

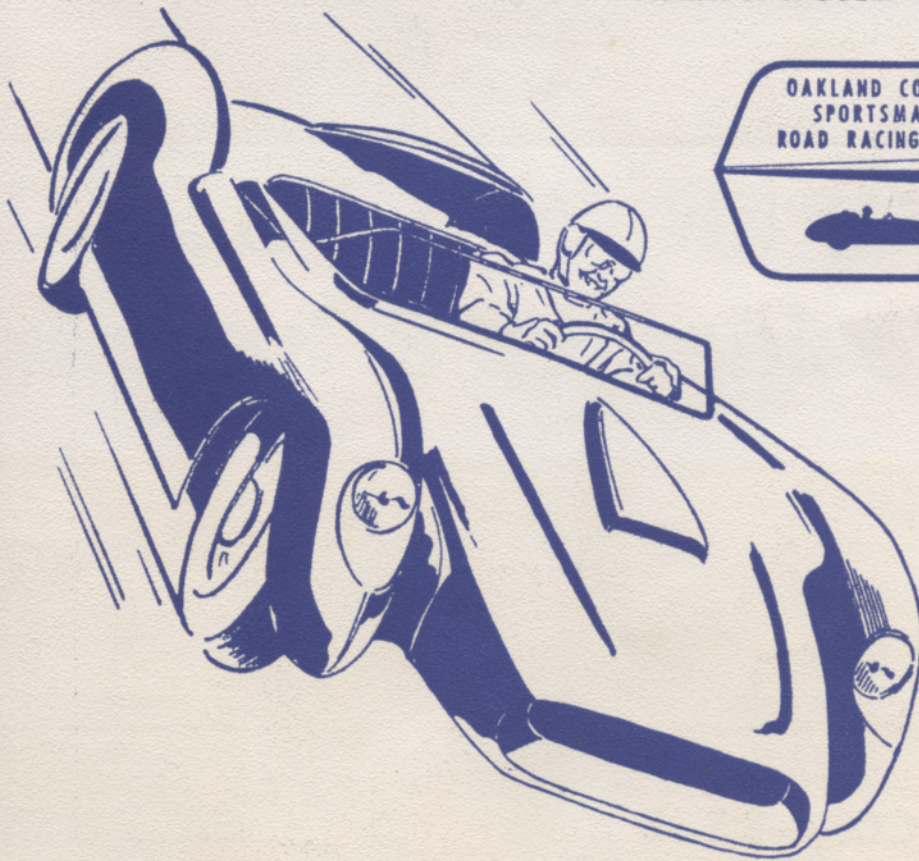


FIRST ANNUAL

INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW

SPONSORED BY

OAKLAND COUNTY SPORTSMENS ROAD RACING CLUB



**OFFICAL
PROGRAM
50c**

MICHIGAN STATE FAIRGROUNDS

APRIL 17-18-19

1959

Welcome to Our First Auto Show

We wish to thank you for your patronage in helping the Oakland County Sportsman's Road Racing Club and Oakland County Sportsman's Road Racing Club Corporation stage this International Auto Show which we hope will grow into one of the big events on the spring schedule in the Detroit area.

We have worked long and hard to make it a success and believe we have succeeded to the extent that our patrons are seeing more foreign-made, sports and vintage cars under one roof than ever before in the Motor City.

We hope that you have enjoyed your tour of the exhibits and have taken advantage of the opportunity to view and inspect the numerous unusual cars. This is only a sample of what we have in mind for next year when we hope to secure all the latest models of all cars and have them here for the first time.

The success of this venture has been due to the tremendous efforts of the entire membership who have been working overtime in the past month, securing cars, getting exhibits and doing everything possible to make the show as interesting as possible.

It isn't the work of any single individual but rather the concerted efforts of a group and we wish to thank every single one that contributed so much of his or her time.



LESLIE SMITH, CONTROLLER

And if you have time, drop out at our racing course near Waterford on U. S. 10 any Saturday and Sunday. We are sure that you'll be amazed at the skill of our members as they drive around the course and make the many hairpin turns. We are in business every weekend and you are welcome to attend any of the programs.

Once again, thanks to all and we hope that your patronage will enable the club to start a sizeable trust fund for the three tiny sons of the late Ed Lawrence, a charter member of the Club and who was serving as show chairman at the time of his tragic death on March 20.

Sincerely,

Leslie Smith,
Corporation Controller.

In Memorium

EDWIN P. LAWRENCE III

Born — Nov. 9, 1924

Died — March 20, 1959



The tragic death of Ed Lawrence, charter member of the Oakland County Sportsman's Road Racing Club, took one of

the most enthusiastic sports car lovers in the nation from the club rolls. He was chairman of the first Detroit International Auto Show when his life was snuffed out in a spin and fire while taking a practice run for the annual endurance race at Sebring, Fla. It was his first appearance in the big classic and Ed wanted to get the feel of the track and get acquainted with his car when he spun on a hairpin turn with the tragic result. He was one of the prime movers in the organization of the OCSRR and saw one of his lifetime ambitions realized in the construction of the sports car racing strip near Waterford Twp. He is survived by his wife, Joan, and three sons, Mark, 2; Kent, 1; and Scott, five weeks. They are the reason why the OCSRRRC has devoted so many hours of hard work to make this show a success. All of the club's profits will be used to set up a trust fund for the youngsters. The OCSRRRC hope to get the fund off to a flying start as a memorial to a member who had done so much for them through his years of association with and in developing the sports car racing to its high level in the Detroit area.

OCSRRC Started Nine Months Ago To Give Sports Cars Own Course



PRESIDENT HARRY BARNES

The Oakland County Sportsman's Road Racing Club, sponsors of the first Detroit International Auto Show, was organized less than a year ago but already is rated as the most enthusiastic sports car club in the midwest.

It has a membership of more than 225, all interested in competing in the events scheduled for the 1.3 mile strip located on 80 acres of the Oakland County Sportsmen's Club acreage in Temperance Twp. near Waterford and Pontiac.

The Sportsmen's Club was anxious to extend its activities and, after considerable study, decided to invite one of the many sports car groups to lease part of the land with the idea of constructing a racing course.

With such enthusiasts as Bob Gubbins, Lester Smith, the late Ed Lawrence and Harry Barnes back of the plan, it wasn't anytime at all until more than 300 sports car owners and drivers attended a meeting to listen to the preliminary plans.

The Michigan Sports Car Club asked for and was given permission to hold a rally on the turf, making the course as they started the first event. More than 60 cars competed in that event.

Then the Corvette Club of Detroit was given a chance to test the area and see if it was suitable for the construction of a racing course.

All of these preliminaries led to the organization of a loosely knit group that worked together to cut a course out of the 80 acres, digging down to the gravel base and then racing on the strip as it was.

However, this brought complaints about the huge amount of dust being raised by the cars and once again members of the Sportsmen's Club stepped into the situation and suggested the organization of a permanent club. It was started and built up a membership of 225 in a short time.

Then came the matter of asphaltting the track and eliminating the complaints about dust.

At this point 16 members formed the Oakland County Sportsman's Road Racing Corporation, a non-profit group, and pledged a total of \$12,000 to get the job done. The corporation is incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan.

The Corporation agreed to bankroll the necessary improvements with the understanding that the money would be returned as funds were raised from the weekly events and other programs but with a stipulation that no interest would be charged. That's how interested the incorporators were in seeing the project succeed.

Then it elected officers including; President Harry Barnes, Vice President Bob Gubbins, Secretary Dick Norton, Treasurer Anthony Peters and Controller Lester Smith.

The track was paved to a length of 7,510 feet with a width of 12½ feet and members hope to increase it to more than 40 feet wide within the next two years to make it one of the best sports car racing courses east of New York.

The corporation has a lease with the Sportsmen's Club with an option to renew and with the understanding that all improvements revert back to the owners if the lease is ever abandoned.

The course is enclosed with 3600 feet of safety fence, has a specially built judges' stand that is eight feet square and eight feet off the ground and all glass enclosed.

The Road Racing Club sponsors weekly events with runs each Saturday and Sunday and competition every third week.

It is presenting a series of six "On Your Marque" sports car trials during the spring and early summer and then will swing into longer events once the weather breaks and summer has arrived.

The "marque" trials started in mid-March and continued through April with the final two listed for April 25 and 26.

There is a full crew of officials on hand at all times including starter, timers, flagmen and inspectors who keep the course under control and clear whenever an event is underway.

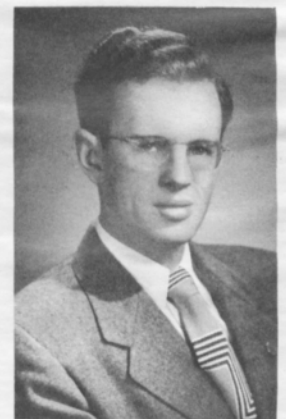
Competition is in six classes and the club has added a new division for modified go-carts for men only. These unique machines, which consist of nothing more than a frame, four wheels, brakes and an engine of the same type as that on a lawn mower, have been clocked at speeds up to 80 miles per hour.

They are the newest sensation in the sports car competition and currently are the biggest thing on the West Coast.

Club officials had numerous requests to stage go-car events and finally gave in after taking a poll of the entire membership.

It is this Road Racing Club that is behind this year's Auto Show. Originally it planned on using the proceeds to improve the course but after the tragic death of charter member Ed Lawrence, members voted unanimously to use all of the profits to set up a trust fund for the three tiny sons of the popular driver.

That's why they have been working so hard to make this show a success—they want to have a good-sized sum to start the fund, for the youngsters are still babies with ages of 2, 1 and five weeks. What better way to use funds than to aid three boys who will never have an opportunity to say they really knew their father—he left them when they were still too young to realize what was happening.



SECRETARY RICHARD S. NORTON



SNOW DOESN'T hold back members of the Road Racing Club who are shown getting lined up for a race around the course after clearing the paved strip of six inches of the white stuff. All the drivers need is a bit of sun, a clear track and they don't care how cold it is—they just want to get out there and drive around the winding course as many times as possible in one afternoon.



This Duesenberg "J" with an entirely new 1959 special body and chassis is one of the show pieces of the first Detroit International Auto Show. Owner Mike Kollins, of Birmingham, devoted seven years of hard work and thousands of dollars in turning the 1930 Duesenberg "J" into the beautiful car shown here. It has a value of \$35,000 and would take much more than that to pry it loose from Owner Kollins.



SPINNING AROUND the course in his Corvette in preparation for one of the weekly events is Navy Lt. Les Morisett who holds the track lap record with an elapsed time of 101.7 seconds for the 1.3 miles. The pictures gives one an idea of the turns and twists on the club's course.



CHECKING ENTRIES at one of the weekly "On Your Marque" trials of the OCSRRC are four officers who do their stint in the judges stand. The group: (from left) Robert Moody, publicity chairman; Robert Clift, Trustee; Dick Norton, Secretary-Treasurer; and Sue Harrison, show ticket chairman.

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