Pettys Donate Racing Collection

Lynda Petty, wife of stock car racing legend Richard Petty, has donated a large collection of materials documenting her husband’s career to the Stock Car Racing Collection. The gift, which covers 1958-2003, includes newspaper and magazine articles, fan letters, scrapbooks, promotional materials, awards of recognition, business correspondence, photographs, books, race programs, and more. Ms. Petty said, “These memories of Richard’s career are important to the family, and we are glad we can entrust them to the Collection for preservation.”

During his long and successful driving career (1958-1992), Petty won seven NASCAR Winston Cup championships and holds the record for the most victories, with 200. Known affectionately as “the King,” he won the Most Popular Driver award nine times. Since his retirement in 1992, Petty has remained involved in racing. He owns Petty Enterprises, which fields entrants in NASCAR’s Nextel Cup, Busch Series, and Craftsman Truck Series.

The Petty family has been in the racing business for generations; Richard’s father Lee was a three time Cup champion, and his son Kyle and grandson Adam followed in the family tradition.

The Petty collection came to Appalachian State with the help of Deb Williams, director of public relations for Penske Racing South, who is a good friend of the Pettys and also serves on the Stock Car Racing Collection Advisory Committee. She put Lynda Petty and Collection librarian Suzanne Wise in contact with each other. Wise is very excited about making the collection available to the public. “The Petty collection is a wonderful resource for stock car racing scholars,” she said. “It traces the career of the most popular and successful driver ever in the sport, and offers a peek into his life away from the track. Richard has been very active in charitable activities, and even ventured into the political arena. We are delighted to organize and preserve these materials for future generations.”

The donation is currently being inventoried and organized for public use, and there are plans to produce a web page with finding aids detailing the contents of the collection.

Don Hunter Donates Materials to Stock Car Racing Collection

Renowned motorsports photographer Don Hunter of Charlotte, NC, has donated an array of materials illustrating his work to the Stock Car Racing Collection. The gift includes magazines and books featuring his work, as well as photographic prints and posters.

Hunter was a long time photographer for the Charlotte News and director of photography at Charlotte Motor Speedway. He also did significant work for the major automobile manufacturers. In addition to exhilarating action shots, he captured compelling portraits of racers through his lens, ranging from Mark Donohue to Paul Newman to Cale Yarborough. Some of his best work is featured in American Stock Car Racers (MBI Publishing, 1997) and The Illustrated History of Stock Car Racing (MBI Publishing, 1998).

General Mills recognized Hunter’s genius when they selected his photographs for boxes in the Wheaties Legends of Racing Series, distributed in 2000. Mock-ups of these boxes are included in Hunter’s gift to the Stock Car Racing Collection. The Hunter collection is being inventoried and processed, and should be available to the public by the end of the year.
1960 NASCAR champion Rex White spoke at to a large and enthusiastic audience at Appalachian State on March 30, 2005. White, who won more races than any other driver between 1959 and 1963, exhibited the skill and consistency that led one writer to say, “If Richard Petty is the Babe Ruth of stock car racing, then Rex White is the Joe DiMaggio.” He was named by NASCAR as one of their 50 all-time greatest drivers.

Following a brief film highlighting his career, White entertained the audience with stories of his racing experiences. In the days before major corporate sponsorships even top drivers struggled to finance their racing operations. White built and repaired his own cars and towed them from race to race. He recalled an era when fans were rowdy and extremely opinionated. He was once punched in the face by a disappointed Lee Petty fan after beating Petty in a race.

In the audience were several long time friends of White, including Max Welborn of Yadkinville, NC, who put Rex in his first Chevrolet in 1956, and James Hylton of Spartanburg, SC, who worked on Rex’s pit crew prior to becoming a driver himself.

White and his biographer, Dr. Anne B. Jones, signed copies of their recently published book, Gold Thunder: Autobiography of a NASCAR Champion (McFarland & Company, 2004) and chatted with fans after the formal presentation.

The Stock Car Racing Collection and the Appalachian State University Library hope to sponsor programs featuring racing pioneers on a continuing basis.

SCRC Exhibits at Dawsonville Moonshine Festival

The Stock Car Racing Collection went on the road to meet the public at the annual Dawsonville (GA) Mountain Moonshine Festival in October 2004. Collection librarian Suzanne Wise and ASU Library colleague Adam Jordan staffed a booth at the Festival, talking with race fans about the resources and services offered by the Collection. They held a drawing for a limited edition print by NASCAR artist Garry Hill, who is a member of the Stock Car Racing Collection Advisory Committee. The numbered print, signed by Hill and racing legend Junior Johnson, was won by Nancy Fugel of Clarksdale, Georgia.

The Stock Car Racing Collection’s presence at the Moonshine Festival was made possible by an LSTA marketing grant. Wise said, “We welcome the public. We want to make race fans and scholars aware of our resources and services, and to encourage them to contact us for their stock car racing history informational needs.” She added that they hope to exhibit at other events in the future.

Stock Car Racing Collection Receives Marketing Grant

The Stock Car Racing Collection was awarded a federal Library Services and Technology Act grant to market the Collection to the public. The matching grant, totaling more than $7300, provides funds to develop an official logo for the Collection, redesign the Collection’s web page (www.library.appstate.edu/stockcar/), produce a variety of promotional materials, publicize the Collection at the annual Dawsonville (GA) Mountain Moonshine Festival, and produce and distribute the first issue of the Collection’s newsletter, Trading Paint.

NEWSLETTER SIGN UP
Don’t miss a single issue of Trading Paint. Subsequent issues of the newsletter can be delivered directly to your desktop (or mailbox if email is not an option.) Just send us your email address or mailing address, and we’ll add you to our distribution list. Contact us via email at wisems@appstate.edu or write or call Suzanne Wise:
Stock Car Racing Collection, Belk Library & Information Commons, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608-2026, telephone 828-262-2798.
Florida Governor Jeb Bush declared February 20, 2005, the day of the Daytona 500, as Chris Economaki Day. Economaki is a member of the Stock Car Racing Collection Advisory Committee.

Called the dean of motorsports journalism, he is widely recognized as the most knowledgeable motorsports broadcaster/journalist in the country. Economaki has informed the public about racing in his distinctive gravelly voice for more than fifty years. He is also editor and publisher emeritus of the country’s leading weekly racing newspaper, National Speed Sport News. His extensive racing knowledge led Microsoft to choose him to write the racing entries in its Encarta Encyclopedia.

Economaki has received many awards for achievement, including the Dean Batchelor Award for outstanding achievement in motorsports journalism, the Buddy Shuman Award, the U.S. Auto Club Presidential Award, and the NASCAR Lifetime Media award. The Economaki Award was named in his honor by the Driver of the Year panel. He has been elected to a number of halls of fame, including the Stock Car Hall of Fame, National Sprint Car Hall of Fame, and the Motorsports Hall of Fame.

Donors Honor Roll

People from across the country have made financial and material contributions to the Stock Car Racing Collection, enhancing our resources and allowing us to purchase materials which might otherwise go to private collections. These friends are listed below.

If you would like to donate money or materials to insure the continued preservation of stock car racing materials and their free access to the public, contact Suzanne Wise, Stock Car Racing Collection, Belk Library and Information Commons, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608-2026; telephone: 828-262-2798. Gifts may be considered charitable donations for tax purposes.

Pat and Donnie Allison, North Carolina
Alice Archambault, North Carolina
Family and friends of Thomas James D. Barker, NC
Tony Bowman, North Carolina
Bill Boye, Georgia
Johnny Bruce, North Carolina
Doug Chappell, North Carolina
Dennis Clarke, Virginia
Dr. Susan Cole, North Carolina
Dan Davis, California
Jim Duffy, New York
Mike Epley, North Carolina
Frances Flock, North Carolina
Rick Gambill, North Carolina
Georgia Auto Racing Hall of Fame Association
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Sheron Hagelston, North Carolina
Beverly Hall, Florida
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Don Hunter, North Carolina
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Greg Leary, North Carolina
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Roger W. Sibley, Michigan
Bruce Simmons, North Carolina
Daniel Simone, Florida
Maia and David Sowell, Virginia
Roger Truax, Maryland
Al Wall, South Carolina
Suzanne Wise, North Carolina
Meet Our Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee for the Stock Car Racing Collection advises us on the promotion and development of the Collection and works with us to acquire materials and funds. Currently the Committee is composed of:

Len Baytcki, principal, Strategic Advisors, and former vice-president of development for Richard Childress Racing

Johnny Bruce, Dale Jarrett Racing Adventure, and former motorsports manager for U.S. Tobacco Racing and general manager for Travis Carter Enterprises

Dr. Vaughn Christian, faculty emeritus, Appalachian State University

Chris Economaki, publisher emeritus, *National Speed Sport News*

Rick Gambill, president, Carrick Public Relations

Ted Hagaman, director of hospitality services at Wilkes Community College, and former director of Lowe’s Motorsports for Lowe’s Home Improvements

Garry Hill, NASCAR artist

Ben Trout, Director of Marketing and Promotions, Bristol Motor Speedway

Deb Williams, director of public relations, Penske Racing South

NEW LIBRARY SET TO OPEN

The Stock Car Racing Collection will soon be housed in spacious new quarters designed for optimal preservation of archival materials. Appalachian State University’s new Belk Library & Information Commons is scheduled to open on June 20, 2005.