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### "LOU SATTELMAIER--RACING DRUG FREE"

In the days before "Just Say No!", D.A.R.E. and M.A.D.D.; before it was popular and "politically correct" to be anti-drug, there was Lou Sattelmanier and his anti-drug campaign. What was, up to that point, a part-time drag racing hobby became a new full-time career. It combined Lou's love for his children and drag racing and his concern for the youth of America.

It all started over twenty years ago when Lou Sattelmanier's children were still in grade school. One of his boys convinced him to bring his Ford dragster to school for "show and tell". The reaction to the race car was so positive and enthusiastic that it is still clearly remembered by Lou. "I couldn't believe how the car grabbed and held their attention." he recalls. "It didn't take me long to realize that I could use the race car as a platform to deliver a message to these kids about positive lifestyles." This realization was the beginning of one mans' crusade against drugs.

In 1971, America was a nation in transition. Still trying to come to grips with the assassinations of the Kennedy brothers and Martin Luther King Jr., the war in Viet Nam and the race riots of the late sixties, the United States was facing a major shift in moral and social values. This resulted in the increased use of illegal and harmful drugs--drugs such as heroin, LSD, PCP, acid, and of course, marijuana and alcohol. It was from this turbulent world that Lou Sattelmanier emerged to do his part to educate our kids about the harmful effects of these substances.

Lou's idea was pretty simple--use his popularity to send a message. Drag racing, like other major spectator sports in this country, is part competition and part entertainment. And those who compete in these sports--the batting champion, the all-pro quarterback, the fastest driver--are all admired and, many times, chosen to be role models. While some athletes use their

fame to sell soda, shoes, and cereal, Lou uses his to sell his "No Drugs" lifestyle.

Driving his now famous '32 Ford Fuel Coupe, Lou has won over 40 races since 1971 including the AHRA Pro-Am Nationals, UDRA Fuel and Gas Championship, and the Eastern U. S. Championship. He has also won "Best Appearing" honors at the NHRA U. S. Nationals and the IHRA Summernationals along with numerous Championship Show Car Awards.

"Although I've won more than my share of trophies and awards, the real thrill is my victory with kids," says Sattelmaier. "Since I started racing full-time with this program back in '71, I've conducted hundreds of clinics at schools all over the country. And this year we'll take our show to many different race tracks.

The "Star" of the Sattelmaier Racing Team is no longer the '32 Ford. Since 1984, top billing belongs to the Sonic Thunder Jet Funny Car and the Sonic Thunder II Jet Funny Car purchased in 1990. The Sonic Thunder II Ford Probe uses a Pratt Whitney J-60 engine that produces 6,000 lbs. of thrust, propelling the car down the quarter mile drag strip in only 5 seconds at 271 mph!

"Driving a jet powered car is a tremendous experience," says Lou. "Sitting next to this huge, 13 foot long jet engine is almost terrifying; the power is unbelievable. The show for the spectators is equally unbelievable. Just before take-off, I hit the afterburner, creating a spectacular 40 foot flame that is completely engulfed by huge clouds of smoke. And the sound is nine times louder than the 747 jetliner!" According to Lou, Sonic Thunder actually accelerates faster than the Space Shuttle. Wow!

Over the last twenty years, Lou Sattelmaier has enjoyed a great deal of success with his racing program. This success, however, would not have been possible without the behind the scenes support from his family and his sponsors. "I remember when I decided to go racing full time back in 1971.

My wife, Elaine, was a pillar of strength for me. She even took a job so we had some money coming in until the program got off the ground.

Although she left her job years ago, her work continues with the race team. Besides handling all of the paperwork and bookkeeping, she also lends a hand at the track. Her primary function is to help Lou start Sonic-Thunder's huge jet engine. Other family members are also part of the crew.

Lou's second oldest son, Bob, also drives. He built his own car, the Super-Sonic jet funny car, similar to his Dads. Rounding out the team is Lou's youngest son, John, team videographer, documenting many of the races on film.

No race team is complete without sponsorship, and Lou Sattelmanier's "Racing Drug Free" team is no different. Sponsors include Rotary Automotive Lifts, New Eagle Communications, Pennzoil, Cornwell Tools, Rotary Lifts, Lincoln Electric, plus the U. S. Navy and the Brunswick Ohio Police Department are working with Lou in alcohol and drug abuse prevention. Quite an impressive list for an impressive racing team!

On March of 1997, Lou was deputized by Medina, Ohio, Sheriff Neil Hassinger. In his new capacity as special Deputy Sheriff Lou will patrol with various deputy sheriffs to reduce crime as time allows.

Lou keeps himself in tip-top physical shape and, has no immediate plans to retire. In fact, this years schedule is just as busy as any in recent memory. Lou is also beginning a sponsor/member program that allows the general public to become a part of the race team. With the continued support of corporate America, his family and the general public, it appears that Lou Sattelmanier will continue to race drug free into the 21st century.