

NATIONAL SPRINT CAR HALL of FAME & MUSEUM

JACK GUNN

by Bruce Ellis

Born Jack Gunnells, he was known to racers and fans throughout the country as Jack Gunn.

His involvement in racing began as a pit crew member and briefly as a driver before becoming a track announcer in the late '50's. By 1968 he had taken over the promotional duties at Pennsylvania's Williams Grove and Selinsgrove Speedways and begun what would come to be known as the KARS circuit. In later years he would also operate both Penn National Speedway and Maryland's Hagerstown Raceway.

Gunn enticed some of the best sprint car drivers in the country to move to Central Pennsylvania and race against his local stars. In the early '70's, a regular show at Williams Grove featured competition comparable to a World of Outlaws (WoO) program of the '90's.

The racers came to the KARS circuit because of the money. Gunn's purses



Jack Gunn

Bruce Craig Collection

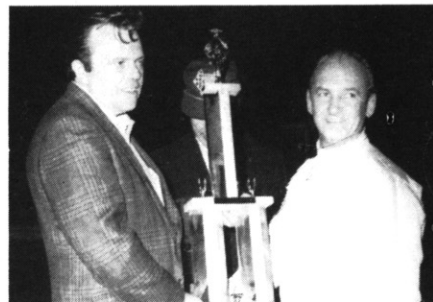
were the best in sprint car racing. And when they got to Pennsylvania they found in Jack Gunn a friend who helped them get rides, found them places to live and even secured employment for some who wanted to do more than drive a race car.

Named RPM's Promoter of the Year in

1979, Gunn's greatest personal triumph was bringing the United States Auto Club's Silver Crown division back to a half-mile dirt track after an absence of 21 years. He did it with an event at Williams Grove in 1980 shortly before his death.

Although he promoted everything from demolition derbies to rodeos, it was sprint car racing that rose to the forefront of Eastern motorsports under the leadership of Jack Gunn.

Jack's mother, Mabel Gunnells, currently resides in Hershey, Pennsylvania.



Jack Gunn

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