

"Some day," Carl would tell me, "we'll have real roads in the United States—not these mudholes!"

At times he would fall silent, and I kept quiet. I learned early to keep still when Carl was thinking ahead and planning.

Sometimes we stopped at the place fifteen miles out of Indianapolis where, in a cornfield littered with lumber and various materials, Carl and three other men were constructing the race-track. It was to be called the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Carl told me. He said, "Honey, it's going to be the greatest automobile racetrack in the world."

I was interested, but not greatly impressed. There were so few automobiles in Indianapolis in this quiet, orderly year of 1909! Carl had owned the first automobile in the city—one of the first fifteen in the United States—a three-wheeled French De Dion Bouton. He raced, built and sold cars from their beginning. His talk, among the men at the track, was all of cars. I was left out of such conversations.

Perched upon a partially constructed grandstand overlooking the chaotic oval, numb with bliss, I embroidered guest towels for my hope chest. I knew I was going to marry Carl, because at practically our first meeting, he had said quietly, "You know, Jane, I'm going to marry you." And I had answered very quickly, "Yes, I know."

Across the field from Speedway was being built the new Prest-O-Lite factory, and this too I realized, without thinking too much about it, was Carl's.

The track was not finished when Carl opened Speedway with the first national balloon race ever held in the United States. This event should have given me some inkling of the kind of man I was about to marry. I started another scrapbook about Carl and the balloon race.

Nine balloons were on the field that day, great iridescent bubbles fifty feet in diameter, each silk globe painted a different color and representing different American states.

Carl and his friend, the famous balloonist George Bumbaugh, were racing their own balloon, the bright yellow "Indiana."

I was no longer alone in the new grandstand. Nearly seventy-