

GIB BOHLMAN

While he doesn't rank near the top in races won in his era, Gib Bohlman was known as a man who got "the most from the least" in his racing equipment and was a true ambassador of the sport of auto racing. The Sioux Falls resident owned, built and drove his cars from 1954 to 1966. With a wife and six children to support, little money was left to fund a racing operation. But a combination of ingenuity and driving and mechanical skills usually found Bohlman in the Top 10 or 15 in points at the end of each racing season at the old Soo Speedway just east of Sioux Falls, Huset's Speedway and Lake County Speedway in Madison, South Dakota, despite competing against much better funded racing teams. Bohlman would often make trips across the state with his wife, Carol (who often helped work on the car), in search of cheap or free used parts for their race car - the familiar white, Crosley-bodied, Hudson-powered machine with the red No. 3. Bohlman was one of the original shareholders of Huset's as well as a rules committee member and spent many hours of volunteer work improving the track as well as encouraging people to attend the races. He received a commendation for his bravery when he unstrapped and pulled a fellow driver, Les Baughman, from a burning wreck, and was also remembered for saving a fellow serviceman's life in WW II.