

## The Shanebrook "Big" Car

Constructed winter 1948-'49

Owner built, owner driver, owner owned, owner wrenched

Dayton Track Record held by Shanebrook in the Shanebrook Offy:

1 Lap 6/4/50 till 7/9/50 (broken by Ruttman)

8 Laps 6/4/50 till May 13, 1951 (cracked by Daywalt) \*(1)

Shoestring thin "Doc" Shanebrook, 6'4" tall and minimally financed, forced to do it himself, harbored a fierce desire to race which enabled him to take on the west coast professional chauffeurs with their fancy factory-built Kurtis Krafts. These cars were completely equipped, with professional drivers, professional mechanics, big (for the time) sponsorship, appearance money and expense accounts. Crafty old "Doc" Shanebrook was still able to excel against these formidable opponents.

The Midwest AAA 1951 standings reveal: \*(1)

1. Ruttman, the California flash in the Agajanian No. 98 Jr. car. \*(3)
2. Duane Carter, in Speed Age Magazine's Mechanic of the Year '51 Clay Smith's car \*(3)
3. Joe James in another California Special \*(3)
4. Shanebrook Offy, self-built, self-maintained, self-financed, 1st midwestern car from a do-it-yourself operation from Gary, Indiana, was 4th in Midwest AAA standings 1951 against this formidable and professional opposition. This finish gave Shanebrook the authority to carry the No. 4 designation throughout the 1952 season. This is as it appeared in most photographs, with its familiar Gaelic numerical configuration. \*(3)

After gaining a 12th in 1950, he was able to attain 4th place standing in 1951, a personal best. Shanebrook and the car dropped to 21st in 1952, and 31st in 1953. \*(1) \*(2)

On July 1, 1951, at Winchester, Indiana, he showed the intestinal fortitude to take the car on the track after both Cecil Green and Bill Mackey were killed in time trials, pulling to an incredible 4th place, with Duane Carter winning. \*(3) Again at Dayton on April 20, 1952, only 1.5 hours after the notorious 1st heat crash of Gordon Reid, which fatally injured three spectators and himself, Shanebrook went out again in the 2nd heat, capturing #2 spot after Gene Force. \*(4)

Needless to say, Shanebrook was the local favorite of the Midwest farm boys, because this showed anyone with the will, drive, determination, even short of funds, could get on the track and run with the big money sponsored drivers from the west coast.

Later, as previously mentioned, Shanebrook dropped steadily in the point standings. Deferring to his age, he had other drivers run the No. 4 Offy, including such luminaries as Daywalt, Scott, Linden, Russo, and Valkner. \*(6)