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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: _____

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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. XV 2018 Ed. #3
Sixty Years Ago at the Allentown Fairgrounds

Whenever the USAC sprint car tour came to the Allentown Fair you could bet the best drivers in the country were serious about taking home the trophy. The local teams, however, were even more focused on victory than the travelers.

In 1957 Boyertown, PA's Johnny Thomson drove Sam Traylor's #2 Offy powered sprinter to victory at Allentown on 9-21, his third win of the season. Thomson's teammate, Van Johnson, driving Traylor's #55 Offy, also swept three features on the eight-race eastern USAC schedule, but neither won the eastern championship. Traylor also failed to win the owners' championship. Incredibly, 'The Thin Man', Bill Randall of North Reading, MA took the eastern drivers' crown and, without benefit of a feature win, also won the '57 USAC eastern car owners' trophy for Edgar Stone of Belmont, MA



Van Johnson hustling the Lowther Offy at Reading

For 1958, Traylor sold his #55 to Ed Lowther of Cannonsburg, PA to concentrate on a single car effort to win the 1958 crown. Van Johnson apparently was included in the deal and Lowther's car carried the #2 in '58, emblematic of the car's second place finish in '57 points. Thomson's Traylor sprinter would be numbered '3' in 1958 for the same reason.

To kick off the 1958 season, Thomson took the opening eastern circuit 30-lapper at Williams Grove on April 13th. The Boyertown racer also won twice at Reading, a 20-lap main event on September 14 and a 50-lap affair on October 12th. While the Allentown race on September 20 was scheduled for only 20-laps, it remained a high-priority event for both Thomson and Traylor.



Parade lap at Allentown, 1958, 3 Thomson on pole, 4 Hinnershitz outside front row, 2 Johnson in 3rd, Jiggs Peters, 5th in the Fray Offy 78.



A jubilant Thomson in Allentown's victory lane, '58
Thomson scored four wins in seven of eight '58 events to grab the USAC eastern sprint car championship and secure the owners' title for Sam Traylor. The Traylor team passed on the pavement race at Thompson, CT on June 1, an event won by Joe Barzda in his California Speed & Sport injected Chevy #33, the first USAC win for a Chevy stock block powered sprinter.

In 1958 eastern sprint car drivers also left their mark on USAC races in the midwest. Oley, PA's Tommy Hinnershitz posted his 100th sprint car feature win at Terre Haute, IN on August 17th and Center Valley, PA resident, Eddie Sachs raced all the midwest races, winning at Salem, IN twice, New Bremen, OH twice, and the spring race at Terre Haute to claim midwest titles for himself and owner, Bill Cheesman. The pair also won a 50-lap eastern race at Williams Grove on October 19 to put a period on their season.

EARHS Spring Open House
5080 Kernsville Road, Orefield, PA
Sunday, April 29, 2018, 10 am – 5 pm

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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 by appointment 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.

