

DENISE McCLUGGAGE - 1927 - 2015



Denise McCluggage was one of us. She was an honored and respected author, journalist, racer, rally driver, photographer. At Amelia, a tenured judge with a fine eye, a long and deep memory for detail and possessed of an unflinching honesty. And, it must be said, she was an intellectual.



She was one of the founders and the Editor of Competition Press, America's weekly bible of motorsport that became the pivotal publication AutoWeek.



She came to motorsport in the 'fifties when the sport in America was making the transition from a polite and clubby gentleman's diversion to a professional blood sport. Denise was a confidant and confederate of the stars and future stars of the epoch. She was a friend of such illustrious racers as Phil Hill, America's first Le Mans winner -- Denise witnessed and wrote of Phil's triumph at Le Mans in 1958 -- and World Champion, the legendary Stirling Moss and Le Mans winner Masten Gregory and too many more to list here.



She won her class at Sebring in 1961 racing her Ferrari to tenth overall with co-driver and jazz musician Allen Eager. She even won her class in the Monte Carlo Rally driving a Ford Falcon. Her trademark polka-dot helmet was familiar to generations of her fans and admirers long after she retired from the cockpit.



"I first watched Denise race at Sebring in 1961 when she won the GT class in her Ferrari 250 GT," said Bill Warner, founder and Chairman of the Amelia Island Concours. "She was one of those rare individuals who excelled, in fact, seemed a natural, at everything she did. She could do it all. She was so much a part of the industry and sport for so long that it's hard to believe we'll never see her again. She brought a lot to the party. We loved having her as part of the Amelia."

About The Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance

Now in its second decade, the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance is among the top automotive events in the world. Always held the second full weekend in March, "The Amelia" draws over 250 rare vehicles from collections around the world to The Golf Club of Amelia Island and The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island for a celebration of the automobile like no other. Since 1996, the show's Foundation has donated over \$2.5 million to Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, Inc., Spina Bifida of Jacksonville, The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, Shop with Cops, and other deserving charities. The 21th annual Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance is scheduled for March 11-13, 2016. For more information, visit www.ameliaconcours.org.



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Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance
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www.ameliaconcours.org

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