

Tyrone Owens

By raycer27



The stories of our great little speedway wouldn't be complete without remembering Tyrone Owens. I really do believe Ty was a "playa" long before the slang term was used as it is today.

George Stockinger who wound up owning the track befriended Tyrone when he was a young boy and gave Ty a job at the track cleaning and white washing the fence, which was a never ending job.

Tom Flanagan who has the AC Speedway website also worked with Ty doing the same job at the track though Tom was 5 years younger than Ty, but struck up a friendship that lasted until Tyrone passed away.

Tyrone, like Tom became fixtures at the track until it closed and of course things changed over the years and George gave Ty more responsibilities as times went on, but he still did errands for George and their friendship remained intact.

Tyrone loved the cars, the atmosphere and the drivers; it was like a second home for him. Ty liked a lot of drivers but there were 4 drivers he especially liked; Sal Moschella, Jerry Camp, Carl Grinar and Tony Siscone.

Now don't take that statement the wrong way, he liked all the drivers but those were the ones he bet on the most. He'd wager on most anything, but rest assured he had money on someone in the feature. As well as I knew him though he never discussed his win / loss ratio.





I don't remember what year I got a job at the track (I now suffer that CRS syndrome) but Ty and myself worked the staging area at the drags on Friday nites and yes he had his favorites there also. By then George had leased the track to Ken Butler, but he still kept himself into racing.

So then the announcement came that George was going to promote 3/4 midget races in Convention Hall in February! Hey, this was a

big deal for a lot of people; the local fans, the racers that came from all over the US and mostly Tyrone and myself, because Ty was in with George, Ty got to run one of the jeeps that pushed the midgets to get them started and I used my truck for the crash and cleanup incidents; a full tank of gas and we got in free yeeaaah life was good for us .

If you go to the video section of our site and click on "midget racing in Conv.Hall" you'll see the only video of Tyrone that I know of, I only shot a snippet of him driving the jeep but



it's a good memory at least for me it is.

Now there was a black driver that ran back in the 50's named Bill White. Bill and Sal Moschella built a car for Tyrone, I think it was a Hudson, and being that Jerry Camp was his all time favorite; they numbered the car the 9A jr. There is a photo of Tyrone in that car showing him tuning the radio and he played it while he was racing, it was a sight to see and hear. I think he only ran it a few times in the

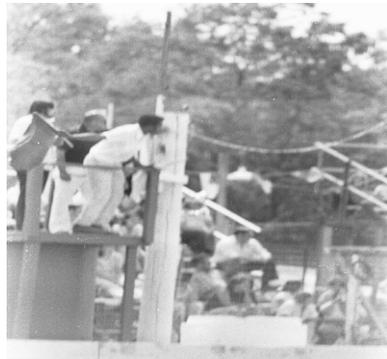
modern stox division. If anyone comes across that picture of him in the car, please contact me, I know it exists I just can't remember where I saw it.

Tyrone is pictured here receiving an award of some kind from Ken Butler, but I'm sorry to say I don't know what it was for.

The one thing that eluded Tyrone was that he wanted to be the flagman at our track and then one day he got the job and I think for him that was his feature win.



I can still hear him going from car to car before the race asking “Hows the car doin’ is she percolatin’ are ya gonna kick some ass tonight ? You know I got some coin ridin’ on ya, don’t let me down now. Jerry, she runnin’ on all eight tonite; your gonna make ‘em eat your dust aint ya ?”



But that was Tyrone; he was as much a part of that track as anyone and I’m glad to have known him and listen to his crazy unrelentless tirades over who was gonna win that night and why. Yes he was quite a character and I’m pretty sure if there is racing in heaven he’ll be

on the nerf bar of Jerry’s car sayin’ “ya gotta do it man ,I got some heavy coin ridin’ on ya tonite!”