



## This Week in Indiana History

May 30th, 1911:

Ray Harroun Wins the First Indianapolis 500

In 1911, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway decided to focus on a single major event that would attract famous drivers and large audiences. It was decided that it would be an endurance race of 500 miles in May.

Ray Harroun, an engineer and racer who came out of retirement to compete, would go on to win the race and the grand prize of \$27,500. The success of the inaugural Indianapolis 500 would cement its status as one of the most respected and popular racing events in the world.

Ray Harroun in his racecar, the Marmon "Wasp" - Indiana State Library, Manuscripts Division



Want to learn more? Visit the library to read these books!

The Indianapolis 500: A Complete Pictorial History / ISLI 629.2 D488I

Illustrated History of the Indianapolis 500 / Q ISLI 796.7 F791I 1975

500 Miles To Go: The Story of the Indianapolis Speedway / ISLI 796.7 B652F