

# The Preservationist

The Member Newsletter of the Elkhart Lake Historic Race Circuits Preservation Society

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## Summer Dinner Social Draws Record Attendance

Over one hundred and fifty Preservation Society Members and guests set a record for attendance at the summer Dinner Social held on Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at the beautiful Osthoff Conference Center concurrent with the July Vintage Festival. A cash bar opened at 5:30 where members and guest enjoyed the usual camaraderie and socializing.

On display for all to admire were two unique sports cars, a 1959 Porsche 356 A Convertible belonging to Dr. Richard Burgman and a one of a kind, all alloy 1957 Austin Healey 100-6 owned by Jim Gregg, built in England from original components by John Chattham and Nick Howell  
*(Courtesy of Tom Kovacs at Fourintune).*

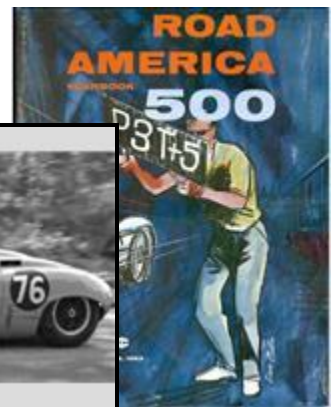


*Record attendance as Preservation Society members and guest fill the Osthoff Conference Center.*

At 7:30 participants lined up for a delicious buffet dinner featuring a choice of chicken or pork and all the trimmings. The Osthoff staff did an outstanding job of making sure that everyone had more than enough to eat.

The program for the evening featured Tom Schultz, Road America Historian, as moderator for Bill Wuesthoff and Augie Pabst. Bill and Augie shared their memories of the early days of racing at Road America and the 1963 Road America 500 where Augie was a surprise co-driving with Bill in Ollie Schmidt's under 2 liter Elva Mark VII-Porsche in which they won the race over a field of larger, heavier and more powerful Ferraris, Cobras, Jaguars and Corvettes. It was an very entertaining and memorable evening enjoyed by all.

*The 1963 Road America 500 winning Elva-Porsche Mk VII pictured below.*



## Lifetime Memberships

Augie Pabst and his son, Augie Pabst III became the first Lifetime Members of the Elkhart Lake Historic Race Circuits Preservation Society in July of this year,. The Pabst family is well known for its long participation in motor sports and they have been loyal supporters of the Society since its inception. We are extremely proud to welcome them both as our first Lifetime Members.



## Bank Marker Dedication

The Preservation Society joined with The National Exchange Bank to erect a historical marker honoring the Village citizens whose vision foresaw that SCCA sponsored open road sports car racing could change the future for the Village of Elkhart Lake. The bronze Historical Marker was installed and dedicated on Friday evening July 13<sup>th</sup> and may be seen on the north exterior of the Elkhart Lake Branch of the National Exchange Bank. It was in this building, the location of the Bank of Elkhart Lake in 1949, that members of the SCCA met with then Bank President, Jim Johnson and the concept of community supported road races in Elkhart Lake was born.



*Left to right, Alan Rudnick, Mary Lou Soffa, Mary Dalhaimer and John Calhoun in front of the newly installed historical maker.*

Present for the dedication were Alan Rudnick, Village President; Mary Lou Soffa, Vice President of National Exchange Bank & Trust;. Mary Dalhaimer, Operations Officer, National Exchange Elkhart Lake branch along with John Calhoun and Mark Pfaller II, President and Vice President of the Elkhart Lake Historic Race Circuits Preservation Society respectively. The Preservation Society thanks the National Exchange Bank and Trust Co. for its support and contribution.

## Fall Dinner Social

The fall Dinner-Social is planned for Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup> in Elkhart Lake. A cash bar and social gathering is scheduled starting at 5:30 pm and dinner is scheduled for 7:00 pm. The program will feature Burdette “Berdie” Martin Jr., a sports car legend and a longtime member of the Chicago Region of the Sports Car Club of America.

Berdie raced in over thirty events from 1954 to 1962 driving and co-driving a variety of cars beginning in an MG-TC working his way up to a Cooper Climax Formula car in which he won at Wilmot Hills in 1991. He was friend of Frank Nichols, Elva founder and owner, and was an Elva distributor, racing Elva sports cars in many of his races,

*Berdie at the 1959 12 hours of Sebring, in an Elva Mk IV, He almost went over here but managed to get the four*



Martin served as Chief Steward of the United States Grand Prix as well as SCCA’s two most successful racing series, the Can-Am and the Trans-Am, during their glory years. He is a previous recipient of the SCCA’s highest honor, the Woolf Barnato Award.

After leaving the SCCA staff, Berdie became head of the Automobile Competition Committee of the United States (ACCUS), the arm of the FIA that handles, among other things, international licensing for drivers living in the United States and wanting to race in Europe. We are honored to have him as our guest speaker.

Be sure to attend the fall Dinner Social and make your reservations early as this should be one of the most interesting programs of the entire year.