

Harry, what's this in my ear?

By: Gerald Hodges

Smockey Yunkin, who died in May 2001, just before his 78th birthday was a legendary racing insider, owner, mechanic and inventor. A native of Pennsylvania, he joined the Army Air Corps and flew B-17s during World War II.

Most of his life was spent in a bygone era and the shame of it is that the rich and early history of NASCAR is so relatively unknown that many readers have never heard of the drivers who ran for Yunkin.

There are few drivers today who could match his list of who's who for talent. Men like Herb Thomas, Jim Rathmans, Marshall Teague, Paul Goldsmith, Curtis Turner, Fireball Roberts, Joe Weatherly, Darryl Deringer, Buck Baker were just a few who drove for him.

One of the great regrets of Yunkin's life was not being able to talk his friend Roberts in to retiring, once it became apparent Roberts no longer had the desire to race. Roberts died from injuries suffered in the 1964 World 600 which would have been his final race if he had survived.

Yunkin was never politically correct, especially when it came to NASCAR. In his book "Best Damn Garage in Town," he talks about the France family.

One day he was talking with Bill France Sr. about his son, Bill Jr. "It will take him five years in fifth grade to get an idio's license," said Yunkin. "No, I think he can do it in four," said the elder France.

Even before he entered stock car racing, Yunkin had a pretty amazing life. He had an alcoholic and abusive father, who died when he was in high school, and a demanding mother.

Growing up on a farm, he became convinced that the family horse was out to kill him. He bought an old Dodge truck and converted it into a tractor.

He gained the name Smockey while driving his Indian motorcycle during a race at Langhorne Speedway. The announcer didn't know his name, but his big Indian was putting out a lot of smoke, so he just called him, "Smockey."

After the war, he left the service and settled briefly in New Jersey. One day he announced to his wife he didn't like the cold and was moving to Daytona Beach, FL. He gave her the option of coming along, and expressed regret that she chose to do so.

He bought some land, which turned out to be less than a bargain.

When the river was at high tide, the shop flooded, so he built a dike to protect his investment. An alligator from the river served as a mascot until a drunken regular messed with it and was bitten. From those humble beginnings a multi-million dollar business sprang.

In addition to his NASCAR accomplishments, which included 57 wins, he had a long-term love affair with the Indianapolis 500 and other racing circuits.

In 1950, he and drivers Marshall Teague and Les Snow set out in a pair of Hudson Hornets to run the "Carrera Panamerica" or "Mexican Road Race."

In the same race Bill France Sr. and Curtis Turner drove a 1949 Nash. "We crossed the border at Brownsville, Texas, into Matamoros and the roads were good," said Yunkin. "It was driving one of the Hudsons and we were towing the other. It was a good paved road, then wham, within two or three miles, we're on a trail that winds up at a river."

"The river was up and it cost us five bucks to get across on a barge that was pulled by one puny, skinny cable."

After making it to Mexico City, the team left their cars at the local Hudson dealership and went to a hotel.

"The taxi driver took us to a big house, called, 'Angels,' he said. 'Angels cost \$15 a day with room, meals, booze, dirty movies and hookers included.'"

"The race started about daylight. There were about 10 classes. The hot dogs or fastest drivers left first, so they wouldn't run over the slower cars. It was a real road course. The way they kept animals, people and cars back was to station soldiers within sight of each other."

"If an animal or human attempted to cross during the forbidden hours, the soldiers shot to kill. A young man, right on the outskirts of Tuxtla crossed the road, and damn if the soldiers didn't shoot him."

"At every leg of the race we had things to fix. We carried everything we needed in a two-wheel trailer, including parts and fuel."

"One night Harry was driving and horses were lined up across the road in front of us, about 20 of them and all the riders had rifles. Twenty rifles were aimed at the windshield. I reached over and turned the key off. Harry got it stopped about five feet from the end of the rifle barrels."

"It cost us about nine or ten bucks to 'get permission' to continue on our mission."

"That night after we got to a checkpoint, we ran into a bunch of drunk bandits. I was sitting in the passenger seat, and one of them stuck a pistol in my right ear. As the driver men who had machetes, moved around the front of the car, Harry said, 'I'm going to floor it.'"

"I said, Harry, before you do, check over here and see if you can tell what this is that's sticking in my ear."

Herschel McGriff of Portland, Oregon won the race. Marshall and Les ended up seventh in the stock car class and thirteenth overall.

The Mexican Road Race was one of the wild chapters in Smockey's career.

By 1954, he had two major businesses: racing and trucking. He continued as a heavy duty truck dealer until 1987.

He devoted years to developing alternate fuel systems and synthetic oil.

He spent another 30 years in the oil fields of South America working in pipelines, transportation and helping solve problems in the oil and gas fields.

After his racing years, he spent most of his time working on his inventions and in the oil and gold fields of Ecuador. Along the way, he had a knack for finding fun and adventure in everything he did. Alcohol, women and speed were his main addictions. He eventually gave up alcohol, but he never got over the other two.

His daughter, Trish still runs the family business in Daytona Beach.



"What Saith the Scriptures"

I saw on the news a little while back about a "lesbian priest" filing a lawsuit over the adopting a baby. I think we could be pretty sure that this "priest" is in some denominational church. There are many denominations that have a separate priesthood for their groups. Now in the N.T. we find that all Christians are to serve as priests. In 1 Pt 2:5-9; "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. . . . But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: I prefer the N.T. order of things.

One final thought, lesbians, like homosexual men cannot reproduce. It would seem that if they "inherit" this lifestyle, as some claim, that such homosexuality would end, when the generation dies, since homosexuals and lesbians cannot reproduce among themselves. It takes the seed of a man and the seed of a woman to make a baby. Two women cannot make a baby, nor can two men make a baby. The truth is, this is a learned behavior, and it's sinful. Rom 1:26-27.

Providence church of Christ

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Web Site: www.WhatSaithTheScriptures.com

Time of Services: Sunday 10am Bible Study, Worship 10:40 & 6:00pm, Wednesday 7:00pm Radio program, Sunday 8am, 1460 AM

Printed below is a facsimile of PAGE 1 of the ballot which will be used in Roundstone, Conway and Climax precincts in the General Election in Rockcastle County on Tuesday, November 5th.

Norma Houk, County Clerk

SAMPLE BALLOT

Come and enjoy a
Trunk of Treats
Mareburg Baptist Church
parking lot
Thurs., Oct. 31st • 6 to 8 p.m.

Low-Income Home Heating Program

The cost of home heating is a problem for many low-income Kentuckians.

Your Community Action Agency, Daniel Boone Development Council, Inc. may be able to help. If you live in Rockcastle Co., apply at the DBDC office located at 105 E. Main St., Ashlee's House, in Mt. Vernon for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). Applications will be taken by the last name of the head of the household from November 4 through December 12, 2002. See the list below for your assigned day.

Bring with you (1) Social Security numbers for everyone living in the household; (2) Proof of your household's income for the preceding month; (3) Your most recent heating bills or verification from your landlord that the heating expenses are included in your rent. All eligible households that apply will receive assistance. Liquid resources cannot be over \$1500 and gross monthly income must be within the guidelines listed below. Households not receiving food stamps with no income will be required to fill out a self-declaration form prior to sign up date. DBDC will assure that persons who are working or commuting during the agencies typical business hours may apply for HEAP. Call 598-5127 for more information.

If Your Last Name Begins With

A apply on Nov. 4
B apply on Nov. 6
C apply on Nov. 12
D or E apply on Nov. 14
F or G apply on Nov. 18
H apply on Nov. 19
I or J apply on Nov. 21
K or L apply on Nov. 25

Income Guidelines

Household Size	Gross Mo. Income	Household Size	Gross Mo. Income
1	\$ 812	5	\$1,942
2	\$1,095	6	\$2,224
3	\$1,377	7	\$2,506
4	\$1,659	8	\$2,789

Add \$283 for each additional family member

GENERAL ELECTION HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2002		SHERIFF (Vote For One)
REPUBLICAN PARTY Straight Party Button	Darrell DOAN	34
DEMOCRATIC PARTY Straight Party Button	WRITE - IN	35
UNITED STATES SENATOR (Vote For One)		JAILER (Vote For One)
5 Mitch McCONNELL REPUBLICAN PARTY	James E. MILLER REPUBLICAN PARTY	37
6 Lois Combs WEINBERG DEMOCRATIC PARTY	WRITE - IN	38
7 WRITE - IN	CORONER (Vote For One)	
UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS 2nd Congressional District (Vote For One)		Bill DOWELL REPUBLICAN PARTY
9 Harold "Hal" ROGERS REPUBLICAN PARTY	WRITE - IN	41
10 Sidney Jane BAILEY DEMOCRATIC PARTY	COUNTY SURVEYOR (Vote For One)	
11 WRITE - IN	NO CANDIDATE	43
STATE SENATOR 14th Congressional District (Vote For One)		WRITE - IN
13 Barry METCALF REPUBLICAN PARTY	MAGISTRATE (Vote For One)	
14 Ed WORLEY DEMOCRATIC PARTY	Fred MULLINS JR. REPUBLICAN PARTY	46
15 WRITE - IN	WRITE - IN	47
STATE REPRESENTATIVE 20th Representative District (Vote For One)		CONSTABLE (Vote For One)
17 Danny R. FORD REPUBLICAN PARTY	Roger G. PIGO REPUBLICAN PARTY	49
18 J. Paul LONG JR. DEMOCRATIC PARTY	WRITE - IN	50
19 WRITE - IN		
PROPERTY VALUATION ADMINISTRATOR (Vote For One)		NONPARTISAN JUDICIAL BALLOT
21 Margaret OFFUTT REPUBLICAN PARTY		
22 WRITE - IN	JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT (Vote For One)	
COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE (Vote For One)		Joseph E. LAMBERT
24 Buzz CARLOFTIS REPUBLICAN PARTY	WRITE - IN	56
25 WRITE - IN	DISTRICT JUDGE (Vote For One)	
COUNTY ATTORNEY (Vote For One)		Michael L. HENRY
27 Jeffrey Thomas BURETTE REPUBLICAN PARTY	WRITE - IN	59
28 WRITE - IN	DISTRICT JUDGE (Vote For One)	
COUNTY CLERK (Vote For One)		Walter F. MAGUIRE
30 Norma HOUK REPUBLICAN PARTY	WRITE - IN	62
31 WRITE - IN		

BALLOT REVIEW BUTTON

INFORMATION WINDOW

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BALLOT ADVANCE BUTTON