

**After The Last Checkered Flag
(Are we really done here?)**

By raycer27

Many of us retired drivers, owners and mechanics remember the day we decided to walk away from this great sport of ours, whatever the reason or reasons. It could've been financial, health, injury or you just knew it was time.

Since I started doing this website back in September of 2010, I've talked to a lot of people involved with our sport in different capacities. For the most part it's been a great ride with very few mechanical problems so to speak, but there is one point I'd like to bring to the table.

When most of us left racing, no one knew where the roads of life would lead to and like most of us including myself, just played the hand that was dealt to us, we just thought it was over, it's done, end of story.

It could've wound up that way but a local boy from Pleasantville, namely Tom Flanagan, changed that equation. He felt it was necessary to have a website remembering the history and the people that competed at Pleasantville Speedway. Then I became involved with our site, inspired by Tom, but digging deeper into the backgrounds of the ones who were willing to share their past racing lives with us and the fans who supported them for many years.

We have many race related functions in the area, reunions, car shows and the like, that provide the fans the opportunity to come out and see the old cars and drivers that they used to root for every week and the fans are always hoping for a chance to see their favorite drivers again, maybe to grab an autograph that they missed out on years ago, or just to chat for a while and thank them for the memories and good times of long ago.

In the racing world, as in life itself, there are so many different personalities and people may not respond the way that you would prefer them too. Some people are more laid back than others, shying away from the spotlight, content with just being in the background not wanting to be

acknowledged for the good deeds they did to help others. It's defined as being humble and you can't fault a person for being that way.

A few drivers that I have talked to have said that the racing part of their life was over and they didn't see the need for attending any special race functions, outings or reunions. I will tell you what I told a few drivers and you're welcome to agree or disagree.

All of you drivers whether you were popular or not, had the loyal "blue collar" worker and his family and the fan clubs that spent their hard earned money to come watch you race and put on a show. You guys gave them something to look forward to after a rough work week, at least one or maybe two nights of enjoyment and they never let us down, most were there every week, year after year. If we didn't have the fans, what would we have had? Think about that, no fans, no purse, no track to run at.

So drivers, are we really done with racing, I don't think so, maybe the physical side for sure, but we're still ambassadors for our sport, and the fans that supported you when you were racing, will still remain loyal and support you even today, see if I'm not right.

It's one thing if you have severe health issues, as some of us do and can't make the reunions and functions, we all understand and respect that, but if your healthy and can get around, maybe try to make one appearance a year somewhere and sign a few autographs and give a few fans a lingering memory or two.

One more thing, if Tom or myself call you about possibly obtaining information or photos, we're not trying to pry into your personal lives, we're just trying to preserve the memory of good times gone by and we would like to include as many of you as possible on our websites, but we will respect your decision to decline to participate if you chose not too.