

NATIONAL SPRINT CAR HALL of FAME & MUSEUM

ROGER McCLUSKEY

Roger McCluskey was born in San Antonio (Texas) on August 24, 1930. He began his career driving stock cars around Tucson (Ariz.) at age eighteen and he graduated through the ranks, competing in United States Auto Club (USAC) sprint car competition for the first time in 1959 and passing his Indianapolis driver's test in 1961.

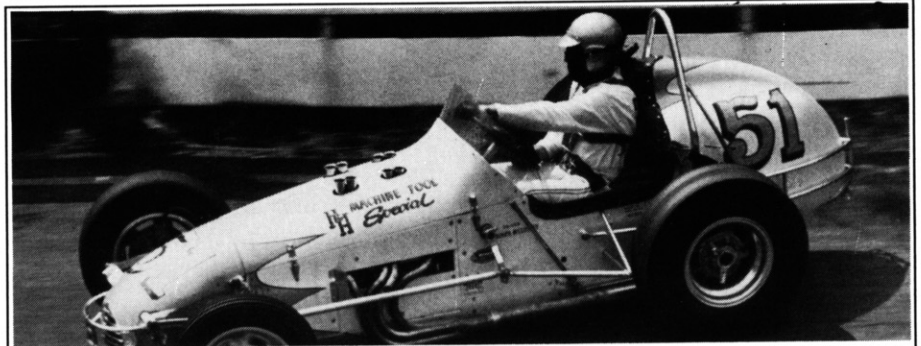
Roger finished fourth in the 1960 USAC Midwest sprint car championship aboard the Elmer George HOW Special. The next season, he won his first USAC sprint race at Williams Grove (Penna.) in the HOW Special and finished fifth in the merged national point chase. In 1962, driving Bruce Homeyer's Konstant Hot Chevy, the Arizona native finished second to Parnelli Jones in the points race, despite his 5-4 edge in wins.

McCluskey won the United States Auto Club (USAC) sprint car national championship title in 1963 in Homeyer's sprinter by a whopping 309 points over A.J. Foyt (Jr.). One of his seven wins that season was in the prestigious annual "Joe James/Pat O'Connor Memorial" race at Salem (Ind.). The following season proved disastrous for Roger when he broke his left arm in a flip during the year's second race, at Reading (Penna.). However, he did come back late in the year to win at

Ascot Park (Calif.) aboard the Ken Worth Chevy. 1965 saw him place fifth in USAC points, although he went winless in the Clarence "Mutt" Anderson H&H Machine Tool Special.

The hard charger with the flat-top haircut won the USAC sprint car

guished career in the National Championships division, winning the USAC title in 1973, the same year he finished a career-best third in the Indianapolis 500. His five National Championship division wins included the 1972 California 500 at Ontario (Calif.) and the 1979



Roger McCluskey (Photo by: David Parker; Donated by: Sandy Cain)

title for the second time in 1966 and again by a very wide margin, 194 points over Mario Andretti. The combination of McCluskey and Anderson's sprinter netted nine wins that year, including a sweep of all three features at the Terre Haute (Ind.) Action Track. Roger McCluskey thus completed his USAC sprint car driving career with a total of twenty-three (23) wins.

Roger returned to stock cars, with USAC, and proceeded to capture the sanctioning body's championship in 1969 and 1970, accumulating another twenty-three (23) wins in the full-bodied division. He reached the pinnacle of his distin-

Milwaukee 200, which turned out to be his final race.

McCluskey became a USAC official in 1979, with he and his wife Jean continuing to call Tucson home until 1981 when they moved to Zionsville (Ind.) to be closer to the USAC offices. Roger's children are Sharon, Karen, Lee, and Roger (Jr.), who, like his dad, enjoys racing in the midget division. Today, Roger McCluskey holds the position of USAC Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.