

the words of this writer -- not Charlie Padgett. For, when you pass this unassuming and modest fellow on the streets of Pickens County, you would never know that he even raced, much less that he was such a persistent winner and frequent points champion.

Bobby Allison, Tiny Lund, Red Farmer, Bill Elliott, Leon Sells, Charlie Mincey, Jody Ridley, Luther Carter, Gober Sosebee, Buck Simmons, Jack Smith, Jack Jackson, Doug Kenimer -- these were some of the names that Charlie Padgett competed with at many races over the years.

It seemed Charlie Padgett was born for racing. He was about 17 years old when he entered his first race in a 1934 Ford coupe. His second time on the track, he won the feature race. By 1952, he had teamed with Sam Lindsey, the former Service Manager at Lawson Chevrolet in Jasper.

Over the next 29 years, he continued racing cars and, not only winning races, but winning points championships as well. In 1955, Padgett was the Modified Sportsman Champion in the north Georgia area. From 1965 through 1968, he won the championship in Athens each year.

Padgett raced at many different tracks over the years. Some of these include Dalton, Dixie Speedway, Canton International, Athens, Peach Bowl, and Smyrna Beach, Florida. It was at Smyrna Beach, racing Lamar Moody's 1955 Chevrolet in a NASCAR Sportsman race, that Padgett lost when Tiny Lund spun him out. Looking back, Padgett could smile about it. "He was too big to whip," recalled Padgett.

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ABOVE: Charlie Padgett today. (Photo: G. Reid)

BELOW: Padgett in Bill Chastain's number 15 car.



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ABOVE AND BELOW: Charlie Padgett with long time track announcer, Jimmy Mustella.



PADGETT / continued

In 1979, Charlie Padgett retired from racing, driving only once or twice after that. In 1981, he opened a go-cart track in Jasper and ran that for the next twenty years before leasing it out.

If you talk to those who know Charlie Padgett, they will tell you he's a winner both on and off the track.

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AT RIGHT: Charlie Padgett with his wife, Wylene.

