

## **Charlie Patterson**

Introduction to Charlie Patterson: Charlie Patterson was born and raised on a dairy farm here in Avon. He has been involved in auto racing for many years. Charlie was interviewed by Vernon Shepherd, who is another long-time Avon resident.

### **Avon's Blacksmith's Shop**

Charlie: My grandfather, Charles Larsh, had a blacksmith shop on the farm when I was growing up. From as early as I can remember he was having horses brought in from all over the county so he could shoe them. He also beat out plow points in the old shop. I used to crank the old forge that heated up the metal so he could work it on the anvil. I still have that anvil today in my shop and, by growing up in that shop, I became very interested in working with my hands, which contributed to my work on race cars. Grandfather would get the metal real hot, lay it on the anvil, take a hammer and pound the pieces together so they could weld themselves together.

### **Loafing in Avon**

Charlie: When I was a little kid, when we got the milking done, we needed a place to loaf, so we would go down and hang around Ralph Hawkins's garage...If there wasn't much going on there, we would go down the road about half a mile to Horace Brown's place. That was Brownie's garage, which had a big pot-bellied stove; this was where we would share stories of things going on around the neighborhood.