



by Bob Mays

BOB WESTPHAL

BUILDER/MANUFACTURER

Bob Westphal was born on April 18, 1942, in Fremont, Nebraska and attended Fremont public schools, graduating from Fremont High in 1962.

He was fascinated by the inner workings of engines since childhood. "I can't tell you how many times I took apart and rebuilt my parent's lawnmower, my mini-bike, car engines, whatever," says Westphal. Bob moved to Burbank, California, in 1968 and shortly thereafter was hired by Ed Pink Racing Engines. Bob built top fuel and funny car engines at Pinks' for such stars as Larry Dixon Sr., Ed "The Ace" McCulloch, Tom "The Mongoose" McEwen, Don "The Snake" Prudhomme, Dale Pulde, Don Schumacher, Barry Setzer and many others. Westphal was employed by Pink from 1969 to 1977 and won numerous NHRA National events and championships during that time.

Bob moved back to Fremont in 1978, where he partnered with his best friend and high school buddy, Jerry Lange, to open Precision Engine & Machine.

In 1979, Westphal loaded up the family and

moved to Dallas, Texas when he was hired by drag racer, Raymond Beadle, to manage his newly formed machine shop which catered to Beadle's Blue Max funny car effort in NHRA. With Bob building and maintaining Beadle's funny car engines, the Blue Max team won the NHRA title in 1979-'80-'81.

Beadle began sponsoring World of Outlaw sprint car driver, Bobby Marshall in 1980, with Westphal doing much of the machine work on his engines. It wasn't long before Westphal was doing engines for Marshall.

Raymond Beadle formed his own sprint car team in 1983, with Old Milwaukee as sponsor and Sammy Swindell as driver. The Old Milwaukee team was very successful in the World of Outlaws, winning the Knoxville Nationals in 1983 and many other big events through the 1986 season. Bob Westphal's engines were an integral part of Beadle's success during this period.

Westphal put all his experience to use and Wesmar Racing Engines was born. Partnering up with Steve Carbone, another top fuel engine builder at Pink's, the two set up shop in Bixby, Oklahoma and began building 360 and 410 cubic inch sprint car engines. He is now joined by his son, Kelly and they ventured into rebuilding 4-cylinder midget engines. "Customers come to us because they know we build fast and reliable sprint car engines and that we use nothing but the best parts money can buy,"

says Westphal. Since its inception, Wesmar has won countless races and championships all across the United States and Australia, so many, in fact, it is impossible to count them all. In the American Sprint Car Series (ASCS) alone, Wesmar has won 12 national titles, one Canyon, one Gulf South, two Lone Star, two Northern Plains, one Northwest, three Rocky Mountain, six Sooner, three Southwest and nine ASCS Knoxville 360 National Championships, so it is no surprise that Wesmar is the winningest engine builder in ASCS.

Bob also has one victory in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck series, with Bobby Hamilton, and one NASCAR Busch Grand National victory with Morgan Shepard, when Westphal was with Raymond Beadle.

He partnered with other engine builders at times also. In 1993, Bob and Ron Shaver formed Shaver-Wesmar Gear Drives.

Bob Westphal passed away at age, 71, on June 9, 2013, in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Norma, who he married on February 8, 1964, in Fremont, Nebraska. Children include one son, Kelly, of Bixby, and one daughter, Kristi Anderson and her husband, Norman and grandchildren, Kurtis Westphal, Kory Soendker, Kinsie Anderson, Andrew Westphal, Derek Anderson and Halley Anderson. Great-Grandchildren include Katelyn and Kiercie Westphal.

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