

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 happened...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 considered - 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 message. 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 commercial, when he asks if the good brakes come from Pep Boys, and he says "I appreciate 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.
