

from a crashing car; and from the little hospital near Gasoline Alley came the ominous procession of ambulances, nurses and doctors headed by Carl's friend, "Doc" Allen. All these were temporary personnel. Over and above the tremendous racetrack expenses were the salaries of the five hundred permanent Speedway employees under the supervision of T. E. "Pop" Meyers, who served as vice-president and manager.

The track itself was apparently perfect that opening day in May, 1911. Its three and a half million bricks were firm. The last brick, plated with gold, had been set in impressive ceremony by Indiana's governor, Thomas R. Marshall, who as Vice-President of the United States became famous for his saying, "What this country needs is a good five-cent cigar."

After all the upheaval and tragedy, here was the track Carl had pictured when he drew the oval on the tablecloth at Pop Haynes' and said, "It's going to be the finest racetrack in the world."

The safety engineers Carl had brought to Speedway and his own racing experiences combined to develop every possible precaution for safety for the men who would race there. The new retaining wall was permanent and strong. The track had been slanted to give greater speed on the turns, and this—Carl's idea—was the first ramped track to be used in racing.

Beyond the thrills and pageantry of Speedway was Carl's purpose in its building—his dream of making the American car supreme. This track was to be more than a world amusement center. Carl had built Speedway not only because he was one of the first and foremost promoters of the automobile, but because he had been a professional racer himself. He had not forgiven the European defeat of America's team.

And what racers they were—those lusty young daredevils who wrote their fame in hot rubber on Speedway's bricks in those days when speed was new! Barney Oldfield, Eddie Rickenbacker, Jules Goux, Ralph de Palma, Joe Dawson and Ray Harroun and the others who pioneered automobile racing in America. Slit-eyed, hard-faced, nerveless, they hugged the tracks through the bicycle, motorcycle and early automobile days. They raced