



by Mary Ann Hutcheson

# William “Bubba” Easler

William “Bubba” Easler was born and lived his early years in Greenwood, South Carolina. When his family moved to Swansea in the 1960s, Easler was recruited by football coach Art Baker to play football at Eau Claire High School. Easler lived with Baker and fellow coaches for the duration of his high school years. Although Easler played football at Western University, he received his college degree from the University of South Carolina in criminal justice.

Easler’s first post-graduation job was in management with the Horsman Doll Company, a leader in the toy industry at the time, that manufactured baby dolls. In 1972, former Sheriff, Allen Sloan, recruited Easler to work at the Richland County Sheriff’s department where, as Assistant Chief Parole Examiner, he interviewed inmates and recommended for or against parole. By 1974, he had been appointed to work for the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Board.

The year 1974 was important for another reason. Easler married Miss Harriett Hendrix, a Newberry-born Kindergarten teacher at Lexington Elementary School. He remembers seeing her pretty blue eyes and that he was instantly smitten; they were married forty-four years when she passed away in 2018. Mrs. Easler, a devoted wife, mother, and teacher, taught three generations of children during her forty-two years at Lexington Elementary School.

While Easler continued his work with the sheriff’s department, he received a request from the chairman of the state patrol board to assist at the Darlington Raceway on Labor Day weekend during the Southern 500 NASCAR Cup Series stock car race. Easler’s father had built dirt track racecars in the 1940s and 1950s for the dirt tracks around South Carolina, but he discouraged racing to his son as a profession. In those days, racing was not a lucrative career for a man with a family, but Easler never stopped loving the sport.

For thirteen of his thirty years in probation and parole, Easler also worked as director of security with NASCAR, the Darlington Raceway and Rockingham International Speedway in North Carolina. He also helped at the Daytona and Talladega Speedways. It was something he loved, and he was good at it. When Easler retired in 1998, he began fulltime work with NASCAR, traveling to both the Watkins Glen, New York and Fontana, California locations.

Today, at seventy-five, Easler continues his work in corporate security with NASCAR. He works with Homeland Security and the FBI and oversees domestic issues like counterfeit tickets or credential forgery.

Commissioned by the governor as an honorary retiree state constable, Easler retains the same arrest power as a policeman. But these days, he enjoys his time spent with the racing world, and especially time with his daughter Leah’s family and his three beautiful grandchildren. ■

