

BILL WEINKAUF

Of all who have raced at Huset's, Bill Weinkauf would have to be considered as one of those most dedicated to competing at the track. Weinkauf became involved in racing as a teenager in the early 1960s as a crewman for fellow Pipestone, Minnesota resident Johnny Martens. That enjoyment soon ended, however, when Weinkauf was drafted into the Army. Upon his discharge after two years of service in Texas and California, Weinkauf began working as a machinist in southern California with plans of racing himself. But the local racing scene there wasn't as enjoyable as he had experienced back home, and Weinkauf made the decision to build a car that winter and return to Huset's, this time as a driver. That spring, he quit his job and hauled his new racecar back to compete at Huset's. When the season ended, he returned to California, beginning an annual ritual. For the next ten years, Weinkauf would usually build a new car over the winter, quit his job in the spring to race at Huset's, and return to his old job or find new work in the fall. He spent the summers on the family farm and used his skills as a machinist to make racing parts such as torsion bars and wheels to sell to racers to help him make ends meet. After finally settling in California year-round, Weinkauf built a sprint car that he raced at the local tracks and in Arizona. Following his marriage and starting a family, he competed for the last time at Ascot Park near Los Angeles in 1981.