

By: Don Gilchrest

IMPERIAL, CALIF. "It's been a long time in coming, in fact I thought I was quietly retired." That was the first words of Jimmy Edwards of Phoenix, AZ. as he stepped from the Corky Chumbley Metro Plumbing Special after winning the 30 lap feature in the opening race of the KRACO-CRA Championship Series at the California Mid-Winter Fair on the 3/8 mile dirt oval.

Edwards, who ran CRA years ago before moving to the Pennsylvania area where in his words he had won many events, some of them very prestigious had retired to Phoenix. A year and a half ago car owner Chumbley called him up to run at Canyon Speedway in Phoenix. I told him "I don't know the track or the car." Edwards not only drove the car but won the feature. "Thats the last time I drove a sprinter and the last time I won a feature." "This is a great thrill winning in CRA for my dad who owned cars for many years."

Edwards started on the pole in the 30 lap feature and went wire to wire with Ricky Hood, subbing for a sick Dean Thompson in the Bruce Bromme car, right on his tail the last 13 laps. For Hood it was his first time back in a race car after his accident at Manzanita Speedway last October.

Gary Howard finished third in the Agajanian Enterprises #98Jr. followed by Eddie Wirth, Brad Noffsinger, Lealand McSpadden and Jeff Heywood who brought the Alex Morales "Tamale Wagon" from 19th starting position to 7th for the best passing job in the feature.

Before a capacity crowd, with the Fair in the background, Arizona sprint car champion Richard Griffin started out the day with fast time at 19.684. Eddie Wirth won the trophy dash with ten lap heat wins going to Jim Lauri IV, Rick Ungar, Walt Kennedy and Jeff Heywood. Tom Stahl won the consy while John Redican won the 12 lap semi main.

Anthony Simone had the only flip of the day while the feature event went caution free for a new 30 lap track record of 9.54.85.

QUALIFYING:

1. Richard Griffin, Carstens #1A, 19.684; 2. Eddie Wirth, Wirth-Davis #77, 19.711; 3. Brad Noffsinger, Kasparoff #391, 19.747; 4. John Redican, Simpson #55, 19.840; 5. Bob Meli, Havens #88, 19.860; 6. Ricky Hood, Bromme #2, 19.881; 7. Walt Kennedy, Kindoll #81, 19.901; 8. Gary Howard Agajanian #98Jr, 20.008; 9. Jimmy Edwards, Chumbley #51A, 20.021; 10. Dan Lewis, Pratt #11, 20.031; 11. Lealand McSpadden, Krug #98A, 20.062; 12. Randy Holbert, Roa #38, 20.064; 13. Brad Marvel, Gardner #7, 20.086; 14. Bobby Michnowicz, Michnowicz #121, 20.133; 15. Jimmy Sills, Lovell #71N, 20.146; 16. Tommy White, Bintner #46, 20.232; 17. Duane Feduska, A&A Foreign Auto Parts #82, 20.264; 18. Terry Kawell, Kawell #52, 20.323; 19. Mark Atchison, Noggle #30, 20.325; 20. Steve Howard, Lane #31, 20.334; 21. Mike Sweeney, Kasparoff #5, 20.336; 22. Rick Ungar, Klein #39N, 20.341; 23. Kirk Sturgeon, Sturgeon #43, 20.362; 24. Billy Felts, Germo #25, 20.363; 25. Jim Lauri 1U, Hicks #00, 20.434; 26. Chuck Becker Becker #85, 20.461; 27. Stan Atherton, Lewis #56, 20.465; 28. Bubby Jones, Lewis #91, 20.470; 29. Rip Williams, Vermeer #37, 20.562; 30. John Beavert, Brown-Williams #39, 20.619; 31. Anthony Simone, Simone #105, 20.702; 32. Jeff Heywood, Morales #8, 20.729; 33. Tom Stahl, Stahl #131, 20.735; 34. Roger Newell, Newell #78, 20.771; 35. Kirk Alexander, Own #33, 20.905; 36. Jerry Myers, Myers #28, 21.005; 37. Alan Wexler, Rockert #63, 21.058; 38. Bobby George, Own #7X, 21.073; 39. Dick Dixon, Felts #87, 21.087; 40. Kevin Kierce, Kierce #54, 21.375; 41. Randy Case, Own #24, No Time; Ed Reed, Ruth #50, No Time.

TROPHY DASH: Eddie Wirth, John Redican, Brad Noffsinger, Richard Griffin. Time 1:01.132.

FIRST HEAT (10 Laps) Jim Lauri 1U, Jim Edwards, Duane Feduska, Griffin, Rip Williams, Randy Holbert, Bob Meli, Mike Sweeney. No Time.

SECOND HEAT (10 Laps) Rick Ungar, Wirth, Chuck Becker Jr, Terry Kawell, Ricky Hood, Brad Marvel, John Beavert, Dan Lewis. No Time.

THIRD HEAT (10 Laps) Walt Kennedy, Jimmy Sills, Stan Atherton, Mark

Atchison, Bobby Michnowicz, Anthony Simone, Stan Atherton, Kirk Sturgeon. No Time.

FOURTH HEAT (10 Laps) Jeff Heywood, Lealand McSpadden, Bubby Jones, Billy Felts, Steve Howard, John Redican, Gary Howard, Tommy White. Time:3:25.33.

CONSY (6 Laps) Tom Stahl, Alan Wexler, Kirk Alexander, Bobby George, Jerry Myers, Kevin Kierce, Roger Newell, Dick Dixon, Ed Reed. Time 2:08.37.

SEMI (12 Laps) Redican, Hood, G.Howard, Marvel, Sweeney, Michnowicz, Lewis, Sturgeon, Holbert, White, Wexler, Stahl, Beavert, S.Howard,Meli. No Time.

FEATURE (30 Laps) Edwards, Hood, G.Howard, Wirth, Noffsinger, McSpadden Heywood, Sills, Kennedy, Griffin, Marvel, Redican, Feduska, Ungar, Lauri, Atchison, Felts, Kawell, Becker, B.Jones. Time 9:54.85. (NTR)