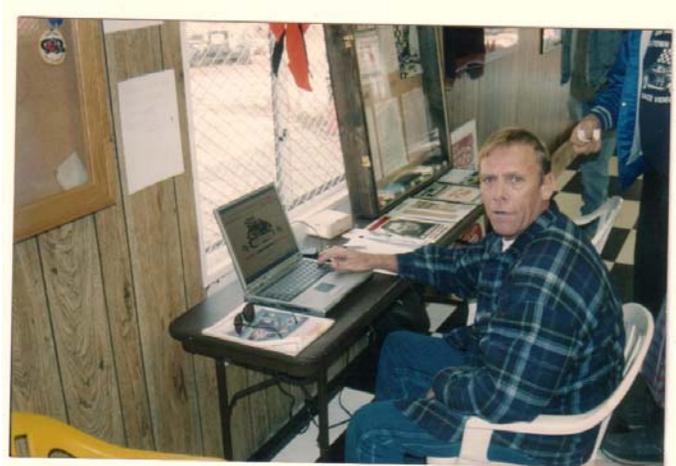


Tom Flanagan

Creator of the

Atlantic City Speedway Website,

A good friend and a true race fan



The year was 1957, Tom was 5 years old when he saw his first race at Pleasantville Speedway; his dad was a fireman for the Farmington Fire Dept. that was part of the rescue team for the speedway.

His dad and fellow firemen would take their kids on the fire truck to the track and drop them off at the main gate at the ticket booth and George Stockinger the track owner and promoter would let them in for free.

It was then that Tom got hooked on stock car racing and he would go to the races whenever he could. (Which was most of the time)

It wasn't long before the curiosity of the young boy got the best of him and he discovered that there was "treasure" in the neighborhood.



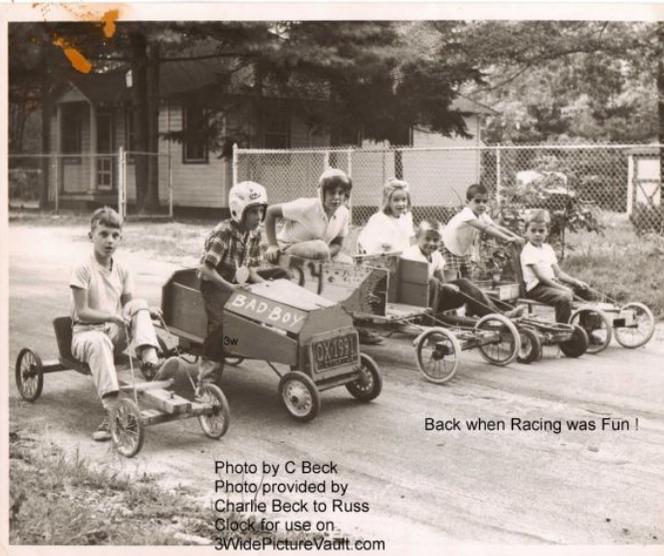
Four blocks from his house over on Adams Ave. in P'ville Tom found out that Sal Moschella and Charlie Angerman jr. lived there and they were next door neighbors and they had stock cars!

He would go there and sit in the cars while they worked on them and if he got in their way they would chase him out of the garage and he'd go next door to the other car. He couldn't get enough so he investigated the area and soon found every driver that lived in P'ville that had a car and started "visiting" them on a regular basis to watch them work on their cars and at that time there were a lot of them.

He would go to Ed Robinson's garage, Charlie Choes' house, Harry McConnell's shop, Bud Morganwick's house and Jimmy McClaren's house and

then found Jimmy Habermehl's home not to far from his house. There were more but these were the ones that were close by.

At this young age Tom and his friends would build "race cars" out of wood, baby coach wheels and wagon wheels and any other material that was available and would race them down a dirt hill near the track pretending to be their favorite driver. (Tom's was Charlie Angerman jr.)



Back when Racing was Fun !

Photo by C Beck
Photo provided by
Charlie Beck to Russ
Clock for use on
3WidePictureVault.com

When he was about ten years old George Stockinger gave Tom his first job, cleaning up after the races, sweeping the track and white washing the fence. Tom doesn't recall what the pay was and didn't really care because he got in to see the race for free as he was an employee of the track.

At the age of sixteen he became a junior member of the Farmington Volunteer ambulance squad as they

provided safety assistance also. They would always ask "who wants track duty this week" and there was Tom with his hand in the air, but they really didn't have to ask, they knew Tom would always be there to fill that spot.

Over the years Tom grew up seeing all the talented drivers, owners and pit crews from the tri-state area.



In 2003 Tom was working with his good friend Larry Larcombe and they were saying how much they missed the old 1/2 mile oval and all the good times they had there. Larry and Tom were relatively new to computers but decided to try their luck at creating a website, with the help from a lot of people that provided him with a lot of photos and the rest is

history, the Atlantic City Speedway site was born so all could relive those great years of racing.

Although I raced there and hit the fence a few times, I didn't know Tom at the time. I met Tom about four years ago after a friend told me about his site and we've become good friends since. Tom has been a key figure in helping us with our site and I can tell you this, there isn't a better



person when it comes to, who drove what car, who owned that car, the man is a walking Wikipedia when it comes to our track, he's phenomenal!!

Thank you Tom for keeping the Atlantic City / Pleasantville Speedway memories alive.

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