

1933

LOUIS MEYER, WITH MECHANIC LAWSON HARRIS OF INDIANAPOLIS, WON HIS second 500 and set a speed record of 104.162 mph, slightly faster than Fred Frame the year before. Second place went to Wilbur Shaw.

It was a tough year as five men died in accidents at the track. Driver Bill Denver (aka Bill Orem) and his mechanic, Hugh "Bob" Hurst, died during qualifications. During the race, drivers Mark Billman and Lester Spangler died in separate accidents. Spangler's mechanic, G.L. "Monk" Jordan, was also killed. Hurst and Billman were Indianapolis residents and Jordan was from Lafayette.

Chet Gardner's crew introduced an innovative bit of technology — a two-way radio in his car, enabling mechanic Herschell McKee to communicate with the pit crew. They came in fourth.



Two-Way Radio Between Car and Pits Proves Worth in First Speedway Test

Radio was brought into new play yesterday when two-way communication was maintained for 300 miles between a race car traveling more than a hundred miles an hour and the pits at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Chester Gardner, driver of the Sampson Special, which placed fourth, had a short wave transmitter and receiving set installed in the racer and was in touch with his pits, where like apparatus was installed.

Through the use of the two-way communication, pit workers were informed when the racer would stop at the pits and knew ahead of time

Today

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The Indianapolis Motor Speedway race today will be the first in which a two-way radio will be used between the car and the pits. The race will start at 10:30 a.m. and will run for 200 miles.

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR.

BESTEST MORNING AND SUNDAY CIRCULATION IN INDIANA.
WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 24, 1933.
THREE CENTS

MEYER WINS 500-MILE RACE; BREAKS MARK

3 Die in Flames of Auto Wreck

Local man, boy, woman victims; 4 others hurt

Frank, Mary, Roy Mervin, 10-year-old son of Frank Mervin, 40, of 1000 N. 10th St., died today in a crash on the highway near the intersection of 10th and 11th Sts. The car was driven by Frank Mervin.

Three lives were claimed by a spectacular crash on the highway near the intersection of 10th and 11th Sts. The car was driven by Frank Mervin.

California Veterans Drive at Mortality Condition
Pace to Set New Record at 104.162 M. P. H.—
Hurst, Billman, 5th at 104.162 M. P. H.—
Shaw Second, 3 Laps Behind—Series of Serious
Accidents Shows Cars at Intervals—Statistical
Models Show—Racing Pits Move Third

SENSATIONAL DASH TO FINISH
How Survivors of 42 Racers Finished

Speed of Old Meyer Family Trail,
So Louis Just Simply Had to Win

Thousands Join in Services for
City's War Dead

6 Convicts Free
Warden, Guards

Going and 5 Others, With 3
Warden, Still at Large

Race Watcher
Hurt by Tire

Rubber Marbles 50 Feet
Away from South

Weather Forecast

Youth Held on Murder
Suspect Called Rehearsal

Youthful Race Driver Achieves His Ambition, But Pays With Own Life

BY ROBERT EARLY.

Mark Billman, youthful Indianapolis race driver, achieved his lifetime ambition yesterday but paid for it with the highest price of man—his own life.

Since the days when he was a child and listened to the daring deeds of race drivers, Billman looked forward to the time when he, too, would drive in the Indianapolis 500-mile race, flashing past the thousands of cheering spectators.

Yesterday his dream came true but carried tragedy with it. He was driving a steady, masterful race and then on the seventy-ninth lap something went wrong. His car traveling

inspired fear in him. He couldn't realize that a fatal crash might be numbered for himself.

When a boy living on the West side he always managed to get to the speedway and watch the drivers tune up their cars for the big race, and then he made it his business to see the race.

As a pupil at St. Anthony's Catholic school and later at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic school he dreamed of racing and finally when he was graduated from the eighth grade he went to work. He was employed in the Ford Motor Car Company plant here several years and then when he was 18 years old he drove in his first race at the old Hoosier speedway, a half-mile dirt track on the Pendleton place.

OPPOSITE TOP: Driver Tony Gulotta brings his son to the Speedway garage area in 1933. Gulotta, who started 13 times in the 500 with a best finish of third, would finish seventh this year. Star/News Archives

OPPOSITE BOTTOM: Fans fill the grandstand for the race in 1933. They watched Louis Meyer win the second of his three 500 championships. Star/News Archives

