

# New Speedway Owner Plans Face-Lifting Job at Track

By W. F. FOX, Jr.  
The News Sports Editor

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway, in need of a blood transfusion for many years, will soon receive one from Anton Hulman, Jr., of Terre Haute, who bought the property from Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker late Wednesday afternoon for a reported price of \$750,000.

Mr. Hulman, who said he had been around the track recently, placed in the hands of Wilbur Shaw, three-time winner of the race, the office of presidency of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and a major share of the responsibility for getting the place in shape for a 500-mile race in 1946.

Indianapolis race fans and nation-wide friends of T. E. (Pop) Myers will be pleased to know that Pop again will be vice-president and that Miss Dolly Dallenbach, known to all who have had business dealings with the speedway in the past, will be back at her secretarial desk.

Wilbur won the 500-mile race in 1937, '39 and '40. In a broadcast over WIBC Wednesday evening he said that he would not drive in the race again, but he guaranteed a full field of thirty-three cars for the 1946 renewal of the greatest automobile race in existence. The last race was in 1941.

Asked about that dream story released by Capt. Rickenbacker some time ago—the one involving the possibility of jet propulsion cars in the next race—the new president of the speedway did not hesitate in replying that that “was a figment of Mr. Rickenbacker’s imagination.” Mr. Shaw said that in the future the public would know the truth about the speedway’s plan and that there would be no wild stories released “for

the purpose of obtaining a few lines of publicity.”

“We do not care to be made the laughing stock of the world’s engineers,” said the dapper young man who was runner-up in the great classic in 1933, '35 and '38, in addition to his three victories.

The fact that Tony Hulman is the owner of the track assures racing fans of greater consideration than they have enjoyed for some time. The Speedway was falling apart.

“Our first aim,” Mr. Hulman said, “will be to look to spectator comfort and convenience and to provide a track and competition that should be an invitation and a challenge to the best race drivers in the world. We think the fans in Indiana will be glad to know that the Speedway is home-owned now.”

Mr. Hulman, who is the head of Hulman & Co., wholesale grocers, and also is president of the Clabber Girl Baking Powder Company of Terre Haute, is holder of numerous real estate and utility properties in the vicinity. He has been interested in sports all his life. He was a member of the varsity crew and the track team at Yale and he also played football. For years he competed in the Indiana amateur golf championship, but the sports nearest and dearest to him have been skeet shooting, hunting and fishing.

Tony said the improvement program on which his men will go to work immediately will be so extensive that material shortages might prevent its completion before the running of the next race. He said the improvements would

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