

Roz Howard

ROSWELL "ROZ" HOWARD SR.

Born: New Year's Day, 1920.

1937 – Joined the CCC and honed these skills into a full certified mechanic, which he used in 1942 in the Army's motor pool.

1946 – Borrowed a friend's car and went to a race carved from a Macon cornfield. After flipping three times...he was hooked.

1950's – Raced with the Southern Racing Enterprise Circuit, winning many feature events.

1957 – Won the MARC (Midwest Assoc. for Race Cars / now ARCA) Southern Late-Model Points Championship, which included winning the Labor Day event at Atlanta's Lakewood Speedway.

1960 – Teamed with driver Joe Lee Johnson and Hall of Fame mechanic Paul McDuffie. Ran only three NASCAR Grand National (now Nextel Cup), finishing twice in the top ten.

1960 – Shared mechanic duties with McDuffie at the Southern 500, where, while standing on pit row, McDuffie and two others were killed in the infamous crash of Roy Tyner and Bobby Johns.

In the spring of 1958, while driving home from three days of races in the Carolinas, the defending Late Model Champion fell asleep at the wheel as he neared Augusta, Georgia. He hit a bridge, but luckily survived. Wearing a body cast for much of the year, and refusing to let doctors remove his leg, the defending champion decided to give up racing, with little left to prove.

But as he told us, "I've had a great career, won a championship and a bunch of races. But most of all met some of my best friends.