

# Hoke Man Sets Drag Race Record

The new world's record for a quarter mile drag speed run is held by a Hoke County man, Larry Ray of Turnpike Road.

Ray, who has been drag-racing the past 15 of his 37 years, set a new record of 10.54 seconds at a speed of 128.75 miles per hour April 30 during the 1982 drag races of the International Hot Rod Association at the Rockingham International Dragway. He'd been shooting for a new record the past four years.

Ray did it in his 1968 customized Camaro. He said Thursday afternoon the achievement was unusual because his car has a 327 cubic-inch engine, small for the accomplishment. He said such marks usually are achieved by cars with 400-plus cubic-inch engines. His car also is equipped with a four-barrel carburetor.

He also drove the car to a 1982 Pro-AM Nationals Class victory. The class is for the Superstock E-Automatic.

The old drag record that Ray broke was 10.59 seconds at 126 mph, set two years ago at Darlington, S.C., by a Piedmont, Ala., driver.

A certificate given him by the international association calls his mark the "Official World Record" for 2 EA Class. It is addressed to "Larry Ray & Son."

"This record," the certificate says, "symbolizes an excellence in mechanical achievement, a perfection in driving ability and a valued contribution to the sport of drag racing."

It bears the signatures of IHRA President Larry Corrier, and

National Race Director Ted Jones.

The trophy Ray got for his class victory made his total for his racing career 56 awards. The largest purse he won was \$1,000 at the 1980 Fourth of July races in Fayetteville.

Ray said drag racing "is the hardest job I ever loved."

Ray won 300 points for setting the new record. His dream is a national championship, and he's had it the past four years. The national championship is given each year to the racer who gains the most points in the drag events.

Ray left early Friday morning for his next races, the Spring National held at Bristol, Tenn., Friday through Sunday.

He said if he did well there he would go to the Norwalk, Ohio, event, one of the seven major races on the IHRA circuit. Two each are held at Rockingham and Bristol, one at Darlington, S.C., and the others at Milan, Mich. Ray has competed in all but the Michigan Northern Nationals at Milan.

The national championship brings a bonus of \$10,000.

Ray does his own mechanical work, at his garage next to his home and his grocery store with the self-service gas pumps, but he has some neighbors who give him a lot of help as a pit crew, besides his 18-year-old son, Victor, a Hoke County High School senior, who also works parttime at nights at Burlington Industries.

His pit crew consists of Donald Blue of Five Points, and Larry Flowers and Thomas Ray (no relation to Larry) of Turnpike Road.



Larry Ray with his National Class Winner award plaque and his drag race car that won it and set a new world's record at Rockingham April 30.

Ray's whole family works. His wife, Patricia, works at Tex-Elastic in Raeford, and their daughter, Kim, 16, a Hoke High freshman, helps her father at the store when she's out of school.

Ray says it takes him about three weeks to get his car ready for a major event, working off and on, and sometimes till early morning shortly before a race day, to make one or two final adjustments that could make the difference between winning and not winning.

At Rockingham, he finished in the top 16 of the 64 cars that started on April 30. The others were eliminated on the successive

days. The races went through May 2.

Ray works on other people's cars, doing regular mechanic work occasionally to help a friend. He also races motors for others.

He said that, so far, his winnings in races have paid his way. The past two weeks before the Bristol races he won \$550 -- \$400 for a win at Sanford, and a total \$150 at Rockingham, for going through three rounds. He finished 25th in the qualifying round of 64 cars there.

On Thursday afternoon, he was thinking of the \$2,500 he would get if he took first place at Bristol.

## From the Superintendent's Desk

by Raz Autry

### Mental Toughness

The phrase "mental toughness" is probably as much overworked as the word "charisma". Presidents Johnson, Nixon, and Carter believed they had mental toughness and they did. It took mental toughness to stand the critics of the Vietnam War.

President Nixon showed his mental toughness in his foreign policies and the trauma of Watergate. Carter's toughness was the Iran affair. Whether anyone agrees with their decisions or not, they must admit they had mental toughness.

Our mental toughness in the everyday life, whether it be in our work or our home life, is just as real to us as the three presidents I mentioned. When we deal with toughness on a local level and the decisions that are made, one of the best examples that I could possibly give is the decision that was made by a former board of education when they consolidated our schools. That decision required as much mental toughness as any one decision that has ever been made in Hoke County. That board gave future boards an example of mental toughness.

When a board has made a decision on a particular rule or discipline problem or on a militant employee, they will usually imply and mean for that decision to be interpreted as mental toughness. The true mental toughness is tested when a board sticks by that decision, if it is a fair and just decision. Many times we say that we exhibit

mental toughness when we discipline those who can't fight back. I don't know of an easier decision for a board or an individual to make than when they are dealing with those who can't fight back. The true test of the backbone of a board's mental toughness comes when they deal with those who can fight back.

Mental toughness is also required of legislators at various times and unfortunately, we have never had a great many of those in North Carolina or any other place who had enough mental toughness to stand up and rectify a bad law. A prime example of a bad law is the Teacher Tenure Act. This law was passed by a legislature that accepted the word of an organization that was primarily looking for a way to protect an individual in the teaching profession regardless of whether they were competent or not. I would be the first one to say that teachers need protection but incompetent teachers or administrators should not be allowed to hide behind a bad law.

Anyone who has dealt with the Teacher Tenure Act in its present form will admit that it is a bad law. However, no legislature has had enough mental toughness to stand up to the organization that pushed that law and they certainly haven't had enough intestinal fortitude to repeal the law. Study after study has proven, that this law, for the sake of children if for no other reason, needs to be repealed.

One of the greatest concerns I have about many administrators is that, once they have found that their rules and regulations do not work, instead of saying "let's try something else" they excuse their unwillingness to admit a mistake on the grounds that "I must continue what I am doing because if I change now people will interpret my stand as a sign of weakness."

Therefore, more and more youngsters are made to pay the price for a bad rule or regulation. Psychologists call this type of reasoning insecurity. The lay public calls it stupidity. There is nothing that makes more of a lasting impression on people than to find out that an individual's mental toughness has a streak of compassion built into it.

I told a group of superintendents recently that if I didn't have to work with a board of education I would be an outstanding superintendent because I know what to do and that when I have to wait for their decisions it tests my patience to the utmost.

I was speaking in jest because any individual is happy to have someone to share in the joy of a joint decision that will make things better for everyone effected by it. Any superintendent is more than happy to have someone to share the painful decisions also.

I have been painfully aware for many years of my reputation for making dictatorial decisions. Time will judge those decisions on the basis of whether they were dictatorial or mental toughness. Time will judge decisions that a board of education makes. Time will judge decisions made by a principal, or a teacher in the same manner. Our school system will be better or poorer because of the decisions we make. Our youngsters will profit or suffer because of our decisions.

If they suffer, we hope the scars will not be permanent.

## Robann Beach Wins U.S. Award



Robann R. Beach

The United States Achievement Academy announced this week that Robann R. Beach, granddaughter of a Raeford couple, has been named a 1982 United States National Award winner in Spanish.

She is the daughter of Lt. Col. and Mrs. Martin H. Beach of Fayetteville and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gatlin of Raeford and Mrs. Martha Beach of Fayetteville and the late Van G.

Beach of Fairmont.

Miss Beach is in the Ninth Grade of Reid Ross High School in Fayetteville. She was nominated for the National Award by Senora House, a Spanish teacher. An article about Miss Beach will be published in the U.S. Achievement Academy Official Yearbook.

She also was selected and inducted recently into the Spanish Honor Society at Reid Ross.

## College News

Brigitta Wilde, daughter of James E. Wilde of Raeford, has been named to the President's List at Methodist College for the Spring Semester, according to Dr. Fred Clark, academic dean.

Students are named to the President's List for achieving a perfect 4.0 academic average during the semester.

Methodist College is a four-year college of liberal arts and sciences located on a 600-acre campus in Fayetteville, NC, overlooking the Cape Fear River Valley.

Mary Kimberly Dees, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Dees of Rockfish, has been named to the Honor Roll for the spring semester at East Carolina University.

Michael Alvin Peckham, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Scull of 1109 N. Fulton St., Raeford, received a degree of Bachelor of Arts in recreation administration Sunday from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The degrees were conferred on the graduates of 1982 at the university's commencement.

James Michael Bundy of Rt. 2, Raeford, received an Associate in Science degree Saturday from Wingate College at the college's commencement.

Winnie Sue Shepherd of Todd, daughter of Richard Shepherd of Rt. 2, Raeford, will receive a Bachelor of Arts degree Saturday from Queens College of Charlotte at the college's commencement convocation.

**WAGON WHEEL RESTAURANT**  
THURSDAY & FRIDAY  
SHRIMP BASKET  
(about 20 shrimp)  
with FF. Slaw & Hushpuppies  
\$3.99  
Take Out Orders Call 875-5752



## HARDIN'S FOOD STORE

(BESIDE FIRE STATION)  
ROCKFISH, N.C.  
AND

## COLE'S FOOD STORE

(Except Gasoline)  
MAIN ST., RAEFORD

<b>CUBE STEAK</b> 1.99 lb.	<b>BONELESS STEW BEEF</b> 1.69 lb.	<b>12 OZ. FRANKS</b> 99¢
<b>FRESH CRISP LETTUCE</b> 2 heads 99¢	<b>3 LBS. PERFECTION RICE</b> 79¢	<b>MILLER LITE BEER</b> 12 OZ. 6 Pack 2.59
<b>10 LBS. POTATOES</b> 1.19	<b>5 QT. COBLE ICE CREAM</b> 3.49	<b>WHITE CLOUD TISSUE</b> 4 ROLL 1.09
<b>ARMOUR TREET</b> 12 OZ. 1.19	<b>50 LBS. CHATHAM DOG FOOD</b> 5.95	<b>14 OZ. KRAFT MACARONI &amp; CHEESE DINNER</b> 99¢
<b>COBLE 1 GALLON COBLE MILK</b> \$1.99	<b>2 LITER PEPSI</b> 99¢ (Plastic Bottle)	<b>DIXIE CRYSTAL SUGAR</b> 5 LB. \$1.19 (Limit 1 With \$10 Food Order)
	<b>38 OZ. WESSON OIL</b> 1.69	
	<b>LONG LOAVES OVEN GOLD BREAD</b> 2/99¢	<b>GRADE A LARGE EGGS</b> 69¢ doz.
	<b>FRESH FISH Dressed Daily</b> 2/99¢	

GARDEN SEEDS and PLANTS of all kinds in both stores

**GASOLINE**  
REGULAR 1.09' UNLEADED 1.14'  
Hardin's at Rockfish ONLY

**ALL STAR FEED**  
ALL KINDS AT REASONABLE PRICES  
ROCKFISH STORE ONLY

OPEN 7 DAYS 6 A.M.-11 P.M. (ROCKFISH)

DRIVE OUT & SAVE WITH THESE GREAT FOOD & GASOLINE SAVINGS

Grady Hardin, Manager, Rockfish

875-2201

WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMPS AND WIC VOUCHERS

THE ODDS ARE 1 IN 10 YOU HAVE

# HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

IT'S A KILLER  
WHY TAKE A CHANCE?

HAVE YOURS CHECKED **FREE**

ON

Friday, May 21

9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.

## THE MEDICINE SHOPPE

121 S. Main St.  
Raeford, N.C.  
875-5146

Ruth Parish & Kim Hamlet,  
Pharmacists

