

NATIONAL SPRINT CAR HALL of FAME & MUSEUM



Bob Sall
Bruce Craig Collection

BOB SALL

Antonio Saldutti (Bob Sall) was born of Dutch-Italian descent in the town of Ridgewood, New Jersey, in 1908. His interest in automotive engineering developed during the mid-1920's as he spent time at local garages. Sall started racing in 1927 at the half-mile track in Hohokus (N.J.), which quickly became his 'home track'. By 1929 he had won two races at Winston-Salem and Concord (N.C.). During the next two years he continued winning with a Fronty Ford on dirt tracks in the east, including his first win at Hohokus in 1931.

For the next season, Bob drove the "Pop" Green Engineering Special to seven victories and finished third in the American Automobile Association (AAA) Eastern point championship to Bryan Saulpaugh and Billy Winn. Finally, in 1933, Sall captured the prestigious AAA Eastern Championship over rival Johnny Hannon. Bob drove the former Johnny Vance Special owned by Sex Perriman and wrenched by Charlie Pritchard. In 1934, he won four races, one in a Vance and three in his own McDowell. The following season George "Doc" Mackenzie won 17 races with Bob capturing 13. Sall also qualified one of the Miller Ford's in the Indianapolis 500.

In 1936, Bob Sall won the Southeast-

ern championship over Frank Beeder, while also winning five Eastern races. The next season, he won 11 features in the former Gus Schrader Miller car and finished second to Beeder in the championship. Despite winning several midget races in 1938, Bob suffered his most serious accident in a midget crash at Cedarhurst, Long Island (N.Y.). Prior to the crash, though, he did win at Hohokus and Batavia, and set a new world's record at Langhorne (Penna.).

1939 found Sall racing with the Central States Racing Association (CSRA) and on the midwest 'high-banks'. He returned to the east the following season, collecting two more wins. Sall joined the Ted Horn racing team in 1941 and won at Langhorne and Altamont before switching to CSRA and finishing second to Horn in points.

After the war in 1946, Bob retired from driving. Johnny Shackleford was late arriving for the May 30 Trenton race, so Bob timed the car in a record 43.03 seconds. Shackleford won the race and Sall drove no more.

Bob Sall died on October 14, 1974 at the age of 66, after serving many years as the Northeast Field Manager for NASCAR. He is survived by his widow Eileen L. Sall and his step-children Robert A. Courtwright, William P. Courtwright and Bonnie Sue Courtwright.