

CROSSFIRE

Racing's Big Time In South

By LOU CHIESI
CHARLOTTE, N. C.—Only five years ago promoter Bill Frayne ran an auto race on a makeshift course along Daytona Beach's packed sands and ordered \$50,000 in prize money to the assortment of stock car drivers who assembled eagerly to pick the bonanza.

Come May 28, the new Charlotte Motor Speedway, with a gleaming mile-and-a-half asphalt track and stands to seat 40,000, will present the second annual "World 600," a mile class for 100 model stock cars that features a purse of \$15,000.

On Oct. 15 the same track will hand out \$65,000 in prize money for the "National 400," a 400-mile race.
These are the largest purses ever offered for late model stock car racing.

Obviously, stock car racing has developed into a major sport here as the popularity of the races grows as Fireball Roberts, Wes White, Gordon Owens, Glenn Wood, Ned Jarrett and many others draw large crowds each weekend to the track.

THE SPIRITUAL center of the NASCAR empire remains at France's Daytona International Speedway, at Daytona Beach, that super fast 2 1/2-mile track which powers drivers, France, the organizer and chief potentate of NASCAR, owns and directs the track and supervises races at the circuit of tracks which has developed recently.

Only in Southern California, where stock car racing also flourishes, does the sport enjoy comparable popularity. But the heart of the sport remains here in the Carolinas, southern Virginia, Georgia and northern Florida.

Purses now match the prize money in the biggest horse races. Admission prices are \$1.00 and not noted for easy money among the masses, range from \$3 to \$7 for the big races. The season runs from March through October.

THE STOCK CAR promoters really owe a vote of thanks to the United States Department of Internal Revenue for the development of many of the finest drivers. It's no secret here among the hill folk that several of the "name" drivers now racing for such big purses learned how to handle cars by delivering moonshine to clients—often for pappy.

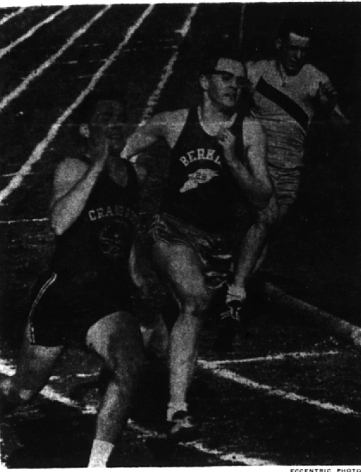
Such delivery involved driving a car, without lights, up and down country roads. On occasions, the revenue agents gave chase. The Italian duty dictated that the thrifty client be satisfied, so a race usually resulted. That's one way to learn how to drive a car.

THE DELIVERY OF Moonshine by car, with revolvers close behind, demanded a fast car. So the lads tinkered with engines to squeeze the last mile of speed from them.

On occasions, the revolvers were used. Only a few years ago one noted driver didn't appear the morning of race day; his car and motor were at the track waiting for him. A hurried telephone call disclosed that the driver, a man of no carelessness, had been grabbed by persistent revenue agents and was mauling in jail.

But moonshining isn't what it used to be. And the boys are making too much money to moonshine to deliver hooch by moonlight.

Many drivers now make more than \$50,000 a year, either racing their own cars or driving for other car owners. Many even pass up some less lucrative races, a luxury they could not afford a year or two ago. The weather ones often fly to the scene. Some own their own private planes.



Exudes Confidence

The Cranbrook runner in the foreground is a picture of confidence as he makes a turn in the recent triangular meet with Berkeley and Walled Lake. A strong Cranbrook squad is shaping up as one of the top State Class B powers.

Groves Teams Start Season with Losses

Groves young athletes are continuing on the rocky road to success. In the meanwhile they are encountering the pains of growth and defeat.
Friday, the seniorless track and tennis squads make their spring debut. The tennis team was shutout 7-0 by their rival from the north, Birmingham Seaholm.

THE TRACK TEAM, coached by Ray Vayrakos, put up a valiant fight before bowing to Class "A" Rochester, 61-48.
The score was knotted at 42 before the half-mile and mile events which Rochester ruled.

Recreation Round-Up
THERAPEUTIC SWIMMING: Therapeutic swimming for the physically handicapped is held on Wednesday evenings at Harnum pool from 7 to 8 p.m. This activity will continue through the month of May. Fee for the remaining six sessions is payable in advance at the Recreation Office, Municipal Building.

ADULT SOFTBALL: Anyone interested in entering a team in the men's recreation softball league should call the Recreation Office, MI 4-1800. A six-team league is planned with games being played on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 6:15 p.m. beginning the last of May. The entry fee will depend upon the number of teams entered and the total number of games played.

After a 17-month wait, Plum Hollow Golf Club members are enjoying the comfort and luxury of their new \$950,000 club house in Southfield.
Officers and members hosted those of the press at a preview last week. Official opening will be May 20.

THE former clubhouse, a 40-year-old structure, burned down in 1959. Since that time, members had been using facilities at other clubs for social functions after a day on the course.

BILL UZELAC is in his 15th year as a golf professional and instructor in Southfield. He will be the regular club professional at the new pro shop adjacent to the first tee.

POPULAR W. S. (Red) Hoskin became the first Pine Lake Country Club member to score a hole-in-one this season. He scored the hole-in-one on the fourth hole with a No. 4 iron. Then spectators sometimes face a dilemma. But the newer tracks provide proper spectator safety and serious accidents are now unheard of.

Within a few years, racing has become a major league, somewhat unbridled in keeping with its wealth.
The only argument the boys have with the revenue department is over income tax. They're in the high brackets and if Uncle Sugar takes too much money they will have to go back to running moonshine.

BEING A professional of the highest caliber, Warren Orlick was quick to note a few discrepancies in last week's "A" report. He says, "The overlap grip does not interlock. The little finger of the right hand glides over the first finger of left hand. Interlock—little finger of right hand interlocks with the first finger of left hand. This I recommended would be good for persons with short fingers or weak hands. He also said that on the back blocks.

Top pitcher for the Bloomfield Hills baseball squad is right-hander Bill Bennett. Tuesday he threw a nine-inning game and struck out 12 Milford batters but no avails. The game was called because of darkness with a 3-2 tie going into the record books.

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Maples Take 8th in Mansfield Relays

Versatile Tom Sweeney led Seaholm's thinclads to a respectable 8th place in the class Mansfield Relays, Friday and Saturday.
Sweeney finished first in the broad jump with a leap of 22 1/2 feet. He ran the 440 with the distance medley relay squad which finished second in 7:56.4, a new record.
Roger Mason tied for seventh in the pole vault, while the Maple

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The largest prep track meet in the country. This year 162 schools and 1422 athletes from five states competed for coveted trophies, in the 30th renewal of the event.

Cranbrook Squads Win 5 of 6

Cranbrook's spring sports teams have gotten off to a flying start. Last week, the Crane basketball squad won two of three games, the track team swamped two opponents without a loss as did the tennis squad.

Coach Fred Campbell's young ball team opened the season with a 12-8 win over Bloomfield Hills, April 11. Friday, the Crane batsmen fell to Seelye, 5-3.

JOHN BILLEDSON went all the way as the Cranbrook pitcher. He allowed only three hits, but six Crane errors set up the eighth inning. Berkeley and Cranbrook four hits and eight walks, while striking out two of the eight.

THE MAPLES swept all four singles and two doubles matches. The No. 1 singles position Steve Anderson beat Bryan Carpenter 6-0, 6-2. At No. 2 Bob Sayle knocked off Pete Millington in sets of 6-1.

Other singles winners were Bob Russo, who defeated Tom Cantrell 6-0, 6-1 and Bob Billings who took the match from John Keiser by the same score.

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The Birmingham Eccentric SPORTS

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Hills Thinclads Learn Lesson from the 'Best'

"We took on the best, now we know what it's like," said Bloomfield Hills athletic director and track coach Don Hoff after his team finished third in a triangular meet Tuesday on their home field.

By the best, he meant the thinclads from Seaholm High who swept to victory collecting 7 1/2 points. Walled Lake finished second with 4 1/2 and the Barons' third with 2 1/2.

Hoff complimented Birmingham's Tom Sweeney, who broke the Hills track record with a 51.6 in the 440. "He has a real nice stride," Hoff said, "he really moves out."

SWEENEY ALSO "moves out" in the broad jump. He took a first in that event with a leap of 22 1/2 feet. Only winner for Bloomfield Hills was Jerry Bergmeyer who took the 880-yard run in 2:06. With a last-second sprint, he edged Seaholm's Bob Hayden who took second.

Other winners for the Hills were Carter Dinklow, who won the low hurdles in 16.6, Jeff Aldred of Bloomfield Hills finished third. In the mile relay, Walled Lake had enough stamina to edge the Barons (See THINCLAD, 7-E)

Hunting Dog Class To Start Sunday

Birmingham area dog owners will have the opportunity to have their Springer and Cocker Spaniel training classes Sunday.

Dogs will be trained for field obedience, retrieving, quartering, wild and introduced to live birds and gun fire. Classes will run June 18, every Sunday afternoon from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m.

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Cool Return

One of the good doubles combinations in Birmingham area prep tennis circles is this one from Bloomfield Hills High. Bucky Walters and Steve Wilson won their first match of the year against Southfield Senior Jack Davis.

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