

MARSHALL GARDNER

Marshall Gardner started his driving career in 1950 in Pipestone, Minnesota, driving a Ford coupe for Al Fiedler. In 1952 he became a driver / owner, building his first of many Plymouth coupes. Gardner always ran a Plymouth coupe, usually painted black and yellow and numbered either '191', '161', '9' or '6'. He was the 1954 and 1955 track champion at Soo Speedway east of Sioux Falls, and in one stretch in 1954, he won 12 features out of 14 starts between Soo and Huset's Speedways. Gardner was very instrumental in assisting Til Huset when the new Huset's Speedway was first started, and competed in the first feature at Huset's on May 23, 1954, finishing in 5th position. Gardner was among the first to realize the importance of good press for the fledging sport of stock car racing and encouraged professional behavior among his fellow racers. He visited the newspapers, radio and TV stations to put a positive spin on stock car racing and was also an early day showman. He once dressed as a woman and won a special 'powder-puff' event, peeling off the dress in the victory lane celebration. Gardner retired from driving in 1961 and has remained a solid supporter of Huset's Speedway in the ensuing years.