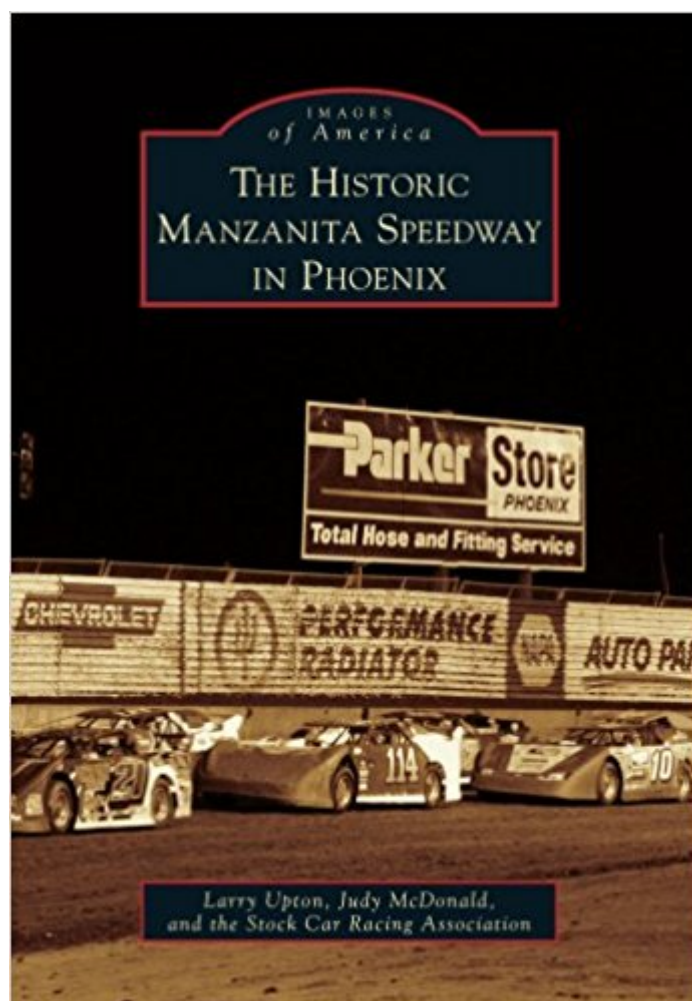


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# The Historic Manzanita Speedway In Phoenix (Images Of America)



## Synopsis

Phoenix's Manzanita Speedway, the last of the big dirt tracks located near the central corridor of a major metropolitan area, is now gone. The track opened in the early 1950s when Jack Holloway, president of the Arizona Jalopy Racing Association, along with Avery Doyle and Gene Gunn, set about convincing Rudy Everett and Larry Meskimen to convert their unprofitable dog-racing operation into a quarter-mile dirt track. On August 25, 1951, Everett and Meskimen beamed with excitement as Manzy opened to an overflowing crowd. They had tapped into America's post-World War II craze for automobiles and found their own Lost Dutchman Gold Mine in the process. Manzanita Speedway dominated dirt-track racing in Phoenix and was heralded as one of the top five dirt tracks in the United States. Manzy became an integral part of the racing culture in Phoenix, and its sale and closure in 2009 created a sense of lingering disappointment.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Larry Upton is the author of *Bowling Green Stock Car Racing*, a book in the Images of America series. Upton is the recipient of journalistic awards from both the Journal of Commercial Bank Lending and the Journal of Arizona History. Judy McDonald, a Phoenix banker with a penchant for automobiles, is making her first foray into writing for publication.

I bought this book as a gift to my father for Christmas because he is a huge race fan and grew up racing dirt tracks. Not only did he race at dirt tracks across the southwest but he had a long history

racing at Manzanita as well. My family has a huge following with Manzanita, my Uncle was the main provider for gas at the racetrack up until it closed and my grandparents wrote consistent articles for the Manzanita Magazine when they were alive. The track boasts a lot of memories and emotions with our family and we were extremely excited to find a book written about it's illustrious history. I can honestly say it exceeded expectations. I don't know if it made a difference that I was so emotionally attached to the history of the track, but seeing the photographs tugged at me and I couldn't put the book down once I started perusing it. I would recommend this book to anyone who loves racing/vintage cars because it gives an honest account of the what it was like racing in Arizona when the track was at it's prime. I love seeing a slice of American history like that and I know others do too. I know it tells the tale of a track in Arizona but it surpasses that small part of geography. At the time of it's prime there were tracks like that all over the United States. This book gives us more than a look at racing in the southwest at this time, it shows us what the sport was like in America at this point of time, which for any sports fan is invaluable.

My brother in law held several records and was a big winner at manzanita his name is Kenny Hatfield. And for years Ted and Linda were instrumental in making the infield run smoothly. None of these people even got a mention in the book. Only recommended to the authors families

good book and delivered on time.Lenn

love the book and want to purchase another one for a friend

I did not read this book. It was ordered for my husband. He seemed to think it was okay, but not great

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