

Janet Guthrie

March 7 –

Even though Janet Guthrie was born in Iowa City, IA, she will always be associated with the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. According to her website, she was a pilot and flight instructor, an aerospace engineer, a technical editor, and a public representative for some of the country's major corporations.

Guthrie graduated from the University of Michigan in 1960 with a B.Sc. in physics. Afterwards, she became a research and development engineer at the Republic Aviation in Farmington, NY. While there, she worked on programs that were the precursors to Project Apollo. In 1964, she applied for the first Scientist-Astronaut program, and made it through the first round of eliminations.

Guthrie had 13 years of experience on sports car road-racing circuits, building and maintaining her own race cars, before being invited to test a car for Indianapolis in 1976. In 1977, Guthrie made history by becoming the first woman to qualify for and compete at the Indianapolis 500. That same year, she was also the first woman and Top Rookie at the Daytona 500. And, in 1978, she finished ninth in the Indianapolis 500.

For more information about Janet Guthrie, go to: <http://www.janetguthrie.com/biography.htm>.

For more information about *Writing Her Story*, go to: <http://www.in.gov/icw/2440.htm>.

Photo: Reading Eagle Company (22 February 2015). *What You Need to Know About the Daytona 500*. Retrieved from: <http://www.readingeagle.com/sports/article/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-daytona-500>.


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