



Spring Open House to be held April 10 & 11

After the stressful year of 2020, EMMR members are especially ready to gather at the Museum for the yearly **two-day Spring Open House** held every April.

From December till the Spring Open House in April, the Museum is usually open on Fridays only if volunteers are available and the weather cooperates. During the winter on Thursday nights, volunteers work on displays, organizing, and deep cleaning.

But beginning April 10, 2021, EMMR will be open **Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm** and staffed by EMMR's many knowledgeable and friendly volunteers. Of course the Gift Shop will be open.

April 10 Open House featuring Drag Racing

EMMR's **Spring Open House** will be featuring **Drag Racing on Saturday April 10, 2021**. We are opti-

Mark your Calendar! Don't miss these events!
Please bring your mask.

mistic that 2021 will enable EMMR to resume the many events throughout the year.

Darwin Doll Passed Away

During the **morning** of **Saturday's** Open House, we will be remembering **Darwin Doll** who passed away in December of 2020 at the age of 87.

Mike Dunn will Speak in Afternoon of April 10

During the **afternoon** of the **Open House** on **April 10**, the Roundtable speaker will be EMMR member **Mike Dunn, former top-fuel /Funny Car driver, IHRA Past-President, and ESPN announcer.**

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Dick Vermeil to speak at Spring Open House on Sunday April 11, 2021



Dick Vermeil, seated in the race car in the photo on the right, will be a speaker at the **Spring Open House on Sunday April 11, 2021** at EMMR.

Dick will be focusing on racing instead of football because his father was the late Louis Vermeil, a 1995 National Sprint Car Hall of Fame inductee and known as "Calistoga Speedway's racing godfather." Located in Calistoga, California, Dick Vermeil spent a lot of time at the track as a young man. The Speedway has

been renamed as "Calistoga Speedway, home of Louis Vermeil." In this photo taken at EMMR, Lynn Paxton is on the right.



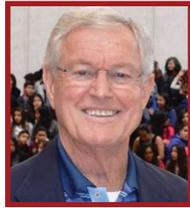
Spring Open House

continued from page 1

“Going in Circles” on Sunday April 11

As usual for the **two-day Open House**, Sunday April 11 features circle track racing.

Originally scheduled for the Holiday Open House, we are thankful that **Dick Vermeil** was able to reschedule and will be our guest speaker. He will be talking about his interest in racing during his younger years with his father, **Louis Vermeil**. He may be able to talk some football too! Our talented emcee **Dave Hare** will be the host for this special event.



Dick Vermeil
Special Speaker

Plan to attend Both Days

So plan to attend both days of the Spring Open House at Eastern Museum of Motor Racing. Bring along some family, friends, or neighbors to see how amazing the exhibits and cars are in EMMR's 30,000 square-foot museum.

Food and snacks will be available for purchase, and the Gift Shop always has something new to buy. In addition there will be auctions of racing-themed items on both days, so perhaps you will want to bring some extra cash.

As always (except for a few times during the year), admission to EMMR and Latimore Valley Fairgrounds and Racetrack is free, but a donation is gratefully accepted.

Special Shout-Out to these Randomly Selected **EMMR Members**

- Larry Adams, Reading, Pa.
- Hal Bitner, Greencastle, Pa.
- Martin Comstock, Herkimer, N.Y.
- Mickey Duncan, Brunswick, Md.
- Melvin Eichelberger, Camp Hill, Pa.
- Sandy Fletcher, East Berlin, Pa.
- Jeff Golden, Wrightsville, Pa.
- Geraldine Hartman, Linglestown, Pa.
- Dale Kaltreider, McSherrystown, Pa.
- Kenny Leiphart, Brogue, Pa.
- Rodney Mills, Hedgesville, WV.
- Rick Nash, Windsor Locks, Ct.
- Larry Pittman, Greencastle, Pa.
- Bruce Revenbaugh, Marble Falls, Tx.
- Bob Shultz, Mechanicsburg, Pa.
- Tom Tierney, Elenwood, Ga.
- Jeff Wall, Ellicott City, Md.
- Frank Wright, Harrisburg, Pa.



EMMR thanks you for your support!

—Nancy Miller, EMMR President

TIP for all members: help EMMR by sharing your newsletter with a racefan, or bringing someone new to EMMR!

Enthusiastic Fans Volunteer to Upgrade Tractor Pull Track at EMMR

Neither cold nor snow could keep these hardy volunteers from construction to greatly improve the tractor pull area that is down the hill from the Museum.



Volunteers who tackled the Track

- Joe Weaver
 - Garson Moser
 - Jimmy Weinenhof
 - Andy Thomas
 - Barry Murphy
 - Barry Klinedinst
- Thanks!*

I hope you all had a nice holiday. The **Lobitz Movie Party** on Sunday November 1, 2020 went very well. We were glad that Stan made it down with his son Barry. As always, it was great to talk with him. The **auction** of donated items did very well and will help with EMMR's expenses. Thanks to all who made it a success.

The **November Roundtable** was hosted by **Alan Sagi**. He did a great job interviewing the **Eckert Family**.

Last event of 2020 was cancelled

Unfortunately the popular **Holiday Open House** and Museum openings on Fridays in December of 2020 were canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Museum hours

The good news is that the Museum did open on Friday January 8th, 2021, and was open on Fridays only in January of 2021.

For **February, March**, and the first two Fridays of April, the Museum will be open on **Fridays**.

Beginning with EMMR's Spring Open House on April 10th and 11th, the Museum will be open **Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm**. As always, EMMR members are volunteers when the museum is open—most of the volunteers are very knowledgeable about motor racing and the many exhibits in EMMR's 30,000-square-foot museum.

Don't Miss the Spring Open House in April

On **Saturday, April 10th**, the **Drag Racing** guys will be highlighted featuring **Mike Dunn** and **Sunday, April 11th**, **Dick Vermeil**, will be our guest speaker. He will be talking about his interest in racing in his younger years with his father, **Louis Vermeil**. He may be able to talk some football too! Our **Dave Hare** will be the host for this.

The **Thursday night Work Parties** have started and are going well. We have some **great volunteers** that have showed up to get the museum in shape for a new season, plus arrange the new exhibits. We can always use volunteers. Every Thursday 6-9 p.m. from January to April's Open House

Remembering Racing Friends

The racing family has lost some great contributors to the sport. **Al Hamilton**, a great car owner of many champions; **Aldo Andretti**, brother of **Mario**; and **Darwin Doll**, who headed-up the drag section of our museum.

And on a very sad note, I am sure most of you in racing have heard that our dear friend and great supporter of EMMR, **Stan Lobitz**, has passed away. I will truly miss him along with many of those whose lives he has touched. Stan had a great sense of humor, now I have to find someone else to argue with! Rest in Peace.

Please check our website for changes www.EMMR.org.

—Lynn Paxton c 717-321-3484 or h 717-432-5522



Lynn Paxton
Curator

Well as I write this, we are into early February and it had been nice so far—then the snow came. We only have about 8 inches where we live so that is manageable for two old people! (*With the help of our son Dale.*)

The holidays sure were different for all of us because we had COVID-19 so it was a very quiet holiday, but we are ok and that is the important thing. To those of you that may have had the virus, I wish you well.

Beth Wishard to coordinate Vintage Car events

When you get the new schedule you will see that **Beth Wishard** will be taking over my place with the vintage cars and her number is 717-253-3467, BethWishard@live.com

Of course you can still call me if necessary: home 717-766-0837 or cell 717-418-2102, as I will help Beth get acquainted with what we do because each track is different.

Roundtables continue in 2021

We still have several roundtables dates left so if you have any suggestions or someone you would like to see you can call **Kathy Armstrong** at 717-512-6334 or myself.

Bring your Mask

We will be following COVID-19 regulations for 2021 and they can be found on our website EMMR.org.

Steve Bubb adds skills

Our librarian Steve Bubb has taken a course on museum collections and copyrights so that should benefit the museum's library in a big way. We have had thousands of pictures donated over the years and that is a BIG job.

Thursday Night Work Parties continue

Lynn and I want to thank the 20 to 25 people that are coming out for the Thursday night work parties. What a great job they are doing.

A loss for the Museum

As you may know we lost **Stan Lobitz** recently and he will be missed by EMMR as he has been a big contributor over the years.

We also lost former board member **Darwin Doll**. We send condolences to their families.

VOLUNTEERS— the reason EMMR is so great

I want to thank ALL volunteers for their great work they do. And remember, opportunism is a happenings magnet. If you stay positive, good things and good people will be drawn to you!

—Nancy Miller hipgrandma@aol.com

Our fairground is always in need of some friends to help keep her looking good. In order to maintain it, we would like some help. You are welcome to come at your leisure, weekday or weekend. Just contact **Barry Murphy** at 717-512-1919 so he can tell you what is needed. Thank you in advance.



Nancy Miller
President, EMMR

Drag Racing Exhibit News



Hello Drag Racing fans! Hope you are all staying healthy and being careful.

We had to **cancel** the **Mid-Winter Drag Racing Party** at EMMR on February 13 because of COVID-19, however we planned to have a virtual Roundtable featuring **Western Pennsylvania Drag Strips**. The event could be seen live on EMMR's Facebook page or South Mountain Raceway's. After the event, it will be posted online in YouTube.



Jeff Golden
Drag Racing Coordinator

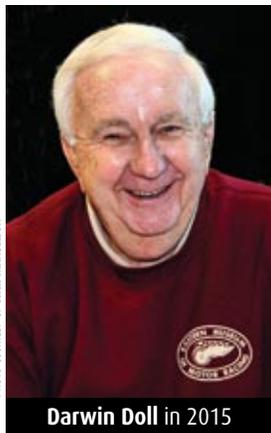
April 10 Open House featuring Drag Racing

Our next drag racing event at EMMR is the **Spring Open House** featuring Drag Racing on **Saturday April 10, 2021**. We are optimistic that 2021 will enable EMMR to resume the many events throughout the year.

As usual for the **two-day Open House, Sunday April 11** features circle track racing. A special guest speaker that day will be **Dick Vermeil**.

Darwin Doll Passed Away

In December of 2020, Darwin Doll passed away at the age of 87. We will remember Darwin on Saturday morning of the Open House. Darwin was the first Northeast Division 1 Director for NHRA beginning in early 1960s and served for about 20 years. Later Darwin promoted the York US-30 Dragway Reunion and Muscle Car Madness shows at the York Fairgrounds in York, Pa. In 2016–2018 Mr. Doll held the York US-30 Heritage Days at Lattimore Valley Fairgrounds and EMMR. He was instrumental in creating and then curating the popular Drag Racing section of EMMR in 2011.



Darwin Doll in 2015

Mike Dunn will Speak in Afternoon of April 10

During the **afternoon** of the **Open House** on **April 10**, the Roundtable speaker will be EMMR member **Mike Dunn, former top-fuel / Funny Car driver, IHRA Past-President, and ESPN announcer**.

Dunn is a second-generation Top Fuel and Funny Car pilot who made a successful transition into the color commentating booth for the NHRA and ESPN. You don't want to miss this event!



Mike Dunn

Charlie Overfelt's blown flathead Ford altered is beside Jeff Lears twin hemi rail.



Save the date for the Drag Racers Reunion Weekend on July 10 and 11, 2021

Photos are from 2019 Drag Racers' Weekend. The cars were in front EMMR.



Two Kowalski Lyndwoods, Chevy-powered modified roadster and nitro hemi A/FD were staged on the beautiful lawn in front of EMMR during the 2019 Drag Racers' Reunion Weekend. Attendees can examine the race cars and chat with some drivers and owners of the drag cars.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF "MASHIE"

July 10 and 11 is Drag Racers' Reunion Weekend

We will be having our **Drag Racers' Reunion Weekend** again on **July 10 and 11, 2021**. On Saturday morning we will gather at the museum. **Historic and nostalgic race cars** will be on display in front of the Museum, plus we will fire-up the drag cars. Bring your ear plugs!

Cruise-In Car Show during Drag Racers' Weekend

Also on **Saturday July 10** we will have a **Cruise-In Car Show** with a **\$10** donation to EMMR. Your ticket qualifies you for the giveaway door prizes, plus supports EMMR.

Drag Racing at South Mountain Raceway on Sunday during Drag Racers' Weekend

On **Sunday July 11** we will gather at **South Mountain Raceway** in Boiling Springs for **1/8-mile drag racing** including **vintage drag cars**. Car Clubs will be invited to attend as well as regular spectators. There will be an admission fee to the event.

South Mountain Raceway is located just over the mountain from EMMR.

The Drag Racers' Reunion Weekend will be a two-day event, so be sure to stay both days. Don't miss any of the action!

These two events are the highlights for Drag Racing fans during the first half of 2021. Hope to see everyone at these events and at the Museum anytime.

—**Jeff Golden**, Drag Racing Coord., 717-873-5091

The Indycar Corner



Jerry Hair
Indycar Corner Columnist

Pennsylvania's Own Bill Holland—Talent Wasted?

This past August I originally planned to attend the Indycar Grand Prix at the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, however COVID restrictions forced the race to be rescheduled for late September. The good news was that my schedule was now free to attend the inaugural Bill Holland Classic—USAC Silver Crown event at Selinsgrove Speedway. The inaugural Bill Holland Classic was named after former Indy 500 winner and winner of the first race held at Selinsgrove Speedway, in July 1946.

Who knew when Troy Ruttman won the 1952 Indy 500, this would be the last victory for a “dirt style” car. Once the darling of Indycar racing, by the late 1950s the dirt style car had totally disappeared from the 500 and with few exceptions was relegated to those Indycar races held on dirt. By 1971 the dirt car was gone from the Championship Trail but continued on as a separate class, known today as the USAC Silver Crown Series. But I digress.

The intent of this article is to recognize one of the best drivers ever to compete at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Pennsylvania's own William “Bill” Holland.

As a young boy I was always aware of Bill Holland. My dad would tell me stories of how when he was only 10 years old his uncle would sneak him into Williams Grove Speedway to watch the AAA Championship Cars. Dad often talked about seeing Bill race there just months after his historic Indy 500 win. Even though Bill had stopped racing long before my 10th birthday, he was always one of the drivers I longed to learn more about.

Bill was from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the son of major league baseball player Willard Holland. Like his dad, Bill was an excellent athlete and tried out for the 1932 Olympics but did not begin his racing career until 1933 at age 26. In 1937 he made the big step up to compete on the AAA Big Car Circuit and over the next ten years won close to 40 Sprint Car features and the 1941 AAA Eastern Sprint Car Championship.

In 1947, Bill finally got his big break when Tony Bet-

tenhausen decided to join the ASPAR driver's strike and Tony's car owner Lou Moore asked Bill to take his place. Competing in his first 500 Bill qualified 8th and finished second in one of Indy's most controversial endings. Running in the lead and within sight of victory car owner Lou Moore wanting to preserve a 1-2 finish gave the EZ sign to both his cars...Bill's #16 and the #27 second-place runner of Mauri Rose. Holland slowed but Mauri Rose did not and passed Bill with seven laps to go. Bill thinking, he was a lap ahead actually waved to Mauri as he went by and was surprised to later discover he gave away a 500 win in his rookie year. Bill always believed Lou favored Mauri Rose and never forgave him or Mauri for the incident.

Despite his disappointment and bitterness, 1947 turned out to be a great year for Bill. In addition to his second place finish at Indianapolis, Bill finished first in a hundred-mile event at Milwaukee and first at another one-hundred-mile event at the Langhorne Speedway. Those finishes combined with 2nd place finishes at Atlanta; Georgia; and Bainbridge, Ohio; gave Bill Holland a second-place finish in that year's American Automobile Association National Championship.

It turned out that 1947 would be his best season in Champ Cars, but Bill was always a threat at Indianapolis. After his 1947 2nd place finish at Indy, he finished no lower than second in each of the next three years including his incredible win in 1949. Bill's four-year run at Indy (1946–1950) where he finished 2nd, 2nd, 1st, and 2nd, will remain one of the greatest achievements in Indy 500 history.

After 1950 Bill became less interested in racing and

more focused on various business interests. Never the easiest driver to get along with, he arrogantly demanded appearance deals, sometimes failing to even show up. His demanding personality made him unpopular with AAA officialdom which finally had enough of Bill's antics and in the fall of 1950, suspended him for a year a punishment for competing in a three-lap Lion's Charity race at Opa-locka, Florida which was a NASCAR event. When Bill complained in the media about his suspension, AAA extended it for another year. After serving his suspension, Holland returned to AAA in 1953 and at Indianapolis shocked everybody by

qualifying 28th but with the second fastest speed...in a car he had never driven prior to that day.

The following year (1954) Bill began losing interest again and at 46 years of age with rapidly declining skills and with car owners generally finding him difficult to work with, it was over. In 1958, now in his fifties, Holland returned for a couple of years to run IMCA and URC sprints and even won some, but while his run at Indy will forever stand as one of the greatest, you have to wonder what could have been...

—Jerry Hair JLHair@comcast.net



A display at Selinsgrove Speedway commemorates Bill Holland's win at the opening of the Speedway in July 1946.

Stan Lobitz Passes On

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF
SILVIA RADESKY PHOTOGRAPHY ©2018

The racing community lost a special fan on Sunday, January 24, 2021 with the passing of **Stan Lobitz**. Stan was a wonderful supporter of EMMR, hosting his annual Lobitz Movie Party fundraiser at his banquet hall in Hazleton for more than 30 years to support the museum. In recent years the party had been moved to the museum and Stan was able to join us in November 2020 for the annual get together.

Held at Lobitz's Catering Hall near Hazleton, Pa, in the more than three decades of the event, well over \$250,000 has been raised for EMMR.

In 2014 Stan noted: *"Where else can you come and see some of the greats in racing? Over the years we've been able to bring in some iconic names in the sport of racing and I feel like the luckiest guy in the room,"* said Lobitz.

"Tommy Hinnershitz, Jiggs Peters and so many other greats have come here for this and it's all about supporting the museum. It's about a great supportive membership of really hard working people who have a deep passion and desire to preserve the history of racing."

"I enjoy everything about doing this," said Lobitz. *"Our museum has never stopped growing and this is just my way of helping out what I feel is a great cause. We have to preserve our history in order to grow our future."*

Stan loved racing and he loved helping preserve the history of the sport. We are lucky to have called him a friend to our organization and we will definitely miss him.

Please keep Stan's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



Stan Lobitz displays a vintage photo signed by Leroy Felty that was later sold in the Auction. Photo from Nov. 2018.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Stan Lobitz, Lynn Paxton, Dave Hare. Photo from Nov. 2018.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Ronnie Dunstan, Stan Lobitz. Photo from Nov. 2018.

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The Indycar Corner



Jerry Hair
Indy Corner Columnist

The Harvest Classic Returns – History Repeated

I normally attend between 6 and 8 Indycar events each year. However, this year the pandemic forced numerous 2020 events to be cancelled or postponed, and travel restrictions made it challenging for me to attend as many events as I would have liked. Fortunately, Indycar under the leadership of new boss, Roger Penske,

was able to reschedule and/or add new events to the schedule which ultimately consisted of 14 events at 7 different venues. One of the newly added events that I was able to attend was “The Harvest Classic,” held October 2nd and 3rd at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Holding additional races at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, while not ideal, does have historical precedence.

After the first Indianapolis 500 in 1911, tradition was that only one race per year would be held at the speedway.

It is widely believed this tradition continued up until August 1994 when NASCAR invaded the Speedway to hold the inaugural Brickyard 400. However, a closer examination of Speedway history reveals that in September 1916 there was a second event held, also labeled “The Harvest Classic.”

Much like 2020, the year 1916 was a turbulent time in America. While the United States had not yet entered World War I, in deference to the waging war in Europe, the 1916 Indianapolis 500 was reduced in length to 300 miles and there was significant concern by Speedway President Carl Fisher that America’s inevitable entry into the war could mean a moratorium on racing. Like small businesses today, Carl desperately wanted to find a way to generate enough profits to keep the Speedway afloat until normal operations could resume. His idea was to schedule a second race (actually, a series of three races over a single day) for Saturday, September 9th.

The three races were scheduled for distances of 20, 50 and 100 miles with a cash purse of \$1,000, \$2,000, and \$5,000. Originally 20 cars were entered, but due to attrition from mechanical issues or crash damage suffered during a proceeding event (held a few days earlier on a new Board Track in Cincinnati) by race day only 14 cars participated in the 100-mile event, with only 10 and 9 cars

respectively participating in the 20- and 50-mile events. While the event had limited entries, many of the eras top driver participated, including Howdy Wilcox, Louis Chevrolet, Tommy Milton, Eddie Rickenbacker, Johnny Atkin, and the 1915 Indianapolis 500 winner Ralph DePalma, who returned for this event after boycotting the 1916 Indianapolis 500 in a dispute with Speedway Management over appearance money.

Sunny weather greeted the disappointingly small crowd of 10,000 spectators on race day, however fans were treated to three amazingly hard-fought and close races. The 20-mile event was won by Johnny Atkin by 33-hundredths of a second over Howdy Wilcox. Atkin also won the 50-mile event, this time over Wilcox by an even closer margin of 28-hundredths of a second at an average speed of 92 mph. The final and “feature event” was the 100-mile AAA National Championship event. After winning the first two events, Atkin would be the man to beat in the finale. From the start the race was a battle between Atkin and Rickenbacker, with Atkin maintaining a slim lead until lap 24 when Rickenbacker stormed past. But only a lap later Atkin resumed the lead and led until lap 36 when the steering arm in his car broke. Atkin continued at a reduced pace, but it looked like Rickenbacker would take the win...that is until two laps to go when Rickenbacker hit the wall after his rear wheel buckled. Once again Atkin inherited the lead and limped home the final two laps to win by over 19 seconds. The three wins netted Atkin \$4,600. Combined with the \$12,000 he picked up earlier in

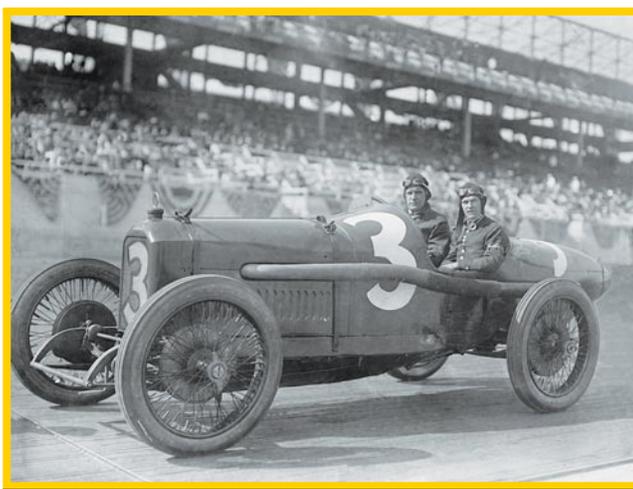
the week for his win at Cincinnati, Atkin earned \$16,600 for the week or nearly \$400,000 in today’s dollars.

The name Johnny Atkin is mostly unknown today. He only participated in two Indianapolis 500s, the inaugural race in 1911 and the 1916 event where he started on pole but finished 15th, completing only 69 laps. Despite only having two Indy 500 starts, Johnny is among the most successful competitors to ever appear at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. And, for you racing trivia buffs, Johnny Atkin would be the correct answer when asked “Which driver has more wins at the

Indianapolis Motor Speedway than any other driver?” Johnny’s three wins during the Harvest combined with his 12 wins at the speedway in events held between 1909 and 1910 and prior to the first Indy 500, make his 15 wins the most in the track’s history.

Johnny competed in 33 AAA-sanctioned races in his career, winning seven of those, five during the 1916 season, including three wins on the notorious board tracks of Sheepshead Bay and Cincinnati. Johnny finished second in the 1916 National Championship but would be gone too soon as he died of complications from the 1918 Influenza pandemic. Two pandemics and two Harvest Classics just demonstrates that history does indeed repeat itself.

—Jerry Hair JLHair@comcast.net



Johnny Atkin (RIGHT) won all three races during The Harvest Classic in 1916. The third race was especially thrilling.



Library Feature

at Eastern Museum of Motor Racing

by Steve Bubb, Librarian and Historian

We are so thankful for the continuing donations being made to the **Chris Economaki Library** and the **Jerry Reigle Research Room**. We have a new computer in place in the research room and with it the museum has the new “*PastPerfect Museum Software*” inventory system. I have been busy almost every day entering the EMMR inventory into the new program.

The new PastPerfect inventory software is a major blessing. For anyone coming to EMMR to do research work, the new inventory program will **greatly increase their research capabilities**. It is amazing what can be found in our inventory with this new system.

I must caution that this is quite the task entering the extensive EMMR inventory into the PastPerfect program. By my estimation, it will **take between six to eight years** to complete the task of entering the museum’s inventory into the program. As of today, I have over **1,000 library programs** and **books entered** in the program.

A great aspect of this new inventory system – we can keep a clear **record of donations**. When an individual



Steve Bubb
Librarian and Historian

donates books, the books will go into the inventory under their name. **Any object donated** will go under the **donating person’s name**. This will allow anyone to quickly find the donated objects of their loved ones.

We are working on overhauling our collections policy. I am looking for a smoother, easier way to bring donations into the museum. There is a correct way to accession donated objects into EMMR and Beth and I are working on a strong collection policy.

With the increasing number of donations, the **library is almost ready to burst**. With almost **8,000 racing programs**, and over **5,000 books**, the library also houses **several large collections**. Several recent collections are finding their way into the library adding depth to our research capabilities. As I inventory **Chris Economaki’s collection** of books, it is amazing what I find in his collection. His books bring every aspect of the sport of automotive racing to life.

If you visit EMMR, take the time to go through both the library and the research room. If I am there that day, ask for the **inside tour of the library**. There are a few surprises within the walls of the library.

—Steve Bubb, Librarian and Historian, SFBubb754@msn.com

The First Automobile Race In Pennsylvania

by Steve Bubb, EMMR Librarian and Historian

Finding that first race is the quest of every historian. When was the first race held in the country; the first race held in a respective state; or maybe, when was the first race in an area? So, when was the first automobile race held in Pennsylvania?

As a historian of Pennsylvania racing, I have always been on the hunt for that first automobile race held in the state. For awhile 1900 appeared to be the magical year, then it was pushed back one more year into 1899.

I was looking at a race in late summer of 1899 as being the first Pennsylvania race. Then fate suddenly brought forth an earlier date, one that I now consider the first race.

At the time I was not researching for an earlier automobile racing date—I was looking through motorcycle races. I came across an 1899 late-summer motorcycle race held at Schenley Park in Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh at the time was spelled Pittsburg.

As I was going through the results of the Schenley Park motorcycle races, a sentence caught my attention. The sentence was about the one motorcycle participant winning the July 4, 1899, automobile race at Schenley Park. I thought to myself “if this is true, this is the earliest known automobile race in the state.”

I began searching through Pittsburgh newspapers and there, on July 5, was a newspaper story about the day activities at Schenley Park. Much of the day was concerned with bicycle races. At the end of the article was the recap of the automobile race. I now had confirmation of a July 4 race.

There were two automobiles entered. One was owned by

Dr. William Robson and driven by Thomas Stevens. It was a crude machine, described to be more like a buggy with a motor attached. The second was one constructed by the Pittsburg Motor Cycle Company and driven by A.L. McMurty. It was a powerful machine for the times.

The race was to be ten laps around the half-mile oval, a distance of five miles. It was not much of a race as the Pittsburgh Motor Cycle entry lapped the other machine within the first half mile. McMurty’s machine lapped the Stevens machine before the Stevens entry finally failed. McMurty traveled the five miles in a time of 12 minutes and 23 seconds.

A few years later, I discovered an article written by a person that was at Schenley Park that day. This individual described watching the race.

“Everyone was on the edge of his seat,” the person wrote, “if he had one. No one had ever seen an automobile race. In fact, a good many of the customers had never seen an automobile.

“When they finally appeared on the track, there were two cars. One was a low-slung type not a lot different from racing cars of today. The other was a primitive imitation of a horse-drawn brougham.

“The racing car probably went as fast as 20 miles an hour, but the doctor’s buggy could not go over five. The ‘automobile race’ fans experienced quite a letdown.”

Somewhere out there an earlier date may be waiting to be found. Until that time, the July 4, 1899, automobile race at Pittsburgh’s Schenley Park is the first in the state.

THE Dirt ON Membership

Hi Everyone – We are so happy to start seeing some of you back at the museum now that we are open again.

For Those who need to Renew their Membership:

Please check your membership card to see when yours is due to expire. We totally understand that there are members who usually renew during the Spring Open House and Fair but were not able to in 2020 due to COVID-19. You can mail in your membership, pay at the museum, or we now take membership through our website via PayPal. We are now taking memberships for 2021.

All Membership Applications and Renewals are to be mailed to: EMMR Membership, PO Box 688, Mechanicsburg PA 17055- 0688. Or you can go onto www.emmr.org and click on Membership, fill out the form and submit with payment.

The **expiration date** is listed on the bottom on your membership card for Annual Memberships. Membership runs from January 1 to December 31 of each year, so please just double check your membership cards expiration date to make sure you are up to date because we would hate to lose you as a member. We do not send out reminder cards except for those that are 2 years past.

Membership:

We offer 2 different memberships:

A) Lifetime Member – it is a one-time due of \$200. With this you get a laminated membership card, a Lifetime Member Pin, some goodies, 10% discount in the Gift Shop plus a quarterly newsletter.

B) Annual Member – it is \$20 a year. You get a yearly membership, a quarterly newsletter and 10% discount in the Gift Shop. This membership runs from January 1st to December 31st of each year.

Just a reminder to those who mail their membership in – it might take up to 3 to 4 weeks for the turn around to get your membership card back in the mail. I must wait to receive them from who picks up the mail and then I try to mail them out within the next 2 days. And please put a note inside stating that you are renewing along with your check so that way I know for sure since I only receive the envelope with the membership forms inside only.

Just a quick thank you – I like to thank all of the members that have gotten in touch with me on their change of address whether it was a permanent one or for the season (summer / winter). This helps us out a lot when it comes to mailing out the newsletters so we can make sure that they arrive to you and not sent back to us.

Important –

If there is a change in address, phone number or email



Kim Kaltreider
Membership
Coordinator for EMMR

address – please let me know either at teddy4@comcast.net (please put EMMR in the subject line of your email), my personal cell 717-586-5995, or at the museum, so that way I can make the changes on the membership list and you still get your newsletter along with keeping the membership list up-to-date.

Mailing of Newsletters:

Just a reminder that if you have moved, changed your phone number or email address recently – PLEASE let me know as soon as possible so that I may update it on our Membership List at teddy4@comcast.net or leave a message at the museum for me.

Those who split their time between up north in the warmer months and the south during the colder months – please make sure that I have BOTH addresses so that you can continue to receive your newsletter and they are not returned (the post office will not hold them). We would love for you to pass our newsletters to your family and friends to let them know what we do here at EMMR.

Also, if you know of a Member that has passed away, please contact someone at the museum or me so that way we can make sure that we pass the information on and to recognize them at our annual convention

Campers:

Judy Freels is our Recreational Coordinator. You can contact Judy Freels at (717) 580-6083 or send her an email at freelsjudy@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

—Kim Kaltreider teddy4@comcast.net

EMMR
Membership

Annual is \$20. Lifetime is \$200.

Name _____

Spouse name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell phone _____

E-mail address _____

I prefer to receive the EMMR newsletter via:

- by **email** as a PDF which is in full-color and fastest delivery.
- by **U.S. Postal Service**, prints in all black ink, slower delivery.
- I have a vintage or antique race vehicle, contact me.
- I might be interested in volunteering, contact me.
- I might have something to donate, contact me.

Please make checks payable to "EMMR" and mail to:

EMMR, Attn: Membership
PO Box 688, Mechanicsburg PA 17055-0688

Museum phone:
717 528-8279
www.EMMR.org

Latimore Valley Fair Returns on June 25, 26, and 27

Summer will be here before you know it and along with that comes the Latimore Valley Fair. It falls on June 25-27 this year. If you haven't made it before, this is the year! The Fair is a three-day country festival packed with live entertainment, great food, crafts, vendors, race cars with track time, tractor parades and two days of tractor pulls.

Events take place on the 60 acres of Latimore Valley Fairgrounds, just north of York Springs, Pa. As usual, admission and parking are free. Many events take place in the infield of the historic racetrack and under the shade of hundreds of trees in the fairgrounds.

The fair is an all volunteer-run event and our collective goal is to raise money to support the museum. We'd love to see some new faces helping alongside the many regulars. Maybe you have a suggestion for an improvement or a new event.

If you'd like to get involved, please get in touch with one of our fair committee members. We are especially in need of someone to sell 50/50 tickets. Your comments and suggestions are always appreciated.

—**Kelly Waters**, *Fair Chairperson*
717-360-3584 kwaters65@comcast.net

Fair volunteer contact info

- Saturday and Sunday Track Time – **John Buskey**
jrbee@rcn.com or 610-984-5567
- Food, craft, and flea market vendors –
Emily Winslow e.winslow@gmail.com 717-440-1424 or
Kelly Waters 717-360-3584 kwaters65@comcast.net
- Camping – **Judy Freels** freelsjudy@yahoo.com
717-580-6083
- Tractor Show and Pulls – **Andy Thomas**
andysplace@hotmail.com or 717-462-9590



- General info before fair –
Kelly Waters
kwaters65@comcast.net or
717-360-3584
- General info during fair –
museum 717-528-8279



Christmas Giving

What a year it was—2020. Almost everyone's life was affected by the pandemic, but some families in the Latimore Township area were going to have a particularly bleak Christmas. With input from Latimore Township Police, EMMR learned of three local families who had children and EMMR volunteers decided to surprise those families with "Santa's big sack of presents." Volunteers Judy Freels and Beth Wishard delivered the gifts. The families said the gifts were a wonderful "Christmas blessing."



In Loving Memory of **SAM BRUBAKER**
member of EMMR and pit crews
Special thanks to Jeff and Cindy
from Sonja and Duane

Early Owego
ANTIQUÉ CENTER
www.EarlyOwego.com

Jim & Cornelia Mead, Owners
Home of the Milt Jones Hillegass
NARA #44

Eastern Museum of Motor Racing
100 Baltimore Rd, York Springs, PA
www.EMMR.org • 717-528-8279
Like us on Facebook

The EMMR Times newsletter committee:
Bob Shultz
Rick Mandelson
Lynn Paxton
Nancy Miller
Kay Diehl Melchi

The EMMR Times newsletter is published 4 times a year:
Volume 1 in mid-March
Volume 2 in early or mid-May
Volume 3 in late July or early August
Volume 4 in mid- or late October

Newsletter editor, design, and production volunteer:
Kay Diehl Melchi cell: 717.669.2710 esetter@ptd.net



2021 EVENTS



South-central Pennsylvania,
north of York Springs
717-528-8279
www.EMMR.org

Schedule as of 02/12/2021. See www.EMMR.org or call 717-528-8279.

- Jan. 6 thru April 8: THURSDAY NIGHT WORK PARTIES, at EMMR, 6 to 9 pm.
- Feb. 13 Mid-Winter DRAG RACER PARTY at EMMR: 1 pm. Virtual only on Facebook Live pages: EMMR and South Mountain Raceway Jeff Golden c:717-873-5091
- March 6 EMMR STAFF ORIENTATION at EMMR, 10 am to 1 pm. Open to all to learn about EMMR and join the volunteers at EMMR. Beth Wishard 717-253-3467
- March 21 3rd SUNDAY ROUNDTABLE at EMMR, 1-3pm. "Women in Racing: Past, Present, and Future." Emcee Dave Hare. Kathy Armstrong 717-512-6334
- Apr. 10-11 SPRING OPEN HOUSE: EMMR OPENS for 2021 season. 10am-4pm. Auctions, Refreshments, and Roundtables. *Saturday: Drag Racing: Mike Dunn, and "Darwin Doll Memorial Celebration."* Jeff Golden 717-873-5091. *Sunday: featuring Dick Vermeil discussing his link to racing.* Lynn Paxton h:717-432-8188
- Apr. 16 WILLIAMS GROVE SPEEDWAY, Mechanicsburg, PA. Tommy Hinnershitz Classic (All Stars) and EMMR Display. Beth Wishard 717-253-3467
- Apr. 17-18 SATURDAY & SUNDAY: WORK PARTY at EMMR and Latimore Valley Fair Grounds. Barry Murphy 717-512-1919
- Apr. 18 SOUTH MOUNTAIN RACEWAY, Boiling Springs, PA. Vintage Eliminator and EMMR Display. EJ Kowalski 610-301-6565
- April 25 3rd SUNDAY ROUNDTABLE at EMMR, 1-3pm. "ARCH / Hagerstown" with Gary Stuhler and Denny Bonebrake with emcee Alan Sagi. John Marks 717-645-0440
- May 1 Path Valley Speedway Park, Spring Run, PA. EMMR Track Time. Beth Wishard 717-253-3467
- May 2 GARY WOLFORD MEMORIAL FISH FRY and SILVER SPRING REUNION 9am-5pm at EMMR/LVFG. Vintage Race Car Track Time featuring Silver Spring Race Cars. Alan Kreitzer 717-766-7215
- May 8 CIRCLE M RANCH SPEEDWAY, Auburn, Pa. EMMR Track Time. Ken Johnson 610-562-4425
- May 8 PICKLEFEST on GREENBRIAR LANE and PUBLIC TYME at DILL'S TAVERN. EMMR static display. Beth Wishard 717-253-3467
- May 8 LATIMORE FISHING DERBY for KIDS at Latimore Valley Fairgrounds. Sponsored by Adams Co. Trout Unlimited. Dave Swope swopeda@hotmail.com
- May 9 MOTHER'S DAY: EMMR closed. *Happy Mother's Day!*
- May 13 GOLF TOURNAMENT benefits BILLY KIMMEL #47 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION. Range End Golf Course, Dillsburg, PA. Note that this event is on a Thursday. www.BillKimmel.com 717-697-5380.
- May 15 JALOPY SHOWDOWN at LINCOLN SPEEDWAY, Abbottstown, PA. from 8am-6pm. Admission \$10. Also: Vintage Racing, Metal Shapers, Band, Food, Swap Meet. Info: JalopyShowdown.com RealJalopyShowdown@gmail.com
- May 16 3rd SUNDAY ROUNDTABLE at EMMR: 1-3pm, Topic: "Promoter Extraordinaire: Jack Gunn" hosted by Steve Bubb.
- June 5 BEDFORD SPEEDWAY, Bedford, PA. EMMR Track Time. Beth Wishard 717-253-3467
- June 11 CLINTON COUNTY SPEEDWAY, Mill Hall, PA. EMMR Track Time. Beth Wishard 717-253-3467
- June 12 SELINGROVE SPEEDWAY, Selingsgrove, PA. EMMR Track Time. Beth Wishard 717-253-3467
- June 12 ANTIQUE CAR SHOW at EMMR/LVFG by Gettysburg Region Antique Automobile Club of America. Terry Mitchell 717-258-0459 for registration. Bob Shultz 717-766-0457 bobshop120@gmail.com Plus: Annual Valve Cover Races, Jeff Golden c:717-873-5091
- June 18 USAC SILVER CROWN at Williams Grove Speedway, Mechanicsburg, PA. EMMR Display. Beth Wishard 717-253-3467
- June 19 USAC SPRINT CARS at PORT ROYAL SPEEDWAY, Port Royal, PA. EMMR Display & Track Time. Beth Wishard 717-253-3467
- June 20 3rd SUNDAY ROUNDTABLE at EMMR: 1-3pm. Topic: Sean & Kurt Michael. Kathy Armstrong 717-512-6334
- June 25-27 36th LATIMORE VALLEY FAIR, A Country Festival. Arts, Crafts, Flea Market, Live Entertainment all weekend. Vintage Race Car Track Time on Sat. & Sun. Old Tractors, Engines, plus Tractor Pulls on Sat. & Sun. Fair Contact: Kelly Waters 717-360-3584. Tractor Show and Pulls: Andy Thomas 717-462-9590.
- July 1 HAGERSTOWN SPEEDWAY, Hagerstown, MD. Thurs. night of Speed Week. EMMR Track Time & Display. Beth Wishard 717-253-3467
- July 3-4 SATURDAY & SUNDAY: WORK PARTY at EMMR and Latimore Valley Fair Grounds. Barry Murphy 717-512-1919
- July 9-10 8th Annual COMMUNITY YARD SALE at EMMR. Only \$5 per space—and it benefits EMMR. Judy Freels 717-580-6083 freelsjudy@yahoo.com

July 10-11 DRAG RACERS REUNION WEEKEND. *Saturday* at EMMR: Gathering of Legends and their Cars, Nitro Engine fire-ups, Vendors, Displays. Cruise-in Car Show, \$10 donation, Door Prizes. *Sunday* at South Mountain Raceway, Boiling Springs, PA: Nostalgia Race Cars on the track, Match Races, Car Clubs, Door Prizes, *plus too much to list! Don't miss this!* Jeff Golden c:717-873-5091

- July 18 3rd SUNDAY ROUNDTABLE —TBD
- July 24 BAPS MOTOR SPEEDWAY, (formerly Susquehanna Speedway), York Haven, PA. EMMR Track Time & Display. Beth Wishard 717-253-3467
- July 30 DOG HOLLOW SPEEDWAY, Northern Cambria, PA. EMMR Track Time & Display. Beth Wishard 717-253-3467
- July 31 BUD GARVEY'S REUNION, Osceola Mills, PA. Car Show, Music, Food. Please support this non-EMMR event. Nancy M. h:717-766-0837 c:717-418-2102
- Aug. 13 BEDFORD SPEEDWAY, Bedford, PA. EMMR Track Time & Display. Beth Wishard 717-253-3467
- Aug. 15 BLOOMSBURG SPEEDWAY, EMMR Track Time & Display. Nancy Miller h:717-766-0837 c:717-418-2102
- Aug. 15 3rd SUNDAY ROUNDTABLE at EMMR: 1-3pm. Topic: TBD.
- Aug. 20-22 32nd Annual VINTAGE JAPANESE MOTORCYCLE SWAP MEET and SHOW at EMMR. Kim Marquis 717-571-5667
- Aug. 27 WILLIAMS GROVE SPEEDWAY, Mechanicsburg, PA. EMMR Track Time & Display. Beth Wishard 717-253-3467
- Aug. 27-29 47th Annual EMMR/WGOT CONVENTION at EMMR & LVFG. Honoring Nevin Miller. Grand Marshall is Mario Andretti. Contact Info: Emily Winslow 717-440-1424 or e.winslow10@gmail.com
- Aug. 28 CAR SHOW during the CONVENTION at EMMR. 10am-3pm, Registration Fee \$10.00 Rain Date is Sunday. Carol Weaver 717-465-2191
- Sept. 3 WILLIAMS GROVE SPEEDWAY, Mechanicsburg, PA. Todd Shaffer Tribute Race and EMMR Display. Beth Wishard 717-253-3467
- Sept. 11 LINCOLN SPEEDWAY, Abbottstown, PA. EMMR Track Time & Display. Beth Wishard 717-253-3467
- Sept. 18 CENTRAL PA CORVAIR CLUB'S CAR SHOW at EMMR. Joe Darinsig 717-668-4414
- Sept. 18-19 WORK PARTY both days at EMMR/LVFG. Barry Murphy 717-512-1919
- Sept. 26 GLORY DAYS at South Mountain Raceway, Boiling Springs, PA. EMMR Display featuring Vintage and Drag Race Cars. Jeff Golden 717-873-5091
- Oct. 2 EMMR & National Sprint Car Hall of Fame AUCTION at 10am. Auction held at the back pit gate entrance of WILLIAMS GROVE SPEEDWAY during National Open. EMMR/NSCHOF info call Mike Winslow 717-385-9615. Just minutes from Williams Grove, EMMR will be open all day for visitors who are attending the "National Open sanctioned by World of Outlaws Sprint Cars."
- Oct. 2-3 10th Annual JIMMY ETTER SWAP MEET & FLEA MARKET at EMMR. Spots are available for \$25. All vintage car parts are welcome! Please contact John Marks 717-645-0440 JTM64@comcast.net or Junior Kelly 717-630-0776 jalopyjunior@comcast.net for Swap Meet info.
- Oct. 7 MUSEUM OPEN Thurs. 6-9pm for Hershey AACA Eastern Fall Meet visitors. Refreshments. Nancy Miller c:717-418-2102. Larry Stoner 717-258-4695
- Oct. 17 3rd SUNDAY ROUNDTABLE at EMMR: 1-3pm. Topic: TBD
- Nov. 7 LOBITZ PARTY & EMMR AUCTION at EMMR. 9am-5pm. Movies, Refreshments, Auction and Roundtable. Lynn Paxton 717-432-8188
- Nov. 21 3rd SUNDAY ROUNDTABLE at EMMR: 1-3pm. Topic: "Champ Cars with Mike Lloyd, Carmen Perigo and Richie Tobias." Emcee: Joe Marsicano.
- Dec. 4-5 HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE at EMMR, 10-4pm. Sat. & Sun.: Auction, Refreshments, etc. *Sat.* features Drag Racing, topic: Performance Engine Builders; Jeff Golden c:717-873-5091. *Sun.* Dirt Track day featuring TBD. MUSEUM CLOSES on WEEKENDS for winter of 2021-2022 following the Holiday Open House, but museum is open EVERY FRIDAY weather permitting.



The Eastern Museum of Motor Racing (EMMR) is also the home of the Gettysburg Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America. For info: Bob Shultz 717-766-0457 bobshop120@gmail.com

Flemington Speedway Historical Society's home and display is at EMMR on the second floor since 2017. FlemingtonSpeedwayHistoricalSociety.com

- MUSEUM OPEN: Every Fri., Sat. & Sun. April 10 – Dec. 5; 10 am to 4 pm.
- Open EVERY FRIDAY in winter, weather permitting, from early December to April.
- EMMR Monthly Board Mtgs: all welcome, 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 pm at EMMR.

Eastern Museum of Motor Racing (EMMR)

Museum Address: 100 Baltimore Road, York Springs, PA 17372
Mailing Address: PO Box 688, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-0688

MEMBERSHIPS: \$20 Annual or \$200 Life. Please mail to PO box above.

Address of Latimore Valley Fairgrounds: 314 Latimore Valley Road, York Springs, PA 17372

Schedule as of 02/12/2021, Updates: www.EMMR.org or Facebook or call 717-528-8279.

print production by Kay Diehl Melchi, volunteer—February, 2021



MUSEUM ADDRESS:

100 Baltimore Road, York Springs, Penna.

0.5 miles east of Route 15, 14 miles south of Pa. Turnpike

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

COLOR

The last issue was the first time the EMMR newsletter was in full color!

A new member—**J.R. Booth** of Lebanon, NJ—volunteered to print the newsletter on his 4-color press at no cost to EMMR!

J.R. graciously said he will print the newsletter again in color. Yay! Everyone agrees that printed in color is much nicer than all black.



TONS of EVENTS SCHEDULED for this season!



See Schedule on page 11

Mark your calendar so you don't miss any of the fun events. Please bring your mask.

GARY WOLFORD MEMORIAL

Fish Fry

AND

Silver Spring REUNION

SUNDAY MAY 2, 2021

at the Latimore Valley Fairgrounds

11 AM to 4 PM



1953-2005



Don't Miss This!

TRACK TIME for vintage race cars 2 PM TO 4 PM

Calling all Silver Spring Speedway Race Cars!!

We are looking for as many restored race cars from Silver Spring Speedway as possible for track time and/or display.

ADVERTISERS WANTED!

Advertise in the official program book. The program book is not just for businesses—individuals can advertise to recognize a friend or a former competitor.



Be a part of a great day of fellowship and remembrance.

This is an important fund-raising event for the Eastern Museum of Motor Racing.

Contact **Ken Leiphart** at 717-873-6497

For information, contact:
Alan Kreitzer 717-766-7215