

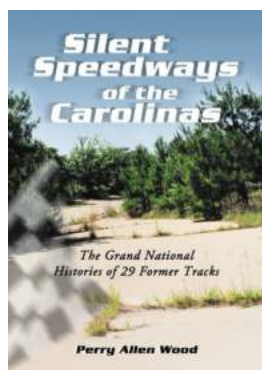
# The Grand National Histories: Unearthing the Untold Stories of 29 Former Tracks

Throughout the illustrious history of horse racing, the Grand National has always been regarded as one of the most prestigious and challenging events in the sport. Held annually in Aintree, Liverpool, since 1839, the race has captivated fans around the world with its exhilarating moments and heart-stopping finishes. While Aintree remains the host, it's important not to forget the incredible stories of the 29 former tracks that have shaped the Grand National into what it is today.

In this article, we will delve into the forgotten narratives of these former tracks, unveiling their hidden secrets and spellbinding moments that have been buried beneath layers of time. From Scotland to Wales, we embark on a captivating journey through the rich tapestry of Grand National history.

## 1. Gatwick Racecourse - The Birthplace of the Grand National

Many people are unaware that the first-ever Grand National took place at Gatwick Racecourse, located near London. On February 26, 1839, The Duke, owned by the legendary Captain Becher, emerged as the inaugural winner of the race. Despite its historical significance, Gatwick Racecourse was eventually closed in 1848 due to financial difficulties.



## Silent Speedways of the Carolinas: The Grand National Histories of 29 Former Tracks

by Perry Allen Wood (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 28218 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 308 pages



## **2. Aintree - The Home of the Grand National**

Aintree Racecourse, known as the spiritual haven of the Grand National, has been the permanent home of the race since 1839. Its iconic obstacles, including Becher's Brook and The Chair, have gained legendary status, leaving a lasting impact on the sport. The tales of Red Rum, who triumphed three times in the 1970s, and the emotional victory of jockey Bob Champion on Aldaniti in 1981, will forever resonate within the annals of Aintree's history.

## **3. Bogside Racecourse - A Tragic**

Bogside Racecourse near Ayr, Scotland, had a brief but significant part to play in the Grand National's chronicles. It was the birthplace of the legendary horse Foinavon, who famously won the 1967 Grand National at incredible odds of 100/1. However, Bogside Racecourse suffered a devastating fire in 1963, leading to its closure and ending any hopes of a memorable track in Ayrshire.

## **4. Gatwick - A New Chapter**

In 1891, a new racecourse named Gatwick opened its doors, entirely unrelated to the original Gatwick Racecourse. This track provided a fresh setting for the Grand National until 1915 when it was requisitioned by the military during World War I. Regrettably, the race never returned to Gatwick after the war, leaving behind a nostalgic memory of what could have been.

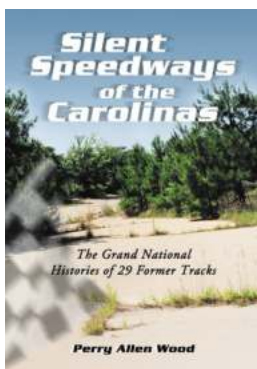
## **5. Cardiff Racecourse - Wales in the Spotlight**

Located in the vibrant city of Cardiff, the former Cardiff Racecourse witnessed the exhilarating 1895 edition of the Grand National. The race unfolded under dramatic conditions as the jockeys encountered heavy snowfall. Wild Man From Borneo eventually emerged as the victor, etching his name in the race's storied past. The track sadly closed in 1937, leaving many Welsh horse racing enthusiasts yearning for its revival.

## 6. The Rich Tapestry of Forgotten Tracks

These are just a few examples of the remarkable tracks that have hosted the Grand National throughout its extensive history. Each former track has its own unique stories to tell, filled with triumphs, falls, and unforgettable endeavours. The tales of these forgotten tracks carry the essence of what makes the Grand National one of the most celebrated sporting events worldwide.

Next time you watch the Grand National at Aintree, take a moment to remember the 29 former tracks that have played their part in shaping this momentous event. Appreciate the passion, the dedication, and the indomitable spirit of the horses, jockeys, and spectators that have contributed to its legendary status.



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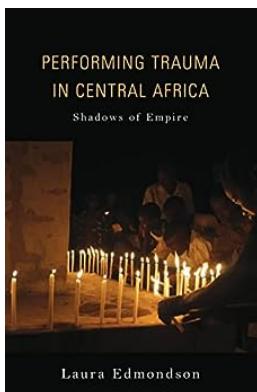
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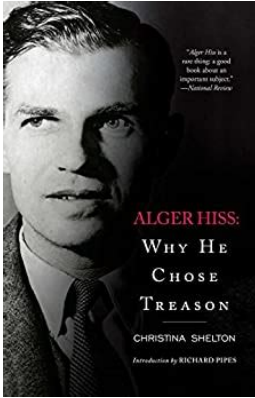


NASCAR held its first Strictly Stock race in Charlotte on June 19, 1949, and, in the following decades, dozens of large and small tracks throughout the Carolinas were home to a major NASCAR event. Called Grand National from 1950-1970, NASCAR's top circuit became the Winston Cup in 1971, and most of the dirt and small tracks were subsequently gutted from the schedule. Although a handful of those speedways tenuously held on through exploding popularity, and an influx of big corporate dollars, the transition to metropolitan markets and super speedways was inevitable. Some of the original tracks, like the North Wilkesboro Motor Speedway, still stand testament to the sport's not-too-distant past. Others, like the Charlotte Speedway, are long gone, leaving only memories and photographs. This is the story of every racetrack in North and South Carolina that held at least one big-time race through 1971, but is no longer used for auto racing. Seven are one-race wonders, while others are as much racing legends as the sport's past champions. Chapters cover each track's big time history, from early background through its racing years to its current status. Included are the thrilling tales of the personalities and machines that shaped NASCAR's early days. Statistics chart every track's past winners, records, and wins by make. The 151 photographs give the reader a virtual tour of speedways that are often inaccessible or nonexistent.



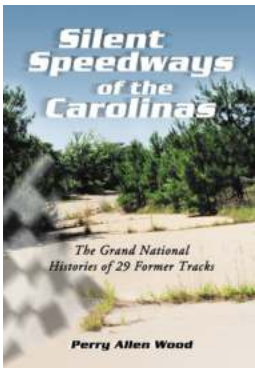
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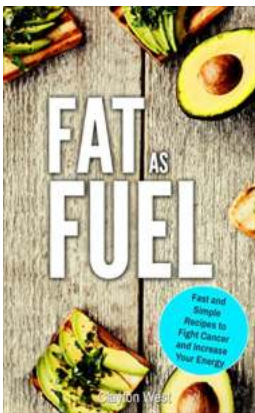
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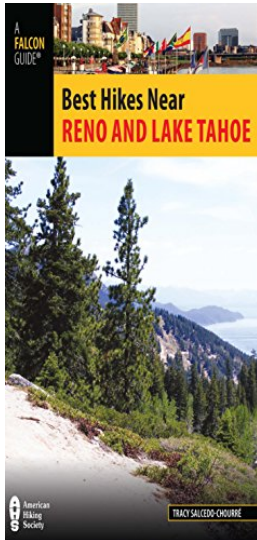
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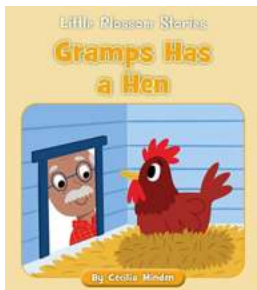
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