

FRED BUCKMILLER

Fred Buckmiller started his involvement in automobile racing as a car owner at the old Soo Speedway, located just minutes west of Huset's Speedway. "My race cars were the prettiest ones out there," Buckmiller was quoted as saying. "They were painted bright colors and looked really nice, but they didn't go very fast." In 1958, Huset's Speedway was purchased by the Sioux Falls Stock Car Association from owner Til Huset. The reported price was \$14,000.00 and the group immediately named Buckmiller as the new promoter. Buckmiller took to his new task with the idea of making weekly racing more professional, affordable to the racers and fan-friendly for his customers. Buckmiller made sure his Huset's program ALWAYS started on time at 8:00 p.m., and that everything ran swiftly in order to get the event over by 10:30 p.m. He also insisted that all personnel in the infield wear white clothing. It's been noted that Buckmiller informed the personnel in the infield that the requirement for white pants was for insurance reasons. It actually wasn't. It was his way of dressing the infield to a more professional level. Buckmiller was the first local promoter to convince the Sioux Empire Fair Board that his Huset's modifieds class could fill the grandstand at the fairgrounds on Sioux Falls' west side. The crowds often filled the main grandstand and many times forced the fair board to erect more bleachers on both the north and south side of the grandstand. He also took his beloved modifieds on the road to fairs in Aberdeen, Huron, Parker, Spencer and Minot. Buckmiller was an old-school promoter who performed every task. He bladed and watered the track, he sold tickets, popped popcorn, visited radio and TV stations and held the weekly pre-race drivers meeting. One of his favorites quotes that he used at every pit meeting was "Remember guys, we are a bunch of poor devils in a rich man's racket".