

Smokey's Introduction

I believe I wrote this book because of Reverend Hal Marchman's (all racer's preacher) introduction of me to a bunch of kids at Darlington in 1996. Suddenly, it dawned on me that racing had no past...it was lost. So doesn't that go hand in hand - it therefore will have no future?

NASCAR's past up to 1970 was burned at the city dump. I decided to write the book in as close a way as it actually hap-pened...including language and racer's view of our part of the world. We had a status of a "mon-backer"...you know the guy on the back of a garbage truck saying "mon-back, mon-back." We were con-sidered - and maybe we were - social trash...couldn't borrow money, couldn't buy insurance, couldn't even stay in good a good hotel...had zero credit.

I doubt many people have ever lived the adventures i have. I believe my life's experiences afforded me an almost impos-sible act to follow...not by plan...but by the natural flow of life.

I want this book written and read in such a way you and I are sitting on a porch in rockin' chairs...you asking the ques-tions and I'm giving you the real story. I know the book will cause some problems...there is no way to please

everyone. For those who are ashamed of what you did...you did it. I'm not proud of all I did and I have tried to include my warts and bad stuff also.

If you have a legitimate criticism, let me have it...I'm not a model, but I believe my life has a loud and clear mes-sage. I think the Army says it best..."Be all that you can be." With my uncouth delivery, I still miss "thank you," "please," "you're welcome," "I appreciate it." Kinda like the moose in the Pep Boys com-mercial, when he asks if the good brakes come from Pep Boys, and he says "I appreci-ate that."

Proud to have been a racer? Yes. I am.

Would I trade today? No way.

Any regrets? Yup. I wanted to win every race I run in.

Any advice to those behind me? Yes. Identify your life target early and then lock on...let nothing deter you.

Henry "Smokey" Yunick, PhD.