Hank Schoolfield Donates Radio Broadcast Recordings

Renowned racing publisher, publicist, and broadcaster Hank Schoolfield has donated original recordings of NASCAR races to the Stock Car Racing Collection. The collection of open-reel tapes are radio race broadcasts from the Universal Racing Network, which Schoolfield owned. URN was the first independent radio network to broadcast races.

Schoolfield, a native of Reidsville, worked for a number of years as track publicist for North Wilkesboro Speedway and Bowman Gray Stadium. He and Bob Montgomery, a race announcer from Greensboro, formed the Universal Racing Network at a time when the only Sunday races on the radio were local broadcasts of Atlanta, Darlington, and Daytona. “We went from 40-some stations for our first race to over 300,” he recalled. The tapes cover more than a hundred races from 1963 through 1982, as well as recordings of the weekly radio show “Southern MotoRacing Round-Up” in 1966-1967.

Schoolfield, who recently retired after more than forty years in the racing business, also donated a complete run of Southern MotoRacing, a biweekly stock car racing tabloid which he published. Southern MotoRacing was sold to Speedway Scene in January 2006.

Copies of the tapes will be recorded on dvd and made available for listening to visitors to the Stock Car Racing Collection.

New Library & Information Commons Opens

On June 20, 2005, the new Belk Library & Information Commons opened to the public. The facility, which emphasizes collaborative learning and flexibility, has 29 group study rooms, more than 250 computer work stations, and wireless connectivity. The $40 million building covers four football fields and contains more than 26 miles of book shelves. The spacious facility, with lots of natural light, comfortable seating, and even a working fireplace, has been a big hit with Appalachian faculty and students; the number of people entering the Library is up nearly 50 percent since 2004.

The top (fourth) floor of the Library houses the special collections area, which includes the University Archives, the Appalachian Collection, and the Stock Car Racing Collection. The special collections reading room features glorious views of the campus and surrounding mountains and comfortable work space for researchers. While most special collections materials are readily accessible materials on open shelves in the reading room, very fragile and/or valuable items are housed in an environmentally controlled closed collection. Closed collection materials can be retrieved for use upon request.

The Belk Library & Information Commons and its special collections are open to the public. For more information, see the Library’s web page at http://www.library.appstate.edu.
Fisher-Price Brings Stock Car Racing Collection into View

Legendary toy maker Fisher-Price has teamed with the Stock Car Racing Collection at Appalachian State University to provide viewers for stereographic photo images of Southern AllStars dirt track racing. The ViewMaster images depict racing action from 2003.

Russell Thress, a race fan from Athens, Tennessee, produced and donated multiple copies of ViewMaster reels of racing action to the Stock Car Racing Collection. The reels are accompanied by printed driver interviews autographed by drivers Jeremy Clements, Shane Tankersley, Brandon Kinzer, and Clint Smith. Stock Car Racing Collection librarian Suzanne Wise saw great possibilities of using the sets to promote the Collection and raise funds for the purchase of additional research material, but was missing the key component of viewers. “I contacted Sandy Kensinger at Fisher-Price, asking for their help but not really expecting anything,” Wise said. “To my surprise, Sandy replied almost immediately that Fisher-Price would be happy to provide ViewMaster viewers. They arrived in five large boxes shortly afterward.”

“This is another wonderful example of corporate support of the Stock Car Racing Collection’s mission to document stock car racing and preserve those materials for future generations,” Wise continued. “United Parcel Service worked with us several years ago to bring a large donation from New York to North Carolina, and now Fisher-Price has really stepped up to the plate.”

The sets, containing two ViewMaster reels, a viewer, and four autographed printed driver interviews, will be used as thank-you gifts to donors to the Collection. Contact Suzanne Wise at 828-262-2798 or via email at wisems@appstate.edu for more information.

Author Sharyn McCrumb Talks About St. Dale

Award winning author Sharyn McCrumb entertained an appreciative audience at Appalachian on April 26 as she talked about how she came to write the New York Times best selling novel St. Dale, which is based on Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales. In McCrumb’s version, a group of race fans embark on a week long bus trip to visit racetracks and pay homage to Dale Earnhardt.

McCrumb described how she evolved from knowing nothing about racing to becoming a true fan. In the beginning, she said, NASCAR sounded to her like the former leader of Egypt (Nasser). She explained her gradual attraction to the sport: going from total disinterest to pulling against certain drivers but not caring who won, to being passionate about a favorite driver. McCrumb’s moment of true fandom arrived one Friday afternoon when she was watching a television broadcast of Cup qualifying with a friend. A car suddenly became airborne. She remembers hoping that it wasn’t the 22 car of Ward Burton. At that moment she knew she had adopted Burton as HER driver.

Following her presentation, McCrumb signed copies of her book and attendees socialized at a Victory Lane party.

McCrumb’s next novel, due out in 2007, will be the story of an all-female pit crew.

Stock Car Racing Collection Exhibits at Chrysler 300 Meet

Stock Car Racing Collection librarian Suzanne Wise took her show on the road in May. She attended the spring national meet of the Chrysler 300 Club International in Asheville, North Carolina and did a display promoting the Stock Car Racing Collection.

“It was a lot of fun to meet all the Chrysler 300 owners and see their cars,” Wise said. “Many of them had driven their restored 300s across the country, so we spent a lot of time in the parking lot admiring the vehicles.” A highlight of the meet was a run along the Blue Ridge Parkway to Waynesville, NC, where the group toured the Wheels Through Time Museum and listened to a talk from Chrysler 300 enthusiast Don Miller, president of Penske Racing South.

Chrysler 300s raced very successfully in NASCAR in the mid 1950s. Carl Kiekhaefer decided to use stock car racing to promote the outboard motors made by his Mercury Outboard company. His fleet of Chrysler 300s dominated the Grand National races for several years. In 1955 and 1956 the Kiekhaefer team, featuring drivers Tim, Fonty, and Bob Flock; Buck Baker; Speedy Thompson; and Herb Thomas, won an astounding 52 of 90 Grand National races. Chrysler sales soared, demonstrating the effectiveness of corporate sponsorship. At the end of 1956 Kiekhaefer left racing, not returning until he was inducted into the National Motorsports Press Association Hall of Fame in 1980.
Appalachian Library Staff Members Go Racing

The Appalachian State University Library family claims more than the Stock Car Racing Collection; it also boasts some very active racers and auto technicians.

Former Library student assistant Josh Goble was the 2005 Late Model Stock champion at Tri-County Speedway in Hudson, NC. He is currently in second place in the 2006 standings. Josh, who lives in nearby Lenoir, began racing in 2003 at Tri-County. He notched his first win in 2004, and says the most exciting moment of his racing career was passing to get the lead and then leading the final lap of that race. Josh says he is proudest of racing clean and being respected by his competitors. His favorite driver is Dennis Setzer.

Library technical support analyst Adam Jordan races his 1999 Subaru Impreza 2.5 RS in autocross competitions. He competes in STS street tire class events sponsored by the Highlands Sports Car Club of Asheville, NC and the SCCA Central Carolina Region Club, which is based in Charlotte. Adam has an impressive array of plaques and trophies in his office, indicative of his frequent podium finishes. He won his class at the October 2005 Subaru Challenge in Maggie Valley, NC. Adam enjoys the competitive but friendly competition, and emphasizes that autocross is a precision driving event, not racing. At present his car needs some TLC in the suspension area, but he hopes to be competing again soon.

Kyle Trivette, son of Library technical assistant Pam Trivette, visited the NASCAR Technical Institute in Mooresville, NC, as a member of the Watauga High School automotive technology class. Kyle placed first locally in a written auto skills competition sponsored by Ford and AAA, and he and teammate Aaron Norris were one of twelve teams from North and South Carolina that competed in a hands-on competition at the Mooresville training center. Each team had to diagnose and fix a bugged Ford Escape. The Trivette-Norris team placed fourth. Kyle plans to continue his study of automotive technology after graduating from high school in May 2007, with the goal of being an auto technician at a car dealership.

Stock Car Racing Collection Receives Donations

Since the last issue of Trading Paint the Stock Car Racing Collection has received 23 donations and pledges of money and materials from supporters across the country. These friends help the Collection grow as a valuable resource for scholars.

Richard Abercrombie, Tennessee
Tony Bowman, North Carolina
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History of Stock Car Racing Class Offered at Appalachian

After a brief hiatus, a class on the history of stock car racing is once again a part of the curriculum at Appalachian State University. “The History of Stock Car Racing,” offered by the Center for Appalachian Studies, is being taught Monday afternoons during the fall 2006 semester by Deb Williams, Director of Public/Media Relations for Penske Racing South. Penske Racing South fields the NASCAR Cup teams driven by Kurt Busch and Ryan Newman. Williams is a member of the Stock Car Racing Collection Advisory Committee.

Williams has a long association with stock car racing. She was the editor of NASCAR Winston Cup Scene (now NASCAR Scene) and a writer/reporter for the television show “Inside NASCAR.” She is the author of two racing books, Evernham: Racer, Innovator, Leader (2002) and Ryan Newman: Engineering Speed (2004), and is a regular guest on racing radio and television shows.

Williams’ racing journalism achievements have been recognized by her peers. She was the first woman to receive the Henry T. McLemore Award for continued outstanding motorsports journalism, the only woman to win the National Motorsports Press Association’s Writer of the Year Award (she has won it twice), and the first person to win the Russ Catlin Award two consecutive years.

Appalachian was among the first institutions of higher education to recognize the growing impact of auto racing on America. A course on the history of stock car racing was first offered at Appalachian in fall 1998. It drew national attention, as academia had previously paid little attention to the sport. Today motorsports related courses are taught at colleges and universities across the country.