

## GEORGE BOOM

When the newly formed Sioux Falls Stock Car Association purchased Huset's Speedway from Til Huset in 1958, many things needed to be obtained before its first race was held. One of those items was the need for an ambulance service. Newly named track promoter and fellow Hall of Famer Fred Buckmiller approached Sioux Falls funeral home director and local ambulance service provider George Boom. Buckmiller requested Boom's aid in providing ambulance service at the track. Boom, who had previously supplied assistance to nearby Soo Speedway just east of Sioux Falls, happily obliged. Beginning that day and continuing for the next 17 years, Boom provided his ambulance service free of charge to the speedway. While never receiving any monetary compensation for his service, Boom said he received much in return from the track. "I enjoyed the racing," Boom said. "But more important, I enjoyed getting to know all the guys who were involved, particularly the pit crews. They are the ones that make the races happen. Like in any type of competition, it's much more interesting when you know the ones who are competing." Buckmiller showed his gratitude for Boom's assistance by erecting a "George Boom Funeral Home" billboard. While most signage at the track lined the backstretch, Buckmiller placed this billboard apart from the others in the fourth turn, claiming that not only did he want the fans to see it, but that he wanted the drivers to see it as well. Compared to today's rescue teams, Boom brought little assistance of his own and depended on volunteers at the track. He said he was grateful for the Sioux Falls Township Volunteer Fire Department and others, who aided him when needed. Boom was a great friend of auto racing at Huset's Speedway. He devoted much of his time and resources to help the track become what it is today.