Race driver Jack Conely's vintage collection going to auction Sept. 29

by George Moses

During his exciting life, Brighton resident Jack Conely, (1930-2017) raced with the best and defeated the best on tracks across the United States and Africa. If you've been in the Brighton area for many decades you may remember that Conely owned several bars and restaurants such as The Dandelion Inn, The Main Event & Glen Oaks Bar. He was a man who gave his time to community service through the Brighton Lions Club and was known as a Good Samaritan who would just pull over and help people stranded on the side of the road.

He was an engine builder and a racer who won by creating small-block Chevy engines using limited production, high nickel content alloy steel and high tin content alloy steel that allowed him to bore them out to as much as 482 cubic inches. These were fire breathing monsters in their day, feared on any type of race track. Conely experimented until he developed just the right mixture of alcohol, gasoline and carburetion to maximize the power developed from every drop of racing fuel.

Conely worked with famous race drivers Nolan Johncock and Gordon Johncock and lots of famous 1960s drivers including A.J. Foyt, Al and Bobby Unser, Richard Petty.

Known as "The Brighton Bandit," he was inducted into the Michigan Motorsports Hall of Fame in 1987.

Since Conely's death in 2017, his family has been organizing his collection of race cars, tools, instruments and parts to auction them off. His vintage collection includes project cars, engines, engine parts and machinery.

The cars include:
1972 Lola
1962 Super Modified
1963 Rear Engine Indy
1970 Guerny Eagle Race Cars
1967 Camaro
1963 Corvette
1936 International Pickup

There is also a large collection of rods, blocks and crankshafts to be auctioned.

The auction begins at 10 a.m., Saturday, September 29. Location is still to be determined. See auctioneer Tim Narhi's website for up to date information or call 810-266-6474.

www.narhiauctions.com