



Marjorie Marge Beckrich enjoyed bingo and riding motorcycles. She worked for the Scott County Transit for 15 years. Marge was also a member of the V.F.W. Ladies Auxiliary in Shakopee.



Marjorie Marge Beckrich died on Friday, October 8, 2010 at her residence in Shakopee. She was 56 years old.

Marge funeral service was on Tuesday October 12, 2010. She was buried at Valley Cemetery in Shakopee.

And many people remember the time when she drove with men at Raceway Park, and did well!



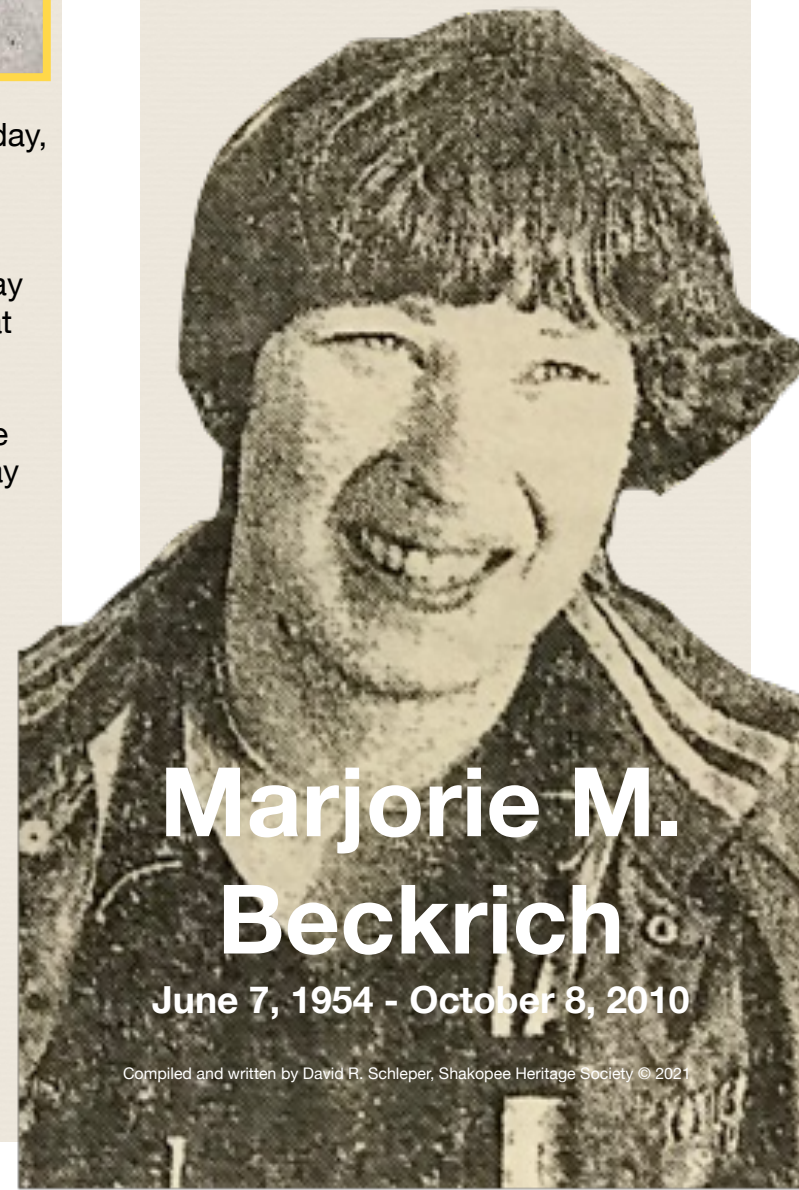
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## SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY



# Marjorie M. Beckrich

June 7, 1954 - October 8, 2010

Compiled and written by David R. Schleper, Shakopee Heritage Society © 2021





Raceway Park was a NASCAR park across from Valleyfair in east Shakopee. People would have their passions stirred for the squeal of tires and the rumble of revving motors. It started as a dirt track in 1954, then switched to asphalt. Many generations stood in long lines to get into the quaint track that made racing up close and personal to Minnesota motor sports enthusiasts. Many young girls (and boys) enjoyed watching Marge Beckrich beat the men!

Raceway Park was a 1/4 mile asphalt oval race track located near Valleyfair in Shakopee. One woman who became “The Janet Guthrie of Figure-8s.”

Marjorie Marge Beckrich was born in Shakopee on June 7, 1954. Her parents were Harold and Marie Anderson Beckrich.

And she loved driving cars!

Janet Guthrie was a professional race car driver and the first woman to qualify and compete in both the Indianapolis 500 and the Daytona 500.



Janet Guthrie, a professional race car driver, and an idol of Margie Beckrich.

At Raceway Park, Marge Beckrich became the Janet Guthrie of Figure-8s! In fact, Marge was the first (and only at that time) woman who raced the Figure 8.

Marge was the first female race driver at Raceway Park in Shakopee, where she raced in the 1970s and 1980s.

Many people looked up to Marge, who competed with men, and did well!

Over the years, the lines to go to Raceway Park started to slow down, and during the recent years, fewer people attended the park. After 60 years of up-closer racing, Raceway Park closed in 2013.

According to owner John Hellenbrung, there was not enough fan support in recent years to sustain the place. Raceway Park was closed, and an asphalt recycling plant was built there.

FIGURE "8"

| Car No./Drivers Name         | Home Town | Car      | Car No./Drivers Name | Home Town | Car     |
|------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| 3 Gary Kersting              | Jordan    | 63 Ford  | 62 Roger Anderson    | St. Paul  | 68 Chev |
| 4 James Drawert              | Shakopee  | 69 Dodge | 64 Virgil Erickson   | Mound     |         |
| 5 Dick Mohlin                | Shakopee  | 66 Ply   | 65 Michael Kersting  | Shakopee  | 64 Ford |
| 7 George Keeley/Roger Keller | Mpls.     | 65 Buick | 73 Gene LaBarre      | St. Paul  | 68 Chev |
| 10 Ken Farrell               | Shakopee  | 68 Dodge | 77 Jim Norgaard      | Mpls.     | 66 Chev |
| 13 Mark Kersting             | Jordan    | 73 Ford  | 79 Bob Braunworth    | Victoria  | 66 Chev |
| 18 Ron Alonzo                | Mpls.     | 68 Chev  | 80 John Cheever      | Shakopee  | 67 Ply  |
| 25 Calvin Teneyck            | Shakopee  | 66 Ford  | 88 Grant Harnois     | Mpls.     |         |
| 30 Rick Meyer                | Shakopee  | 72 Chev  | Valz                 | New Hope  | 68 Chev |
| 32 Margie Beckrich           | Shakopee  | 70 Chev  | Wyatt                | Plymouth  | 64 Ford |
| 37 Tim Douglas               | Mound     | 66 Chev  | Farrell              | Shakopee  | 63 Ford |
| 52 Dave Wood                 | Newport   | 70 Chev  | Barta                | Mpls.     | 72 Chev |
| 54 Stephen Kersting          | Jordan    | 64 Ford  | 07 Martin Wyatt      | Hopkins   | 65 Ford |
| 55 James Cheever             | Shakopee  |          |                      |           |         |