

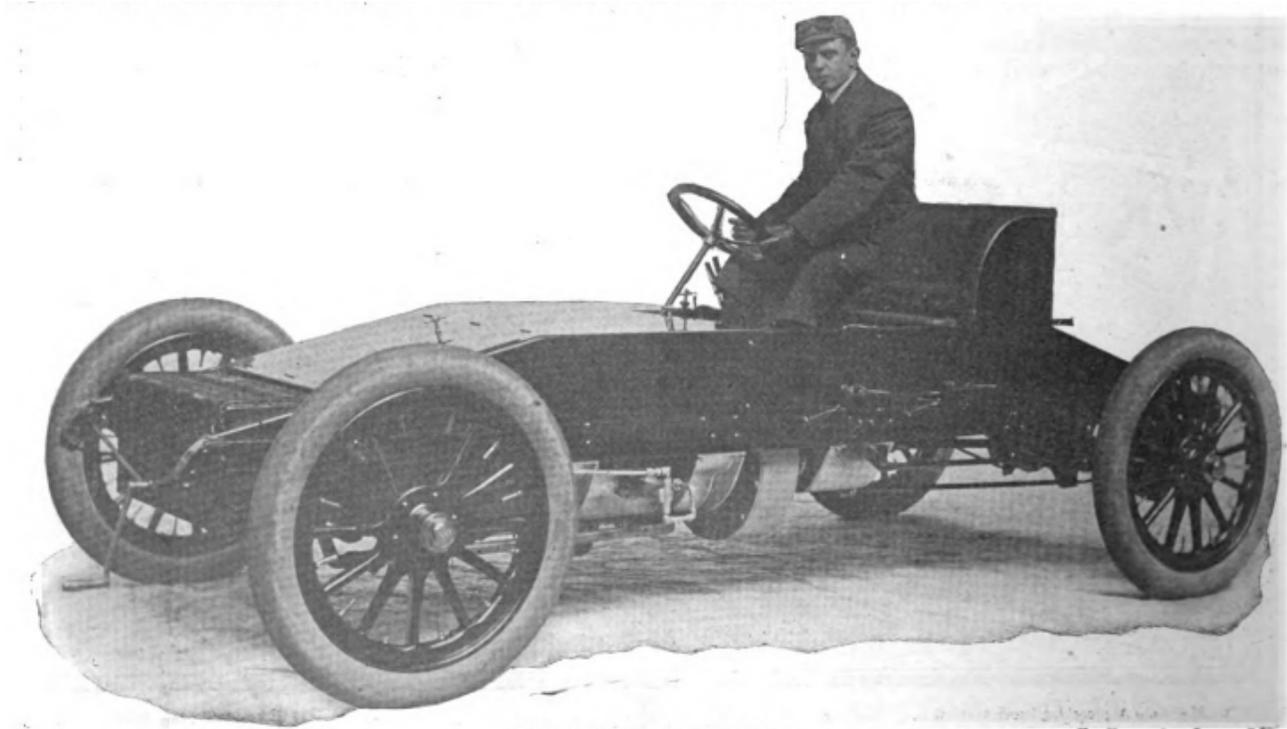
**Percy Owen**  
**January 19, 1875 - May 31, 1956**



**PERCY OWEN.**

Percy Owen was born in Oswego, NY January 19, 1875 son of Joseph Owen and Emma Augusta (Marshall) Owen. Joseph Owen owned an insurance and real estate company in Oswego. Percy joined his father in the insurance business.

In 1899 Percy traveled to New York City to expand his insurance career. While in New York City Percy became involved in the emerging automobile business. Percy started out as a mechanic with one of the major automobile manufactures of the time, Alexander Winton's Winton Carriage Company (1897 - 1924). Percy became one of Winton's first auto racing driver's. Owen won races at the Trenton Fair Grounds September 30, 1900, Narragansett October 17, 1901, Cleveland Ohio September 1902 and Narragansett September 27, 1902.



PERCY OWEN'S 40 H. P. WINTON.

Alexander Winton opened up one of the first automobile dealerships in New York City May 1902 and placed Percy Owen as manager.

Barney Oldfield departed from Henry Ford's racing team in August of 1903 and joined the Winton racing team with Percy Owen as team manager.

In December of 1907 Owen opens the first garage in New York City on West 66<sup>th</sup> Street.

From 1907 – 1908 Percy Owen was the Bianchi automobile importer. Later in the year of 1908 Owen became Vice President of Page and Company. Between 1908 and 1916 served as Vice President of Chalmers Motors and later the Saxon Motor Company.

Percy Owen formed the Liberty Motor Car Company as President. Liberty Motor Car Company manufactured passenger cars from 1916 – 1923. January 3, 1923 Liberty Motor Car Co. went into receivership. Liberty Motor Car Company was squired by the Columbia Motor Car Company.



Sample of one of the few remaining Liberty Motor cars.

Owen served as Chief of Automotive Division of the Department of Commerce under the Herbert Hoover administration from 1924 -1925.

October 8, 1925 Percy Owen joined the Dodge Brothers automotive Foreign Division.

Percy Owen completed his career as President of the Michigan Bakeries Company from 1932 -1946

Percy Owen passed away May 31, 1956 and was buried at the Riverside Cemetery in Oswego next to his parents along with his wife and children.

Percy Owen will be remembered as one of the pioneers of the emerging automobile industry.

By Kenneth J. Parrotte  
January 15, 2022