

**WARREN FRYE Sr.**  
a.k.a.  
**“JEEP”**

By raycer27



There's a lot of racing history in the Frye family, but we'll just concentrate on Warren Sr., who we'll refer to as Jeep.

Jeep was 28 years old when he started his career, his wife was 26 and that was the number he chose for his car. Lou Mood lived about a half mile down the road from Jeep and he'd see Lou towing the car to Alcyon speedway each week, so he went to the races as a spectator and told Lou "I can do that, it looks pretty easy"! (Seems I've heard that sentence many times over the years, I've even said that) So Lou sold Jeep a '37 Ford coupe for \$5.00 and started to gut the car, put a roll cage in and hunt down a motor for it. A guy that Jeep knew had a wrecked 1949 Ford and he

used the engine from that and put in his car.

The first outing wasn't as good as he had hoped and Lou told him he needed to dial in the caster, camber and toe-in and do a few engine modifications also, so he took it to a shop Lou recommended and then took it to Atco. He started last and finished in second place. So this guy came up to Jeep and asked him how much he wanted for his car, Jeep said it wasn't for sale.

"Well you need to let me drive your car because I can win the feature and you don't have enough experience to do that" says the guy. The guy was John Vellecho who was the track champ at Atco. So Jeep says "Well, if I *don't* drive it, I'll *never* get experience will I? Then, Hal Lewis offered to buy the car. He told Jeep "I'll give 'ya some now and when I win the feature I'll give 'ya some more", needless to say the math wasn't quite right for Jeep so he declined the offer and so *he* started the feature.

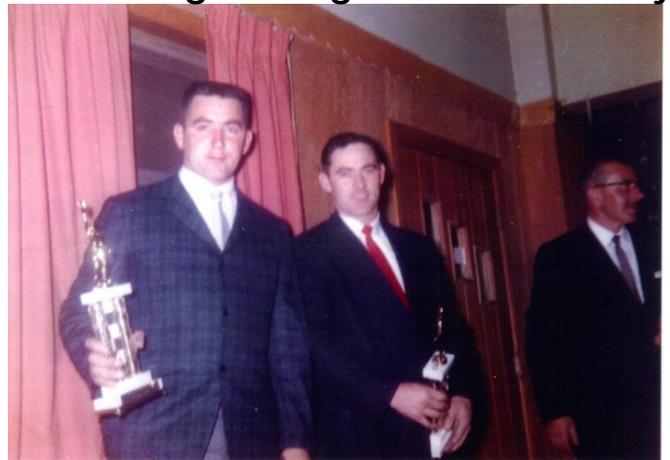
Not long into the race, they shoved, pushed him into the fence and flipped him over on his roof, and then Sal Moschella hit his bumper and knocked him back on his wheels. Jeep feels that it was either a clique of drivers that fenced him or an initiation for being a new driver at the track, whatever the reason, he told Lou "This ain't no fun" but Lou said not to quit or give up so Jeep fixed the car and bought a motor from Lou that was really fast.



He was able to pass cars on the straightaway but it went pushed up to the fence in the turn and he couldn't find the cause, then up walks Bunky Higbee, Bunky was running the ? mark car for a guy out of Philly and after talking a bit, Jeep let Bunky test it for a couple of laps, he brought it in, jacked it up and found that the frame was broke in half.

Now you can't fault Jeep for all of these problems affecting his car, in racing, things happen, things break, the list is endless but the smart ones learn from these setbacks and take measures to possibly prevent those snafus from happening again. Jeep was in a learning curve, gathering info on engines, suspension setups, and little tricks of the sport that might give him a small edge on his competition in the future.

Jeep took the car to Leon Manchester to have the frame realigned and welded; when it was done he took it back to Atco with Bunky at the helm and won the heat race. So the following week they went to Vineland Speedway and Bunky won the heat and the feature. Next was Pleasantville, when Jeep pulled into the pits, Bunky was already there and was adjusting the belts before Jeep had the car unloaded. Jeep had planned on running that night because Bunky had a ride in the ? mark car, but Bunky said Sal had jumped in the ? mark and he needed to drive his car to keep his lead in the point standings, so Jeep said ok and Bunky won the feature that night. Bunky drove Jeep's car 6 times that season, winning 5 races and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> once, and that's a pretty damn good performance. Jeep and Bunky won the track championship at



Pleasantville Speedway in 1966 & 1967.

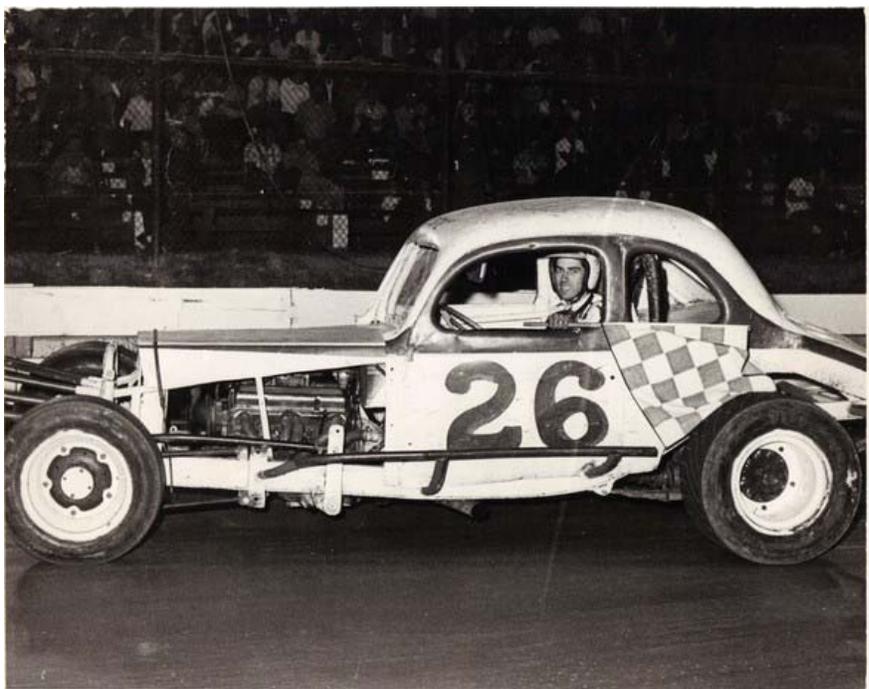
There was a night at P'ville when the starter/tech inspector Harry Reeves told Bunky that there were guys who put the \$100.00 up to protest Jeep's car and Harry asked Bunky if it was legal and Bunky said yeah it's legal and Bunky went to Jeep and asked him if they were and Jeep said absolutely.

When Jeep had the head off, Harry Reeves called the guys over that put the money up and told them that Jeep's motor was *under* legal, it was only .030 oversize and it could've been .060 over, so Jeep went home 100 bucks richer. The kicker to this story is one of the guys putting up the money for the protest, said "I know they gotta be illegal, 'cause we're illegal and they're beating us"! Go figure that one out!

Jeep took his car to Nazareth and ran so well Ronnie Broadwater came over and asked him who was driving his car that night, he said that he was and Ronnie said if Jeep could run that good on dirt, he was going to tell Charlie Angerman to run there also. Bunky was a little upset that Jeep took the car to Nazareth to run, afraid that Jeep would wreck the car and he wouldn't have a car to run for the point championship, as it turned out Bunky ran the car at Nazareth the following week, tried to go below 4 cars to pass them in the infield and hit a telephone pole and destroyed the car. Jeep built another '40 Ford coupe and finished out the season.

Jeep had a few guys drive for him, Bunky, Johnny Bennett, his son Warren Jr. and Ron Reeves. One time Ron was looking for a ride and Jeep had 2 cars at the time and let him run it in a heat race, Ron won the race and the Press had a write up in the sports section which Ron cut out and had in his wallet. Jeep says he carried that article for so long that it faded so badly you couldn't read it, but Ron was very proud of that accomplishment.

Warren Jr. a.k.a. Wimpy, was now old enough to get behind the wheel of the 26 car and



these guys went all over the place. They went to P'ville, Nazareth, East Windsor, Flemington, New Egypt, Harmony, as far north as Thompson Connecticut and south to Georgetown Delaware, Del-Mar and New Smyrna in central Florida.



The father and son team had their fair share of successful visits at the many tracks that they ran. When Jeep got out of racing, his son took the car down to Tennessee where Wimpy lives now. Wimpy is 58 years old and still racing with *his* son; Wimpy says he drives better now than when he was a younger man.

They saw Bob McCullough at Mahoning Valley Pa. years ago and he commented that if there was a race somewhere, that they would probably be there and Jeep said that would be true, being that Jeep and his son liked racing that much, if there was anything going on, they would be there.

I was just informed that Jeep's grandson, Bobby Devault won the 305 sprint feature at the New Egypt Speedway on 5/21/2011.....and so the tradition lives on with this racing family.

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