America. This tide would answer the scoffers who said in print in 1911 that "only a fool like Carl Fisher would build a racetrack so far outside the city limits." And crazier still, the racetrack was for that as yet unproven quantity, the automobile!

Carl always left early for the track. Slow driving was torment to him, and the ride from Blossom Heath to the oval, ordinarily a matter of twenty minutes, on this morning required a couple of hours. Ninety-four intersections led to the track in the cornfields. The "world's greatest sporting crowd" inching along the fifteen miles from Indianapolis created the "world's worst traffic job."

All streets and roads leading to the oval were declared one-way for the day. A vehicle trapped in that tide would not be able to turn until five that afternoon when the race ended and traffic reversed. Carl liked to tell about two Indianapolis newspaper friends of his who set out in a hired car to get an eyewitness view of Speedway traffic. Swept on by that Speedway tide, the meter racing their expense account beyond any city editor's credulity, the reporters did not get back to the newsroom until hours past deadline.

Hundreds of smartly uniformed Indianapolis police guided the wheeled avalanche, wearing riot helmets and armed with hickory sticks. Speedway itself, with its mile-long grandstand and four-story press pagoda fluttering with bunting and flags, was patrolled by twelve hundred uniformed members of the Speedway guards. This famous "one-day army" was deputized by special ordinance and recruited from State and National Guards and City and State police. The night before, they bivouacked on the racetrack grounds. Reveille roused them to their post six hours before the race began. Their first duty was to search the grounds for gate crashers. No matter how much care was taken, stowaways were found hiding under Speedway benches on race morning—at one time as many as three hundred. Speedway tickets were hard to get and the best seats were sold a year ahead.

Around the racing oval were stationed one hundred firemen with trucks on the alert for flames set by careless smokers or