

TOM VAN ANNE

Tom Van Anne was an employee at Huset's for 40 years and spent about 20 years directing the track's racing program. Van Anne was born into auto racing as his father, Bob, promoted races in Rock Rapids, Iowa, and later at the old Soo Speedway east of Sioux Falls before passing away when Tom was 12. At the age of 17, Van Anne introduced himself to Huset's manager Fred Buckmiller, who had known Tom's father well. Buckmiller offered him a part-time position at the track doing odd jobs such as picking up trash and mowing the grass. Soon Van Anne began to fill in when there was a need for an extra official and eventually became a full-time member of the officiating crew. He worked not only at Huset's but at a number of other tracks where Huset's promoted special events, including South Dakota stops in Aberdeen, Huron, Parker, Vermillion, along with Minot, North Dakota, and Spencer, Iowa. He also spent time as the flagman at speedways in Madison, Rock Rapids, Iowa, and Jackson, Minnesota. Van Anne eventually became the director of the Huset's racing program, a position he held until his retirement in 2008. Under his guidance, the track gained a reputation for running a swift and efficient racing program. While faced with frequently making difficult decisions, he earned the respect of the competitors and his fellow officials with his dedication to the task.