

'A Ride Eddie Won't Forget'

By W.W. EDGAR

It was late last Saturday afternoon when the phone rang and the voice on the other end of the line said, very calmly, "You'll be shocked to learn that your old friend, Gar Wood, just died in Florida." "Shocked!" That doesn't half describe the feeling that came over The Stroller, who was planning to spend a few hours with the "Old Gray Fox of Algonaac," at the testimonial dinner being planned in his honor at the Detroit Yacht Club. For a moment or two all was quiet, then the voice of Paul Carey, of the WJR sports staff, broke the silence with "I know that will revive many memories for you of the days when Gar was the world's speedboat king and you were at his side most of the time." Yes, through the shock of the sad news, came many memories of the wildest days

the Detroit River 'ever has known—and the greatest thrill I ever enjoyed along the sports trail. The big thrill came one morning in 1933 in Algonaac when Gar and his mechanic, Orin Johnson, had just set the world record of 124.85 miles an hour and we were gathered in the boat house to congratulate him. "How did it feel to know that you were going faster than any man ever had traveled on water?" The Stroller asked. "You think that would make a good story?" he shot back with a smile. Told that it would, he looked at Johnson, his mechanic and winked. Before he realized what was happening, The Stroller was in white coveralls with a hood over his head and Gar said, "We're going to take you for a ride. Whatever your feelings are will be the same as we had." What a ride! Up over the measured mile until the tachometer showed 3300 rpm's and that was the record speed.

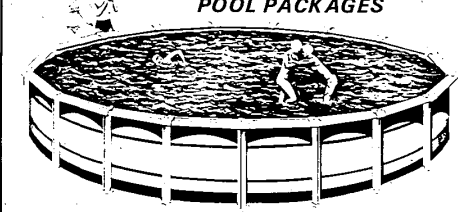
124.85 miles an hour—at that moment The Stroller became the sixth man in the world to travel that fast on water. That was a thrill that never will be forgotten. But in death, Gar will revive the memory of the greatest naval battle on the Great Lakes since Admiral Perry made his historic remark at the Battle of Lake Erie. It came on the afternoon of Labor Day in 1931 when close to a million persons lined the shores to see him beat Kaye Don, the British challenger, over the line to cause his disqualification and then upset him on the turn at Belle Isle bridge to keep the Harmsworth Trophy in America. You won't find this battle recorded in the standard history books in our schools, but at the time, in 1931, the details were on the sports and editorial pages around the world. Never did a sports event cause such a furor, and all because in his moment of triumph Gar stated "The good old Yankee trick did it!"

So great were the arguments in the aftermath that even the diplomatic forces of the two countries were brought into play and the one big question of the day was "Did Gar trick him liberately?" Back in those days The Stroller wore the cap of an admiral as the speedboat editor on the staff of the Detroit Free Press and was as close to Gar as one could get. Gar had successfully defended the trophy in 1929 and 1930 against the challenge of Miss Betty Carstairs, of England, and now was con-

fronted by a third British challenge that was considered more formidable with Kaye Don at the wheel. Well does The Stroller recall the morning we gathered, along with Gar, to watch the unloading of the British boat at the Canadian dock. As he watched the crane lift the boat, Gar took a second look. With his sharp eye he noted something that most of us overlooked. "I'm surprised they (the British) would send over a boat like that. A good wash would upset it," he said. We had reason to remember those words a few days later. Both sides of the Detroit River were banked solidly with spectators on the Saturday prior to Labor Day when the starting gun sounded and the crowd was treated to something it never had seen before—a challenger leading Gar over the finish line, in a best of three heats. The great Gar had been defeated for the first time. So, there was stark drama along the river on the afternoon of Labor Day. The eyes of the world were turned on the Detroit River for the second beat. An hour before the race, with many visting his defeat, Gar was asked if he would report back to the dock. They even had the Harmsworth Trophy at the judges stand ready to give to the winner. "What makes you think I'll be back?" Gar asked. "You think we're going to get licked, too?" Then he smiled. Tension grew worse as race time neared. Then, about 15 minutes before time for the

POOL SALE

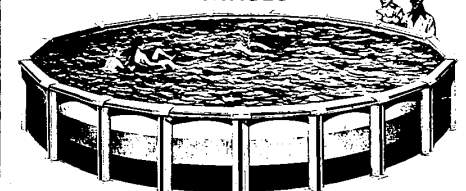
REPEAT OF A SELLOUT!
NASSAU ROYALE POOL PACKAGES



GIANT 5" WIDE TOP RAILING - 7 POINT PERMA-LOCK SYSTEM ON EACH STANCHION - WINTERIZED LINER

24' NASSAU ROYALE COMPLETE \$488
15' NASSAU ROYALE PACKAGE \$349
18' NASSAU ROYALE PACKAGE \$399

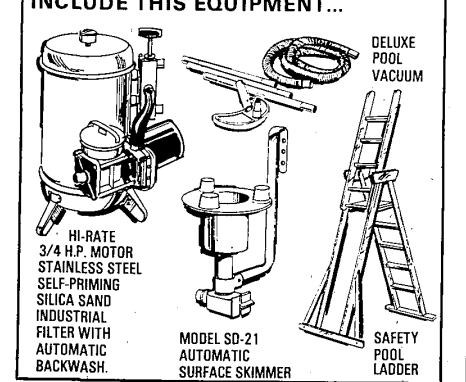
BAL HARBOUR POOL PACKAGES



THE BAL HARBOUR SERIES FEATURES AN EXTRA WIDE 7" WIDE TOP SEAT, 6 1/2" WIDE STANCHION, POSITIVE 9 POINT SEAT TO STANCHION LOCKING SYSTEM, UNIQUE DOUBLE WALL CHANNEL TRACKS, COLOR COORDINATED DECORATOR DESIGN, HEAVY WINTERIZED LINER

24' BAL HARBOUR PACKAGE \$579
15' BAL HARBOUR \$399
18' BAL HARBOUR \$475
27' BAL HARBOUR \$659
THESE PRICES ARE COMPLETE!

ALL POOL PRICES IN THIS AD INCLUDE THIS EQUIPMENT...



OPEN SAT. 9-6
OPEN DAILY 10-9
OPEN SUN. 11-6

VISCOUNT POOLS

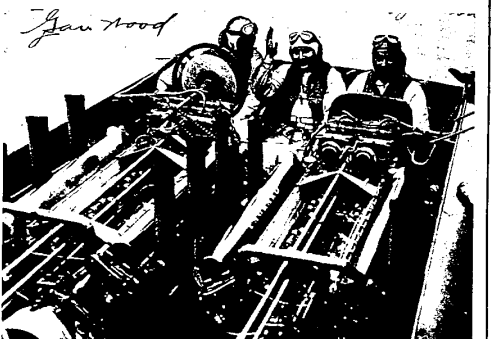
The Pool People

LIVONIA 34750 PLYMOUTH RD. (300' E. of Wayne)
YPSILANTI 1133 E. MICHGAN (Across from Chumblay Chev.)
ANN ARBOR 2450 W. STADIUM (Across from Westgate Center)

WORK SHOE HEADQUARTERS
25545 FIVE MILE
Near Beech Daly - Free Parking
FOR WEAR ON CONCRETE
IN STOCK \$23
No Weaving
KE 3-1256
SIZES 5-16 3A-H
RED WING

Full Program of USAC SPRINTS SAT., JUNE 26
Many of the Nationally Famous 'Indy' Drivers Will Participate in This Exciting Program.
TOLEDO SPEEDWAY
5600 Benora Rd.
TIME TRIALS 6:30 P.M.
1st RACE 8:30 P.M.
CALL FOR RESERVATIONS 1-419-244-7632

NOBODY BEATS A Honda House of Farmington DEAL!
Michigan's Fastest Growing Honda Dealer...
LOW MONTHLY PAYMENTS TRADES ACCEPTED IMMEDIATE DELIVERY
1929 GRAND RIVER FARMINGTON 4148116



IT WAS BACK in the days when Gar Wood, the famed Detroit sportsman who died earlier in the week, was reaching the heights in speedboat racing that Eddie Edger, then a sports writer for a metropolitan daily, went for a ride with Gar (left) and Orin Johnson in the world's fastest boat. Our Eddie recalls the ride and his experiences with Wood. He was slated to renew friendships with Gar in a special recognition dinner Friday—Gar died Monday. This picture is a much valued memento in Eddie's collection.

Birmingham Takes Duel

By STEVE STEIN
A two-run outburst in the sixth inning by Birmingham Geakes spoiled a good pitching performance by the Lethrup Lions' Andy Barak who lost 2-1. Barak allowed only the two runs in the sixth inning on a walk, a double, and an infield hit. Lathrup scored its run in the fourth when Bruce Ruhl, who will be a junior next year at Southfield Lathrup, was safe on a fielder's choice, and stole second base. Ted Harper, who led the Lathrup attack with two hits in three at bats, singled Ruhl home to give the Lions the lead. The loss dropped Lathrup's season record to 3-3, but it faces tough Bloomfield Thursday on the home field at Southfield Lathrup High School. In the first meeting between Bloomfield and the Lions, 11-0.

THIS SATURDAY, JUNE 26 —THE DAMSEL'S STAKES
Post Parade 2:10 p.m.
Reservations GA 1-7170 \$150 ADM.
DRC
Come alive today at the DRC... with the Motor City's LIVE HORSEPOWER DETROIT RACE COURSE
DID YOU KNOW - THE BIG P REALLY PAYS OFF AT DRC... \$53,423.00 \$31,943.00 \$32,460.00
EVERY THURSDAY IS LADIES AND FREE KIDS DAY
Ladies admitted half-price to the grandstand and children under 12 FREE when accompanied by an adult at the entry to get to DRC. Showboats and Madmen's convenience - please use Inliner Rd. Entrance

Treat Yourself Royally. Royal Canadian
If you haven't discovered Royal Canadian yet, chances are your neighbors have. A royal taste—a premium import—at a price comparable to domestic whiskies. Try it.
\$5.10 IMPORTED FIFTH HALF GALLONS ALSO AVAILABLE

WHEN YOU THINK OF POWER INTERNATIONAL...HAS IT!
LIGHTWEIGHT EASY FINGER TOUCH CUTTING HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT
INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER CO.
31666 8 MILE ROAD FARMINGTON 476-0960