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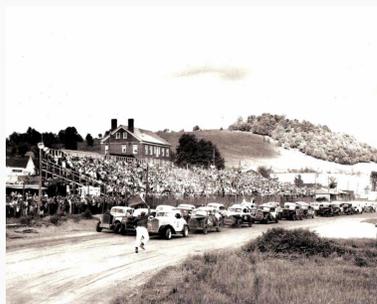
Dear History Lover,

The sap is running these days just as fast as we are, with just two months until the exhibit opens! Plans are coming together, thanks to the many people and places that are sharing their stories, loaning objects, and joining as sponsors.



With our newest exhibit, "Anything for Speed: Automobile Racing in Vermont." opening in less than two months, now is a great time to become a VHS member! You'll get awesome benefits like free admission, store discounts, special access to publications, and invitations to exclusive members-only events. And if you join between now and March 31st you'll be entered into a giveaway for two tickets to our exclusive VIP opening for "Anything for Speed" on April 27! Join here: <http://bit.ly/VHSmember2> (Photo credit: Aldo Merusi for the Rutland Herald, courtesy of the Rutland Historical Society)

On Track: State Line Speedway, North Bennington



Many Vermont tracks are set on the state's borders and have welcomed drivers and fans from several different states - and countries.

State Line Speedway in North Bennington

actually literally straddled the border. The state line cut through its grandstands and first two turns, while the bulk of the half-mile track was in Vermont. It is

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WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Do you have a copy of a DVD titled "Old Speedways," produced by Dan Ody of New York? We are eager to find a copy so we can show footage of Vermont's tracks in our exhibit - including State Line. If you have a copy of this DVD, please contact Amanda Gustin, amanda.gustin@vermonthistory.org.

EXHIBIT OPENS APRIL 28

Anything for Speed will open in conjunction with the [Downtown Barre Car Show](#). Check out all the great cars on Main St, then head up the hill to see the exhibit!

commonly identified as a Vermont track, but its all-time winningest driver was Steve Danish of New York.

The track ran for just over a decade, and achieved statewide prominence in 1951 because of its unique situation. That fall, an accident with spectators at a track in Colchester had prompted state's attorney Lawrence DeShaw to call publicly for more oversight of racetrack operations. One of the main thrusts of his argument was that tracks racing on Sunday were doing so in violation of the state's blue laws, which prohibited most forms of public activity on Sundays.

DeShaw cracked down immediately, visiting tracks to prevent even practice laps on Sunday. He also traveled to North Bennington to try and shut down track activities at State Line - but was unsuccessful, as track owners argued that track operations were actually in New York, though drivers did, briefly, operate in Vermont. Needless to say, his crusade was an unpopular one.

Ultimately, Deshaw's campaign alerted the legislature to the growing stock car racing scene in Vermont, and after committee deliberations, they passed the first laws related to automobile racing in Vermont, outlining the need for safety measures for the audience. They ruled that the question of racing on Sundays was a local concern, to be decided on town meeting day by the citizens of a track's hometown. The case was an early loosening of the blue laws, of which few traces remain.

Today, there are no traces of the track. This photograph is taken from the opposite direction as the above; the track's backstretch ran roughly through the buildings visible in the picture, and turns three and four abutted the tree line in the center of the picture.



Photo 1: A famous photograph of State Line from 1953. The brick house in the background stands today, straddling the border between New York (left side of this photograph) and Vermont (the right side of this photograph). Photograph courtesy of Ken Gypson.

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