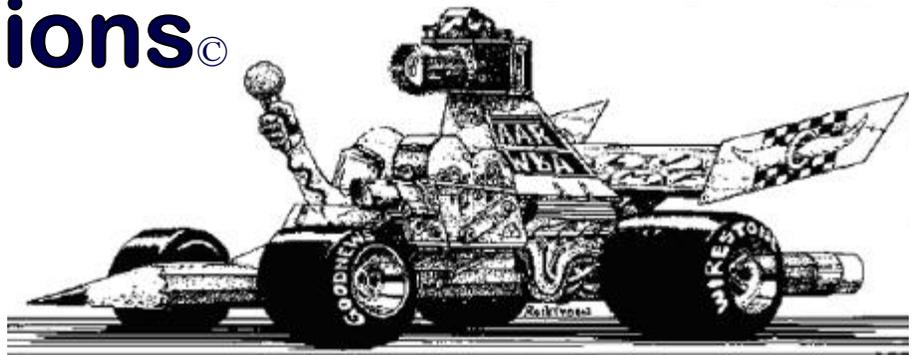


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The Official Newsletter Of The American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association

May 2011

Vol. 44 No. 5



*Indianapolis 500 - The Greatest Spectacle In Racing!
Celebrating 100 years as America's Great Race!*



56th Annual AARWBA Breakfast

Saturday May 28, 2011 at 8 a.m.

Pavilion at the Brickyard Crossing Golf Course.

Presenting the "Jigger" and Angelo Angelopolous Awards,
Contest Results, Russo Award, and special Clint Brawner tribute film.

**RSVP to Member Debra Atkerson, Race Marketing Public Relations
at 317/626-3382 or Email: debbie3382pr@yahoo.com**

American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association, Inc. (www.aarwba.org)
"Dedicated To Increasing Media Coverage Of Motor Sports"

A Dozen Years of Indianapolis Speedway Memories

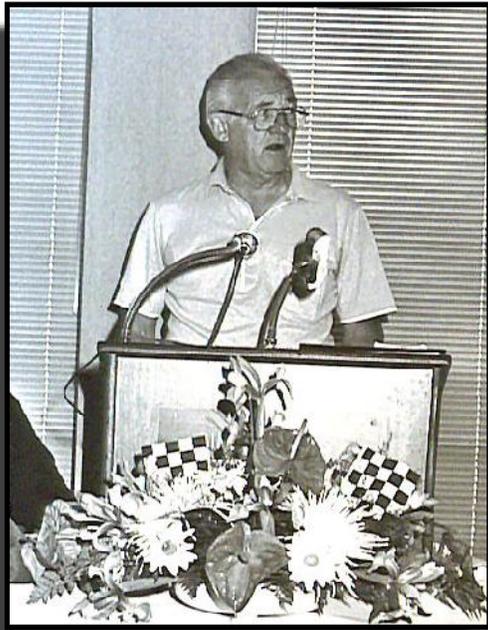
Submitted by Johnny McDonald, AARWBA President From 1969-1971

Photos by Dusty Brandel

My first visit was an inspiring and an awaking experience in 1966. Sitting tightly in a chair on the stretch-long press row, balancing a box lunch on top of a typewriter and finding a place for race dispatches was a challenge.

I took along a movie camera and planned to finish the roll by shooting the race start.

Then all hell broke loose with spinning cars all over the place. Needless to say, that film drew a lot of attention when we got back home.



President Johnny McDonald welcomes everyone to an earlier AARWBA Breakfast at the Speedway Motel banquet room.

As you learned more about the place in following years, better, more interesting locations became evident. Standing on the grass area inside turn one was a great spot for the opening laps and a walk along the pit wall was an inside on pit strategy.

I never understand those writers who remained in a hospitality room watching it on television. They could have done that at home and saved their paper some expenses.

It didn't take long before you knew where your news sources were or just where to be at the right time. You didn't need a call from the office later telling you that AP had a developing story. "Where were you

today? Covering things from a bar?" They could be sarcastic, not realizing the space you had to cover.

We were befriended early by car owner and race promoter J.C. Agajanian, who I first met when he staged a midget race in San Diego's old and spacious Balboa Stadium. I wasn't far from the ever-present and likable guy with that cowboy Stetson

After all, hadn't he talked race director Harlan Fenger out of black-flagging his race-leading "98" with Parnelli Jones at the controls with oil dripping from old Calhoun.

Aggie always stood out in the crowd and served as a valuable guide in getting acquainted with the movers and shakers.

And who can forget Mr. 500. Andy Granatelli's story was innovation and he let you know about it, behind three letters: STP. He tried but couldn't lasso the Novi's horsepower and had heartbreaking luck with his controversial turbines.

The old guard guys were fearful this would turn Indy upside down. First, the roadsters were rendered obsolete by the rear engine brigade and now, this. But it was all tempered when Mario Andretti drove Clint Brawner's Hawk to victory in 1969. No wonder why the big fellow planted a kiss on the little Italian.

We sat in Granatelli's Speedway Motel room after the 1967 race. Not much was said and they could only wonder why a \$6 beating would betray them. Parnelli Jones was toying with the field when the car wheezed its last with only a few laps left.

Andy kept tabs on me through the years. His mother, who lived in Escondido, would send him clippings of my stories.

From the time two engineers got together you knew something was going to happen. Driver Mark Donohue, a Brown University grad, and the impeccable car owner Roger Penske from Lehigh, calculated or measured off a 500 victory in 1972.

Penske, who I had first met after he drove a Can-Am car to victory at Riverside International Raceway in 1962, has had 15 victories as a car owner. Donohue was killed in a practice crash in Europe.

But it didn't matter who Penske put in his cars, they found a path the brass ring. There was Rick Mears, Bobby Unser, Danny Sullivan, Al Unser Sr., and Jr., Emerson Fittipaldi, Helio Castroneves, Gil de Ferran and Sam

Indy Memories Continued



IMS President Tony Hulman accepts the Frank Bloemker Plaque from AARWBA at the annual breakfast. The plaque resides in the Frank Bloemker Media Center at the Speedway.

Hornish Jr. Andy may have chanted that he was Mr. 500 but Penske meet all the requirements.

Another sombering episode came in 1972, when race leader Jerry Grant made a quick pit stop. Unfortunately they tanked up from idled Bobby Unser's pit. Penalized, Dan Gurney's Eagle was placed 12th.

Another sad time with some fellow Californians I've known since the stock car days at Riverside.

Track superintendent Clarence Cagle was a friend of the writers and in the winter he had to use dynamite to loosen ground for the foundation of a media center, to be completed for qualifications.

Up to that point, key press members were assigned working locations in sponsor trailers and vans. The only press location belonged to the Indianapolis papers. Now they're housed in the tower.

Then, there was the time Indy finally permitted women press members inside Gasoline Alley and the pit area. But car owners and sponsors abused the privilege by bringing in wives and/or girl friends.

Other memories:

Tony Hulman -- gracious and easy to talk to.

Sid Collins and Tom Carnegie -- voices that made a difference.

Jim Chapman and Bill Dredge -- press agents with class.

Chris Economaki -- center of attention.

Those great Goodyear and Firestone parties.

Walking along fan-frenzied Georgetown Road on the eve of race day.

Visits to the museum for a share of history.

The 1973 race that took three days to complete.

Experiences are cherished whether you have visited this palace of racing once or a dozen times. So, gentlemen and ladies start your engines again.



Past President's of AARWBA (standing) Jep Cadou, ('63-'65); Wayne Fuson, ('65-'67) past Executive Secretary Dick Mittman ('62-'70) and, seated, Chris Economaki ('67-'69).

P.S. Maybe it's just a job for some of today's writers but, for me, it was a privilege to be assigned to cover the Indy 500. And I felt for the most part my colleagues felt the same way. That list included Joe Dowdall, Harvey Duck, Dick Mittman, Bob Thomas, Shav Glick, Bloys Britt, Jep Cadou, Brock Yates and, yes, even Jim Murray.



2011 Indianapolis 500 Sunday, May 29, 2011

Source: Indianapolis Motor Speedway / IMS Photos

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway is celebrating 100 years of worldwide leadership in motorsports entertainment from 2009-2011 through its Centennial Era, which features many special events and a new, retro corporate logo.

IMS is honoring the 100th anniversaries of the opening of the venerable racetrack, in 1909, and of the inaugural Indianapolis 500, in 1911, through the Centennial Era celebration.

Indiana businessmen Carl G. Fisher, James A. Allison, Arthur C. Newby and Frank H. Wheeler pooled their resources to build the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in 1909 as an automobile testing ground to support Indiana's growing automotive industry. The focus of the facility soon turned to racing, with Ray Harroun winning the inaugural Indianapolis 500 on May 30, 1911.

"No other motorsports facility in the world has the rich history and tradition of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway," IMS Chairman of the Board Mari Hulman George said. "The Centennial Era celebration pays homage to the heroes and events of our storied past while anticipating an even more glorious future."



American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association, Inc. (www.aarwba.org)
"Dedicated To Increasing Media Coverage Of Motor Sports"

A Reminder For All AARWBA Members

Our Obligations Extend Beyond Getting The Story

All AARWBA members are responsible for reading the By-Laws and White Paper at the end of the membership directory on the website.

(A few snippets appear below.)

It has been observed that a few members are simply forgetting to be courteous to sponsors, promoters, track personnel, and other members of the media. Remember that all of us share a vested interest in the health of motorsports! We are in it as partners so lets remember to respect everyone we encounter in pursuit of the story!

From the white paper:

It is the auto racing reporter's obligation to report fairly, objectively and completely.

Requests for special considerations (freebies, extra credentials, special parking) are just that—requests. There is no obligation on the part of the promoter to grant them and rejection should not affect the media member's treatment of the promoter.

Accept the limitations of facilities. While it might be ideal for every media member to be treated equally, it isn't always possible and some racetracks must make distinctions. Not everybody can be in the pits or pressroom on race day at Indianapolis, Long Beach or Charlotte.

Press members have an obligation to maintain reasonable standards of professional and personal conduct. Promoters have sound reasons for placing some restrictions on the media. Members of the media who consistently indicate an inability or unwillingness to meet reasonable standards of personal and professional conduct in dealing with track personnel, competitors, or other members of the media, will have their AARWBA membership suspended or revoked.

News & Notes

SIROIS FAMILY VINTAGE RACING AUCTION BENEFITS THE RILEY HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN



Leon "Jigger" Sirois (above) and his family will hold an Auction in June for the benefit of Riley Hospital. Jigger Sirois attends the annual AARWBA breakfast to present the "Jigger Award" to the 'hard-luck' driver from the Indy 500 each May.

Many auction items of rare auto racing items from the 1950's -1970's will also be on display at the Auto Racing Memorabilia Show at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Saturday 28th (following the AARWBA breakfast) with the option of bidding on items during the show.

The auction company is Dan Ripley's Antique Helper (antiquehelper.com) and Dan has scheduled the live/online auction for Friday evening June 3, 2011. Ripley's auction building is at 2764 E. 55th Place, Indianapolis.

The majority of items are from the late "Frenchy" Sirois, well known mechanic on three 1950's Indy 500 winning teams. Many rare and unusual items will be auctioned off. A complete catalog of these auction items are posted on the internet for online bidding at www.antiquehelper.com.

All the proceeds from the Sirois Family auction will be donated to Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

News & Notes

Did you ever...

...have a time in your career covering motorsports as a writer, broadcaster or photographer when you had to stop and say,

“Did that really just happen?”

If you have ever experienced one of those moments when you were there in reality but what you witnessed was somewhat unreal, we would like to hear about it.

Send us a short version of what happened and we will publish it in a future issue of ImPRESSIONs.

Hey, we have all had those moments so come on and tell us about yours. After all, you were there! Really!

Send your stories to the Editor:
ashartwell@att.net

Do You Remember “The Bridge”?

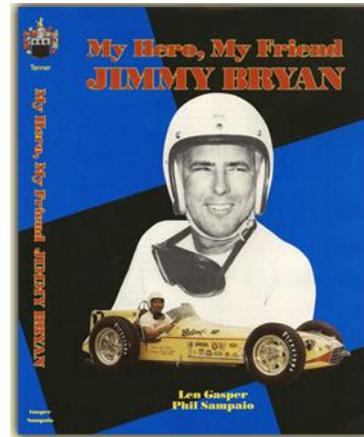
If you attended races at the old Bridgehampton Race Circuit on Long Island, you must have good stories to tell about the experience! Please share your anecdotes, memories, lies or other tales with your fellow members.

Send your memories to:
Andy Hartwell - ashartwell@att.net
or to:
Dusty Brandel - dusty.brandel@gmail.com



My Hero, My Friend

Book on Jimmy Bryan Returns
Excerpts from www.jimmybryanbook.com



Every once in a while a special story comes along. A story that transcends time and reveals all the magic and wonders of life, love and friendship. A story that takes you back to a time when life was simple and our hearts were young. A time when heroes really meant something...

MY HERO, MY FRIEND JIMMY BRYAN (Ralph Tanner Associates, Inc; December 1992 / 2011; \$24.99) is the true story of a boy and his legendary racing hero, Jimmy Bryan. Considered by critics as one of the best racing books ever written and past winner of the Best Book of the Year by the American Auto Racing Writers and Broadcasters Association, the book is being re-released to the public in 2011.

Set against the backdrop of the golden years of American racing during the 1950s, My Hero, My Friend takes an intimate look into the life of a legendary racing figure and shows the elements of personality that made Jimmy Bryan the “Arizona Cowboy” loved by millions of race fans. The book also chronicles the history of Champ Car/Indy Car racing during the 1950s and the pioneers of the sport. Among the great drivers mentioned in the story are Bill Vukovich, Jack McGrath, Bob Sweikert, Pat Flaherty, Sam Hanks, Pat O’Connor, Johnny Boyd, Tony Bettenhausen, Jim Rathmann, and Troy Ruttman. Written by award-winning author Phil Sampaio, as told by Len Gasper, the story is a fascinating, personal look into the world of Indy racing and a wonderful and unforgettable legend named Jimmy Bryan.

Written with the full-cooperation of The Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the book contains a heart-warming introduction by Sam Hanks, winner of the 1957 Indy 500, as well as a forward by Tom Binford, the longest tenured Chief Steward of the Indy 500. Many rare and never-before seen images of historic racing moments and Jimmy Bryan’s home life are present throughout the book. Available now once again after nearly twenty years, My Hero, My Friend belongs on every racing fan’s shelf.



American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association Inc.

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"Dedicated To Increasing Media Coverage of Motor Sports"

The AARWBA is the oldest and largest professional organization of its kind. Founded in 1955 in Indianapolis, it has grown to more than 400 members throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. Each year the AARWBA members select a 14-driver All America Team from Open Wheel, Stock Car, Sports Car, Drag Racing, Short Track, Touring Series and At Large championship categories. An annual banquet is held to honor these drivers each January. AARWBA also sponsors several contests for its members and established the "Legends in Racing" auto racing hall of fame.

AARWBA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

Name:		Date:
Company:		
Title:		
Business Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Phone:	E-mail:	FAX:

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Home address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Phone:	E-Mail:	FAX:
Preferred Mailing Address: HOME OFFICE (Please note that our newsletter, "ImpRESSions", is sent via e-mail)		
Preferred E-Mail Address For Newsletter:		

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

Media Professional (\$45.00)	Affiliate Member (\$65.00)	Associate / Corporate (\$300.00)
Signature of applicant:		Date:

Active Media Member

Applicants for active media membership status must submit the following materials to the membership committee for consideration. Materials must be submitted with your check.

- ✓ A fully executed membership application. **(This information will appear in the membership directory unless you specify otherwise. Attach a note to this application if necessary.)**
- ✓ Two 1" x 1.5" head shot pictures for use in the directory and for an I.D. badge.
- ✓ Tear sheets or samples of work as follows:
 - Two published articles on the subject of auto racing in a publication of general circulation within the past year.
 - Photographs on auto racing appearing in two publications of general circulation or two separate times in one publication, within the past year.
 - One video or audio tape of any race broadcast where spectators attended and exhibited the applicant's work within the past year.
 - One book on the subject of auto racing within the past year or three books on the subject of auto racing, or one book contracted from any trade publisher for a book on auto racing



Affiliate Member

Open to public relations, team representatives, motorsports advertising personnel. Full voting rights and privileges except to hold office.

Associate/Corporate Membership

Open to any person, regardless of affiliation or professional orientation, who is interested in furthering the aims of the American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association and/or motorsports in general. Corporate membership is limited to three (3) non-voting memberships for the \$300 fee.

Mail completed application, photos, and your check to the address shown above.

The American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association 922 North Pass Avenue Burbank, CA 91505-2703 (818) 842-7005