

1911

WELL BEFORE THE FIRST Indianapolis 500, Ray Harroun already was one of the most accomplished race drivers of his era and by 1910 was ready to retire from racing.

But when Carl Fisher announced his plans for the new 500-mile race, Harroun delayed retirement and entered with his favorite car, the Indianapolis-made Marmon Wasp.

It was a one-seater while all 39 other cars carried a driver and a mechanic (then called a "mechanician") to keep the car running and serve as a second pair of eyes. Harroun's Wasp was equipped with a rear-view mirror and he won with a time of 6 hours, 42 minutes, 8 seconds before a crowd of about 80,000.

One man died in the race, mechanic Sam Dickson.



ABOVE: Bob Burman sits at the wheel of the car he drove in the first 500. He finished 19th in the first race and competed at Indianapolis each year through 1915 but was killed in 1916 in a race in California. *Star/News Archives*

BELOW: Drivers prepare for the start of the first Indianapolis 500. The front row drivers (left to right) were: Johnny Altken (4), Harry Endicot (3), Ralph DePalma (2), and Lewis Strang (1). In the early years of the race, qualifying times had no bearing on starting positions. The front row spots simply went to whoever signed up first. DePalma, who finished sixth, was the only front row starter to finish in the top 15. The race's winner, Ray Harroun, started 28th in the 40-car field. *View Arkov Collection*



INDIANAPOLIS STAR
INDIANAPOLIS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1934
EUSE PRICE, 10c

INDIANAPOLIS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1911

PRICE—TWO CENTS

FALSE PEACE HELD
WORSE THAN STRIFE

Veterans Cheer Roosevelt, Who
Rebels Lie Which They De-
fied in 1861.

THINKS WAR JUSTIFIABLE

Former President Urges Caution
in Entering Into International Peace Pact

NEW YORK, May 10.—Theodore Roosevelt stood beside Gen. Daniel W. Hickles, the only surviving division commander of his civil war, at Grant's Tomb this afternoon and attended a Memorial day ceremony sponsored by a congregation of "true patriots."

[illegible]

Winner of 500-Mile Race and His Car



PRICE—TWO CENTS
HARROUN IN "WASP" WINS:
ONE DEATH IS RACE TOLL

SMOKING MONSTERS THRILL FROM START
QUEEN OF TRAGEDY HOVERS OVER RACE

Unmuffled Exhausts Raise Great Clouds as Noisy Aulps Bound Into Contest.

Great Crowd at Speedway Thrilled by Exhilarating Accidents and Incidents.

PACEMAKERS EAGERLY

troubles Begin Early in Race and
Cars Are Gradually Eliminated
by Accidents.

Dead and Injured
in Big Auto Race

DEAD

How Cars Finished in
Great 500-Mile Race

Driver and car. Position.

INJURED			
Ed Lewis, mechanical laborer (26)	Malmed, Loeber	First	8:41-00
Left left leg and left foot cut.	Brown, Emma, Phila.	Second	1:10-00
See description of driver Ampley (18).	Wahner, Howard	Third	9:40-00
See description of driver Ampley (18).	De Polon, Douglas	Fourth	
See description of driver Ampley (18).	Thorn, August	Fifth	
See description of driver Ampley (18).	Dick, Jackson	Sixth	
See description of driver Ampley (18).	Belcher, Kate	Seventh	
See description of driver Ampley (18).	Hugh, Edward	Eighth	
See description of driver Ampley (18).	Phelan, Thomas	Ninth	

BY PAUL A. WILLIS

[illegible]

DASP WITH HORROR.
The big crash of cars came, to-
350-mile mark in the race, and
front of the passageway be-
of the big stands, 25,000 persons

...with a gasp of horror. Be-
...had been fairly pulled off
...and the injured taken to places
...the big crowd was down in the
...for Ray Harroun, speeding
..."Wasp," had brought them to
...on that the...

the death of Dickson and the
Greiner did not reach the
stand for more than an hour
cident. Announcements that
had turned over on the back
that no one was hurt were

one brought the news of
th across the track, and if
Hd fire through the masses.

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ABOVE: Ray Harroun sits in his Marmon Wasp. He averaged 74.602 mph in completing the first 500 in 6 hours, 42 minutes and 8 seconds. He won \$14,250 from the \$30,150 purse. *The Indianapolis News*

LEFT: The pace car leads the pack as the first Indianapolis 500 is about to begin. The pit area is in the lower right-hand side, where cloth covers were used to keep the hot Indiana sun off the crew members. *StarNews Archives*

BELOW: A rare panoramic view of the track in 1911, the inaugural Indianapolis 500. *Vern Allen Collection*

