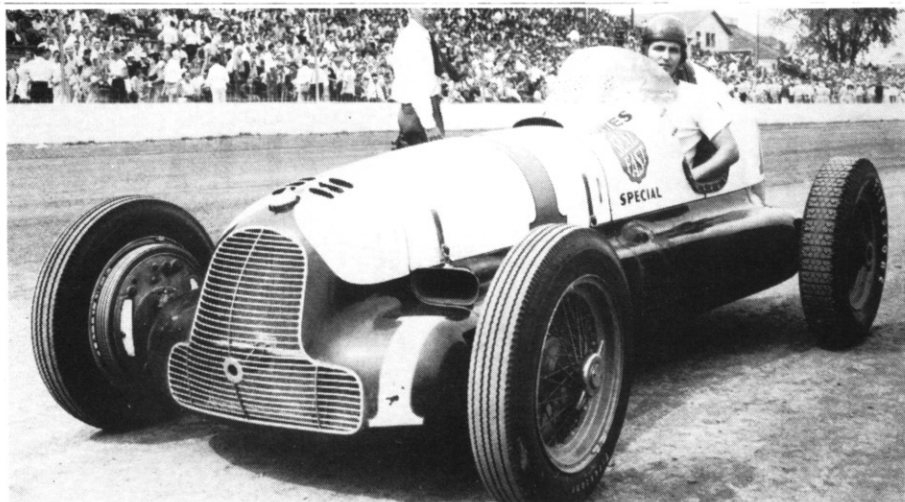


NATIONAL SPRINT CAR HALL of FAME & MUSEUM



Rex Mays

Bob Sheldon Collection

REX MAYS

Rex Mays of Riverside, California migrated towards Legion Ascot in late 1932 with his own Fronty Ford after racing as a teenager at lesser-known "outlaw" tracks in Southern California. In fact, his

debut was a Labor Day, 1931 race at the Riverside County Fair. In 1933, Rex competed at Ascot in Paul Fromm's 358-cubic inch Hisso, winning regularly and finishing second in Pacific Coast points to Al Gordon.

In 1934, AAA attempted to curb the

growing list of big car racing fatalities at Ascot by limiting the car's engines to 205-cubic inches. It didn't slow Mays down, though, as he became the youngest-ever American Automobile Association (AAA) Pacific Coast champion at Legion Ascot in 1934, with Paul Fromm and car owner/engine builder Ed Winfield. Mays repeated the title in 1935 and again in 1948, while claiming the AAA Midwest title in 1936, 1937 and 1939.

Rex was always a gentleman's gentleman, both on and off the track. He was admired by everyone for his class and driving ability. Duke Nalon always said, "If I had a son, I'd like him to be like Rex." Rex's record is even more impressive when one considers that he came through the old 'B' circuit of big car racing to become a national driving champion.

Rex was killed November 6, 1949 at the one-mile Del Mar (CA) Fairgrounds in a AAA race when he was tragically thrown from his race car and was struck by oncoming cars.