

CARMAN PARTON

Pioneer - Oval Racing - Inducted 2009



By Brian Pratt

A 1966 news report got Carman Parton some front page publicity. He and **Columbian** newspaper columnist Alan Jay had laid down on the hood of Carman's early-late — The infamous early-late, numbered "W00", had the hand lettered phrase "watch W00 go thru" on its side — with crash helmets on, and drove through a flaming board wall.

Carman Parton had done the stunt before, the columnist wanted to find out more. Carman knew enough to keep his head down but the columnist lifted up to look. The broken nose was the story.

Carman Parton was known for more than his stunts even though he had done them others from the 1950s travelling with the Joie Chitwood Thrill Show.

Carman Parton won the early-late points championship at Langley Speedway in 1965, the first year of competition at the speedway. Grabbing three feature wins, the most in a class of cars where wrecks were common, so skill on the track to avoid the many crashes, and mechanical skill to hold what were pretty basic stock vehicles together in what was the class for beginners, was more than any other in the class for that year.

Carman Parton showed up at Digney Speedway in 1951, reportedly a veteran of Regina, Saskatchewan, stock car racing. He had finished second in the 1946 Model T championship and got another second in the 1949 stock car championships.

He didn't finish high in the points that or the next year but in 1955 he made it to the top ten, eighth in points. And the next year, 1956, he won the jalopy class points championship at Digney Speedway.

Later Carman was entered at demolition derbies at Callister Park

He disappeared from racing from 1957 through to the 1965 season to raise a family and work. He raced at Langley in 1965 and 1966 before again leaving the sport. In 1966, while not winning the championship, he was recognized by the Langley Auto Racing Association by winning the All



Carman with his car circa 1952 (Brian Pratt collection)

Round Member award.

With a pair of sons, Rocky and Cory, involved in the Penticton racing scene Carman came back one more season building a car for himself and his daughter, Jenny, to race in 1997.

Carman has also worked on show cars like a 1928 Model A and a Jaguar with a Corvette engine installed.

A self-proclaimed workaholic he still has a shop at his home near Kelowna and puts in a full working week at age 83.

Two championships plus the showmanship of his stunts help make Carman Parton a Greater Vancouver Motorsport Pioneer.

Oh yeah, when Alan Jay broke his nose in the 1966 stunt Carman slid off the hood as if knocked out. He wasn't. It was all part of the show.



Carman Parton