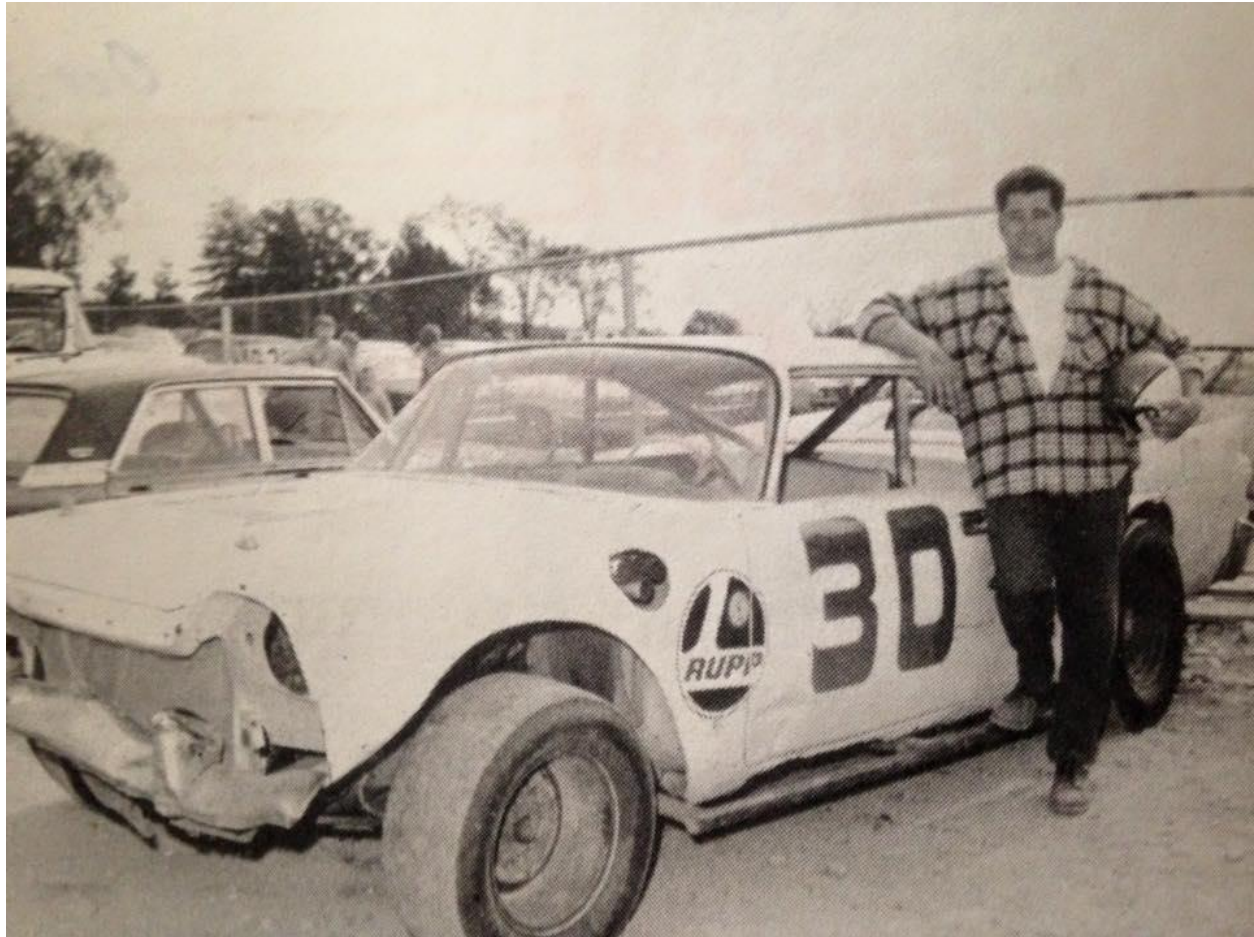


## BILL BAILEY

DRIVER



There has rarely been an intimidating presence both on and off the track at Wiscasset Speedway quite like Albert Bill Bailey. Already an established winner at tracks around the state, “Big Bad Bill” and his “Dirty Thirty” took to Wiscasset’s high banked oval as soon as it opened for business in 1969 and quickly made the track his playground. Racing in the Sportsman class head to head with other legends of the sport including Stan Messerve, Lawrence Reno, Bob Hallee, Buster Grover and others, you would regularly see him in victory lane. Bill rarely kept track of his wins (which were many), but instead would voluntarily start at the back of the field, just to see how many cars he could pass. When asked about it, Bill would say “if ya start up front, well, where you gonna go?” Even though he was an intimidating presence on the track, he was a big man with a big heart, usually giving away his trophies to young fans. Proving that championships were not his priority, Bill would often leave a track with the point lead in search of challenges at other tracks. Wiscasset eventually became his home and he won a Sportsman title in 1970 with 11 feature wins. Bill Bailey’s career spanned a quarter century, with his final victory lane appearance coming in 1984. He was inducted into the Maine Motorsports Hall of Fame in the spring of 2017. He passed away in September of the same year at the age of 78. Bill married his wife Jackie (daughter of Wilford Cronk) and had sons William & Jeffrey.