

Legendary Drag Racer Chuck Finders passed away on Sunday, May 17th 2009

Legendary Drag Racer / Builder Chuck Finders passed away on Sunday 5-17-09. He is survived by Mother Josephine Harkins of Bellflower Ca., two sisters Gloria Clemson of Wildomar Ca. and Dona Lively of Lakewood Ca. Chuck was also survived by two sons one step-daughter, and three grand daughters, Chuck Finders Jr. 49 of Tucson Az. Bob Finders 48 of Anaheim Ca. and Carol Johnson-Smith 51 of San Antonio Texas, three grand daughters, Ashley Finders of Tucson Jamie Johnson of San Antonio and Adrienne Bovee of Waco, and Cars too many to number...

Legendary Drag Racer / Builder Chuck Finders passed away on Sunday 5-17-09. Chuck's career spanned a total of 6 Decades; he started Drag racing in 1958 and did his last full run in the 90's Chuck was not only known for his driving skills but was also recognized as one of the industries legendary builders. In 2002 Chuck completed a replica of a car remembered by most Gasser enthusiasts, the SWC & Chuck Finders "Dark Horse" this car was not an exact replica, the painter didn't verify the color and only after the car was finished being painted did Chuck find out it was the wrong Blue. Chuck in the 33 Willys "Dark Horse" had one of many "30 seconds of fame moments" as it was quicker than the SWC "A" Car, the car was later removed from the SWC team, this was Chuck's car with a Tim Woods engine that was painted to match the team's colors. It was basically added to the SWC team to help meet booking commitments. The "Dark Horse" was later converted to another car, the "Traveler" partnered with Bill Altizer & Neal Kibler this car did set and hold both speed and low et. in B/GS (146.57 MPH in 9.76 E.T.) Nov. 1964. Many of Chuck's cars were a partnership of this type. Chuck successfully campaigned in the professional ranks as well, in the seventies he moved into the Top Fuel ranks, the Funny Car class. Partnerships and cars built abound here too. During this period Chuck was in contention for the top spot in Division 3 but full sponsorship and success were always a dream and never within his grasp. In the late seventies Chuck lost a leg to a Drag Racing accident, Don Garlits was at the track that day, he ran down to the accident then ran back to the tower and asked everyone to pray for Chuck or he wouldn't make it. Chuck survived and eventually went back to the cars he loved, the Willys. Chuck ended up winning his class and competing at the level he had always wanted, he was a champion to those he raced with and at the same time racers always said he was a racers racer "He just wanted to Race" "Balls Out" and he did. Chuck was fortunate and always did it his way. Chuck leaves 21 entries in Draglist.com and has touched the lives of Racers and Hot Rodders around the world. If you see a 33 Willys, say Hi to Chuck because he probably had a part in it. A final Memorial organized by Chuck's family will be held in his Honor at the NHRA Museum in Pomona Sunday June 7th bring your Street Rod or Race car that Chuck Built or Drove and share it with us. Words of remembrance will be at 2:00pm this is a casual street rodder style gathering 'Nothing Sad' at this final Meet for Chuck. Details will be posted on Chuck Jr's web site www.finders-fabrication.com