

NATIONAL SPRINT CAR HALL of FAME & MUSEUM

IRA HALL

Ira Hall was born in Martinsville (Ill.) in February, 1892, and died in February, 1987, at the age of 95 years and four days. During his life, Ira competed in 687 races and finished "in the money" on 585 occasions. He also suffered fifty-nine (59) broken bones in his career, although no permanent injuries.

Ira started racing in 1922, he was called "Pop" by his fellow competitors because he was over age thirty at the time, at the dirt track in Rochester (Ind.). An announcement to the crowd that a driver was needed for a particular "big car" was all that was needed to get the inexperienced Hall into racing.

During the 1920s and '30s, Ira raced with the likes of Wilbur Shaw, "Dutch" Bauman, Louie Schneider,

Bill Hunt, John Gerber, Howdy Wilcox II, Shorty Cantlon, Mauri Rose and "Wild Bill" Cummings. He raced from the New Jersey shore to the Mississippi River, although he achieved his greatest success in the Hoosier state of Indiana. There, Ira Hall was 'King of Jungle Park' (in Rockville) and always a fierce competitor at such different locales as Sunflower Speedway in Brazil, George Rogers Clark Speedway in Vincennes, Hal Richards Speedway in Sullivan and the Hoosier Motor Speedway in Indianapolis.

Hall's usual ride at Jungle Park was his green number 36 Fronty. It was his favorite track and he was hard to beat there, especially in the 1930s.

Like most drivers of his day, short-track success meant a trip to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway each

May. His finishes in the "500" were as follows over the years: 21st (1928), 7th (1932), 37th (1933), 30th (1938) and 24th (1939). When he retired before World War II, Ira was one of the older drivers on the track.

Ira ran the Hall Tire Company in Terre Haute (Ind.) and served as Sheriff there in Vigo County from 1943-45 and again from 1947-49.

Ira Hall was married to Georgia Hall, who passed away in 1979. They had two children, Ira (Jr.) and Lillian Long. Ira Hall III and his wife Susan live in Oklahoma City (Okla.) today.

