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ROUEM (HAF) HAFFENDEN
Chief Mechanic, Olsonite Eagle #48

The only chief mechanic on the USAC circuit who has been a crew member of a winning Grand Prix (Formula 1) entry is that calm, articulate Englishman, Rouem (Haf) Haffenden, 'chief' for the second car on the Olsonite Eagle team (#48).

In fact, until Haf came to the United States in 1969 to join Dan Gurney's All-American Racers, Inc., operation in Santa Ana, Calif., most of his experience had been either in building or racing Formula 1 cars.

His proudest moment, of course, was serving as a member of Gurney's crew when the California racing star won the 1967 Belgian Grand Prix, the first time in more than 46 years that an American driver had won a Grand Prix race in an American car.

The native of Rye, England, graduated from an apprentice course at Hastings Technical College, Hastings, England, and almost immediately began building cars.

His first job was building sports cars for Elva, and later McLaren in his native England, then he joined the English operation for All-American Racers, Inc., where he had his first experience in building Formula 1 cars.

When Gurney closed down his overseas operation, Haf was brought to California, and in 1969 he was chief mechanic on Swede Savage's Olsonite Eagle, picking up his first USAC victory in the final race at Phoenix that year. He also served as 'chief' for Jim Malloy's Olsonite Eagle which finished fourth at Indianapolis in 1971 and for Jerry Grant's Olsonite Eagle when it became the first car to break the 200 mph barrier at Ontario Motor Speedway last fall.

He now lives with his wife, Daphney, in Santa Ana. They have no children.