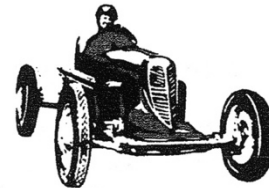


GOLDEN WHEELS

FRATERNITY
Auto Racing Pathfinders



Museum Pieces In Action

Issue #4 – 2018

President's Column: As we near the end of another year in Golden Wheels, Kay and I are sitting in our motorhome on the shore of beautiful Banks Lake, Washington, and I am again fighting my severe case of writer's block. After 35 years in the publishing industry, you learn a lot about writer's block. Think Hal! Think of something to say.

O.K, I thought. And here's what I came up with: This weekend, the static show season came to a close with some of our members traveling to the Arlington Airport for the annual Arlington drag strip reunion and car show. No report yet on how that turned out. Also, this weekend the Ranger Roadster made the trip up to Agassiz, Canada for a race with WCVR, which I've heard may have suffered a rain out. Too bad to not get a full show in.

The LaConner Classic Boat and Car Show is history, and we had a fine turnout of GW members, with Gary Berg bringing the club car. I was there with our Solar/HAL, Jim Edwards brought his Samco big car, which looked good parked next to Dave Craver's Ranger Roadster, and Craig Johnson's Miller/Ford. We were a hit again with fans and kids. Really look forward to this one each year.

The Celebrate Shoreline car show put on by the Shoreline Historical Museum was completed a couple weeks ago, and Golden Wheels was ably represented by Gary Berg with the club car, John and Sue Wood with two of their midgets, Loren Day brought his Chevy street rod, and I had our Solar/Hal midget. Since Kay couldn't attend due to her recent surgery, I took over the duties of providing the music, and also had my announcing debut, as I exercised the vocal chords every hour or so to make announcements. Not sure if I'll be asked back, as you all know how reluctant I am to speak publicly. BTY, John walked off with a couple trophies.

A date has been set for the annual Golden Wheels gala awards banquet. Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 20th. The fun starts with social hour at 5pm, and dinner at 6pm. We need to wrap up the evening and be out by 10pm, as that is the new closing time for the restaurant. All this will be explained when you receive your banquet notice. Please remember to dig deep for those auction items, as the auction is a major fundraiser for the club.

If I read my calendar correctly, it looks like Sunday, October 14th. We will begin our monthly breakfast meetings again. I look forward to seeing you there.

In closing, I am reminded that we elect officers and board members for two-year terms, and at year's end, and that time is up. We need to consider who we want to lead this club into the future. We will be discussing the next slate of officers at our October breakfast meeting, so please give some thought to who you would like to nominate.

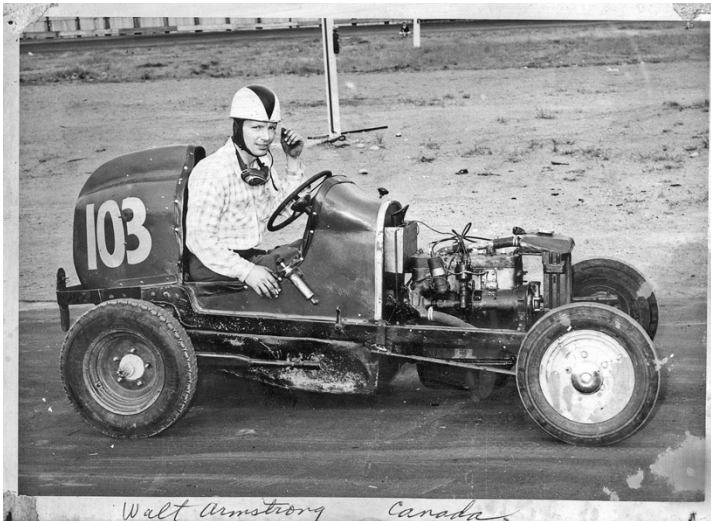
In further closing, Kay and I are anxiously awaiting the arrival of Frankie and Nita Volz any minute here at Banks Lake, to share a few days of our vacation. At week's end, we travel to Boise, Id. to visit relatives, and attend the WCVR show at Meridian Speedway. It's a great life!!! See you in October. *Hal*

Thanks, Hal. To complete the static show report, Gary Berg represented us at the Annual Arlington Dragstrip Show with the Club Car on display. Although Mother Nature dropped some rain a couple of times, attendance was good and Gary reported there was a lot of interest in the Golden Wheels Club Car and he talked with a lot of people. Thanks again to Gary for getting the Club Car out and on display at all of our static displays and also another thank you to the members that present their cars at the displays.

New Members: Correction – In the last newsletter there was a misspelling of new members Steve & Karla Lillestol's last name. Please correct in your roster. Steve & Karla Lillestol, 252 Hummel Lake Road, Lopez, WA, 9826. Apologies for the misprint.

Since I have no photos to include from the static shows Hal reported in his message, I thought I would dig through the archives and see what I could find of interest. The late Frank Rentz, and his wife Ione, left several photos to Golden Wheels. From the Rentz Collection I have picked out a dozen good photos I hope you enjoy. Six have identification of the drivers and six do not. If you do recognize the unnamed photos, we would appreciate any info you have concerning that photo, be it driver, car owner, car info or any interesting info. If you have anything interesting about any of the photos we would be hearing about that information also. The first six photos will be the unidentified ones with the photos with identification following.





Walt Armstrong Canada

Walt Armstrong



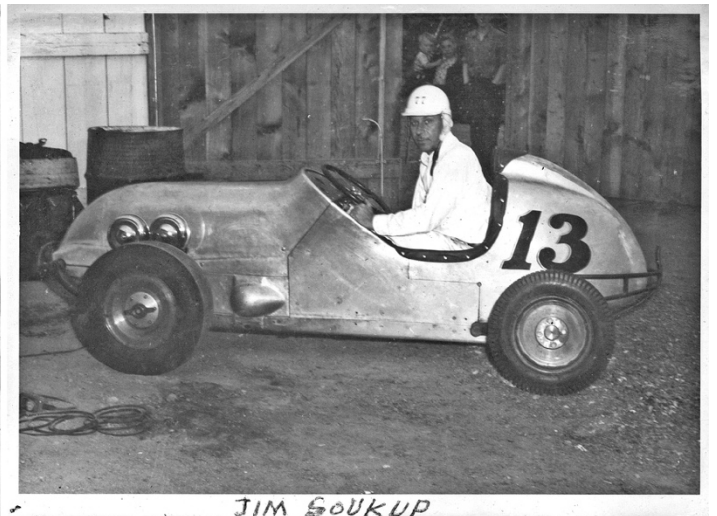
Tony West

Tony West



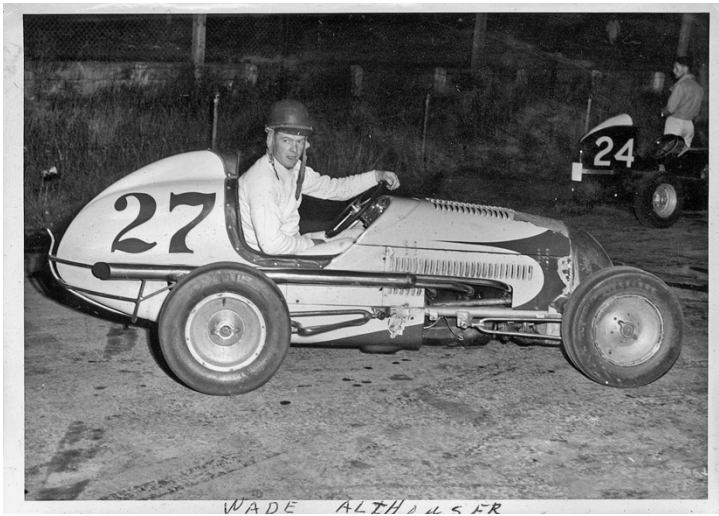
Val Hoyt

Val Hoyt



JIM SOUKUP

Jim Soukup



WADE ALTHOUSER

Wade Althouser



DON HALE

WRIGHTSON - OWNER

Don Hale

I hope you enjoyed the previous photos. On the next page are copies from Pike Greens "Yesterday's Wheels" column that ran for many years in the "Racing Wheels" newspaper. The small article on Mario Bianchi has no date of publication. I will search in saved "Yesterday's Wheels" columns for the July, 1973 issue mentioned, and will print in next newsletter if it is there.

Yesterday's Wheels

by
Pike Green

Seattle, Wash. . . Few people outside auto racing's inner sanctum ever knew or understood Billy Vukovich. Popular, well respected and at ease only while among his own kind, Billy was never able to cope graciously with a nosy reporter or autograph hound. Hence, in the eyes of the press and public, he created the illusion of being one of racing's all time "Bad Guys."

Even at Indianapolis, where fate took a hand in robbing him of four consecutive victories, Vuky hid from the spotlight. Twice after victories in the world's most prestigious race, Billy shunned the post-race festivities in favor of quietly returning to his family home in Fresno. The press, who always admires modesty in a champion, became furious upon discovery that Vukovich was indeed the person least impressed with his own fame. But, of course, no one ever troubled to learn what made Billy the way he was.

Everything he ever gained in life came to him the hard way, where his preoccupation with earning a living superseded all other considerations. Born near Oakland, Cal. in 1919, he moved with his family of 10 to a farm outside Fresno while still a youngster. Then, in the dawn of the Great Depression when Bill was 13, his father died, leaving him and his brothers no option but to help their mother scratch a living from the earth. By working in orchards, picking cotton, driving farm equipment and warehouse chores, they made ends meet for the next three years until tragedy struck again. This time, his mother died.

At 18, Bill persuaded a friend to let him drive in his first race; a 1937 stock car event. From then on, he drove midgets full time, sometimes running as often as seven days a week out in the dingweeds, where a good week would net him less than \$50. Depending on auto racing for his survival, Billy's attitude toward the sport was always more serious than most. And life was still hard.

Although volumes have been written about Vuky and his Son, Bill, Jr., it should be noted that Vuky's brother, Eli, was also an active driver in midgets and sprints during most of the same years. This "forgotten" member of the Vukovich clan was also a very talented driver who appeared frequently on our Northwest ovals until the mid 1950's. More so than Billy, Eli was always better known for his taciturn and cantankerous nature than for his talents.

During the post-war midget boom, Billy moved from the boondock bullpens into the big-time Southern California circuits, by now tagged "The Mad Russian" despite his Yugoslavian heritage. His remarkable ability, combined with confidence, dedication and determination, could not be denied for long, and Billy reached the threshold of immortality within the next few years. Often described as completely devoid of humor, Vuky nevertheless had his lighter moments.

One of these occasions, while running in the Mexican road race, his co-pilot, Vern Houle, became uneasy with Bill's flat-out pace. Vern was convinced that his pleadings to slow down a little had fallen on deaf ears until they missed a turn and found themselves airborne with 30 feet of altitude. While sailing out into space, Vuky turned to Vern with the remark, "OK, now you can drive." Fortunately neither was seriously injured in the unscheduled sudden stop.

Of course, had it not been for his achievements at Indianapolis, Bill Vukovich would probably never have been well known nationally. However, he rose to such greatness there alone that he is still usually listed among the all-time top ten. His first appearance at "The Speedway" in 1951 was the least impressive, ending after only 29 laps where, upon climbing from his car, he was heard to utter the prophetic phrase "It's a cinch." By way of proving his point, Billy methodically built a commanding lead in the 1952 classic, only to see it all slip away at the 475 mile mark when his steering gear broke, sending him into the wall. Second running Troy Ruttman,

sending him into the wall. Second running Troy Ruttman, from Lynnwood, Cal., then went on to give J.C. Agajanian his first Indy victory.

Starting from the pole in 1953, Vuky ran and hid from the entire field, crossing the finish line a full three laps ahead of his nearest competitor. Because of the oppressive heat of that day, many drivers were forced to call on relief help, where one of the drivers, Carl Scarborough, died of heat exhaustion after his combined effort with Bob Scott had produced a 12th finisher. Billy's long days of hard labor in the hot Fresno fields were now paying off, earning him another nickname, "The Indianapolis Iron Man".

Undaunted by his 19th starting position in 1954, the "Iron Man" surprised no one by running the distance at a pace better than his qualifying time to win by more than a lap over Jimmy Bryan.

The following year, while appraising the grey mass of spectators for whom he had little regard, Vuky, now considered the man to beat, quipped to a bystander, "They think we're freaks and they just might be right." From his fifth starting berth, Billy quickly moved into a 1/2-mile lead when he came up on a tangle of cars where Al Keller had hit Johnny Boyd while avoiding overturned Rodger Ward. Riding over Boyd's wheel, Vuky flipped violently over the wall, crashing in flames where he died as he had lived: the hard way. Bill Vukovich's death marked the last race sanctioned by AAA, and USAC has presided over championship events ever since.

Mario Bianchi Dies in Seattle



Mario Bianchi (left) with Dutch Schneider and Swede Smith. Mario has now joined his comrades at the Golden Speedway.

Seattle, Wash. . . Mario Andrew Bianchi, one of the Northwest's best known auto racers in the 1920's and 30's, died Tuesday, April 1 following a sudden illness. He was 76.

Mr. Bianchi was born in Barese, Italy and came to the Seattle area in 1913. He began his racing career by serving a 3-year apprenticeship as a riding mechanic in 1918 and was issued a driver's card by the Contest Board of AAA in 1921. Bianchi proved worthy of the honor by winning his first race as a driver, a 30-lap event in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho.

Mario's reputation became one of the most enviable in the Northwest while driving for the Romano team until 1924 when he acquired his own car. He scored numerous triumphs at tracks throughout the Northwest, setting several track records that lasted for over 20 years. From 1936 to 1941, Mario confined most of his driving activities to stock cars and rarely appeared in sprint car races. Mario's last race resulted in a victory at Seattle's Aurora Speed Bowl in 1941.

He owned and operated the Rainier Auto Parts Co. in Seattle for many years, retiring in 1965. The firm is now operated by his son, John. He is survived by two daughters, three sons, four brothers and 11 grandchildren.

(Ed Note: For more details of Mario Bianchi's career, see Pike Green's "Yesterday's Wheels" column in the July 11, 1973 issue of Racing Wheels.)

BIRTHDAYS!! ---- BIRTHDAYS!! ---- As Summer ends, celebrating Birthdays in September are Ruth Hespe, Joanne Edwards and Steve Lillestol. October will have Sharon Osborn-Ryan, Brian Pratt, Bob Scott and Richard N. Phillips blowing out the candles at their celebrations. A **“Happy Birthday” to all and Best Wishes for many more!!! Celebrate!!**

Sunday Morning Breakfasts!!! It’s that time of the year again. Mark **October 14th** on your calendar and point your mode of transportation toward Shay’s on Old Hwy 99 & N 160th in Shoreline. No official start time, but the room is usually close to full by 8:30 AM, or sooner. Come and join us. Along with the ‘Official’ need to do items, there is always plenty of Tall Tales ‘n’ Big Stories! Also, the **Tuesday Dinners** happen at Shay’s every week.

BANQUET – Just another friendly reminder to send in your 2018 Banquet meal selection and payment. Yup, that’s it on the bottom of the page. Please try to get them in by Oct. 13th so Hal has a count for the restaurant. Social hour at 6:00 and dinner at 7:00. As Hal noted, dig deep for those auction items, as the auction is a major fundraiser for the club. The banquets are always a fun time and we hope to see You there!

Saw the following in an article a while back and thought – “I can relate to more and more of those every day.” I’ll bet there are a few other members that can relate right along with me as we travel that Golden Road to old age.

If My Body Were A Car

If my body were a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model..... I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish and my paint is a little dull, but that's not the worst of it..... My headlights are out of focus and it's especially hard to see things up close..... My traction is not as graceful as it once was. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of weather..... My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins..... It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed..... My fuel rate burns inefficiently..... But here's the worst of it -- Almost every time I sneeze, cough or sputter.....either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires!!!!!!

And, as we venture down that “Golden Road to Old Age” we just need to remember to be alert, be smart, be safe..... And always be sure to**Keep Your Wheels Down!!**



Golden Wheels - 2018 Annual Banquet - Golden Wheels

Saturday, October 20th, 2018
 125th St. Grill - 12255 Aurora Ave. No. (Hwy.99) Seattle, WA
 Social Hour 5:00 PM - Dinner 6:00 PM

Prime Rib or Grilled Salmon
 Maytag Salad - Desert Sundaes
 Price of each meal is \$38.00
 18% gratuity included

Name (Please Print) _____

Prime Rib ()
 Grilled Salmon ()
 x \$38 = \$ _____

**Please complete and return to Golden Wheels by October 13th, 2018 so that we may inform the 125th Street Grill of the expected attendance in a timely manner.
 Thank you.**

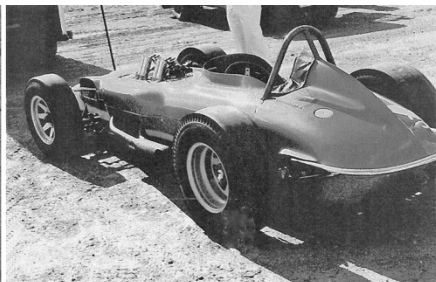
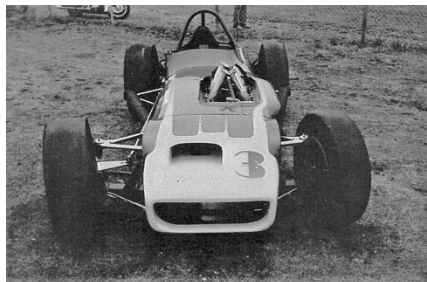
Mail to: Golden Wheels, P.O. Box 33487, Seattle, WA 98133

**Auction Items - Hope to get some “Really Good” items. Bring your best!!
 We can never have too many items for our silent auction. Thanks!**

◆◆◆◆◆ == BUY=SELL=FIND=TRADE == ◆◆◆◆◆

Email - fristurn@comcast.net Mail - PO Box33487, Seattle, WA 98133 Ph. - 425-334-5763
ADS ARE FREE TO ALL MEMBERS – PLEASE NOTIFY EDITOR OF ANY CHANGES – ADS ARE
SUBJECT TO REMOVAL AFTER THREE ISSUES IF SPACE IS NEEDED FOR NEWER ADS – THANK YOU

*** – For Sale - 1946 Solar midget race car. Fresh V8/60. in/out box. Halibrand Q/C. - ***
About five or six times out. Call Dan 206-878-7242



*****FOR SALE*****

Off set roadster with 1954 Oldsmobile 324cu, bored out to 350, Hilborn fuel injection, Halibrand center section quick change rear end. The car weighs 1800 pounds. Runs great and very fast, Car is currently in storage in La Center, WA.

Contact Mike at 509-212-8149.

FOR SALE: Edmonds Grill Shell – Fiberglass NOS – Never been altered. 16.5" wide x 20.5" tall
Call Dan for more info. 206-878-7242

YOUR BY/SELL/FIND/TRADE AD COULD BE HERE

NOTE: Additions, Deletions, Corrections - Email – fristurn@comcast.com or PO Box33487, Seattle, WA 98133

Here is a photo of Frankie Rentz with his daughter Barbara in the seat of his race car. Photo from the Rentz Collection.



Golden Wheels - 2018 Membership / Renewal - Golden Wheels

Please Print

Name _____ Spouse/SO Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Cell) _____ Birth Month(s) _____

Email/Web Address _____

Member-\$30 Spouse/Significant Other-\$10 Amount Enclosed _____ (US \$)

Brief Profile (owner, driver, crew, fan, etc) or change from last year. _____

Mail to: Golden Wheels, P.O. Box 33487, Seattle, WA 98133

Please Patronize Those That Support Golden Wheels



Carla & Gaylon Stewart
(425) 327-7522
Carla4racing@comcast.net

Northwest Focus Midget Series L.L.C.
PO Box 14119 Mill Creek, WA 98082

www.NorthwestFocusMidgets.com

MCLEES

DISTRIBUTING
3311 29th Ave. NE
Olympia, WA 98506

GERRY 360-456-1445 **DONNA**

Jack's Specialty Parts

Antique Auto Parts
Antique Race Car Parts

909 NE Cleveland Avenue
Gresham, OR 97030

503-667-1725

- FOR THE BEST IN NORTHWEST MOTORSPORTS -



Action
Excitement
Family Fun

Come Join Us In 2017

Skagit Speedway - 360-724-3567
4796 Old Highway 99 North, Alger, WA
Grays Harbor Raceway - 360-482-4374
32 Elma McCleary Road, Elma, WA
www.stevebeitlermotorsports.com



***** PRESENTED BY FUNTIME PROMOTIONS *****

BURROWS DRAPERIES

Family Owned & Operated Since 1957
Custom & Commercial Draperies Woven Woods
Rods & Installation Yardage Decor Blinds

JOHN WOOD
"FREE ESTIMATES"

18904 HWY 99, SUITE Q (425) 697-6504
LYNWOOD, WA 98036 Hm (425) 776-7222

CENTURY MOTOR CAR CO.

In Memory Of

Bob Gregg Shorty Templeman Len Sutton and the USAC

Hardwood Door Corp. Race Team

PIED PIPER PUB

Serving the Kent area since 1950

Darts • Video Golf • Shuffle Board

(253) 852-9914

Bobby Cell: (253) 929-9844

311 W. Meeker St. • Kent, Washington 98032

Your Ad Could Be Here

Contact us to find out how.

Golden Wheels
P.O. Box 33487
Seattle, WA

<http://www.goldenwheelsautoracingpathfinders.com/>



Auto Racing Pathfinders





P. O. Box 33487, Seattle, WA 98133
www.goldenwheelsautoracingpathfinders.com

*Incorporated
 October 20, 1975
 Memories of the Past
 On the Track Today
 Museum Pieces In Action*

Golden Wheels Fraternity

*Preserving The
 Golden Age of Motorsports*

2018 Officers
 Pres: Hal Schlegel
 Vice-Pres: Brian McMuntry

Board Members
 Frank Volz - Jerry Day
 Dave Craver - Warren Kindle
 Gary Berg - Bob Scott
 Lenora McMuntry - (Past President)
 George Hespe - (President Appointment)

PO Box 33487, Seattle, WA 98133

The Object of Golden Wheels Fraternity
 Encourage the preservation of vintage auto racing.
 Promote and advance the interest of said Fraternity.
 Honor those auto racers who are no longer with us.
 Join in fellowship and camaraderie.
 Collectively render such financial assistance as possible
 to worthy distressed auto racers, ex-racers, their widows,
 orphans and accepted humanitarian associations.

For information on Golden Wheels
 contact us at:
 Golden Wheels, P.O. Box 33487, Seattle, WA 98133
www.goldenwheelsautoracingpathfinders.com

**In Memory
 of
 Jan Opperman
 and
 Silent Members
 of Golden Wheels
 Fraternity**

anonymous