
Preserving the Sports History of Chautauqua County



Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

15 West Third Street - Jamestown, NY 14701

February 2022

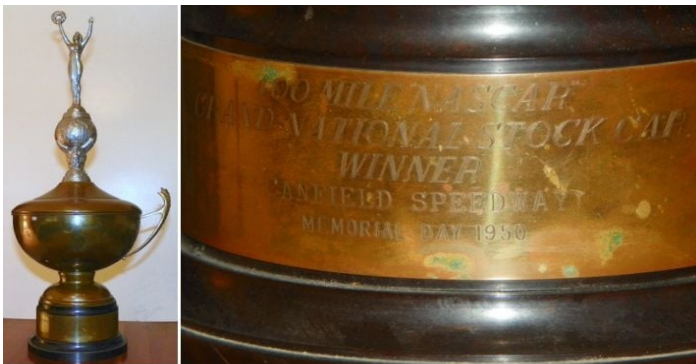
Induction Banquet February 21

The Board of Directors of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame will enshrine eleven individuals at its 40th Annual Induction Banquet, Presidents' Day, Monday, February 21st, at the Lakewood Rod & Gun Club.

The inductees are **Randall G. Anderson, George L. Barone, Jr., Sarah M. (Bogardus) Burnett, Harry G. Carlson, Andrew J. Creager, Christina M. Kebort, Lewis G. Mack, Larry E. Rodgers, Richard P. Shearman, Michael A. Sirianni, and Marc T. Tramuta.**

Tickets are available by calling Chip Johnson at 716-485-6991 or online at <https://www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org/banquettickets.php>.

Buesink/Rexford NASCAR Trophy



Rusty Buesink, nephew of CSHOF inductee, Julian Buesink, has loaned a very unique piece of NASCAR history to the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame to display. It is the trophy awarded to Buesink and his driver, Bill Rexford, also a CSHOF inductee, for winning the "Poor Man's 500", at Canfield, Ohio, on Memorial Day, 1950.

Rexford Romps at Canfield

CANFIELD, OH, MAY 30, 1950 – Bill Rexford of Conewango Valley, NY stalked Curtis Turner for over half the race, then took command to win the “Poor Man’s 500,” a 100-miler at Canfield Speedway.

Rexford, driving a 1950 Olds 88, took the lead on the 121st lap and went on to beat runner-up Glenn Dunaway (Kings Mountain, NC) by two laps. Rexford’s teammate, Lloyd Moore of Frewsburg, NY) finished third in another Julian Buesink owned machine, a 1950 Ford. Lee Petty (Level Cross, NC) crossed the finish line fourth and Bill Blair (High Point, NC) took fifth.

The event was staged on the same day as the Indianapolis 500 – hence the title “Poor Man’s 500.” The promoters paid \$5 in lap money to the leader of laps 101 through 200. Rexford’s total winnings were \$1,400. 11,000 fans witnessed the holiday race.

Jimmy Florian of Cleveland, OH was the fastest in time trials on the ½ mile dirt oval at Canfield Fairgrounds. He finished sixth, seven laps in arrears.

29 cars took the green flag to start the 200-lap event. Al Gross, a former stunt show driver flipped his Oldsmobile on the 9th lap and suffered a broken back. Joe Merola (Wilkesburg, PA) entered a radically designed 1948 Tucker Torpedo, but the car failed to complete even one lap due to a broken rear end.



Bill Rexford standing by Julian Buesink’s Oldsmobile

Grand National Race No. 5
200 Laps at Canfield Motor Speedway
Canfield, OH
100 Miles on Half-mile Dirt Track
May 30, 1950

Fin	St	No.	Driver	Team / Car	Laps	Money	Status
1		60	Bill Rexford	Julian Buesink '50 Olds 88	200	\$1,400	Running
2		49	Glenn Dunnaway	'49 Plymouth	198	750	Running
3		59	Lloyd Moore	Julian Buesink '50 Ford V-8	198	500	Running
4		42	Lee Petty	Lee Petty '49 Plymouth	195	400	Running
5		22	Bill Blair	'50 Mercury	195	300	Running
6	1	27	Jimmy Florian	Ford V-8	193	200	
7		48	Dick Burns	Mercury	190	150	
8		89	Bobby Courtwright	Ford	189	125	
9		90	Tim Flock	Red Star Garage '49 Lincoln	189	100	
10		293	Bob Dickson	Lincoln	187	75	
11		11	Art Gill	Ford	182	50	
12		9	Len Brown	Olds 88	171	50	
13		8	Dick Linder	La Belle Motors '49 Kaiser	161	50	
14		23	Mike Klapak	Ford 6	158	50	
15		18	Chuck Mahoney	Brooks Motors Mercury	151	50	
16		5	Bob Wilson	Nash	150		Crash
17		80	Hugh Darragh	Ford	142		
18		30	Elmer Wilson	Lincoln	137		Rear End
19	3	41	Curtis Turner	Eanes Motor Co. '50 Olds 88	133	100	Engine
20		100	Ace Shearer	Ford V-8	129		
21		32	Al Wever	Ford V-8	119		
22		28	Lew Fattman	Chevrolet	105		
23		15	Milford Schall	Ford V-8	104		
24	2	1	Frank Canale	Olds 88	74		Heating
25		55	Carl Wilkerson	Dodge	72		
26		21	Frank Boylan	Ford V-8	64		
27		2	Bob Greer	Olds 88	56		
28		99	Al Gross	Olds 88	9		Crash
29			Joe Merola	'48 Tucker Torpedo	0		

Time of Race:

Average Speed:

Pole Winner: Jimmy Florian

Lap Leaders: Curtis Turner 1-120, Bill Rexford 121-200

Caution:

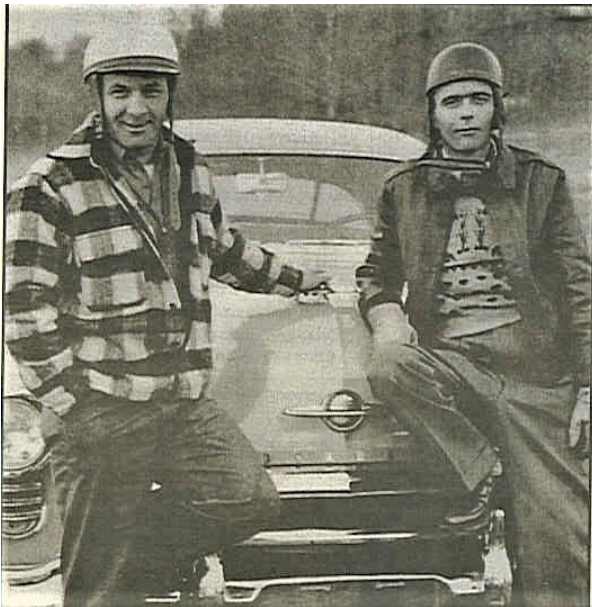
Margin of Victory:

Attendance: 11,000



Canfield, Ohio Fairgrounds Speedway

Rexford went on to capture the 1950 NASCAR Grand National point championship, while his teammate in the Buesink stable, Lloyd Moore, another CSHOF inductee, ended up fourth in the season-long point chase. Sandwiched in between the two Chautauqua County drivers were NASCAR Hall of Famers Fireball Roberts and Lee Petty. In what was primarily a Southern sport in 1950, it was a tremendous accomplishment for Findley Lake's Julian Buesink to field such a powerful two-car team. Rexford, who was 23-years-old at the time, remains the youngest champion in the storied history of NASCAR.



Lloyd Moore & Bill Rexford



Julian Buesink