

## Eddie MacDonald

EDDIE MACDONALD SR.

Born: April 30, 1930 - Maine

1947 – First race he went to was with his date (and future wife Ester). He said it took a while to figure out why a number 8 car would start in front of a number 2 car ... and so on. "We thought cars were, or should be, numbered in order of starting positions."

1948 – Drove in his first race. His primitive car had a simpler version of today's fuel cells. "It was an old GI war can, wrapped within an old Coke sign."

1949 – First bad wreck. They were going to cut him out with a blow-torch while gas was spilling everywhere. Half conscious and bleeding like a stuck pig, he was able to convince the safety crew to turn off the torch.

1959 – Moving to Columbus, Georgia, thanks to the Uncle Sam, Eddie won the 1959 Georgia State Modified Championship.

1964 – Won the 1964 State of Georgia Sportsman Championship.

1966 – Ventured into the GN (Nextel Cup in 1966), finishing in the top 20 at Daytona in a very independent car.

1980's worked as flagman in some South Georgia tracks, including the old Thunder Bowl in Valdosta.

1990 – Began his own racing circuit called the SGOWMA, or the "South Georgia Open Wheel Modified Association." For three years he simplified racing – Cheaper tires, economic engine set-ups, and nerf bars to protect the equipment.

Motto was "Race Hard to Win and Be Friends"

Historian Mike Bell summed it up best. "Eddie Mac" probably has raced over a hundred different tracks with twice that number of wins. He would find a way to get around you, politely or not. He wasn't afraid of anything. He enjoyed racing against Tiny Lund at the old Brunswick, Georgia Golden Isle Speedway more than anywhere. The two were like Mutt and Jeff of racing: and had a mutual respect and admiration for one another. Even though Tiny was twice the size of Eddie, behind the wheel, they were very much alike.