

## Alf Knight



Alf Knight would have to be regarded as the sole reason Atlanta Motor Speedway is in existence today.

Alf became acquainted with racing as a favor to his friend, Gene Wilson. In 1948 he agreed to help promote some races for the National Stock Car Racing Association. Before long the two were doing shows at Warner Park Speedway in Chattanooga, Boyd's Speedway and several other tracks around the southeast.

As former NASCAR national champion Rex White told us, "in the early days of shady promoters, Alf was the opposite. When you pulled in the gate your appearance money was handed out first. That was the only way he would have it." Alf genuinely cared about the drivers. It is said that he never watched any of his races because he so feared an accident. He was first to install double guardrails along the pit area. Safety was first in line with Alf.

In 1959 Alf was contacted by some businessmen involved in building a track in Atlanta. This group of men were "good devoted businessmen who knew nothing about racing". No one knew more about racing than Alf. So he was asked to become track superintendent. He promised he would stay one day, and that was it! Once he got there, he never left, and for the next two decades not only served as the raceway's superintendent, but built a house on the grounds near the track. And the rest is history.

Alf Knight was there when stock car racing was born, heard the first loud, lusty roar as the stockers took to the rural back roads, then to the pasture tracks, and to what it has grown to today. Without him, the future as he saw it wouldn't be here today for us.