

# ...sprint car racer (continued from front page)



The team: left to right are Brett Gusler, Dennis Gross, Mike McConnell, and Lynn Berkheimer.



The Gross family with the family car. Dennis, Sharon, and daughter Lori.

[continued from front page]

With all those people helping him, Dennis is most grateful to a person who has never tightened a single sprint car bolt—his wife, Sharon.

"Most of the credit has to go to Sharon," he says. "She puts up with my being away every weekend and many weekday nights,

either racing or working on the car."

Dennis sometimes worries that he isn't spending enough time with his family. His "obsession" takes too much of his life. Sharon herself keeps busy composing music, as the reader may recall from an article about her which

appeared in the *Times* last year. The Grosses have two children: Lori, age 6, and Holly, age 3 weeks.

Dennis told us that, while south-central Pennsylvania is a center of sprint car racing activity, Lancaster County seems to him to be an island of disinterest in the lake of

enthusiasm. There are one or two other sprint car racers in the township. Paul Ober of Bainbridge, he told us, has been racing for 14 years.

One sign of local disinterest is in the press, Dennis says. Papers in this area never carry stories about racing unless there is

a crash and someone is hurt. And few advertisers are aware that up to 9000 people watch races at a single track each weekend about nine months a year—Dennis still hasn't sold the space on his car's air foils.

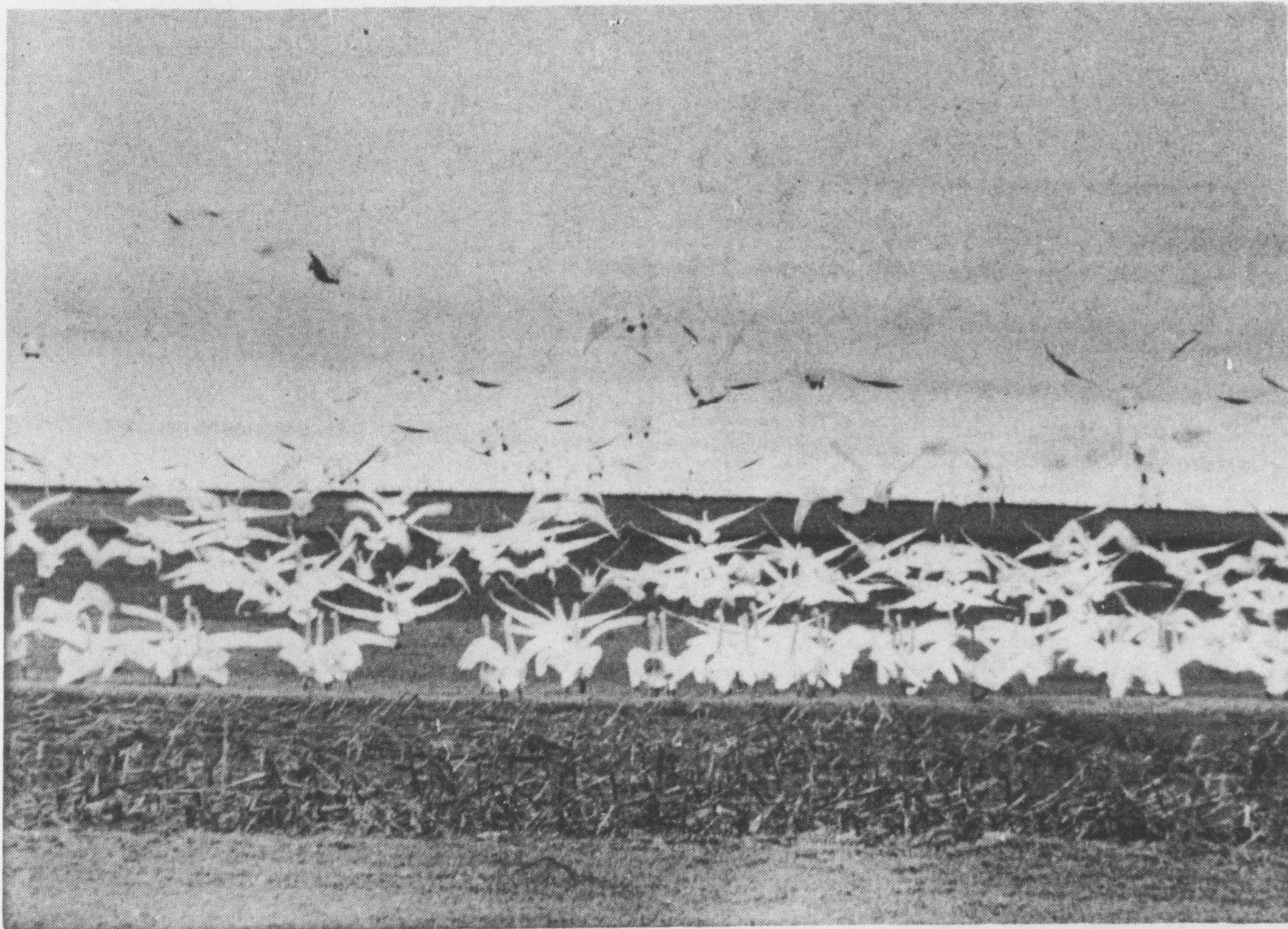
Dennis hasn't had great success in racing, and hasn't made enough money to break even. He does it because he loves it. Still, he has kept his dream of one day being a professional racer.

One essential for winning is a good car. Right now Dennis is working on a new one with a man in York County. It won't be ready

to race at the start of the season this weekend, but Dennis expects it to be a fine car. If it lives up to his expectations, Dennis may begin making it in the top "feature" races, and have a chance at being a pro.

"If I don't get somewhere this season, I'll hang it up," he told us. But then again, he might keep trying: at another point in the interview, he said, "Racing is the most exciting thing I know of, but it's also the most frustrating. I've quit a thousand times—but I've started a thousand and one times."

## Whispering swans pay a visit to John E. Hess



Thousands of whispering swans settled in a field near Maytown belonging to John E. Hess. John told the *Susquehanna Times* that the swans are either coming from or going to Alaska [we forget which he said]. The

swans come every year to glean corn. According to another man who stopped along the road to talk with the *Times* photographer, the swans are protected by federal law. No one may shoot or disturb them.




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