

Harvey Jones



His father operated a generator repair service downtown Atlanta near several racing figures such as longtime sportsman Bob Richards and racing legends Weyman Milam and Raymond Parks. So this young kid was engulfed with seeing drivers of the tracks on a daily basis and loved going to races at Atlanta's Lakewood Fairgrounds.

After World War II, he had to get his own racecar. He soon found out he enjoyed building them more than trying to drive one. He was among the group of drivers, mechanics, promoters and car owners who, along with Bill France, began a traveling circuit in 1945.

At Thomaston, Ga. In 1945, as a car owner he got his first with rocket man Fonty Flock. "We won \$575 that day by winning the heat, the pole, and the feature." Harvey was on his way.

The very next year he teamed up with his friend and fellow Atlantan Ed Samples and won a total of eight point races around the Southeast to claim his first championship as a chief mechanic. In 1947 the two join forces again and finished second in points to his old driver Fonty Flock.

He went on to win local championships with Jack Smith and other such racing legends as Billy Carden, Johnny Suddeth, T.C. Hunt, Russell Nelson and Ronnie Sanders. Harvey said they lost the Peach Bowl championship in 1961 to Bud Lunsford by 2 points, only because Suddeth had been partying and missed two races.

Atlanta Constitution and Journal Sports writer Rick Minter over a decade ago declared that Harvey Jones is perhaps the most brilliant and unheralded mechanic the sport has ever known. Almond added, "today's racing industry is a turnkey operation. Men like Harvey are the last of a breed, and the last of an era."