

ABOVE: Ralph DePalma sits in Joe Dawson's National (8) which won the 1912 Indianapolis 500. Louis Schwitzer sits in the Marmon Wasp that won the first 500. *Star/News Archives*

RIGHT: Louis Schwitzer is behind the steering wheel of the No. 19 Stoddard Dayton. He drove it to victory in 1909 in the first race run during the opening weekend at the Speedway. Schwitzer later became a prominent Indianapolis industrialist. *Star/News Archives*



1938

AFTER EIGHT YEARS REQUIRING RIDING MECHANICS, THE AAA CONTEST BOARD reversed again and from then on the cars were single-seaters.

The AAA also loosened rules on the amount and type of fuel, leading to the entry of more exotic cars. The top spots, however, went to standard four-cylinder cars. Floyd Roberts was the winner and Wilbur Shaw came in second.

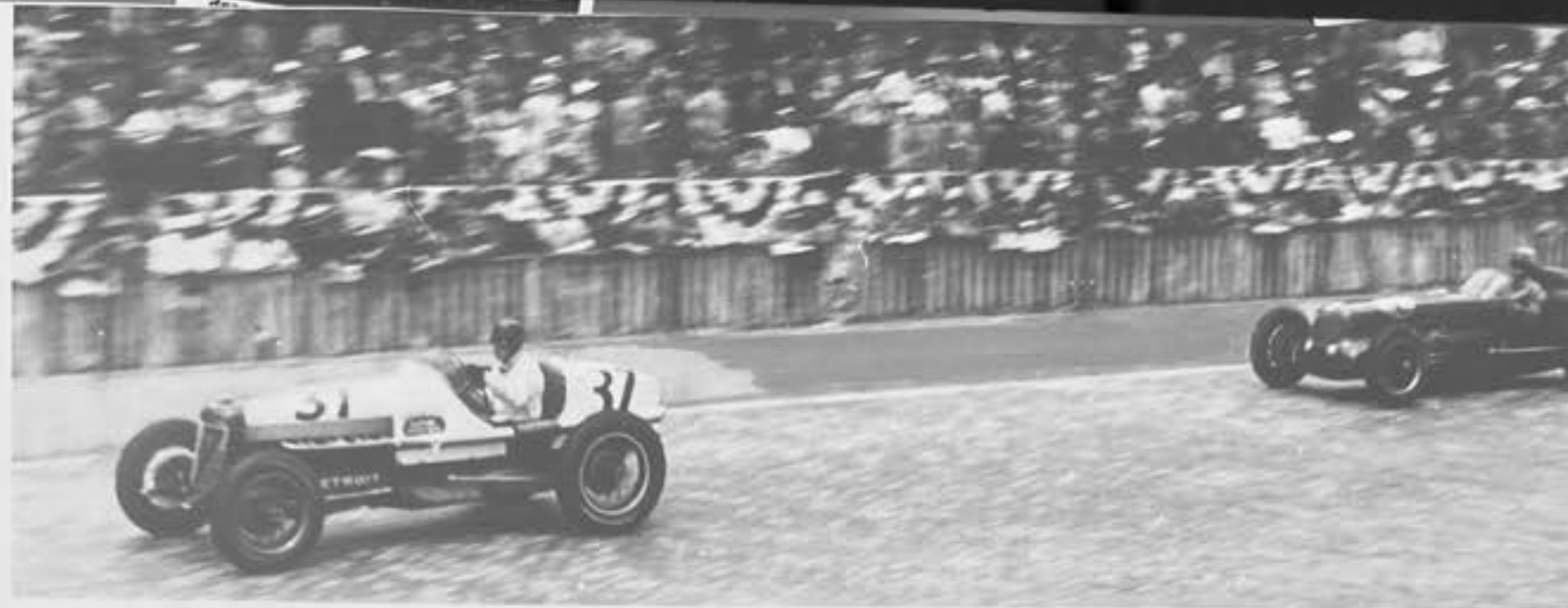
The only fatality in the race was a spectator in the infield, who was struck by a wheel when Emil Andres crashed in the second turn. The evening after the race, The Star caught up with an exultant Roberts celebrating at an Indianapolis tavern. He talked about buying a farm with his winnings and said he might still be racing at age 50. He died the following year.



ABOVE: Floyd Roberts won the Indianapolis 500 in 1938. He was killed driving the same car in the 1939 race. *Star/News Archives*

LEFT: Crew members and event officials work in the pit area during the race. *Star/News Archives*





ABOVE: Newsreel and still photographers chronicle the competition from an elevated platform. *StarNews Archives*

TOP: Ira Hall in the Greenfield Super Service Nowiak-Studebaker (37) leads Jimmy Snyder in the Sparks-Thorne Adams-Sparks early in the race. Hall finished 30th after an accident ended his race. Snyder finished 15th, completing 150 laps before a supercharger problem sidelined his car. *StarNews Archives*

RIGHT: Race fans go to great heights to get the best view during the 1938 Indianapolis 500. *StarNews Archives*

Roberts Sleepy? No! Retells Race

Floyd Roberts unlimbered his vocal cords and retold the Speedway race a thousand and one times last night, still without rest and still without sleep.

"Sleep, I haven't been to sleep," he boomed. "I wasn't a bit tired when I came off that track."

He held up a pair of massive hands.

"See those hands?" he said. "Not a blister on 'em. I was a little tired from sitting down, and that wind was awfully bad. You couldn't hold your hand up in it—part of the time it was a 145-mile-an-hour wind—and I had to hold my head up in it for four hours."

Says He Loves Racing.

With friends, some of them gathered here and there, Roberts relived the race—and was still reliving it at midnight—in Stein's Tavern at 1121 North Meridian street.

"I love racing," he said. "I've always wanted to win at Indianapolis and I've finally made it. I don't see why I shouldn't be racing, with good, clean living, when I'm 50 years old."

He plans to build a home or buy a farm with his winnings, perhaps going back sometime to the boyhood days when he helped his father farm in North Dakota. At 17 he entered the garage business and has been tinkering with motors since.

"That screw in the wheel..."

Over and over, as he lay in Methodist Hospital last night in serious condition, Emil Andres of Chicago mumbled of the danger he must have seen yesterday a few split-seconds before his racer slipped over three times on the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

"He keeps saying that over and over when he comes out of it," said Mrs. Mildred Andres, the young wife who was at his side a few minutes after the accident.

"The rim and tire came off, but the spokes still were on the wheel. He must have known the car was going to crash just before it actually did."

She said her husband was suffering from a fracture of the upper jaw, a slight concussion and other injuries.

Knows He'll Be All Right.

"He woke up once, asked where he was and then said, 'I'm going to come out of it after a bit,'" Mrs. Andres said. "I know he is going to be all right."

