

JIM "J.B." McCONNELL

Track Builder/Owner/Promoter

Jim McConnell's interest in auto racing began long before the Scarborough resident ever thought of building his own track. While working as an aircraft mechanic in East Boston, Massachusetts in the 1930's, he became friends with others who had an interest in racing. When 'J.B.' returned to Maine, he and a bunch of racers began racing at several of the fairground tracks. Believing he could build and operate a racetrack, 'J.B.' and a number of fellow racing enthusiasts cleared a parcel of land in Scarborough to build a track. On Memorial Day weekend in 1949, Jim McConnell swung open the gates for the first auto racing program at Beech Ridge Speedway. 'J.B.' owned and operated Beech Ridge for 24 years, selling the speedway in 1973. Jim founded the Maine State Stock Car Racing Association in 1949 and served four terms as president. Jim McConnell is a member of the Beech Ridge Speedway Hall of Fame.



