

2010 NTPA Hall of Fame Inductee Kenny Mack

Kenny Mack has had a major influence on pullers, promoters and spectators from the Midwest for more than 40 years. Some might call him one of the sport's great story tellers, as his cranium houses thousands of stories from five decades in the sport – and he can vividly recant each memory like it was yesterday. Others would call him NTPA's unofficial historian, as his knowledge and recollection of people, places and facts are truly unrivaled. But Wisconsin native, Kenny Mack, will be first and foremost thought of as an informed and insightful trackside announcer who kept NTPA patrons knowledgeable and in step with the pulling action.

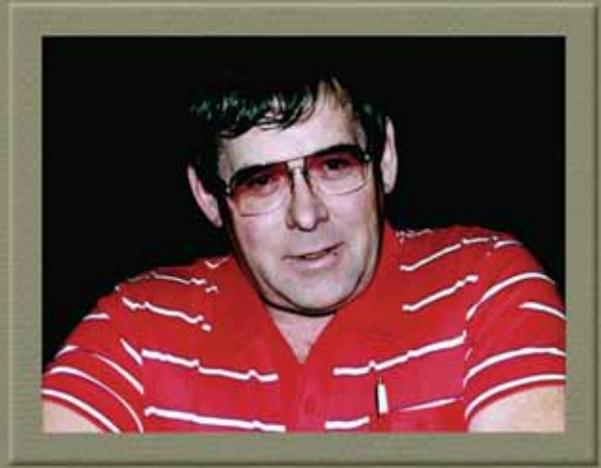
Growing up on a Wisconsin farm and driving a tractor from the age of seven, pulling was a natural progression, but the sport came calling

in Mack's life in an unusual manner. Mack, working at a local implement dealer in Sun Prairie, was sent by his employer across the Badger State to many pulling events utilizing stone boats or step on sleds to assist with the dealership's myriad of tractors competing at each event. The involvement of the dealership was a simple marketing plan: It helped sell new tractors to farmers watching the competition. Some competitors were crying foul, as the dealership Mack worked for brought several tractors in on one trailer to compete. They did well by having multiple vehicles competing. However, with the new tractors under warranty, the "sheer number" advantage the dealership had gave way to those competitors who could alter their engines without worrying about the

warranty, something Mack's employer had to take into account. The times were changing in pulling indeed, but this humble beginning is where Kenny Mack gained his introduction to the sport.

Around 1969 – the same year as NTPA's birth – Mack and several interested Wisconsin pullers decided that uniformity of rules, safety and class structure was needed. The result was an 11-member board of directors being established, and Kenny was part of that very first board. This organized group became known as the Wisconsin Tractor Pullers Association.

With WTPA taking charge of pulling in the state of Wisconsin, Kenny worked initially as a track official and flagman. In those days, there was only one flagman who stood at the end of the track. Another duty of this flagman



by Gregg Randall

was to help unhook the vehicles from the sled. In 1970, Kenny was seriously injured in an accident in which a pulling tractor backed into him, causing several broken ribs and a hurt shoulder. That accident plus fate directed Kenny toward his now famous position as trackside announcer.

Sun Prairie, Wis. was having its first pulling event at its local dirt speedway. WTPA was on hand to promote the event to fans watching a stock car race at the facility a few days prior to the pull. Mack came to pass out flyers. The Skaar, Wileman and Luedtke families each brought their tractors to hook to Luedtke's Eliminator sled for an exhibition run during the race's intermission. When the race track announcer saw that the time was nearing for the exhibition, he sought out some help with announcing. Jim Skaar

convinced Mack to go talk with the race track announcer and give play by play and insight to the three exhibition passes. Kenny's never-intended audition to become the voice of the Wisconsin Tractor Pullers was cinched that evening as many people left impressed by not only what they saw, but what they heard.

Last summer, Mack celebrated 40 years of a successful, ongoing announcing career which he had never planned. Mack has enjoyed every moment of his involvement in many events throughout the United States and Canada over the years.

Kenny Mack was a steady figure in the WTPA, serving for more than three decades and as president for 12 years, as well as representing WTPA on the NTPA Full Board of Directors. Mack was also on the WTPA Board

when it joined NTPA to strengthen national pulling recognition. He was part of the Elkhorn, Wis. event getting off the ground so that the state would have a class A level NTPA national event in 1974. Kenny was one of four individuals to receive the WTPA's Lifetime Membership for being involved from day one, something that he is humbly proud of. Mack also spent six years on the NTPA Executive Board of Directors in the late '80s through early '90s, serving as secretary.

Kenny Mack has made a mark on the sport as one of the early trailblazers from Wisconsin through his actions on the board of directors and his earnest, undying commitment and service to NTPA pullers, promoters and fans. With this induction, pulling's great storyteller has become the subject matter, writing yet another chapter in his continuing story.