

# Justice Family Long at Indy

By **DICK MITTMAN**

Few families are around today — if any — at the Speedway whose involvement dates back to the first race following World War II. But at least one does hold that distinction.

Ed Justice Jr. was honored last May by the 500 Oldtimers Club for his and his family's distinction of being part of the race in some capacity for 71 years. Ed Justice has continued the family connection that actually started prior to the shutdown of the Speedway from 1942 through 1945.

"My Uncle Zeke went to work for Joel Thorne pre-World War II," said Justice, who is president & CEO of Justice Brothers, Inc., in Duarte, Calif. There is a publishing outlet called eije Publishing Group.

Justice Brothers manufactures additives, lubricants and cleaners that are used worldwide in the automotive, heavy equipment, agriculture and industrial markets.

"After the war he (Zeke) was part of the Thorne team with George Robson's winning car," Justice said. "He also worked on two other cars in the race.

"Four years later in 1950 Justice's dad and uncle achieved victory being involved with the Kurtis car that Johnnie Parsons



**Zeke Justice was part of the 1950 victory celebration by the winning Johnnie Parsons team.**

drove to victory in the rain-shortened race. Uncle Zeke was the first employee of Kurtis and received a letter from him suggesting they sponsor a car at Indy."

They did and the Wynn's Offy was out front when rain stopped the race after 138 laps.

The Justice Brothers added a second car in 1952 as they sponsored Jim Rathmann's Grancor-Wynn's car owned by the Granatelli brothers. That race was won by Troy Ruttman driving the Agajanian Kuzman.

"I've been asked many times how our record compares to my good friends, the Agajanians," Justice said.

"Well, the Justice family started in 1946 and JC Agajanian started his legendary relationship at Indy in 1948, two years later. Interestingly enough, the year JC won his first Indy 500, 1952 with Troy Ruttman, our sponsored car of Jim Rathmann was second."

Last May Cary Agajanian was part of the winning Alexander Rossi car, while Ed Justice got the opportunity to drive a race car on the track during an open practice period.

Justice notes that though the years his family's name has been involved with people like Lou Moore (first five-time winner), A.J. Watson, Cotton Farmer, Lloyd Ruby, Johnny Rutherford, Don Branson, Chuck Hulse, Ron Hemelgarn, Eddie Cheever, A.J. Foyt and Andretti Auto Parts.

More recently, Justice was part of Jeff Ward's second place finish in 1999 and a front row starter Greg Ray, who led some laps. And in the 100th race Townsend Bell qualified fourth and led a number of laps before a pit encounter with Ryan Hunter-Reay eliminated both cars.

The Justice family will be back in May for its race No. 72 as the Speedway begins its second century of 500-mile races. ❖❖❖

## President's Corner

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istry. I believe IndyCar will be even more effective by God's power and might in 2017."

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It hasn't taken long for **Alexander Rossi** to benefit from his stunning 500 victory last May. He has signed with talent agency ICM Partners. ICM, it says, is one of the world's largest talent and literary agencies with offices in New York, Los Angeles and London. Additionally, Rossi was named

2016 Athlete of the Year by the National Italian-American Hall of Fame.

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The NASCAR Hall of Fame inducted five new members — **Richard Childress, Rick Hendrick, Mark Martin, Raymond Parks** and **Benny Parsons** — following the end of the 2016 season.

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**Charles Chenoweth** is seeking an autograph of **George Souders**, 1927 Indy 500 winner. Chenoweth can be contacted on Face Book. ❖❖❖