

1931

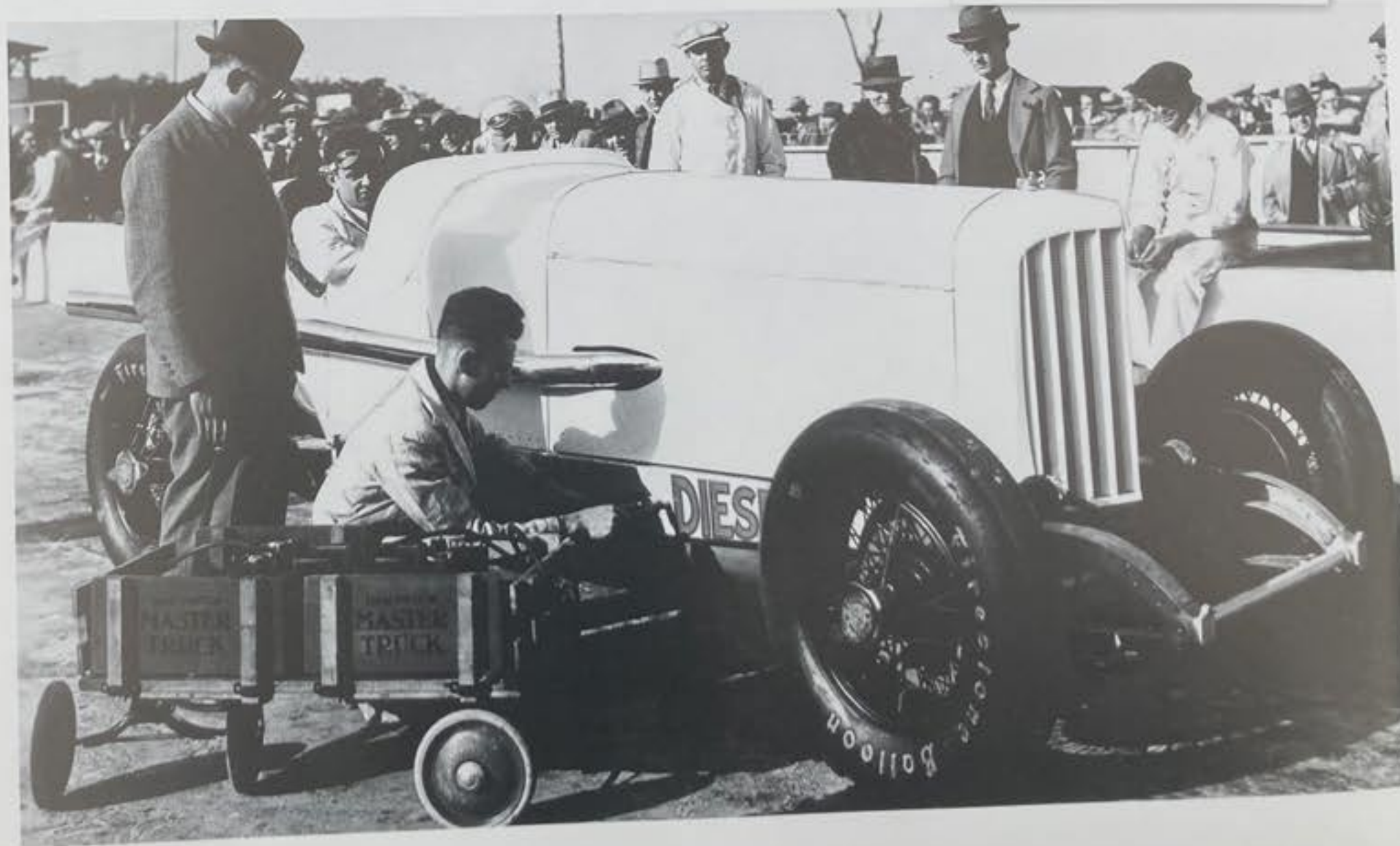
THE 500 THAT YEAR COULD BE described as more of a demolition derby than a speed race, and the requirement of a riding mechanic had doubled the number of men whose lives were at risk.

When driver Joe Caccia crashed during practice, he and mechanic Clarence Grover were killed. During the race, Billy Arnold's car went over the wall in flames. Arnold and his mechanic, Spider Matlock, were seriously injured

but survived. However, a wheel from their car flew out of the Speedway grounds and killed an 11-year-old boy playing in his front yard on Georgetown Road.

At the end of the grind, the victory went to Louis Schneider and riding mechanic Jigger Johnson.

Finishing 13th was Dave Evans, driving a Cummins, the first diesel-powered entry.



THE INDIANAPOLIS SUNDAY STAR

INDIANA'S METROPOLITAN SUNDAY NEWSPAPER.

SCHNEIDER WINS RACE; RAIN CUTS SPEED

GOVERNORS TALK POLITICS WHILE ATTENDING RACE

Seven Watch Speed Classic as Guests of Leslie En Route to Annual Conference.

BY NATHAN KAHN.

Indiana politicians had an opportunity to relax and enjoy the 500-mile race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway yesterday.

The Governors, who were in the state capital at Indianapolis, arrived at the track at 10:30 a.m.

It was the first time that any of the Indiana Governors had attended the race.

Gov. Joseph Tamm, Gov. Henry B. Myers, Gov. George W. Drake, Gov. George R. Dyer, Gov. Harry E. Campbell, Gov. Albert C. Benson, Gov. Marshall C. Weaver, Gov. Elmer E. Broun and Gov. John C. Warrick.

The Governors and their party, who departed from the Columbus Club yesterday morning at 8:30 a.m. for the Speedway, decided that they get through dinner on the way.

The Governors and their party were on their way to the race track before the racing began.

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THE RACE IN PICTURES

Tomorrow and Sunday afternoon will be the 500-mile race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

A photo of the race is on Page 10.

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HERE'S LOUIS SCHNEIDER'S VICTORY SMILE.



VICTOR TAKES LEAD AFTER ARNOLD GOES OUT; FRAME SECOND

Bowen Seal Fast Special Carries Former Local Dirt Track Driver to Finish at Speed of 94.629 Miles Per Hour—Hepburn, Stevens and Snowberger Cross Wire Nip and Tuck in Next Three Places—Unfavorable Weather Prevented New Track Record, Officials Believe.

DIESEL MAKES NONSTOP RUN

HOW THEY FINISHED LONG GRIND.

	Time	M.P.H.
1—Schneider (Bowen Seal Fast Sp.)	5:18:27	94.629
2—Foster (Duesenberg Sp.)	5:18:51	94.498
3—Hepburn (Miller Sp.)	5:19:23	94.324
4—Stevens (Judson Sp.)	5:19:40	94.338
5—Snowberger (Eaton Sp.)	5:19:50	94.200
6—Dumas (Duesenberg Sp.)	5:20:03	94.098
7—Triplett (Hickory Duesenberg Sp.)	5:20:26	93.941
8—Knabbe (Hickory Duesenberg Sp.)	5:20:45	94.424
9—Burgers (The Royle Sp.)	5:20:58	93.880
10—Miller (Hickory Sp.)	5:21:15	94.424
11—Harris (C. H. N. Sp.)	5:21:38	93.821
12—Evans (Cummins Diesel)	5:21:41	94.178

OPPOSITE TOP: Louis Schneider won the 1931 Indianapolis 500, the fourth of his six races at the Speedway. *Star/News Archives*

OPPOSITE BOTTOM: The Cummins Diesel, driven by Dave Evans, was the first diesel-powered car to start the race. Evans finished 13th without making a pit stop. *Star/News Archives*

RIGHT: Fans stand outside the gates, waiting to get into the Speedway for the race in 1931. *Star/News Archives*

FLYING RACE CAR WHEEL KILLS BOY

Shoots Over Wall After Arnold's Crackup—Several Drivers Hurt.

By a peculiar quirk of fate, the life of a boy not even a spectator was sacrificed to demon speed at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway yesterday, while forty drivers and their riding mechanics who roared around the slippery brick oval at a speed well above 100 miles an hour at times were spared.

Several drivers, including Billy Arnold, winner of last year's race, suffered serious injuries in accidents on the track, especially during the latter part of the race when the track became covered with oil.

Wilbur Brink, 11 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey W. Brink, 2318 Georgetown road, Speedway, was the victim of the only tragedy that marred the race.

HIT BY Flying Wheel.

The boy was injured fatally when he was struck by one of the wheels that left Arnold's racer on the northwest turn near the close of the race.

Arnold and his mechanic, Spider Matlock of Los Angeles, Cal., narrowly escaped death when their car burst into flames and burst over the wall and a low fence inside the track. They were thrown clear of the blazing car a second before it went over the fence and overturned.

