

# Sara Christian

SARA WILILLIAMS CHRISTIAN

Born: August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1918 – Paulding County, GA

1948 – First race was at the old “New Atlanta Speedway” that was located in Morrow, Ga.

1949 – At Daytona, Sara and her husband, Frank, became the only wife/husband team to compete against one another in NASCAR history. In this summer event, both finished in the top twenty. (Frank 6<sup>th</sup> and Sara 18<sup>th</sup>)

1949 – At Charlotte, competed in the very first NASCAR strictly stock event (now Nextel Cup). She qualified 13<sup>th</sup>, finished 14<sup>th</sup> out of a field of 33.

1949 – September at Langhorne in a 200 mile event finished 6<sup>th</sup>, beating most of the best in the business (finished 28 seconds ahead of 7<sup>th</sup> place Lee Petty). Curtis Turner won the event and invited Sara to victory lane to share the ceremony.

1949 – Voted by the United States Drivers' Association as the “Woman Driver of the Year.”

1953 – February at Daytona Beach. One of the few drivers who broke the measured mile record, averaging 101.03 mph.

Born in Paulding County Georgia in 1918, Sara Christian was known across the East as the only legitimate female driver who could hold her own with the men.

Atlanta’s Lakewood Speedway was owned by the city. After the war when stock car racing began to boom, Lakewood was forbidden grounds for anyone with any type criminal record, including moonshining. Since that accounted for half the field, Frank Christian, brother-in-law Charlie Mobley, and racing hall of fame Bob Flock built a track at nearby Morrow, Georgia. Here they held powder puff races to attract crowds. Here is where Sara was discovered as a bona fide driver.

Her personal modified Ford was number 7/11 – named after, at the time her 7 year old son Tommy, and her 11 year old daughter Patricia.

Sara passed in 1980 and Frank died in 1969.