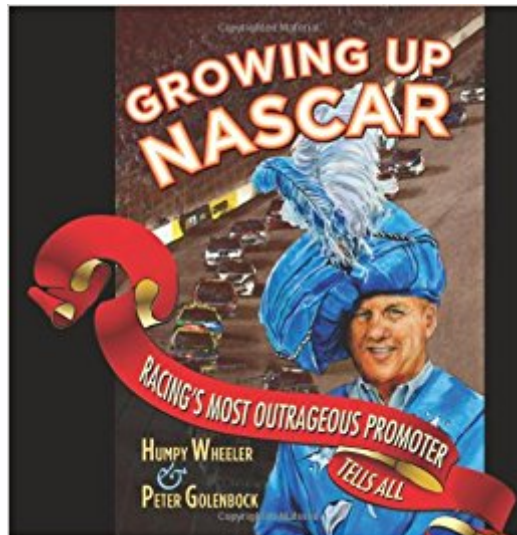




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Growing Up NASCAR: Racing's Most Outrageous Promoter Tells All



Synopsis

In 1949, when Humpy Wheeler was 11, he attended the very first NASCAR race. For the next ten years, he spent as much time in the pits as he could, and came to know many of the sport's pioneers. Eventually, Wheeler began promoting races at Carolina tracks such as Concord Speedway, Robinwood Speedway, and Starlight Speedway. Racing was so rough back then he kept a gun by his side when he paid the purse, and often used his fists to keep order. By the time Wheeler retired in 2008, he had helped NASCAR become the six-billion-dollar-a-year industry it is today. Filled with photographs from Wheeler's personal archives, *Growing up NASCAR* presents the ultimate behind-the-scenes look at NASCAR from the consummate insider.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bristol Herald Courier, March 19, 2010 "With the assistance of author Peter Golenbock, Wheeler's recently traced his colorful life and career in the book *Growing Up NASCAR: Racing's Most Outrageous Promoter Tells All*. From grimy dirt tracks to lavish superspeedways, Wheeler feels there are five essential elements for attracting and retaining fans to motorsports. Gaston Gazette, March 26, 2010 "Wheeler's stories of growing up in Belmont, his mother's store in Gastonia and his maternal grandparents' home in Bessemer lend a strong Gaston County flavor to the book. It explores his days at Robinwood Speedway. Wheeler describes his role as a young promoter fresh out of college and the exploits of such Gastonia drivers as the Cooper Brothers, Jim Dimeo, Harold Dunnaway and others who created dynamic action at what he said was the best quarter-mile track

ever built. "Truly a fun, entertaining book, it also gives some good insights into the man and the personality behind what we've all seen in races." SpeedWeekly.net

In 1947, when Humpy Wheeler was nine years old, he put his thumb out on Highway 29 and hitched a ride to the Charlotte Speedway. Since then, Humpy has held just about every job there is in NASCAR. The consummate promoter, Humpy invented the pre-race show. Peter Golenbock has been writing books about sports since 1975. Some of his best sellers are *Dynasty*, *The Bronx Zoo* (with Sparky Lyle), *Number 1* (with Billy Martin), and *Balls* (with Greg Nettle.) He has also written a series of NASCAR histories including *American Zoom*, *The Last Lap*, and *NASCAR Confidential*.

I finished reading this book today. In spite of its cover - which I think is awful - I highly enjoyed the book and would recommend it to anyone interested in auto racing, particularly NASCAR. Golenbock has really improved his writing and this biography of Humpy Wheeler is a real page-turner; I couldn't put it down. Wheeler's exploits are related in a succinct format with just the right amount of detail. I admit that I was apprehensive before starting the book, but was pleasantly surprised at the quality of writing. It forced me to stay up reading way later than I had planned. Great job, guys!

The 'P.T. Barnum Of Nascar' scores again with this book. At turns hilarious and insightful, Humpy weaves a fascinating history of both Carolina stock car racing and Nascars' more colorful characters. Numerous times I've had the pleasure of witnessing his 'let's-blow-up-something' pre-race spectacles (and miss them now....) I'd love to read what he CAN'T put into a book; he's probably got some first-hand tales that would provide him a luxurious lifestyle off the blackmail proceeds! This man could sell popsicles in the Arctic. The front cover perfectly captures his 'promoter extraordinaire' persona. If you're looking for an entertaining historical overview of stock car racing and some of the personalities, the book is well-worth the money.

Enjoyable book. I love to read and hear the Humpy stories. Looking forward to another book. We need more great story books of NASCAR.

What can you say? Humpy Wheeler was one Hell of a man. Burton screwed him he was the best thing that happened to the Charlotte speedway

I have just finished reading "GROWING UP IN NASCAR" written by Humpy Wheeler, it is very well written and the most entertaining book I have read in a long time. This book is filled with personal stories about all of the legendary people who made NASCAR the popular sport it is today! Humpy is a natural born story teller, a modern day "MARK TWAIN" Tom Webster

Great Book for NASCAR fans

I agree exactly with Tom Webster's review. He said exactly what I felt. An outstanding book I would recommend to anyone!!

Thanks!

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