Holmes gears up to headline CAHS dinner, lecture

By Janet Ogle-Mater, Special Writer

Chelsea Milling Co. President Howard S. Holmes Jr., better known as "Howdy," will be the honored guest speaker at a dinner and lecture fundraiser for the Chelsea Area Historical Society on July 18. Holmes will talk about his successful 20-year racing career and his family's more than 100-year-old business, Chelsea Milling Company.

Holmes is the fourth generation of his family who has presided as President and CEO over Chelsea Milling Company, known to most as Jiffy Mix. However, Chelsea Milling is not his first career. From the late 1960s until 1988, he raced all over the world, including in six Indianapolis 500s.

"I was about 16 years old when I announced I was going to be a race car driver," reminisced Howdy, now 60. "My father had a friend whose uncle got us tickets to the Indy 500 in 1957, and it started an annual tradition. It's a real American event with lights, fast cars, and over 400,000 in attendance. I suppose any young man exposed to it for a few years would want to race."

Unlike other young men, though, Holmes went after his dream by enrolling in the newly opened Michigan International Speedway School of High Performance Driving in 1968.

"I was one of 13 who enrolled in that first class," Holmes recalled. "I drove a Formula Ford and that was it - I knew I had to do this. I finished 13th."

Undaunted, with no formal background in racing Holmes put together a homemade trailer, bought some tools, and assembled a Formula Ford race car.

"I bought a manual for my engine at an Ann Arbor bookstore. It took me 19 hours to take apart and put back together that engine," Holmes recalled.

"I think a real mechanic could have done it in about six. But I just figured things out by doing it and making mistakes." That philosophy, along with his unwavering desire and determination, seem to have worked for Holmes.
He completed 19 races of 21 starts in 1971, which was his first year of racing. "My pit crew were my buddies from school," he chuckled.


In 1979, Howdy started in his first Indy 500 and finished in seventh place. He also captured the honor of "Rookie of the Year." Naturally, his family was in the stands. "They were thrilled. We still have the tickets from that year," said Holmes.

Howdy went on to compete in five more Indy 500s between 1982 and 1988, and placed in the top 10 four times. He compiled the best average finishing record of any Indy 500 driver who started in more than four events. "I was 32 years old when I won 'Rookie of the Year;' an old man in a young person's sport. I was 41 years old at my last race, then I was considered a really old man," he laughed.

The racing was only part of his impact on the world of motorsports. Holmes also founded marketing and advertising companies that served racing enthusiasts for 18 years.

Furthermore, he authored an award-winning book, "Formula Car Technology," and was a contributing writer for a number of newspapers and racing magazines. Holmes was also a racing commentator for ESPN. With such a successful and varied racing career, it's difficult for Holmes to single out just one fond memory of his racing days. "Every day for 20 years I was lucky enough to do something I was passionate about," he said. "Everyday was a blessing."

When pressed, he acknowledged 1988 as a particularly good year. "It was the year of my last race and the birth of my son." It is his 1988 Indy 500 ring that he proudly wears today.

Howdy continues the family tradition of going to the Indy 500. For years he has shared the day with members of his business "family" from the Chelsea Milling Co. His son, 19, joined him in the pits last year. "He didn't want to go when he had to sit in the stands, but at 18, he could get into the pits. It was great fun to share this experience with him," said Holmes.

To hear more of Howdy Holmes' racing career, join the Chelsea Area Historical Society at 7 p.m. July 18 at Silver Maples of Chelsea. Tickets are $30 and on sale at the Gourmet Chocolate Café.

We've had: "It's because he's a huge fan of the American peanut butter Jif, spreads it on his toast every morning by all accounts." Wicked wit and soap operas the roots of rugby's mad monikers; What's in a name? DELME PARFITT and ANTHONY WOOLFORD look at the reasons behind the nicknames given to Wales' rugby players. A work colleague often takes too long to do his job, saying he'll have it done "in a jiffy". ueries u Your; YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED. We've had: "It's because he had lightning Jiffy Lube has a history of vehicle servicing with more that 22 million customers each year. Find out more about our Jiffy Lube company history here.Â Headquartered in Houston, Texas, Jiffy LubeÂ® International is a wholly owned, indirect subsidiary of Shell Oil Company. Jiffy Lube service centers are 100% franchise-owned. So despite being a national corporation, each location is locally owned by people living in your community. Weâ€™re on a Mission. At Jiffy LubeÂ®, we believe you deserve to be free from the anxiety of keeping your vehicle in top shape. Most importantly, we believe you deserve a service provider you can trust. How do I manually convert jiffies to milliseconds and vice versa in Linux? I know kernel 2.6 has a function for this, but I'm working on 2.4 (homework) and though I looked at the code it uses lots of macro constants which I have no idea if they're defined in 2.4. linux linux-kernel. Share. Improve this question. Follow. edited Apr 28 '10 at 19:35. Tim Post♦. ~~~ History: Long ago, well, not that long ago, all species lived in a bustling city. The city was a producer of many items and contained many factories. The species were happy, not having an official ruler or god to control them. But many robberies and murders happened without punishment, and species couldn't handle this. What also happened was since many factories were built, pollution got into the air and water. The kill count was slowly rising, without change.Â In Group A, there was only one leader. The leader took their own choice of species and settled on one land, leaving the large group of leftovers without control. They tried to built homes, but were empty without some species to follow and lean on. Lamba in the introductory pamphlet had dedicated the play to all those â€œexhausted teachers, bored students, frustrated actors and anxious directorsâ€ who suffered Shakespeare like he did. This was slapstick no doubt, but an intelligent one. Performing a hugely popular 1987 play by the Reduced Shakespeare Company â€” which ran for nine years in London â€” was a tall order. But the trio have a vocation for the spoof business. â€œOthelloâ€ was performed as a rap, â€œTitus Andronicusâ€ as a cooking show, and â€œKing Richardâ€ as a game of American football.