

WARREN  
TRUMBULL  
CO.

SOAP  
BOX  
DERBY



1969

## HISTORY OF THE SOAP BOX DERBY

The first Soap Box Derby was held on August 3, 1958, with Walter Susa acting as first Derby Director. The race was held on Sunday, August 3, 1958 at a site on Rt. 45 just South of Lordstown. One hundred and two boys participated in the first race. Joseph Martin, 14, was the first winner, who went to win two heats at the Akron Derby on August 18, 1968.

The Second Annual Derby was held on Sunday, August 2, 1959 on Youngstown Road just East of the City limits. Derby Director was James Strub. There were 100 boys participating with Ronnie Noble, 13, winning the race.

The Third Annual Race was held on Sunday, July 24, 1960, with 93 boys participating. James Waldron was Derby Director. The race again was held at the Youngstown Road Site. Allen Frantz, 14, was the winner who went on to Akron to win his first heat.

The Fourth Annual Derby was held on July 23, 1961 with Ray C. (Red) Hutcheson, Director. The race, twice interrupted by showers, was won by Richard Maley, 14. One Hundred Forty Six boys Participated.

The Fifth Annual Derby was held on July 22, 1962 with 144 boys participating. George J. Gentithes was Derby Director with David Hank, who twice came in second place shrugged off defeat and disappointment in previous years and won the race.

The Sixth Annual Derby saw Herb Engster acting as Director with 134 boys participating at the Youngstown Road Site. The winner was LaMarr Benton, 15 who found the silver lining in the stormy skies on Sunday, July 14, 1963.

The Seventh Annual Derby was directed by Stanton Walker on July 19, 1964. One hundred thirty one boys raced with Charles Noble, 14, winning the race. Tom Noble, Chuck's cousin, was Class B winner.



At the Awards Banquet the officials announced the purchase of a 27 acre site in Braceville Township for a permanent Derby site. The Derby Site was purchased by the Warren Tribune Chronicle and Martin Chevrolet. It is the intention of the sponsors to duplicate as closely as possible the contour of the Akron Derby Track.

Charles went on to come in ninth place in the Akron Derby and won a \$1,000 Scholarship.

The Eighth Annual Derby was directed by Paul Watson. The race held for the first time at the new track was won by Bobby Wilging. It was truly a triumphant year of hard work and team effort to make the Warren-Trumbull Soap Box Derby Site a dream come true. One hundred twenty four boys raced in the derby.

The Ninth Annual Soap Box Derby was directed by Bill Lisby. Tom Noble, 13, was the winner of the Derby. On hundred fifteen boys participated.

The Tenth Annual Race was held at the New Braceville Site with 110 boys participating. Richard Cowin was the Derby Director and David Wilging, whose brother had won previously took honors as the winner. David, 11, was the smallest boy to participate in the Akron Derby in 1967 and won two heats at the National Derby in Akron.

The Eleventh Annual Derby was won by Jack Richards, 15, who had placed second in the 1967 race and in the 1966 race. Jack was truly a competitor and proved that perseverance will pay-off in the end. There were 119 boys in this race and it was directed by D. Keith Shirey.

The Twelfth Annual race will be held on Sunday, July 27. The winner this year could be you !

#### The Derby Winners

1948 Donald Strub - All-American Soap Box Derby Champ.

1958 - Joseph Martin	1964 - Charles Noble
1959 - Ronnie Noble	1965 - Bobby Wilging
1960 - Allen Frantz	1966 - Tom Noble
1961 - Richard Maley	1967 - David Wilging
1962 - David Hank	1968 - Jack Richards
1963 - LaMarr Benton	1969 - ?

#### DERBY WEEK

Derby week, the final week of anxious waiting. A week filled with excitement and many things to do. In the boys minds, there must be thoughts of how he should have done something different to make his car just a little faster. These thoughts are probably somewhat mingled with visions of winning race after race. But these thoughts cannot long occupy the boys mind for the activities of this week will allow little time for daydreaming.

Monday and Tuesday of Derby Week are used to make the last minute adjustments and changes. The final touches of paint and the layers of wax are applied. These are the last two days the boy will have his car in his possession for Wednesday is final inspection day.

On Wednesday, every car is inspected and allowed a final trial run. Pictures are taken and official shirts and helmets are issued. The cars which qualify for the race are stored in the inspection tent at the derby site until race day.

Thursday is fun day. The Derby Committees try to arrange a get together which will help relax the tense nerves. In past years, a swimming party, games and a picnic have helped the boys to relax and enjoy the companionship of their future competition.

Friday is a day of relaxation, and also this day gives the boy a chance to discuss with dad the strategy to be used on race day.

Open house is held on Saturday evening. All the cars which will compete in Sundays race are on dis-



play in the big tent at the Derby site. This open house is an opportunity to see the competitive cars, and also to view for the first time the coveted trophies which will be awarded to the winners. All the sleek, highly polished racers assembled in one area is a sight not to soon to be forgotten.

Sunday, Race Day is here at last. The boy undoubtedly will arise early and nervously try to hurry the family into leaving for the derby site. The tension will build as the boy first sees the crowd which has assembled to see the race. At one o'clock the parade starts its way down the hill to officially open the derby. Shortly after the parade the oil can derby is run. In this race two prominent local citizens compete in a race for the coveted oil can trophy.

The next event is the race. The crowd will nervously await the first contestants to come down the hill. Suddenly pair after pair of racers will come down the track until there are only two boys left. These last two boys will race for the right to represent Warren in the All-American Derby in Akron, Ohio. The winner of this final heat is the grand champion, but every boy who has built and raced his car is truly a champion in the minds of their parents and those who have watched them work and compete in such a great event.

#### AWARDS BANQUET

~~August 3,~~ <sup>July 30,</sup> 1969 is the day that the boys have spent the past five or six months working for. On this day the Awards Banquet is held. On this night the boys receive the awards that they have achieved during the Derby Competition. The Grand award, which is \$1,000 savings bond, goes to the winner of the Warren-Trumbull Soap Box Derby with a \$200 savings bond going to the runner up. The third place runner up will receive a \$75 savings bond and fourth place receiving a \$25 savings bond.

Also, a Schwinn bicycle, donated by Dilley's Bicycle Center, will be presented to one of the lucky boys who registered at Martin Chevrolet on Jan. 25th. This is given as an incentive to the boys to register early. You must race Derby Day to win the bicycle.

#### THE SOAP BOX DERBY CLINIC

The purpose of a clinic program is to offer guidance to the Soap Box Derby entrants on a regular scheduled basis. The planned series of Clinic sessions will help the boys design and build a racer in a logical sequence. Regular attendance at the Clinic sessions will make construction easier and improve the boy's chances of meeting the rigid inspection requirements of building a safe Soap Box Derby racer.

Essentially, the Clinic is a classroom where Derby entrants, their friends and their parents learn about the Derby, the official rules and the construction of Soap Box Derby racers. The Clinic not only furnishes guidance but encouragement and stimulation to complete a challenging project.

#### DERBY CLINIC SCHEDULE FOR 1969

PACKARD ELECTRIC DANA AVENUE AUDITORIUM 7:00 to 8:30 P.M.

- 1st - February, <sup>14</sup> 1969  
1968 National Race Film and discuss new rules.
- 2nd - March 14, 1969  
Show film entitled "The ABC of Hand Tools." Animated by Walt Disney. Slide films on floor board layout with demonstration.
- 3rd - April 11, 1969  
Slide films on axle trees and bulkheads.  
Slide films on brake and steering systems.  
Demonstration of wheel alignment on car with brake, steering gear and bulkheads.  
Review floorboard layout with slide film.



4<sup>th</sup> - May 9, 1969

Slide film on completing the body and the car.  
Demonstration on strip laminating and block laminating of body.  
Review slide films on axles and bulkheads.  
Review slide films on brake and steering.

5<sup>th</sup> - June 6, 1969

Talk on fiberglass body finish by Mr. Lloyd Egli.  
Talk on body finishes.  
Review slide film on completing the body and the car.  
Review other slide films if requested.

6<sup>th</sup> - July 19, 1969

10:00 to 12:00 A.M. at the Elk's Lodge #295  
Election of Derby Queen, local race film, and food..

#### TRIAL RUNS

PLACE: Warren-Trumbull County Derby Downs

DATES: June 28, July 12, July 18

The purpose of trial runs is to give the boys participating in the Derby the chance to learn how to drive the race course, how to handle their racer and to learn the proper way to stop the racer. Trial runs also allow the boys the chance to lose their jitters which, in turn, means they can react better in actual competition.

In order to take advantage of trial runs, a racer need not be completed. A partially constructed racer that has a working steering and braking system and deemed safe by the inspectors may make a trial run. One car at a time is allowed on the track with the first runs starting at mid track. Gradually the length of the runs are lengthened until the full length of the track is in use.

Since starting trial runs, less racers have failed final inspection, and failures that have occurred have been minor in nature and a definite decline has occurred in race day accidents. The trials have given the boys a chance to test various features of their racers which may be questionable and make as many trial runs as possible.

#### DERBY QUEEN

Every big event should have a queen and the Soap Box Derby is no exception. Each boy who participates in the derby has the opportunity to nominate one girl, from 11 to 15 years of age, to compete for Derby Queen. The girls nominated, along with their mothers are invited to attend a tea held in their honor on Sunday, July 13, 1969. At this tea, the girls themselves select five finalists, one from each age group, to compete for the title of Derby Queen. After the voting the girls and mothers have an opportunity to become acquainted.

On Saturday, July 19, 1969 the five finalists are invited to attend the final construction clinic. At this clinic the girl to serve as Derby Queen is selected from the finalists by the vote of the boys. The Queen and her attendants are presented trophies and flowers, and reign over the lunch that follows. From this day on, the queen and her court preside over all Derby activities.



## FINAL INSPECTION

All boys and their racers must pass a final inspection before they may compete in race day activities. This is a thorough and complete inspection by competent Derby officials covering all points of the rule book. It includes physical and dimensional checks of the racer, construction checks for safety, and an overall check of such items as wheels, who built the racer, usage of prohibited materials, etc.

Final inspection will be held on Wednesday, July 23, 1969, at the Warren-Trumbull Derby Downs. It is scheduled through out the day so that all boys have an opportunity of getting themselves and their racers to final inspection. The final inspection is under the direction of the Chief Inspector.

The exact order of activities on this day may vary from year to year but will closely resemble the following pattern:

1. Check in, review boy's name, address, school, age, sponsor. Receive Official race number.
2. Review cost sheet and rule book certificate.
3. Check weight of racer and boy.
4. Check racer dimensionally and for construction.
5. Check materials and safety.
6. Review construction with boy.
7. Issue T-shirt, helmet, and drivers license.
8. Take boy's picture.
9. Service pits if necessary.
10. Test run down hill to check brakes and steering.
11. Impound racer.

Once a racer has completely passed final inspection, it will be impounded in an area unexcessable to all except Derby Officials. It will remain there until race day and no further work may be performed on it.

## FROM THE DERBY DIRECTOR

TO the prospective Derby car drivers and their parents,  
FROM an old time Derby Committeeman, last years  
assistant Director,  
1969 Derby Director, but most of all a DERBY DAD.

Soap Box Derby means alot of things:

To a boy it means learning to use tools; working very hard to build a fast, sleek racer; not being able to sleep the night before the race and having the thrill of your life when you race your car down the hill on Derby Day. You will be full of hope to win; learning to lose if you must; making many new friends, learning self discipline and gaining lots of knowledge.

To a Dad it means sharing thoughts and advice with your boy; the smell of sawdust and fiberglass; standing by to reassure him when all seems lost; bursting with pride when the car is done; calming his nerves (and yours) before the big race and letting him know how proud you are whether he wins or loses.

To the parents it means sharing despair, excitement, sorrows and thrills. Watching your boy advance from the first year as a insecure soul afraid to make a mistake to several years later a young man confident in his own ideas and skills but willing to listen to new and better ideas. Derby means encouragement all along the way and a pat on the back to help him want to try again. Perhaps you will be the lucky one to feel the greatest thrill of your life when he streaks across the finish line in that final race of the day the WINNER.

From personal experience I know of no other activity where a boy can learn so much. Soap Box Derby teaches a boy self discipline, pride in their work, respect for others, sportsmanship and fellowship. I have had the opportunity to share these experiences with my own son for the past four years and know all of the feelings



of being a DERBY DAD. I can tell you that I would't have missed it for the world.

No one will tell you that building a racer is easy. It is a lot of hard work, but when your car is done and race day arrives you know that all of that hard work and time was well worth it. There is lots of fun in Derby too. The Derby picnic with all the trimmings, the selection of the Derby Queen, the chance to win many prizes and a trip to the All American Derby in Akron.

Boys, if you want to work hard, meet lots of new friends, learn many new skills and a chance to race in Warren and maybe in Akron too, talk it over with your parents and then go down to Martin Chevrolet and sign up for the Soap Box Derby. It will prove to be one of the most rewarding times of your life.

See you at the Derby,  
Arthur J. Richards, Director

#### REGISTRATION

Registration for the 1969 Soap Box Derby will be held at Martin Chevrolet, 419 W. Market, beginning Saturday, Jan. 25, 1969 from 9:00 A.M. till 5:00 P.M. and will be open Monday through Saturday until mid June. Registration is open for boys who will be 11 years old on or after August 1, 1969, and not older than 15 years on August 1, 1969. The boys will be divided into two groups: Class A 13-15 years old and Class B 11-12 years old. The entrant must be accompanied by his parent or guardian when the registration forms are filled out and at this time the entrant will receive his official Soap Box Derby Rule Book and instructions on how to build his car. The wheels and steering gear for the racer may be purchased from Martin Chevrolet at this time. Past experience has shown that the boys that register early have the best chance to be a winner because they have more time to build their car.

The boys will also be in competition for many other awards. Awards are given for the best constructed car, best designed car, the car with the best brakes, best steering, and other awards pertaining to the way the car is built. Awards are also given for sportsmanship, the winner of the fastest heat in both Class A and B, and other awards given for achievements during the race.

There is no better way to honor the boys, that have worked so hard, than by giving an Awards Banquet in their honor. For some of the boys it will be their last and for some it will be the first of many to come. But for certain it will be something that will be remembered for a long time.

THE ALL-AMERICAN SOAP BOX DERBY  
August 17, 1969

As a fitting climax to the racing activities of the 1969 Soap Box Derby, all boys who build and race their Gravity-propelled card down the hill at Warren-Trumbull Derby Downs will be invited on the free excursion to the All-American Derby in Akron. The trip to Akron will start early in the morning downtown Warren where the boys will board the bus with all the new friends they have made during the local derby week. Conversations recalling past experiences of constructing the cars, the trial runs, derby week, and the thrill of going down the hill for the first time will more than fill the time between Warren and Akron. Upon arrival at Derby Downs, jaw flapping will turn from conversation to food when the box lunches are passed out. After all appetites are satisfied, the boys will receive a ticket for the All-American race and one of the most memorable experiences of the summer. They will find their seats in the grand stand just in time for the start of the big parade. Pre-race activities are climaxed by the oil can derby with



Hollywood and television celebrities taking part.

Approximately 250 boys will race cars of every design imaginable down the 975' green asphalt track. The All-American race has gained in size and reputation since its beginning in Dayton, Ohio in 1933. The 1969 race is shaping up to be the largest yet with most of the 50 states represented. Although originated for American boys, the derby has steadily gained international stature and is recognized abroad as a living symbol of this country's sportsmanship and opportunity. Canada, Okinawa, the South American countries, and several other overseas guest countries send their champions to Akron each year to participate in the only one of its kind, the All-American Soap Box Derby. We will be on the bus to Akron, August ~~17~~<sup>23</sup>, 1969, won't you join us?

If there are any questions please call the Jaycee Office, P.O. Box 607, Warren, Ohio 44482, at 399-2152.

#### WHAT COUNTS?

Winning is fun, sure.

But winning is not the point.

Wanting to win is the point.

Not giving up is the point.

Never being satisfied with what you've done is the point.

Never letting up is the point.

Never letting anyone down

is the point.

Play to win. Sure.

But lose like a champion.

Because it's not winning

that counts.

What counts is trying.