

JOHN C. VANCE

John C. Vance was born in Bristol, Tennessee, on October 5, 1896. He moved to Dayton (Ohio) in 1913, where he raced motorcycles as a team rider for the Harley Davidson factory in the late teens and early 1920's. Johnny married Harriet Lowery in 1931 and they fathered two children: Patricia A. (1933) and John C. (1937).

Johnny Vance (Sr.) founded Aristocrat Products, originally called the Standard Venetian Blind Company, in 1936. Aristocrat Products is still operated today by Johnny Vance (Jr.) and his son John C. Vance III.



Johnny Vance (Sr.)
Bruce Craig Collection

The eldest John C. Vance designed, developed and built the Vance Special 4-cylinder overhead cam racing engine in the late 1930's and campaigned with such famed drivers as Wilbur Shaw, Mauri Rose, Bob Carey, Travis "Spider" Webb and Duke Dinsmore through the 1940's and early 1950's.

Johnny Vance (Sr.) died in Dayton in September of 1963. Johnny Vance (Jr.) continues to campaign his Aristocrat Products sprint car in United States Auto Club (USAC) competition today.
