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Eastern Auto Racing
Historical Society

Newsletter

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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: _____

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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



Bill Schindler, Mike Caruso Offy #2, Freeport, NY, 1948

At the height of midget racing's golden years in 1947, the American Racing Drivers Club sanctioned more than 24 race meets per week, paid purses averaging more than \$3,000 per event, and grew to become the largest midget circuit in the country with total prize money of over \$2,000,000 (in 1947 money) paid to ARDC racers. It's easy to understand why the ARDC circuit attracted the greatest number of professional midget racers in the country.

President of ARDC since its inception in 1939 through the 1947 season, Bill Schindler was also the ARDC drivers' champion in 1940, 1945, and 1946. In 1947 Schindler piled up an amazing 53 main event wins, primarily at the wheel of Mike Caruso's #2 Offy, but occasionally driving for Slim Schloeder and others. Incredibly, Schindler's efforts did not produce the ARDC crown, losing the point chase 12,165 to 11,150 to George Rice, who won 39 times, finished second 24 times and third on ten occasions.

Seventy years ago, Bill Schindler prepared for another all-out assault on the 1948 ARDC midget championship. Schindler relinquished his ARDC presidency to Philadelphia racer, Mike Joseph, who was one of the original ARDC founders and served as ARDC vice-president in '45 and '46.

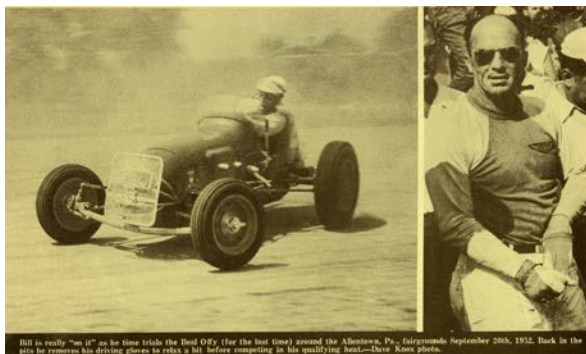
Schindler returned to Mike Caruso's deuce and Mike Nazaruk was added to the team to steer Caruso's Kurtis-Kraft Offy #3. Nazaruk proved to be a capable teammate, winning three main events in front of capacity crowds at Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson, NJ. Mike won the track title at Middletown, NY, taking two wins in the Caruso car and two more driving for Buck Wheeler.



Mike Nazaruk in Mike Caruso's #3 Offy, 1948

Bill Schindler stepped up his midget racing efforts in 1948 and at the end of the campaign he had recorded 53 main event wins for the second straight year. However, at season's end he was crowned the 1948 ARDC midget champion over Chet Conklin and Steve McGrath. Schindler also claimed track titles at Hinchliffe Stadium, West Springfield Speedway in Massachusetts and Civic Stadium in Buffalo, NY.

Bill Schindler cut back his midget activity in 1949, taking over the Ted Horn Estate Offy sprint car on the AAA circuit. Schindler also ran Indy in 1950, 1951, and 1952 to reach the pinnacle of American auto racing. Bill Schindler had lost his left leg in a sprint car crash at Mineola, NY in 1936 and rarely used a prosthesis to drive midgets and sprinters, but employed one at Indy to meet AAA medical requirements. After World War II, Schindler made many visits to veteran's hospitals to inspire soldiers faced with the loss of a limb – just another reason why his legion of fans at the tracks continued to grow.



Bill is really "on it" as he goes to the Earl Beal Offy (for the last time) around the Allentown, Pa. fairgrounds September 20th, 1952. Back in the 1950s he remembers his driving career as well as his before competing in his final race—Earl Beal Offy.

Bill Schindler continued to race AAA sprint cars as an Indy veteran until he crashed the Earl Beal Offy through the backstretch fence at the Allentown Fair on 9-20-52 and sustained fatal injuries. Decades after his death Bill Schindler remains one of the iconic Eastern drivers.

SPRING EARHS OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018, 10 AM – 5 PM

5080 KERNSVILLE RD., OREFIELD, PA

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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 for details.

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.