

1920

IT WAS ANOTHER UNLUCKY 500 FOR RALPH DEPALMA BUT A GOOD DAY FOR two of the Chevrolet brothers, Gaston and Louis (middle brother Arthur had been badly injured during practice).

Gaston won in a car built by Louis. It was a Frontenac but was listed as a Monroe because an Indianapolis Monroe distributor financed the car.

DePalma was in the lead at lap 187 when his car caught fire. He kept driving while his on-board mechanic crawled out onto the hood with a fire extinguisher. Then the car stalled and by the time they were going again, it was too late. DePalma finished fifth that year.

Arthur Chevrolet recovered from his injuries but gave up driving. Gaston died seven months later from injuries in another race.



EVERYBODY TOGETHER FOR INDIANAPOLIS!
Continued Week, June 26.

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR
LARGEST MORNING AND SUNDAY CIRCULATION IN INDIANA
TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 1, 1920

GASTON CHEVROLET WINS SPEED CLASS IN LOCAL C

WINNER AND FINISH OF GREAT 500-MILE SPEED RACE.

G.O.P. BEGINS PRELIMINARIES TO CONVENTION
National Committee Starts Work of Settling Disputes and Settling Contested Delegations.

CANDIDATES MAY ATTEND
Johnson Plans to Break Precedent Against Appearance on Floor.

IS A HAPPY DISCOVERY?
Scientists Say It May Be the Answer to the Problem of the Atom.

MIXES IN PLANS FOR CONVENTION
Wilson Calls Campaign for Congress Direct Hand.

WINNERS IN 500-MILE CLASSIC.

MARY BEATS IT TO BIG SPEED MILL BRINGS BACK PUN
Motor Wheeling Reminds Her of "After You, My Dear Gaston."

SHOW YOUR PRIDE IN INDIANAPOLIS!
Continued Week, June 26.

AT FRIENDS STARTED PUSHING THE CAR, WITH THE VICTORY AND HIS MECHANICALS STILL IN IT, TOWARD THE GARAGE. LOUIS CHEVROLET, BROTHER OF THE WINNER AND DESIGNER OF THE MONROE AND FRONTENAC ENTRANTS, RUSHED TO THE SIDE OF THE MACHINE AND, EMBRACING THE WINNER, IMPLANTED A KISS ON HIS CHEEK.

Glad He Won.
"I am glad he won," Louis said, emphatically, with his slight French accent, "and I am more glad that an Indianapolis-made car, the Monroe, won. We worked hard for it."

All the way to the garage Gaston smiled happily, but when informed that Joe Boyer had overturned on the back stretch, his face saddened and he hastened to the hospital to learn the condition of his teammate. When he found that Boyer had received only slight cuts, his good spirits revived.

"All I can say is I'm glad it's over," he said. "All I did was some hard work. I'm happy that it was a home-town car that won. It was too bad that DePalma had bad luck, but it's something that's liable to happen to anyone. He was reluctant to speak of his own achievement. But he brightened when he thought of what seemed to be the most important feature of the race to him and exclaimed enthusiastically: "But one thing is those tires. This is the first time in the history of the 500-mile race that a car has gone through it without a single tire change. Chevrolet's car was equipped with Goodyear tires."

"That motor," Chevrolet said, "is ready for another 500 miles right now, but I need some rest."

Winner Greeted by Wife.
On his return to his garage the winner was met by his wife, who witnessed the race from a seat just opposite the Monroe pits. She flung her arms about his neck and spoke happily and volubly to him in French. Mrs. Louis Chevrolet and her mother were also there, with Louis's daughter and his young son Alfred, whom Gaston took in his arms, while the remainder of the group fired questions at him in French. Eddie Dickensbacker, a hero of many former Speedway contests and the ace of American aviators, greeted the winner and congratulated him heartily.



OPPOSITE: Gaston Chevrolet won the 1920 Indianapolis 500 in a Monroe after starting sixth. His average speed was 88.618 mph. *StarNews Archives*

LEFT: Barney Oldfield, who finished fifth in the 1914 and 1916 Indianapolis 500s, drove the 1920 Marmon pace car. *StarNews Archives*

BELOW: Photographers line up to shoot the 1920 Indianapolis 500. *StarNews Archives*

