

**Baker Loses Out On Freak Incident**

**Petty Wins Alamo 500 TWS Race**

Both Richard Petty and Bobby Baker wished it hadn't have happened, but Baker wished it hadn't have happened a lot worse.

After battling for 448 out of the 500-mile Texas World Speedway Alamo 500 stock car race, a chunk of Baker's Goodyear tire ripped a battery cable loose at the start-finish line, completely stalling his red and orange 1973 Dodge three-quarters of the track later enabling Petty to cash his third first place paycheck in five outings at TWS.

"Whenever you win a race, you want to know that you beat everyone," a tired and thirsty Petty said after the race. "You want to know that your car beat everyone else's car. You don't want to have something like this happen when your car runs as well as mine did today."

The race itself was bumper to bumper for the first 214 laps as both drivers shared winning laps.

Petty's brilliantly-colored electric orange and blue 1973 Dodge could maneuver better on the curves but Baker's had more outright speed on the back straightaway.

It was more of a chess match than a car race with the two drivers stealing toes behind the other and taking timely stops during the three lengthy and average speed decreasing caution laps following a couple blown engines and a sprung oil line.

All but 10 qualifying cars finished the race with only one incident causing exterior car damage with no one hurt except in pride.

Petty's victory, his 151 career, won the amiable North Carolinian \$13,820 plus 375 points toward the Winston Cup given to the driver scoring the most points during a season.

Baker, who lost seven laps due to the battery cable, finished six laps behind. Petty's average speed was 145.114 but could have been much higher without the caution laps.

"I would have felt much better if I had been able to win on the final lap like I had planned," Petty said. "I just wanted to keep real close and then pull around Baker at the finish. I think my

car handled a lot better after the tires got worn a little."

Bobby Allison's 1973 Coca Cola Chevelle, though not being a total surprise, turned many heads before leaving the race after the 141st lap due to a blown engine. He started the race in the 21 position but after less than 30 laps, he took over third. He stayed at the position until his engine gave way midway in the race

which left it between Petty and Baker.

Notables such as A. J. Foyt, Gordon Johncock and the Unser brothers were not on hand as other commitments had been made in a NASCAR race held in Milwaukee. Bobby Unser won that event. All, however, will be on hand at Texas World Speedway when the final event of the season is run on November 6.



I'M GLAD IT'S OVER WITH—Richard Petty seems pleased to be out in some fresh air after spending over 3 hours in his 125-degree temperature car. His TWS Alamo 500 victory gained him \$13,820 and 375 point toward the national NASCAR Winston Cup championship. The victory here was his third in five outings. (Photo by Bill Herridge)

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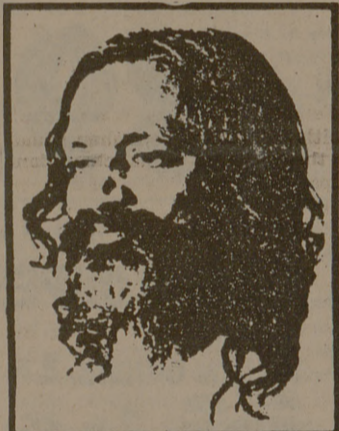
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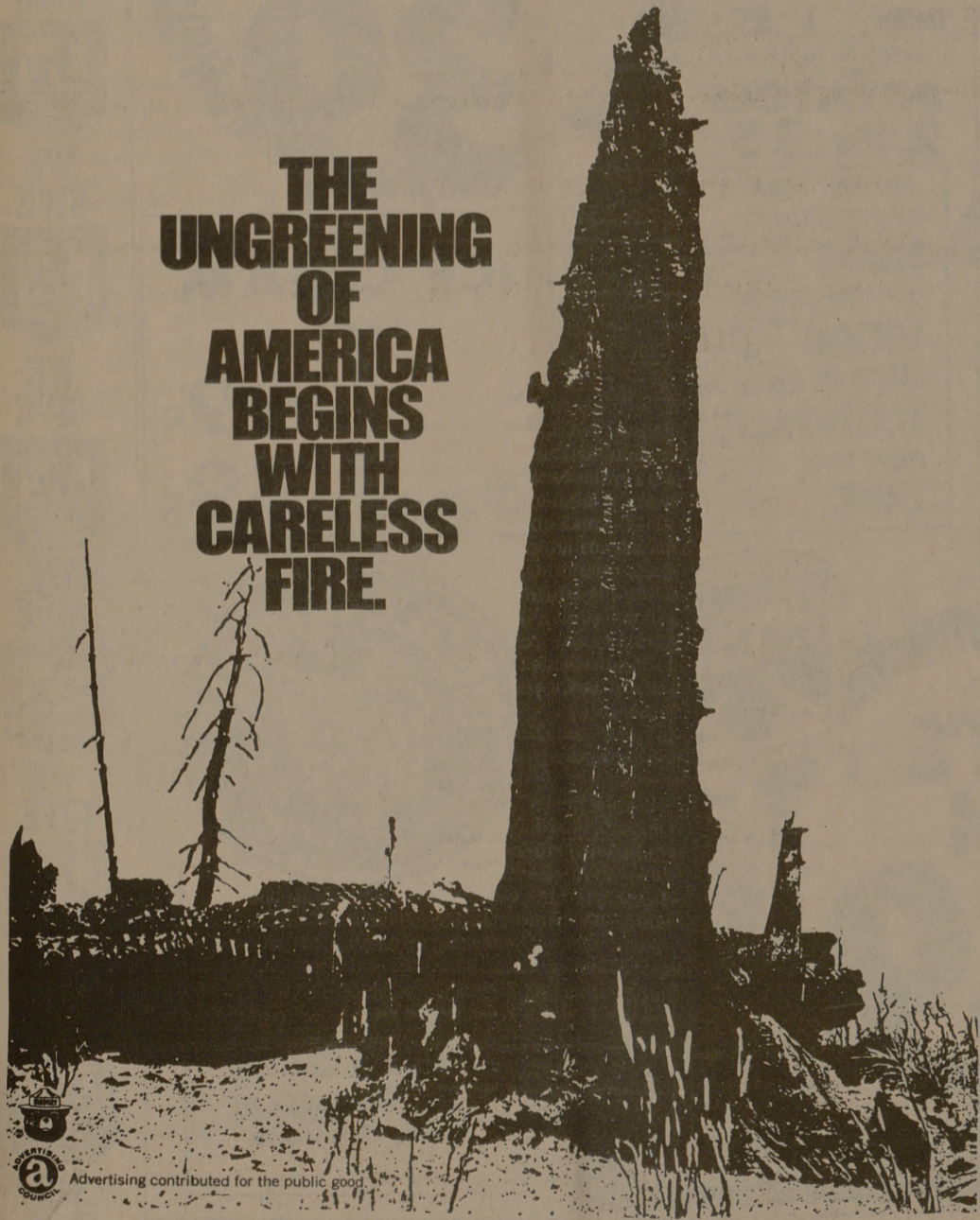
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