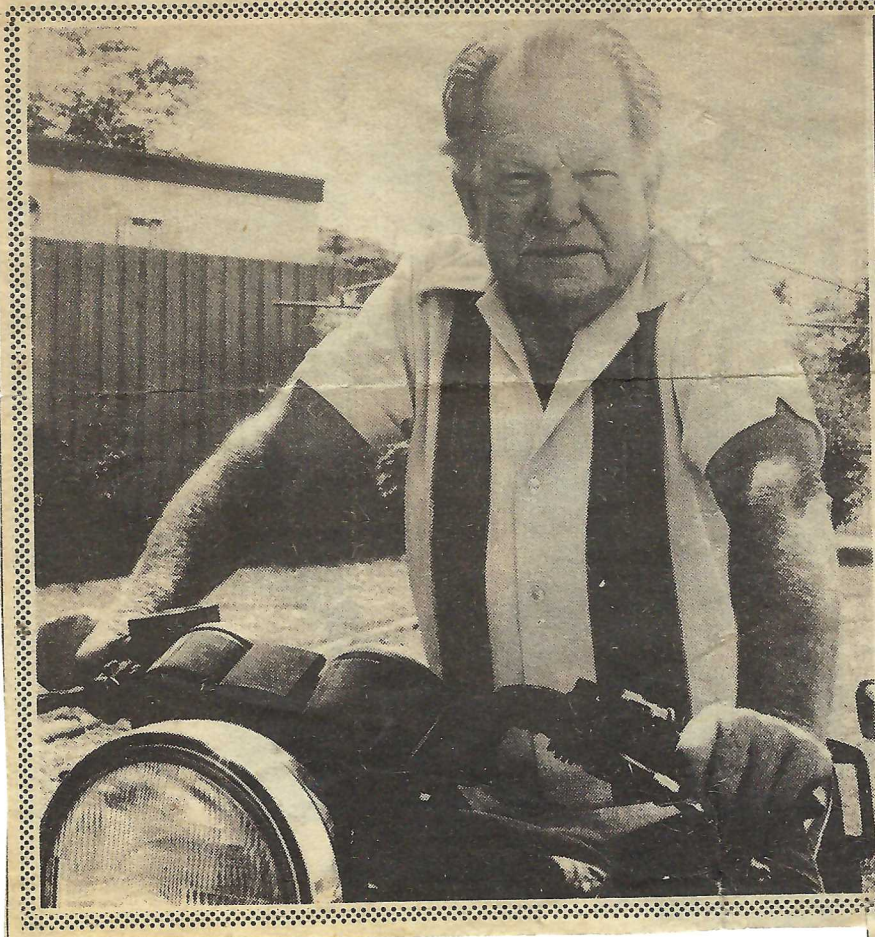


AK Star 22/5/84



There's no stopping this old racer!

Alf Shields is hitting 80 but there's no stopping him!

Alf is one of those rare but delightful characters who refuses to let the normal conventions of old age get the better of him.

Alf was in Sydney in 1905 and his life has been a racey one.

His recent journey to Alice Springs with grandson Andy was just another episode in a lifetime of travel.

Alf has lived in Rozelle, Canberra, Coonabarabran, Portland, Woodstock, Bellenger Stockinbal, Melbourne, Adelaide, The Gold Coast, and Port Norlunga.

Hes had 42 jobs, businesses or business ventures in his time and has been everything from a door-to-door Rawleigh Man to a speedway racer.

"I helped build Canberra and was there for its opening in 1927 and heard Dame Nellie Melba sing the national anthem," he said.

"As a motor mechanic by trade,

I was interested in and began racing motorbikes in the 1920's."

He made racing his career from 1946 — 1956 and to keep the coffers comfortable for his wife and four daughters he spent the winter months for five of those years working in the Territory.

"In 1950 I bought Rowley Park Speedway in Adelaide and brought in top racers like Jack Brabham and Fay Taylour."

"I was 52 when I gave up racing and began a Mini Tours business on the Gold Coast.

"And I was 58 when I put together an amusement park complete with pinball machines, mini bowling alley and shooting gallery at Burleigh Heads."

At 69 Alf moved back to South Australia

His secret?

"I don't drink. I don't smoke. And I don't like women.... And I'm a bloody liar!"

Retired

FORMER Adelaide speedway promoter and competitor Alf Shields tells me today he's hung up his helmet and goggles.

He's in Adelaide this week selling up his speedcars and gear before settling down in Queensland where he's associated with a Surfers' Paradise tourist company.

He'll still be at the wheel — but from now on it's to be rather more sedately.

He'll be driving "micro-buses" loaded with tourists. In the interests of their peace of mind, he keeps his speedway prowess strictly hush-hush.