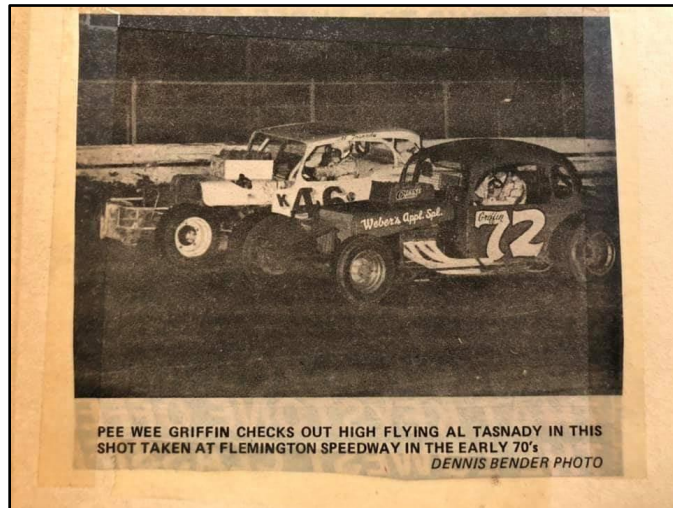


PHOTO TRIVIA

from the Spring, 2020 issue



There's a lot of history in this photo. Even a tiny hint will give it away, so let's just say this is at a NJ dirt track and leave it at that.

Who doesn't miss seeing race cars on the dirt at Flemington Speedway? As the caption says, the great Al Tasnady in the #K46 was on the outside of the inimitable Pee Wee Griffin in the #72 in this shot from the early 1970s.

Al Tasnady ran his first race in 1949 at age 19 in a modified 1937 Ford coupe that belonged to his brother. He liked it so much that he decided to quit his job and focus on racing. Al had a special talent for reading dirt tracks and setting up his cars for maximum performance. He also raced on beach courses, including NASCAR events at Daytona. In all, Al won more than 600 races during his career, and was almost impossible to beat on the dirt tracks of South Jersey, including Vineland, Flemington and Alcyon. Al was regarded as a gentleman on and off the track, and had a huge fan following in the 1950s and 1960s. They called the charismatic driver "Tas". He was so adept at racing at Flemington, he won 96 races there and was track champion each season from 1960 to 1966. Al retired after the 1972 season and went to work at his favorite track, Flemington. In 1974, he was the first inductee in the Eastern Motorsports Hal of Fame. The King of the Modifieds passed away at age 58 in 1988.

A native of Florida, Bruce "**Pee Wee**" **Griffin** was one of many racers of that state who headed to the Northeast in the 1960s to compete at tracks offering big money on a weekly basis. His hard-charging style of racing brought controversy and many wins. Griffin's greatest success in the Northeast came on the half-mile of East Windsor Speedway in Hightstown, NJ. He won six features in the track's inaugural year of 1965 and was the track's first Modified champion. Despite being suspended for various on-track incidents that drew the wrath of track promoter Don Jones as well as fellow racers, Pee Wee won a total of 36 features at EWS and additional track champion titles in 1967 and 1972. In addition to EWS, Griffin did well at other tracks. He won 18 Modified races

at NY's Orange County Fair Speedway between 1964 and 1971 and four Modified features at PA's Nazareth Speedway from 1964 to 1969. He also competed in the Northeast on dirt at NJ's Bridgeport and Flemington Speedways; on pavement at NJ's New Egypt Speedway (in its Fort Dix Speedway era), Old Bridge, Vineland and Wall Stadium ovals; with the All Star League of Modified Racing; and on the mile tracks of Trenton and Langhorne Speedways. Although Griffin's racing career was halted by legal problems in the 1980s, he provided fellow racers and fans alike with stories that are still being told today. Griffin passed away at age 80 in 2017.

Thanks to Earl Krause and njsports.com for contributing to this piece.