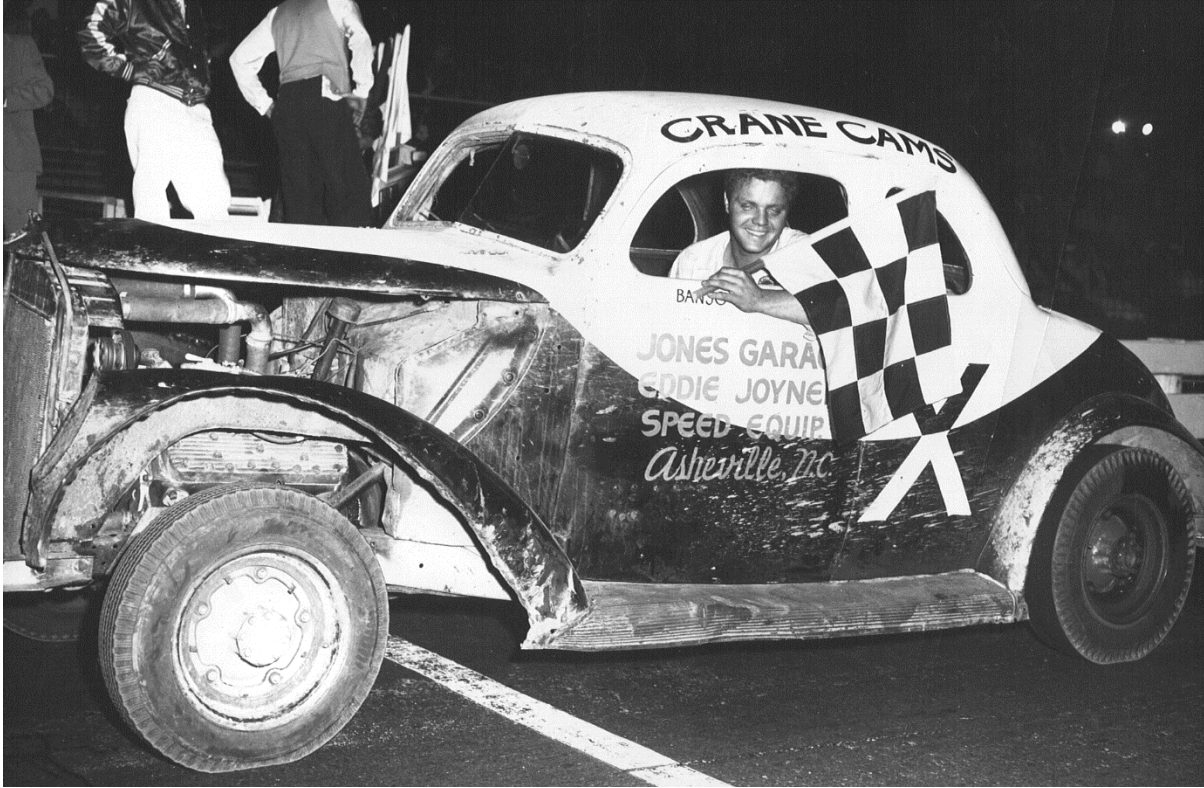


## PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER – WINTER, 2016



*This smiling guy just won a feature at Wall Stadium on August 14, 1954, after towing all the way from Asheville, NC. He went on to become a well-known car builder in NASCAR, sometimes referred to as the "Henry Ford of race cars". Who was he?*

This visitor to Wall Stadium was none other than **Edwin Keith "Banjo" Matthews**. Banjo was born in Akron, OH on February 14, 1932. His nickname, "Banjo Eyes", referred to teasing about his thick eyeglasses (although he apparently didn't need them to race, since he's not wearing them in this photo!). Some years later, he moved to Miami, FL and ran his first race at Pompano Beach Speedway at the age of 15. After being in the Florida racing scene for five years, he decided he wanted to make his future in racing and moved to Asheville, NC. He built a reputation as an excellent driver on dirt and asphalt and made the move to the superspeedways in the early 1960s.

In 1963 Matthews joined the Ford factory team as a car builder. When the manufacturers pulled out of NASCAR, Banjo opened his own shop and carried on, using his ingenuity and innovative methods. "Craftsmanship" was his motto. Reportedly, he had a sign hanging in his shop that read, "Banjo's – where money buys speed. How fast do you want to go?" The list of drivers who raced cars that he built reads like a Who's Who of NASCAR racing.

Although Matthews was a winning driver, he enjoyed building cars for others. The satisfaction of building competitive, safe race cars was its own reward for him. His efforts over his long career did not go unnoticed. He had an entire room devoted to his many awards and recognitions, among which were the Buddy Shuman Award, the Smokey Yunick Award and induction into the NMPA Hall of Fame. While he was not one to seek notoriety, he appreciated being recognized by his peers.

Matthews passed away on October 2, 1996 from heart and respiratory disease. He has been missed by many.

Our thanks to Legends of NASCAR website for this information. Lots more information is available on the career of Banjo Matthews. Visit their website [http://www.legendsofnascar.com/banjo\\_matthews.htm](http://www.legendsofnascar.com/banjo_matthews.htm) to learn more about Matthews and many others.