

MARV DE WALL

Marv DeWall drove in his first race in 1952 at Estelline, South Dakota in a 1934 Ford coupe appropriately called "The Wild One". DeWall won his first feature in 1954 at Mitchell, South Dakota and started racing at Casino Speedway in Watertown, South Dakota the same year. When he ran Casino, he arrived in the family 1940 Ford coupe full of kids and a wife. He scooted the family to the grandstand, removed the headlights and raced the coupe. When the racing was over he replaced the headlights and family and drove the "racer" back home. He was a three-time Casino track champion from 1955-57 and also won the Tri-State title three years in a row from 1957-59. The Tri-State schedule included South Dakota tracks in Watertown and Aberdeen, and Fargo, N.D. In 1964 Marv moved to Jackson, Minnesota to be closer to the racing action at the storied fast half-mile track. In a remarkable accomplishment of driving different kinds of race cars, DeWall won Jackson championship titles in 1961 and 1962 in full bodied stock cars, 1966 and 1971 in supermodifieds, and was the sprint car champion in 1978, 1980 and 1981. A seven-time track champion in three divisions of race cars is a record that will not soon be eclipsed. In 1980, Huset's ran sprint cars weekly for the first time as the age of the supermodified had ran its course. DeWall won the Huset's sprint car championship in 1980 to become the first sprint car champion at the speedway. In addition to his many track championships, he also won the first Jackson Sprint Car Nationals in 1979 and won fair features at Spencer, Iowa and Huron, South Dakota, as well as the Sioux Empire Fair in Sioux Falls. DeWall was a very superstitious racer and abhorred the color green. During his racing career at Huset's, one of his pit crew members arrived wearing a green t-shirt. DeWall ripped the shirt off the pit crew member, threw it on the ground and stomped it with both feet, poured gasoline over the wrinkled shirt, ignited it into a ball of flames, snuffed out the flames and took the ashes outside the pit area and buried them in the parking lot. DeWall drove in competition for the final time at Rapid City, South Dakota in 1989, ending an astonishing 37-year career. The DeWall name lived on in sprint car racing for a number of years at Huset's as sons Doug and Gary competed weekly with the familiar DeWall trademark No. 16.