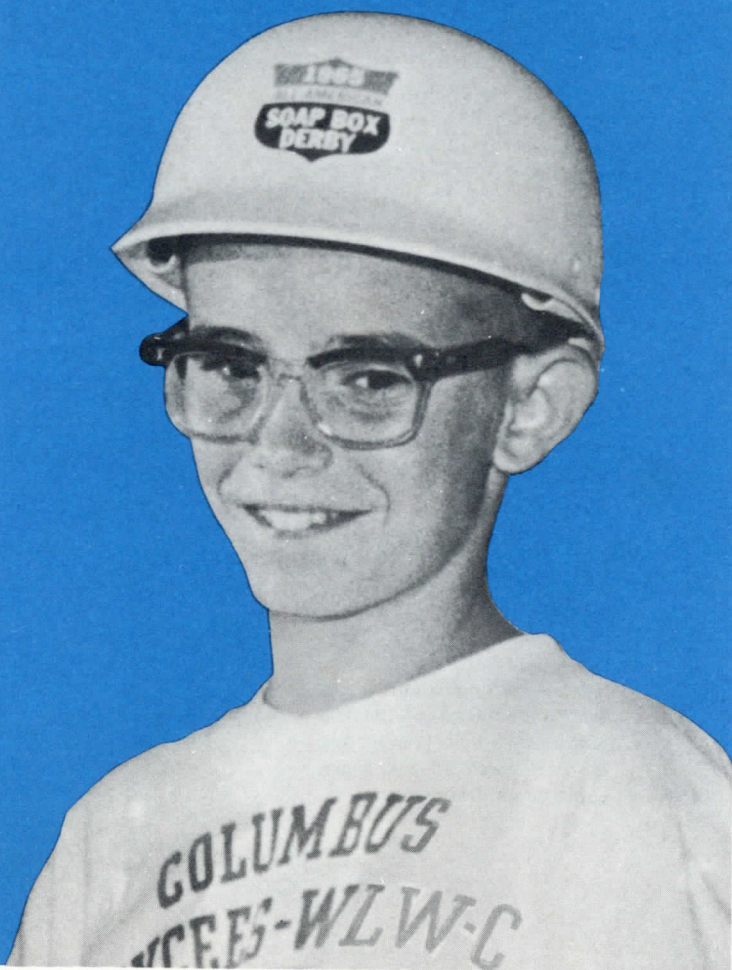
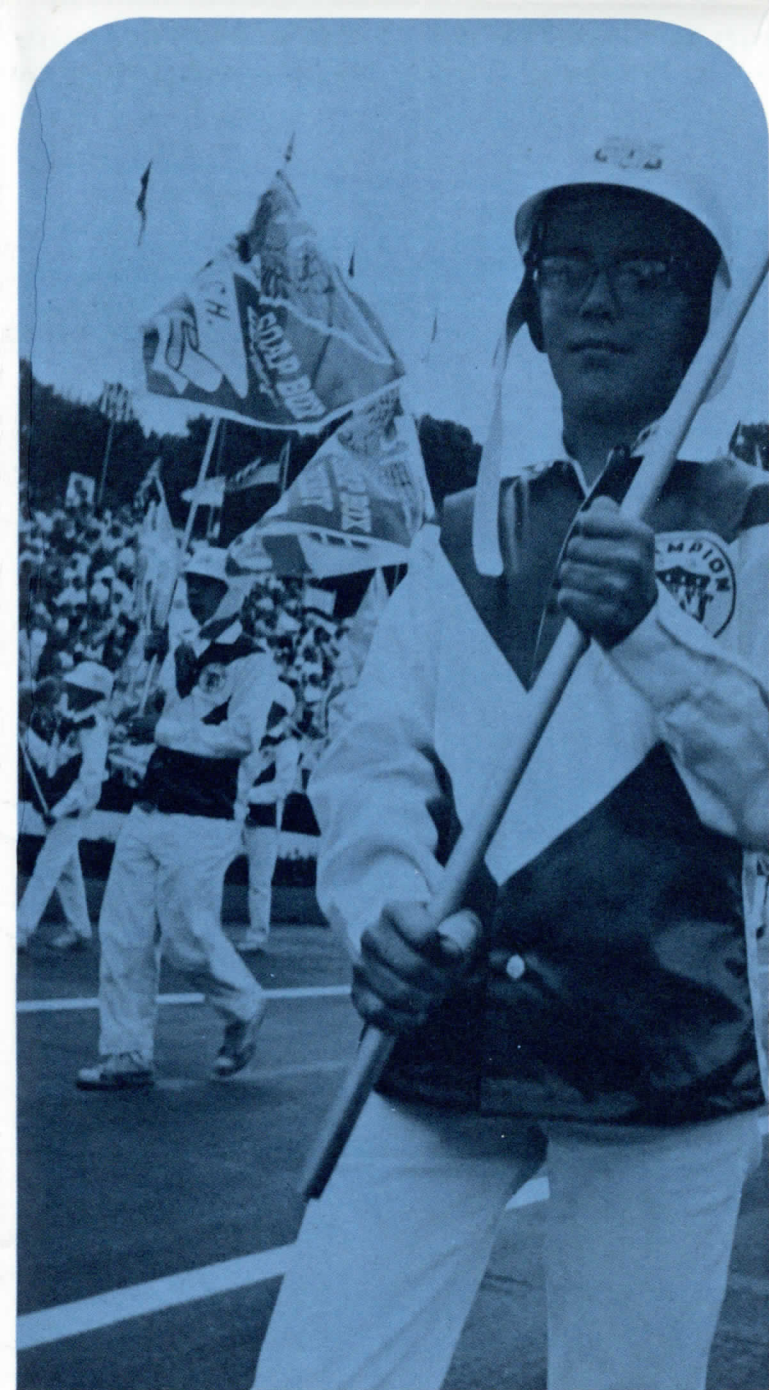


Hey guys!

come along with
me on a picture
tour of last year's
SOAP BOX DERBY

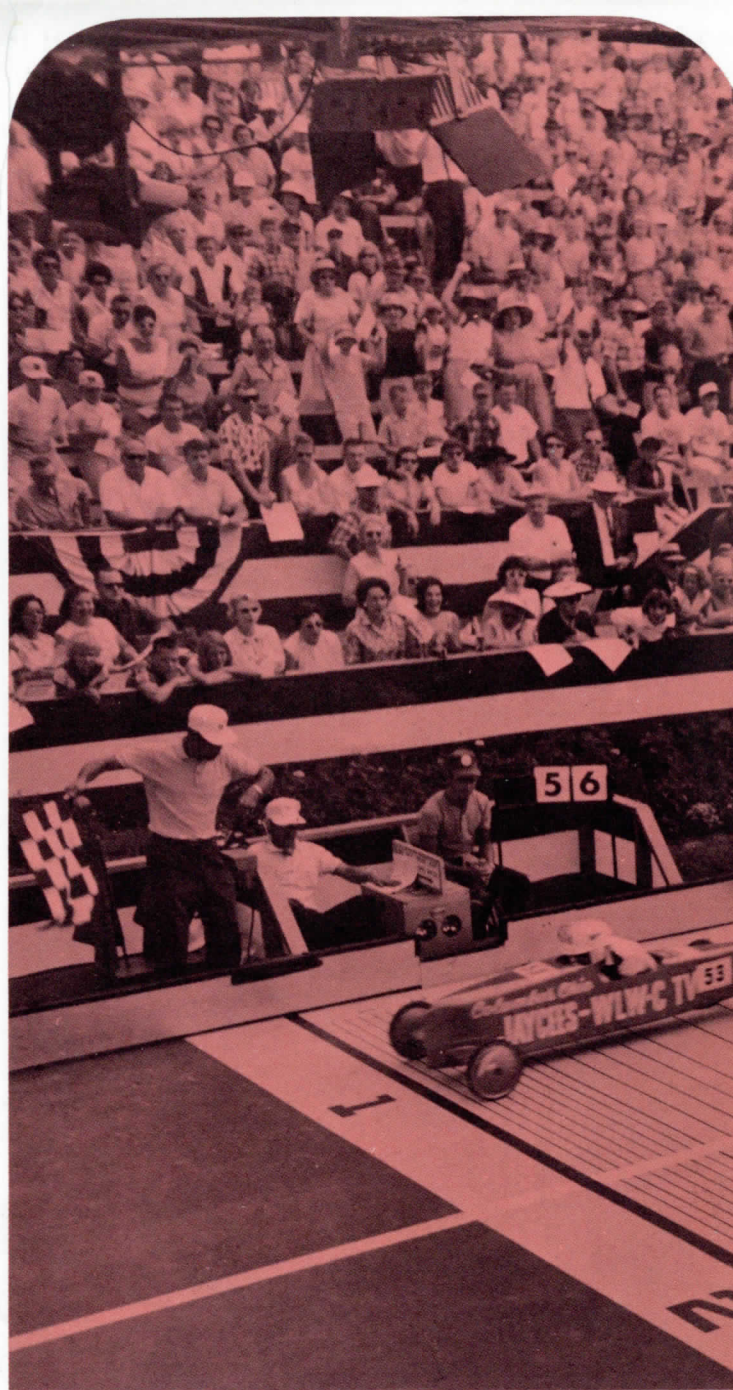


Gary Niederlander, City Champion from Columbus, Ohio.



Marching in the Parade of Champions

was a big thrill for all of us. There were dozens of bands in the parade, too, with clowns and bagpipers and everything. Stepping down the track carrying my city flag and hearing all those people cheering, I felt like I was practically ten feet tall. That's when my stomach felt like it was full of butterflies. Right behind us came the boys from other countries who were racing in the Soap Box Derby—Germany, Hawaii, Okinawa, Venezuela, the Philippines and Canada. Each of them rode down the track in a Corvette convertible with the top down. The celebrities in the parade were in open convertibles, too. And right behind them came Patrice Gaunder, the National Junior Miss Pageant winner.



Winning my first heat gave me a great feeling, but I don't remember much except keeping my head down and steering straight. I remember standing at the top of the hill next to my car, just before I went down the track. I saw the thousands of people in the stands and I really was nervous. But once I got behind the wheel, I forgot about everything except keeping my eyes on that white line going down the center of my lane. I really felt bad when I lost my next heat. But I remembered that I was still a champ, even if I lost. So I went over and sat in the box with the other guys who were out of the race and cheered for the boy who beat me.

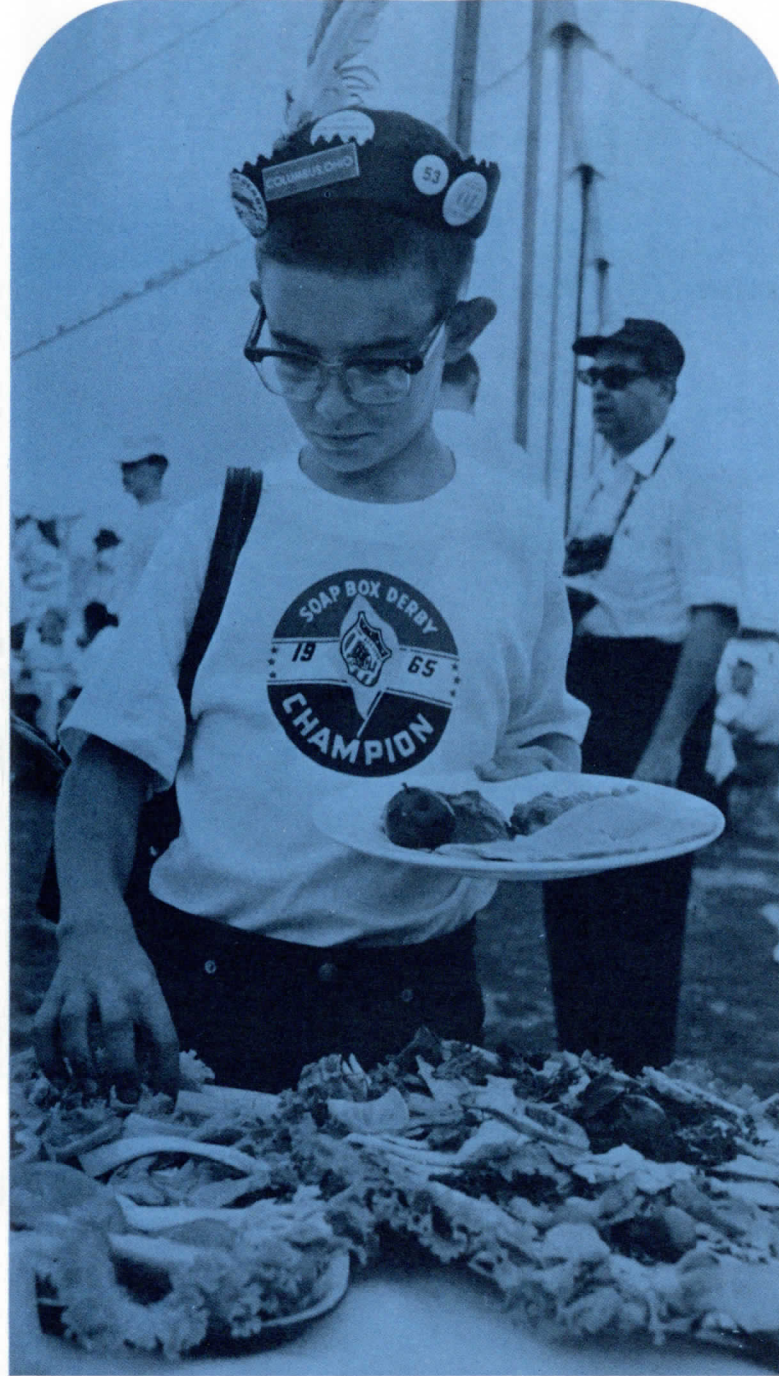


The Banquet of Champions was really sharp.

As we entered this big hall and took our seats on a platform the band was playing the Soap Box Derby March. After a delicious dinner, the celebrities and Chevrolet people gave speeches about what a fine thing the Soap Box Derby was for boys and what wonderful champions we were. We really felt like kings. Then came the big climax. The winners were called up on the stage to get their trophies and college scholarships. When it was over, I shook hands with all the friends I had made. We didn't say much because we all felt kind of sad that the Derby was over. I'll never forget it. And I don't think any of the other guys will either.



Winning the city championship plaque and a \$500 Savings Bond was about the biggest thing that ever happened to me . . . that and going to Akron, Ohio, to race in the All-American. And all those other prizes I got. Wow! I had lots of fun building my racer . . . and going to those parties put on by the sponsors. Another thing I liked was the way people started calling me Champ right away. My dad said every boy who races in the Soap Box Derby is a champ because of the things he learns and the great times he has. All I can say is, it sure felt good to cross that finish line first and hear all those people yelling for me.



The food was just great at Derbytown. That's where all the champions stayed the four days before the race. We lived in cabins just like we were camping. Man, did that outdoor living make us hungry! There was a sign outside the mess hall that said "THE BEST COOKS IN THE WORLD LIVE HERE." Not only was the food good, but there was plenty of it. Lucky for me I didn't have to watch my weight like some of the guys whose cars were right near the weight limit. You can see in this picture, I'm really loading up my plate.



This is the open-air chapel built right on top of a hill at Derbytown. It was just like going to my church at home, except it was outdoors. A chaplain held services every morning at 9 o'clock for all the guys and counselors who wanted to come. Sometimes after the services we would go swimming in this really great lake at the edge of the camp. Later in the week, Joe Bodrie, the famous fast-draw artist, came down to the beach and put on a swell show. He even got us into his quick-draw act and gave us some tips on gun safety.



The Oil Can Race was really exciting . . . and close, as you can see by the picture. It's right before the All-American when the celebrities race each other in comical-looking cars. We all guessed Fess Parker would win because he was bigger and heavier than Glenn Ford and Frankie Avalon. And he did! The night before the race we had this chat around the campfire and Fess Parker talked to us about being good sportsmen and how we were all champions no matter who won the big race.



Fess Parker gave me his autograph. He plays Daniel Boone on TV. Is he ever big! All the champions got to meet him. And we also met Frankie Avalon and Emmett Kelly, Jr., and Glenn Ford. We got their autographs and they talked to us just like they knew us. Emmett Kelly Jr., the clown, gave us all Kodak camera kits with film and flash bulbs and everything. We really appreciated this because we wanted to take some pictures to show all the people back home what a wonderful time we had.



Seventy counselors were with us at Derbytown. They were really great guys. They taught us to fly-fish and shoot a bow and arrow and ride a horse and all sorts of things a guy really wants to know how to do. Here's one of the counselors showing me how to fire a rifle. There were lots of other things to do, too. Like swimming, hiking, boating, basketball, badminton, volley ball, ping-pong . . . They even had a professional batting cage that you got inside with a bat and hit baseballs thrown from a machine. In one of the large buildings by the lake there was this really neat miniature race track and they gave each of us a racer to take home.



The Golden Stairway in Akron, Ohio, was where I got kissed by those girls. But before that, I had this really neat ride into town in an open convertible with a big motorcycle escort clearing the way for us with sirens going full blast! When we pulled up in front of Derby Headquarters, the band was playing and people were cheering and someone announced my name real loud over the loudspeaker, "Gary Niederlander, Champion from Columbus, Ohio." I walked up the Golden Stairway and waved to the crowd while photographers took my picture for my hometown newspaper. Boy was that cool!

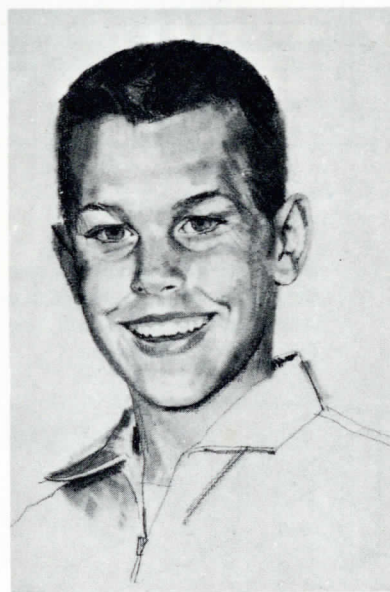
Here's a list of the All-American scholarships:

The winner receives a \$7,500 scholarship; second place, \$5,000; third place, \$4,000; fourth place, \$3,500; fifth place, \$3,000; sixth place \$2,500; seventh place, \$2,000; eighth place, \$1,500 and ninth place \$1,000. Plus special trophies for Best Designed racer, Best Constructed racer, Best Upholstered racer, Best Brakes and Fastest Heat.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN! Be sure to GET STARTED EARLY... IT'S EASY

All you have to do, if you are between 11 and 15, is bring your mom, dad or guardian to the nearest sponsoring Chevrolet dealership—you'll see the sign on the front window—and fill out an entry blank. They'll give you your 1966 Rules Book and you can get started building your racer.

You've seen how much fun it is. Now get started on the most thrilling summer you've ever had. Go Soap Box Derby!



Here is Robert Ellis Logan from Santa Ana, California, first place winner of the All-American Soap Box Derby.