

ably the first rear-vision mirror. Also on this day Ray Harroun wore the first racing helmet.

But Carl was excited about the little Wasp because it represented America's most hopeful entry up to this time—an American car driven by an American boy!

The Wasp flashed by the grandstand so fast it was difficult to follow—or so it seemed in those days when our untired vision strained after cars attaining a speed that now would be not much more than average highway travel.

From the start of that five-hundred-mile contest the other racers were bunched close behind Ray Harroun. Foremost among them were Ray Mulford in a Lozier and David Brown in a Fiat. Lap after lap flashed by, mile after mile was clocked, the numerals written on the blackboards on the press stand of the track. The miasma of hot castor oil, hot rubber, exhaust fumes and dust hung over Speedway. Some cars died on the track. Others swerved with the scream of burning rubber and struck the strong new retaining wall. Ray Harroun's car still circled the brick-lined oval, steady and streamlined. All America's hopes followed.

The day and the miles went by—one hundred, two hundred, three hundred miles.

Carl was everywhere—all over the track. I would catch a glimpse of him in the press pagoda with Jim Allison and his other Speedway partners, or with the newspapermen, or up on the bridge where the signal flags flashed green, white, yellow, orange or blue, each with its individual messages to the racers streaking below. Sometimes he watched by the retaining wall while the small wheels devoured the miles and the faces of the drivers blackened with flying oil. And if the scream of tires drowned human screams, and an ambulance bell clanged, Carl would be with Doc Allen hovering over the injured racer. He suffered over every accident on the Speedway. He had tried so hard to make the track safe. That was his purpose in building Speedway—to make automobiles safe for everyone.

And Speedway was safe, safer than any racetrack had ever been before—safe as any track ever would be. That dramatic