

LEGENDS OF THEIR TIME



Dave sits in his favorite ride on the return road.

Dave Anderson

Dave Anderson was a soft-spoken, kind, and gentle family man who lost his life doing what he loved, and that was racing. I had the honor of knowing Dave since our high school days together, where he won awards for his all-around athletic abilities. He was always a competitive person and gave 100 percent of himself to whatever he did. We were both interested in cars and racing. He drove a Top Fuel car, and I drove a top gas car on the NHRA Division 5 circuit for a number of years, until I got him hooked on the rocket cars and he joined our *Pollution Packer* team in 1972. In a mere 18-month period, he made over 80 runs in rocket-powered cars. He established 13 international and national speed records at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah, and 12 state speed and elapsed-time records at drag strips throughout the nation.

Dave was the first driver ever to drive a rocket car at an NHRA-sanctioned event and was also the first to run over 300 miles per hour and run in the 4-second bracket. He thrilled tens of thousands of spectators at the 1973 Winternationals in Pomona, California, setting a new track record of 5.35 ET with a speed of 297.02 miles per hour. Dave went on to the NHRA Summer-nationals and set the record at 4.62 ET with a speed of 344.820 miles per hour. He was very proud of his achievements, and so was the rest of his team. The tragic crash that took his life, along with two other young racers, in Charlotte, North Carolina, was a shock to all. Everyone who ever had the pleasure of meeting Dave was touched by his love of life and his kindness. The racing world lost a real treasure when we lost Dave Anderson.