

Vintage Picks by David Woodhouse

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REVIEW MIRROR

CAN-AM REUNION, 45 minutes

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Produced by Foxy Ventures

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The glory days of the SCCA Can-Am are a high point in the memory of anyone fortunate enough to have seen the legendary drivers in the world competed in machines whose potential was limited only by the designer's ingenuity - it was the greatest show in racing some 30 years ago. Nothing lasts forever, though, and the Can-Am eventually became of rising costs, restrictive legislation, and its own juggernaut success.

Of the many privateer Can-Am entrants, Lothar Motschenbacher was among the most successful. Motschenbacher ran more events than any other individual in the series, of the 120 drivers to score championship points, only five finished with a higher total. Lothar and his wife, Marilyn, were regulars on the circuit, and friendships formed then have endured to this day. Now Marilyn Motschenbacher Halder, the former race queen, has helped make the Can-Am Thunder reunions as notable for their great parties as their on-track activities.

Here, Marilyn has taken videos of these reunions and combined it with film from the original Can-Am to create a very personal look at the series and fitting tribute to the late Denny Hulme.

The original footage is not of professional quality. This is a "home movie" in that sense, but it is one made from an insider's perspective. Besides, any Can-Am film is exciting, and the people and cars are always recognizable.

The Can-Am Thunder reunions began at Watkins Glen in 1990, went to Road Atlanta in 1991, then to Road America from 1992 on. At each venue the on-track action is balanced by paddock scenes of original Can-Am participants obviously enjoying the opportunity to relive the best of times. All time Can-Am points leader Denny Hulme was honored at the '92 reunion, and there are fine segments of him signing autographs for fans, working to get the big orange McLaren ready and showing his old form on the track. Hulme's fatal heart attack that October was a blow to the Can-Am family.

Marilyn Motschenbacher Halder has done a fine job of bringing us into this family, and fans of the Can-Am are sure to love this video. It brings back fond memories and surely is worth watching.