

Chapter 7 Motorsport Pioneer

Greater Vancouver Motorsport Pioneers Society

On October 23rd, 2004, George Beatty Sterne was inducted into the Greater Vancouver Motorsport Pioneers Society. Below is the invitation sent to his sons, Bill and Bob Sterne.

THE GREATER VANCOUVER MOTORSPORT PIONEERS SOCIETY
c/o 4740 Deerfield Crescent, Richmond, B.C., Canada, V6X 2Y6

September 23, 2004

The Greater Vancouver Motorsport Pioneers Society is a chartered, non-profit group of volunteers who select and honor individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to the advancement of motorsport activities in this area.

George Sterne has been selected as one of 17 individuals to be honored this year at the annual awards ceremony to be held October 23, 2004.

2004 PIONEER INDUCTEES

PIONEERS:	ACTIVITY:	PIONEERS:	ACTIVITY:
1. Mike Balfe	- Sports car racer	10. Ralph Monhay	- Oval racer/builder
2. Ted Baxter	- Custom car builder	11. Bob Nottingham	- Drag racer
3. Les Diack	- Oval racer/Stock car	12. Fred Pazaski	- Motorcycle racer
4. Jim Hutchison	- Powerboat racer	13. George Sterne	- Sports car racer
5. Dave Johnstone	- Hotrods/custom cars	14. Claire Wilson	- Sports car racer
6. Don Lamont	- Sports car/Rally driver	15. Bob Work	- Motorcycle racer
7. Jim Marchant	- Oval racer/builder	SUPPORTERS:	
8. Mickey McDowell	- Oval racer/midgets	16. Doug Morgan	- Car builder/sponsor
9. Don McLachlan	- Hotrods/custom cars	17. Bernie Smith	- Car club supporter

Since the first awards in 2001, a total of 67 people have been honored. This award ceremony will bring our total to 84.

TRIBUTE CEREMONY

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 23, 2004, 1:00 PM TO 5:00 PM
ROYAL CITY CURLING CLUB, 75-6TH AVENUE, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.
(N/W corner 6th Ave. & Cumberland St.; 1 block E. of McBride Blvd. Free parking)

Come and meet past inductees and enjoy memorabilia, pictures and videos

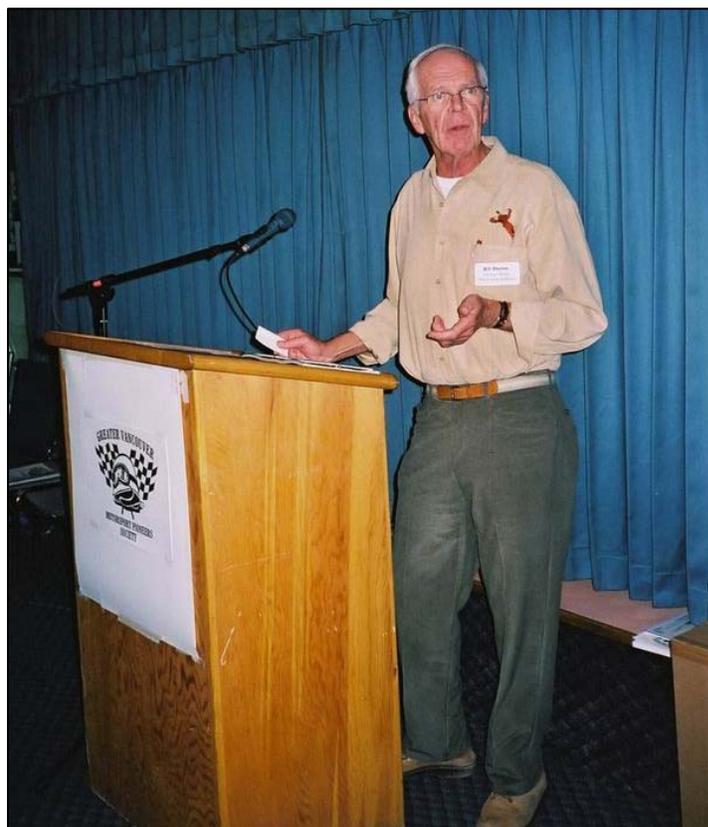
Please attend. Admission is free for you and up to 3 family members. Space is limited so we need to know in advance. **RSVP** by October 12, 2004.

CONTACT INFORMATION: In writing: as per address above.
Phone: 604-882-0187 Fax: 604-278-1475
604-943-9635
Email: lmbraine@shaw.ca, or bpratt@paralynx.com

Yours truly, on behalf of the GVMP Society,
Doug Harder, Secretary



Bill Sterne accepts his father's Induction Certificate into the Greater Vancouver Motorsport Pioneers Society as a 2004 Motor Sport Pioneer in the Sports Car Racer category. The event was held at the Royal City Curling Club in New Westminster, Saturday, October 23rd, 2004.



After receiving his dad's award, Bill Sterne told some of the stories of his dad's antics on the track and gave a summary of the many awards GB received during his sports car racing career.

In Appreciation

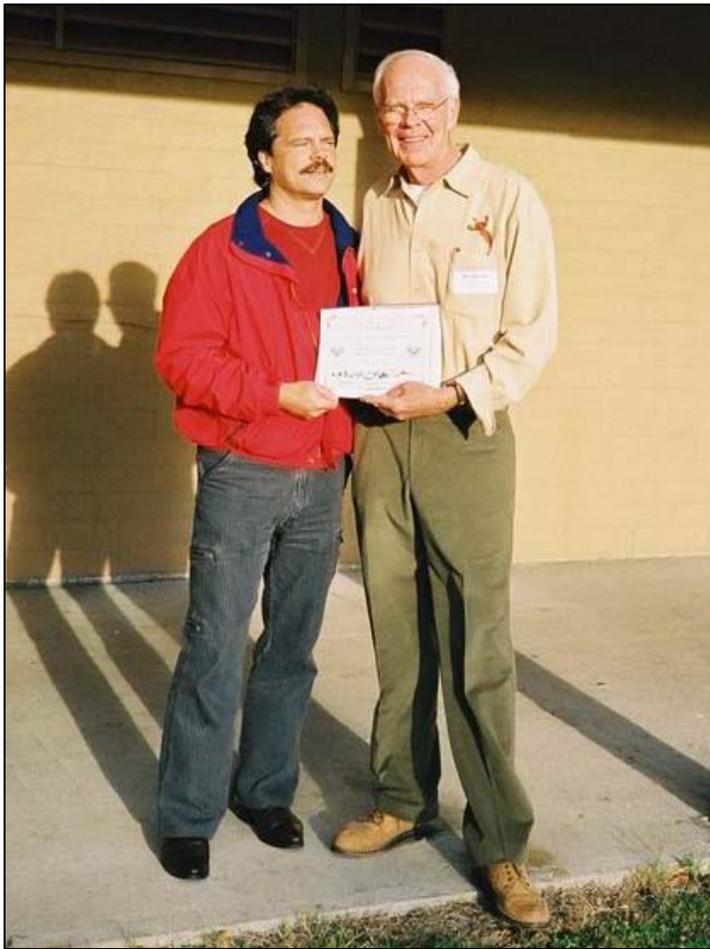
G. B. Sterne

For Your Time and Devotion To The Motorsport Community

"Greater Vancouver Motorsport Pioneers"

TRIBUTE CEREMONY
Saturday, October 23, 2004

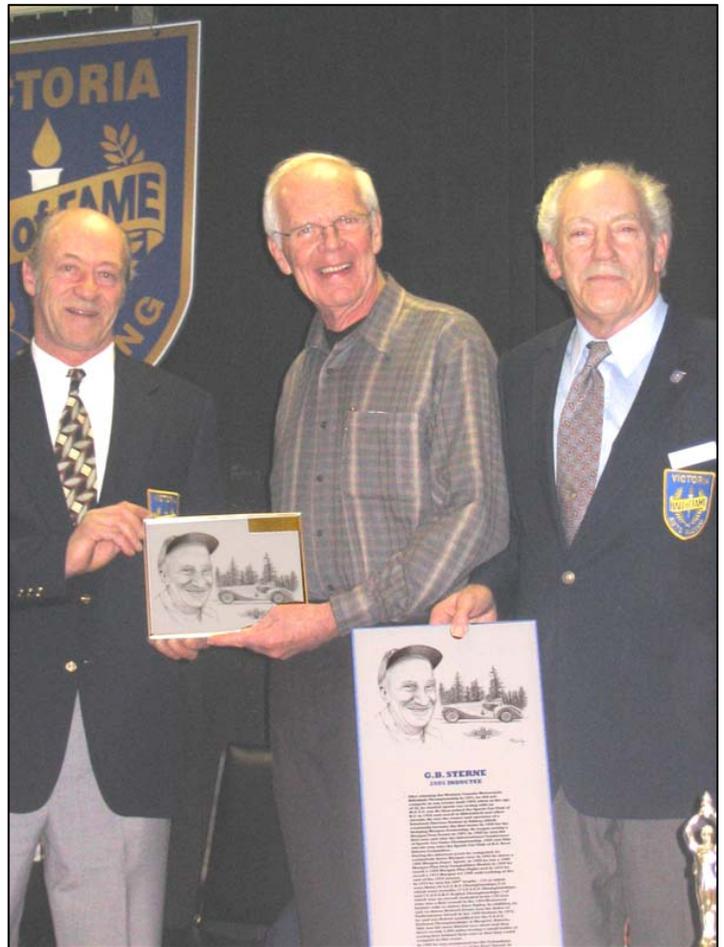
The Greater Vancouver Motorsport Pioneers Society (GVMP) is a group of motorsport enthusiasts from various motorsport activities whose goal it is to recognize and record the contributions of those who were pioneers in motorsport in this region.



G. B. Sterne's proud family, grandson Greg Sterne and son Bill Sterne, with the award standing in the sun outside the Curling Club on Saturday, October 23rd, 2004. Thanks to Mike Powley for the information and pictures.

next race which GB had entered the second grandson got to carry the flag. When he returned Bill asked his dad, "Now what about the youngest?" The youngest was six months at the time. "Well we shall have to work on that one," he said. Bill then asked his dad, "Now that you have grandkids, dad, when are you going to think of retiring from the racing?" GB did not say a thing but gave Bill, his oldest son, the most wicked evil eye. Nothing was ever mentioned again on this subject.

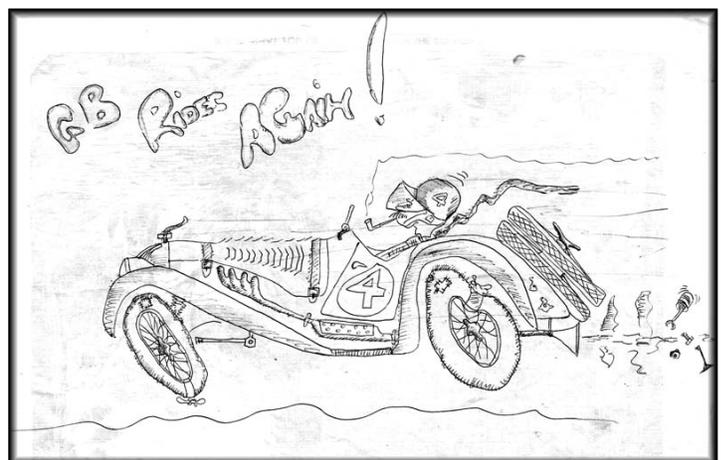
For more on the Victoria Auto Racing Hall of Fame, visit their website: www.victoriaautoracinghalloffame.com



G.B. Sterne Inducted into the Victoria Auto Racing Hall of Fame

Saturday, February 19th, 2005, 3:00 PM, at the Langford Legion, G. B. Sterne was one of three inductees into the Victoria Auto Racing Hall of Fame. There were approximately 250 people in attendance from all forms of auto racing in the local area. Three Morgans were in attendance in the parking lot and more members of MOGNW were present. Bill Sterne took the duties of receiving the award. He told the crowd a story of his dad.

One summer in the mid-70s he and his wife had come out to the coast on holiday with his kids who were quite young at the time. On Sunday he arrived at Westwood to see the races. GB promised his oldest grandson (age 6) that if he won the race he would get a ride in the Morgan for the victory lap. True to form, the oldest got a ride and carried the checker flag for the victory. This upset the second grandson (age 3) who wanted to do the same. So in the





G. B. Sterne: Victoria Auto Racing Hall of Fame 2005 Inductee

After winning the Western Canada Motorcycle Hill-climb Championship in 1931, he did not compete in any events until 1954, when at the age of 42, he started sports car racing with an MG TC car. *[Note: should be TD.]* He then joined the Sports Car Club of BC in 1955 and raced at Abbotsford and other circuits. He was the owner and operator of a Standard Chevron Station in Sidney, which eventually became the first home in 1956 for the fledgling Morgan dealership. He began racing a Morgan Four-Seater in 1957. In 1958 he won his first race and also the International Conference of Sports Car Clubs Championship. 1959 saw him win his way onto the Sports Car Club of BC Race Drivers Committee.

During the nineteen years he competed, he exclusively drove Morgan cars. In 1963 he drove a 1963 Morgan Super Sport; in 1966 he ran a 1966 Morgan Plus Four Competition Model; in 1969 he raced a 1969 Morgan Plus Eight; and in 1972 he raced a 1972 Morgan 4/4 1600 until retiring at the end of the 1975 season.

In 1974 he won his 389th trophy – 170 of which were firsts; twenty-six SCCBC Championships, eight of which

were overalls; seventeen ICSCC Championships; and two CASCBC Region Championships, one of which was an overall. Included in his 170 race wins was a first overall in the 1964 Westwood Enduro with co-driver Dave Ogilvy. In addition, he and co-driver Richard Evans won the Index of Performance Award in the 1968 Enduro. In 1972, he and son Robert qualified for the CASC National Championships at Mosport, Ontario. This was his most distant race meet and they drove nearly 3,000 miles towing a small trailer of racing tires behind their cars so that they could compete in this event.

In 1969 he was nominated for the Columbian Newspaper “Sportsman of the Year” Award. In addition to his driving efforts, he was a Charter Member of the Victoria Motor Sports Club, being President on two occasions; was a Charter Member of the International Conference of Sports Car Clubs where he was Vice-President for five years and the Novice License Director for three years; was an Executive Officer for CASC as well as being club representative for VMSC and SCCBC for many years.

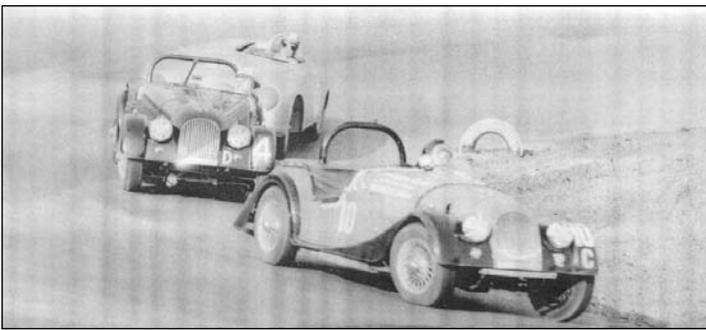
George’s wife Lydia was an active partner during his racing career. She did lap scoring, timing, some corner work duties as well as being a pit person. She also did some driving on occasion during George’s racing career. Although “G.B.” passed away on Oct. 15th, 1990, his memory lives on as a 2005 Inductee into the Victoria Auto Racing Hall of Fame.



George and Lydia were first in line at a 1962 autocross



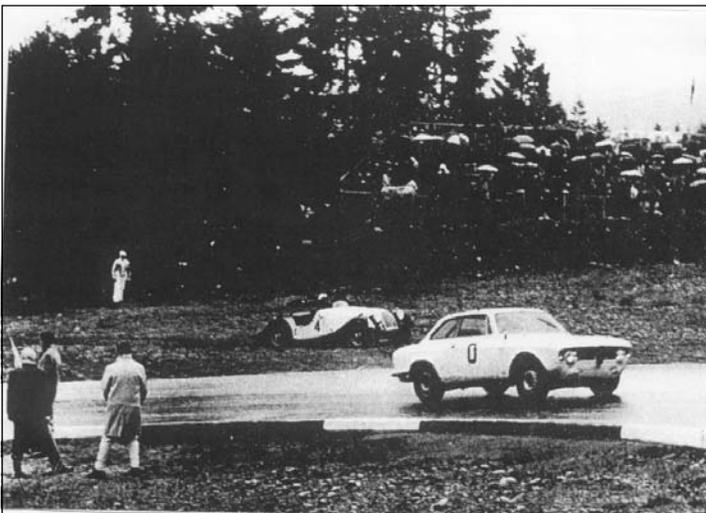
Receiving the green flag at Westwood



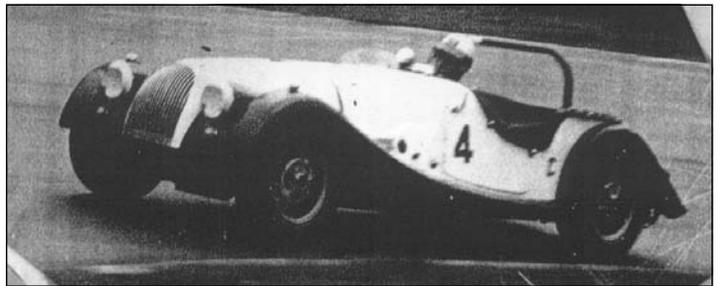
Running in 2nd spot at Westwood in 1962



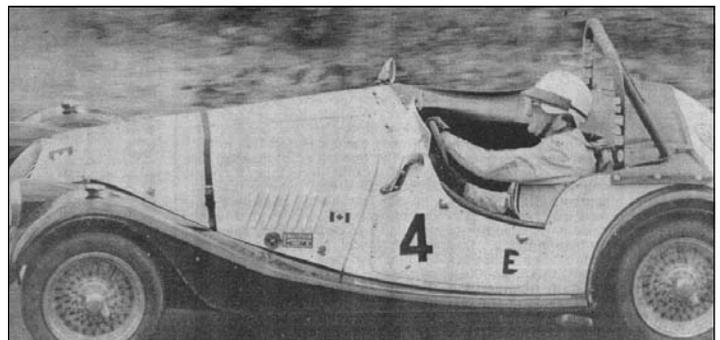
G. B. racing at Victoria's Western Speedway in 1971



G. B. "dirt trackin" at Westwood in 1970



Racing his Morgan in 1973 at Westwood



In action at Seattle International Raceway in 1975

[Editor's Note: The cover photo and content on pages 47 and 48 are from the Victoria Auto Racing Hall of Fame website: www.victoriaautoracinghalloffame.com/gbsterne/gbsterne.html