

Mississauga's Stormin' Norm

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Mississaugan Norm Mackereth has made many friends in Oswego, New York.

In fact, Norm has made quite a few friends in the sport of stock car racing throughout Canada and the United States.

The reasons are simple. Not only is Norm Mackereth, according to experts and statistics, a top driver he has also been hailed as one of the most personable men in the sport.

Norm has earned his reputation mostly from Oswego, New York where he has been one of the top drivers since 1962.

His racing career began in 1946 on a half-mile dirt track at Speedway Park.

Norm drove a 1934 Dodge convertible with a rumble seat and no seat belts and wedged the car with a two by four.

The helmet and goggles

he used were borrowed and he didn't even know what the flags meant.

Somehow he finished second in the feature and earned about 10 dollars.

Immediately following, Norm ran at Pinecrest, Oakwood, the Canadian National Exhibition and Oshawa in '57, '58 and '59.

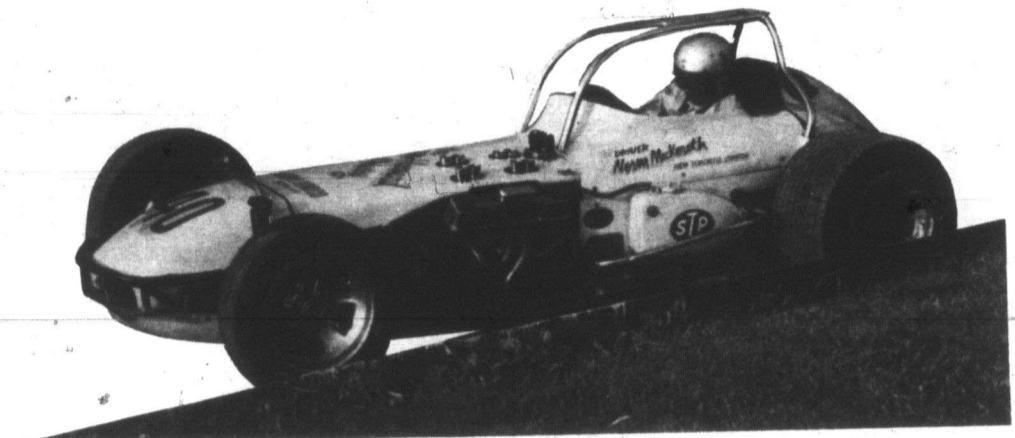
Norm also took his stock car and ran against Porsche in a Formula Leiber race at Harewood Acres.

SURPRISED LOOKS

You can imagine the looks of surprise on the faces of the Porsche drivers when he finished with the fourth fastest time.

There was quite a bit of trouble with the race and Norm needed a push to start.

But once he was underway he went from 32nd to seventh spot in an amazing 22 laps.



Norm was running a four by four and had but one gear to get from 35 to 165 miles per hour.

A stock car driver is not accustomed to the seven right turns and two left turns Norm had to face at Harewood.

Mechanical problems got the better of Norm and his car and they retired early much to the delight of the officials at the track.

PINECREST

Pinecrest Speedway is track which is run rain or shine.

The driver has to guess what the weather conditions will be, to know if he should use rain or sun tires.

Guessing wrong is fatal but Norm managed to bag more victories in the rain than the sun.

In 1962 Norm made the switch to Oswego where he won the Sportsman of the Year Award and finished tenth in the points standings.

It wasn't until August 1, 1963 that Norm took home his first feature victory when he beat out Don Diffendorf on the last half a lap.

He had to wait another two years and a couple of weeks before he had another feature win.

However in 1964 he earned the points championship.

Norm had a tough beginning to his racing season, last year, when he didn't complete a race in the first eight weeks he ran.

So he traded in his old car for the old Todd Gibson Flintstone Flyer owned by Norm Hagen.

Hagen purchased it from Todd Gibson who ran it

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as number 0 and won 13 features and the track championship with it.

Norm drove the car for a Howard-Hagen team for the first time at Flamboro, outside of Hamilton but he developed a vapor lock and had to drop from the action.

CLOSE CALL

The car, now number 40, was the one Norm was in when he had a fiery crash which not only put him out of action but almost took his life.

It was only a short time before Norm returned.

A year later Norm was in the feature winner's circle, only the third time he had been there in his life.

And the only fan club that exists at Oswego, the Norm Mackereth Fan Club went wild.

Norm Mackereth was back in business.

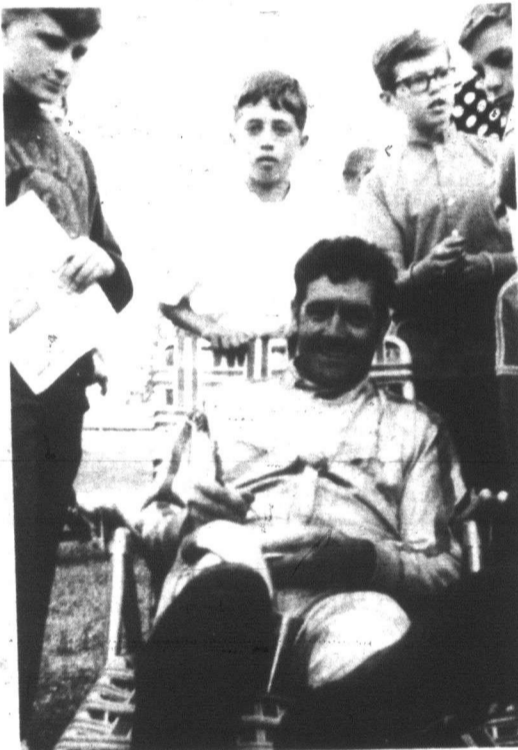
The biggest step in the comeback came when he finished second in the

International Classic.

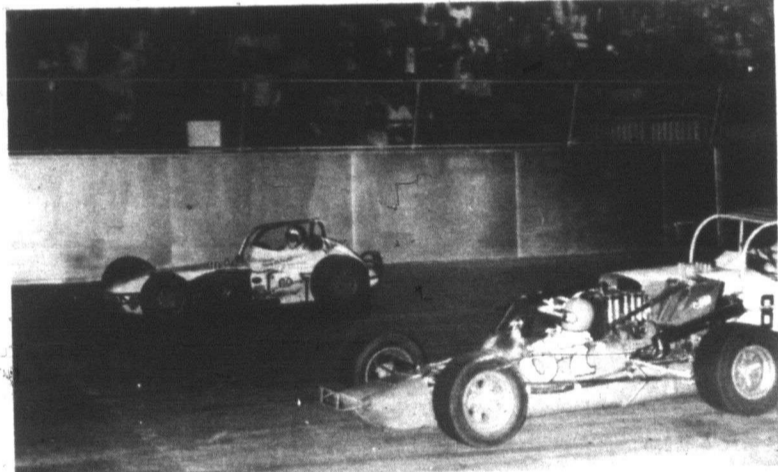
Last year he began winning races at every track he visited.

But no matter how Norm Mackereth finishes he makes new friends everywhere with his warm friendly attitude.

If Norm keeps up his fine driving record there will be much more silverware coming through United States to Mississauga this racing season.



Norm is extremely popular with children and here he is shown after racing for the first time since his near-fatal accident signing autographs.



Norm is shown here in a photo finish of a race which he won. By the way, he's at the top of the picture. Norm's chief mechanic is Dennis Tardiff of Mississauga.

Away from the track



The Mackereths..... Craig 14, Norm, Nancy 4, Marg, Andy 9, Brian 17.

The man who drives number 40 on the race track also leads a fun-filled life away from the oval.

Norm Mackereth who is 42 years old and lives in Mississauga where he has resided most of his life also operates a service station in southern Etobicoke.

He is married to an extremely attractive woman and dedicated mother, Marg.

The Mackereth clan counting the parents numbers six but one of the younger members was quick to add that the number could be increased anytime.

With a family of this size and three boys playing Mississauga hockey the Mackereths are kept pretty

well on the run in the winter months.

On top of that Norm proudly displays four large trophies which he captured this year in snowmobiling races.

And he says that they also like to get away for weekends.

Next to the snowmobiling silverware, Norm keeps the prize he won at Montreal last year in the Speed Festival of "Festival Sur Roues" — the Molson Trophy.

On the wall, hangs a clock presented to Norm for having the top driver's personality at Oswego last year by the We-go Racing Fan Club.

In the back yard stands a swimming pool. Norm is known every-

where for his acquiescence, especially when it comes to community affairs.

He has visited with the Lyndwood cubs, bringing prizes and a movie.

At the track last year, he was involved with boys taking part in a soapbox derby.

Marg and he also have won a promotional bed race in Fulton, New York.

Norm states that they were fortunate to win because he had blown two casters.

Luckily, he was carrying two in his pocket.

Among the prizes was a year's supply of bubble gum.

On or off the track Norm Mackereth of Mississauga is a hard man to beat.