
Honoring and Preserving the Sports History of Chautauqua County



Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

Box 1192 - Jamestown, NY 14702

October 2013

SQUIRT



...And pushing the field is last week's winner, driving the orange and black number 511 Dodge, from faraway Brockway, Squirt Johns!

Those words by Lloyd Williams, track announcer at Stateline Speedway in Busti, NY, were music to the ears of race fans at that border oval from 1957-1970. Williams' words were always greeted with a thunderous ovation as, arguably, the most popular driver in the history of

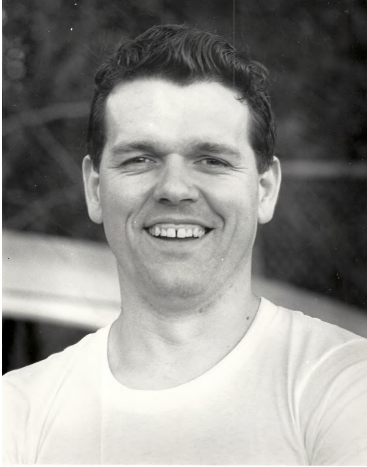
Stateline, assumed his position at the rear of the starting grid. They knew they were in store for another patented charge to the checkers by the talented Brockway throttle stomper.

The Mengle Memorial Library, 324 Main Street, Brockway, Pennsylvania, will premiere "SQUIRT", a documentary film chronicling the racing career of Stanley L. "Squirt" Johns, on Thursday, October 24, 2013, at 7 p.m.

A second showing will occur on Sunday, November 3rd, 2:00 p.m. at the Robert H. Jackson Center, in Jamestown.

The movie, written and produced by Randy Anderson, Greg Peterson and Randy Sweeney, all of Lakewood, NY, highlights the prolific stock car racing accomplishments of the former owner of The Johns Garage in Brockway.

Using video-taped interviews with Johns and dozens of other racers, the priceless collection of the late racing photographer Gordon Mahan, and vintage home movies, the film makers have brought to the screen the fantastic racing years of the big man known far and wide by just one name - Squirt.



From his very first race in 1950 at Clarion Park, to his final effort at Clearfield in 1974, Squirt was honored and respected for his mechanical genius and driving ability. Racing at multiple tracks throughout Pennsylvania and New York, he racked up countless race victories and track championships. Always approachable and friendly, he was a fan-favorite, especially to children.

Following the viewing of the 55-minute movie, Squirt and the producers will engage in a question and answer session with the audience.

“**SQUIRT**” is the second auto racing film from Anderson, Peterson and Sweeney. Their previous documentary was

“**Stateline Speedway - The First Ten Years, 1956-1964.**”

The film “**SQUIRT**” is a production of the Stateline Legacy Fund of Jamestown, NY in cooperation with the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation and the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame. There will be no admission charged. DVD copies of the film will be available for purchase.

For further information, contact Randy Anderson, Stateline Legacy Fund, at 716-640-6219.

Don Reinhoudt



The September CSHOF newsletter contained an article about Jenn Suhr’s upcoming induction into the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame. The article named other CSHOF inductees also enshrined in Buffalo’s HOF. Erroneously omitted from the list was Don Reinhoudt, who is also an inductee of both halls. The corrected text follows:

***Jennifer (Stuczynski) Suhr**, Chautauqua County’s Olympic Gold Medalist, will be inducted into the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame on October 30 at their annual awards dinner at the Hyatt Regency in Buffalo. Tickets are available at www.gbshof.com.*

*Jenn will join seven others as inductees of both the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame and the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame: **Bill Bergey, George Carter, Shane Conlan, Wally Huckno, Van Miller, Don Reinhoudt and Tara VanDerveer.***

Fortunately for this editor, the “World’s Strongest Man” is also the “World’s Nicest Man.” Mr. Reinhoudt has graciously accepted my apology and has renewed his support and commitment to the CSHOF.



Expansion Project Update

The CSHOF's plan to expand its exhibition space and archival storage capabilities has recently received two sizeable monetary infusions. The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation has

awarded an Axel W. Carlson field of interest grant while the Lakewood Rod and Gun Club has made another significant donation. Monies from these community partners have allowed us to purchase slot wall, paint and other materials from Chautauqua Brick Co. that provided discount pricing.

A talented area carpenter, who wishes to remain anonymous, constructed a doorway to link our existing area with the newly acquired space. Dan Currie at HCH Interiors contributed flooring supplies.

All labor for the project has been donated. The photo at left shows volunteers Jason Decker, Jason Genco, Ryan Seekings and Delbert Seekings installing slotwall.

CSHOF inductee Cal Cederquist painted the newly acquired workroom area. Other labor was contributed by HOF volunteer Larry Marvell, plus Board members Joe DiMaio, Bill Race and Randy Anderson.

2014 Inductee Selection

The challenging process to select the Class of 2014 inductees has begun. Vice-president Ron Melquist and the other 14 members of the pre-selection committee have completed the first step. They have reviewed the 110 nominations on file and made an initial cut to 25 names.

Next, the 15 members of the selection committee under the chairmanship of Secretary Russ Ecklund will further winnow the candidates. Finally, the full Board of Directors will determine which sports legacies will be inducted at its 33rd Annual Banquet, Monday, February 17, 2014, at the Lakewood Rod and Gun Club.

An announcement of the Class of 2014 will be made on December 1, 2013.

Inductee of the Month



Len Johnson is a familiar name to area tennis buffs, but many of the younger ones may not know of his accomplishments. If the pro tennis tour had been as big during Johnson's heyday as it is now, he might have been Jamestown's only touring player.

Johnson won the Jamestown City Singles title 23 times and was part of the championship doubles team 19 times. At one point he won the singles crown 16 straight times. Johnson retired the Golden Trophy at the Chautauqua Institution Tournament by winning it three straight times, 1954-56. He also was a member of the winning doubles team. Johnson won the Chautauqua County Open singles title five times and the doubles three times between 1950 and 1960. He won the Tri-City Championship in 1950 and 1951.

He was the first Jamestown resident ever to reach the finals of the Western New York Tournament where he lost to Len Treash of Rochester, 6-4, 8-6. To reach the finals, Johnson defeated two past champions. Later he teamed with Walt Lubes of Rochester to become the first Jamestown man to win the Western New York Tournament doubles title.

OBITUARY: Leonard T. "Len" Johnson, 87, of 138 N. Dow St., died unexpectedly at 5:19 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, 2005 in WCA Hospital.

A lifelong area resident, he was born Nov. 17, 1918, in Jamestown, the son of Edward N. and Ada Stalhandske Johnson.

He was a 1937 graduate of Jamestown High School, and had served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

He had been employed at MRC for 19 years. From 1958 to 1972 he had managed the Fountain Bowl Lanes, and from 1972 until his death he operated Len's Bowling and Tennis Pro Shop in Lakewood.

He was inducted into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame in 1986 for his accomplishments in tennis. He was city of Jamestown tennis champ for 23 years and had been active in area bowling for more than 50 years. Len was very helpful to many children in bowling and tennis for many years.

Surviving are his wife, Doris M. Johnson, whom he married May 29, 1943, in First Lutheran Church, two sons: Dale (Sharon) Johnson and Kenton (Shirley) Johnson all of Falconer, a daughter, Dawn Westrom (Curt) Westrom of Bemus Point, 10 grandchildren: Rodney, Richard and Corey Chipman, all of Connecticut, Ryan Westrom of Colorado, Karin Westrom of Bemus Point, Christopher Johnson of Ohio, Wendy Sanfilippo of Jamestown, Stacy, Andrew and Leanne Johnson, all of Falconer, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Interment will be in the Pine Hill Cemetery, Falconer.