

NATIONAL SPRINT CAR HALL of FAME & MUSEUM

BOB HOGLE

Robert Hogle was born to Earl and Odel Hogle in Anaheim, California, on November 24, 1932. His father was a descendant of the Germans who founded the community as a fruit cooperative. Bob had one brother, Richard.

In 1956, Bob began jalopy racing at the track in Huntington Beach. Eventually jalopies gave way to modified stock cars, and the Buena Park youngster was driving those cars at the Balboa Stadium in San Diego.

1956 was the last year for the roadsters in the California Racing Association (CRA), which was under the capable leadership of Walt James. 1957 also saw the opening of J.C. Agajanian's Ascot Park half-mile dirt track in Gardena.

Hogle finished sixth in the Balboa point standings in 1959, driving Mel Allen's '32 Ford roadster with a turbocharged Thunderbird engine. He also made his sprint car racing debut that year at Ascot.

Bob made two National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) Grand National starts that year. The first was at the Ascot Stadium in May, where he started fourteenth and finished thirteenth in a '57 Pontiac. Other drivers in the field included winner Parnelli Jones, Marvin Porter, Mel Larson, Ron Hornaday, and Jim Reed. The second NASCAR race was on the Sacramento mile in September, where Hogle started eighth and finished 23rd after flipping. He won \$25.

Hogle made his third and final NASCAR start in 1960 at the Marchbanks Speedway in Hanford. He started 17th and finished 33rd in the 250-miler on the 1.3 mile paved oval.

In 1961 and '62 Bob ran regularly with the CRA, and he also made occasional trips to race with the International Motor Contest Association (IMCA). He finished fifth in CRA points in '61, winning twice at Ascot for Bill Sikes and once at Manzanita for Kenny Worth. The next year he won twice in the Kimball/Carter Chevy at Ascot and wound up eighth in points. Bob also competed occasionally on the West Coast in United States Auto Club (USAC) midgets.

After a couple of years of bouncing around in different rides, Hogle settled into the Morales Brothers Offy-powered "Tamale Wagon" sprinter in 1963 and claimed the point championship on the strength of wins with the club at Sacramento and Ascot (8). Finishing behind Hogle in points that year were Dee Jones, Allen Heath, Bob McCoy,

and Don Melton. He competed on occasion in USAC midget and sprint car races.

In 1964, Hogle finished a close second in CRA points to champion Hal Minyard, even though Hogle had 14 wins to Minyard's ten. Hogle's wins came at El Centro (2), Western, Ascot (6), San Francisco (2), Santa Maria, and San Bernardino (2).

Hogle was not a driver who was obsessed with point championships, though. He found a lot of satisfaction in helping other younger drivers, often times at a detriment to his own standing within the club. Some of those up-

1968, driving their Don Edmunds-built Tamale Wagon to eleven feature victories at Irwindale, El Centro, Ascot (8), and El Cajon. He also won another fifteen shows at San Diego. In October, he finished second to winner Jerry Blundy in J.C. Agajanian's inaugural 100-miler in Sacramento. In November, he won a USAC sprint car feature at Ascot over Bruce Walkup and point champion Larry Dickson. He followed that up with a win in the 200-lap Pacific Coast Championship at Ascot driving for the Morales Brothers.

According to Jimmy Oskie, "Hogle used a lot of finesse and thought a lot. He tried to figure out what everyone else was thinking and what they would do in a certain situation and then try to be in a position to capitalize on their mistakes."

With six Ascot wins, Hogle finished sixth in CRA points in 1969, which was the first of five point championships for young Oskie. It is not surprising that Jimmy credits Bob with teaching him the basics of sprint car racing. Hogle also captured Hanford's early season open-competition event in '69.

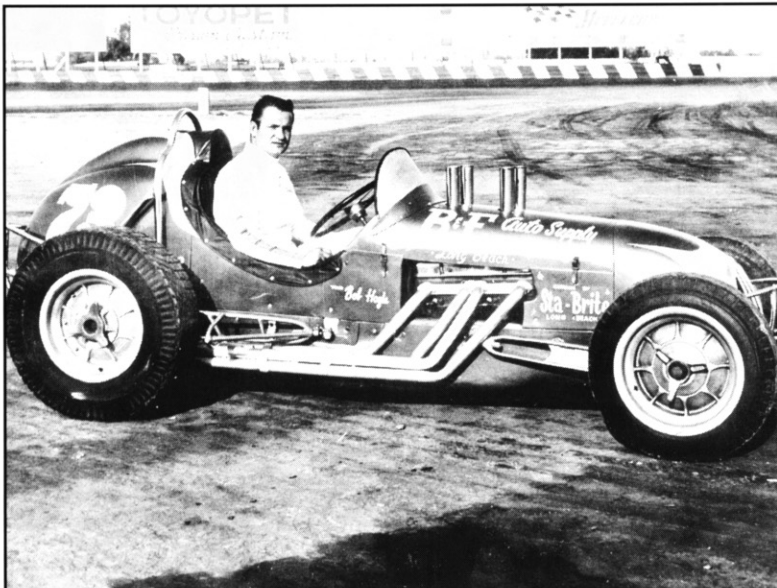
Bob was tenth in points in 1970, winning twice in the Talley sprinter at Las Vegas and Ascot. His last CRA win came at Ascot in the Talley machine in 1971, the same year that he had traveled to South Africa to compete in asphalt sprint car racing with his friend/protege Jimmy Oskie.

Bob retired from active competition in 1973.

According to California Racing Association statistics, from 1960 through '90, Bobby Hogle ranked third in career feature wins with 63, behind Dean Thompson (103) and Norman "Bubby" Jones (79). Oskie was ranked fourth with 57 wins. During the same period, Hogle is credited with 21 fast times and 38 trophy dash wins.

According to Bob himself, "Race driving never meant that much to me. It was just something to do. I never really cared about it. I never even wanted to be a racer. Just all of a sudden I was driving race cars. I wanted to play golf. Nice clothes, country clubs, martinis, that's the way to go. Not eatin' all that dirt!"

For most of his adult life, Bob was a heavy equipment operator working amongst the oil refineries and pipelines in southern California. He lived in Buena Park until 1993, when he and Sally Hogle moved to Phelan, Calif., in the high desert above Los Angeles. A few years ago he built the quarter-mile Route 66 Raceway at the San Bernardino Fairgrounds in nearby Victorville. Bob has one daughter Saleam.



Bob Hogle

E. Ellis Photo

and-comers that he found time for included Mike Mosley, Billy Vukovich, Jr., and Jimmy Oskie.

Hogle finished the '65 season third in CRA points behind Minyard and Paul Jones. His wins came at Ascot (2), Saugus, Santa Maria, Pleasanton, and Riverside. He again ran occasional races in USAC sprint and midget events, claiming a 50-lap midget main at Ascot for owner Doug Caruthers.

In 1966, Hogle finished eighth in CRA points, with two early season wins at El Centro aboard the Hank Henry/Roger McCluskey-built Tamale Wagon. Bob also had a pair of late season triumphs at Ascot while driving the Don LaPierre car.

The self-confident racer won the 100-lapper at Ascot in 1967 in the Darwin Maxon sprinter, before re-uniting with the Morales Brothers. He won three times at Ascot and once at Reno with their potent Offy. He finished the season third in CRA points behind champion Billy Wilkerson and runner-up Ned Spath. He also won 15 mains out of 15 shows at San Diego in the Peat Brothers super-modified.

Bob Hogle claimed another CRA point championship for the Morales Brothers in