT

A) To discover, identify, gather, preserve, and display documents, records, items, etc. pertaining to eastern auto racing facilities, competitors, personalities or events.

B) To assist writers to publish and/or research articles regarding historical eastern auto racing topics.

Our organization collects & displays articles dealing with any eastern auto racing facilities for any racing enthusiast to enjoy. Please consider either joining our organization or contributing to our projects.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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AREA OF INTEREST: _____

_____ \$25 SUPPORTER
Non-voting supporter of the mission statement of the EARHS. Admission to showroom by appointment.

_____ \$40 INTERNATIONAL
Non-voting international supporter with basic benefits.

_____ \$250 CORPORATE SUPPORTER
Corporate supporters are non-voting supporters whose contribution to the EARHS will be permanently noted in the EARHS showroom. Contributions will be used to develop additional displays, catalog information collected, and to defray expenses in pursuit of the mission statement.

PLEASE MAIL TO:

EARHS, P.O. BOX 333, OREFIELD, PA 18069
Make checks payable to EARHS.

For additional information
call 610 395-5303 or 610 398-2188

**EARHS is recognized as a federally tax exempt charity by the IRS under section 510c(3).

EARHS
P.O. Box 333
Orefield, PA 18069

Newsletter

Vol. XIII 2016 Ed. #3

The Lehigh Valley Stock Car Racing Association

Sixty years ago modified stock car racing on the 1/5 mile flat asphalt oval at Dorney Park Speedway in Allentown, PA was under the control of promoter, Sherman 'Red' Crise. For several years during the early 1950s the races were run under the NASCAR banner, but by 1956 many of the local racers had become disenchanted with many of the policies, rules, and regulations of the Daytona Beach based organization. NASCAR expected its members to race only at NASCAR sanctioned tracks and in eastern Pennsylvania it was becoming difficult to string together a full weekend of NASCAR racing within a reasonable towing distance. When car counts began to drop, 'Red' Crise was more than willing to cut the sanctioning body adrift and put himself in charge.

Most 1950s stock car racers were well aware of the value of a sanctioning body and weren't about to put their fate into the hands of a promoter. Racers of the day liked their freedom, definitely liked to have a say in how things were run, wanted to have input into car specifications, and, without a doubt, wanted a contract with the promoter as to what the purse would be and how it was to be distributed. Very few drivers and owners were willing to give 'Red' Crise (or any other promoter for that matter) control of these things.

So, the Lehigh Valley Stock Car Racing Association, LVSCRA, was formed to sanction the races at Dorney Park, Evergreen Speedway in St. Johns, PA on Friday nights and the Lehigh, PA Fairgrounds on Sunday afternoons. This gave LVSCRA members three shows per weekend, two on asphalt and a Sunday afternoon on dirt, and still provided the freedom to participate in the Sunday night events at Nazareth, PA if they chose.

The LVSCRA quickly took control over a substantial number of cars and drivers to the point 'Red' Crise was unwilling to buck the new group. Crise was content to collect the Dorney Park gate receipts, pay the new group their percentage, and be done with it. Besides, he was able to pocket the NASCAR sanctioning fees and other costs. The other promoters were glad to have LVSCRA run the show, since they guaranteed them a nice field of cars each week.

Resume of 1956 Dorney Park LVSCRA Events

May 12	6	Jack Rudy
May 20	37L	Rocky Ewing
May 26	8	Freddy Adam
May 30	37L	Rocky Ewing
June 8	82	Red Leshar
June 15	96	Jim Ryan
June 22	322	Dave Haldeman
June 29	888	Dick Keen
July 27, 50 L	3A	Dick Havens
August 3	8	Freddy Adam
August 10	6	Jack Rudy
August 17	200 lap team race	
	6, 8	Jack Rudy & Freddy Adam
August 24	505	Charlie Cregar
August 31	71X	Harry Moore
September 7	322	Dave Haldeman

1956 Dorney Park LVSCRA Modified Points

Driver	Owner		
1. Rocky Ewing	797 6	Walt Siwak	818
2. Jack Rudy	767 65	Clarence Rittenbaugh	712
3. Dave Ely	682 37L	A. Lupjicina	686
4. Freddy Adam	655 77	Dave Ely	682
5. Marty Acker	632 8	Adam Bros.	619
6. Warren Mutter	591 555	Roy Smith	545
7. Red Rhodes	524 96	D. Lucas	535
8. Willard Miller	506 888	Adam Bros.	507
9. Red Leshar	503 10	Willard Miller	506
10. Mose Moore	482 40	Wm Banghart	432

LVSCRA officials for the 1956 season were:

- President, Jack Mann
- Vice President, Dick Keen
- Secretary, Bud Mohr
- Treasurer, Lou Heller
- Board of Govenors: Marty Acker, Smokey Dengler, Jack Rudy
- Technical Committee: Ramsey Stout, A.W. Grim, Walt Siwak, Clarence Rittenbaugh, Morris Hoffman
- Track Officials: Chief Steward, Gill Ebchels, Asst. Steward, Chas. Jamson, Scorers, Evelen Crise & Florence Crescenzo, Starter, Lou Heller, Track Physician, Dr. Chas. Zellner
- Promoter: Capt. Red Crise

On Saturday night, October 27, 1956, the LVSCRA held their first annual banquet at Castle Garden on the lake at Dorney Park. Castle Gardens was a popular Allentown 'spot' for everything from banquets to the Sportsman's Show, to teenage

dances, to high school proms. It was considered a classy venue.

Master of Ceremonies, Bill Gregory, introduced club officers and guests and presided over the trophy and awards presentation. The evening's entertainment also included a floor show with Shirley Denson, the exotic dancer, The Three Cloe's performing a comedy routine, ventriloquist Kenny Van with his sidekick, Buddy Sir Cecil, and Jack Green performing his 'Well Dressed Hangover' routine. The floor show was followed by fellowship and dancing to the Art Muth big band.

Dinner featured celery-olives-pickles-carrots, endive with Dutch dressing, ham with pineapple ring, mashed potatoes, corn, hot rolls and butter, pie ala mode, and coffee -- all for the low price of \$5 per head.

Life was good sixty years ago!

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John Carroll

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Freddy Adam – The Kutztown Komet

From Freddy's family, friends, and fans

Your monetary support in any denomination or donations of historically significant items, photos, documents, etc. toward projects undertaken by the EARHS are welcomed and encouraged. EARHS is recognized as a federally tax exempt charity by the IRS under Section 501c(3).

EARHS “wants and needs”

Wanted: Racing photo collections – share and preserve programs. If you have vintage racing photos, EARHS would like to be able to scan and copy these items. All items will be returned intact and we can provide you with a computer disc of those items from significant collections.

We are especially interested in Dorney Park items from the 1940's, 1950's, and 1960's and all Allentown Fair items, including indoor racing events, but all items are welcome.

Wanted: Showcases and display cases. Often cases of unusual configuration can be used for displays of trophies and memorabilia.

Group tours of the EARHS showroom are available for civic and auto related groups, car clubs, etc.

Call 610 398-2188 or 610 395-5303

We continue to fill our showroom—all members are invited to visit and check our progress.

Please call Pete Trumbauer (610 398-2188) or Paul Weisel (610 395-5303) to arrange a time to visit.

