

Veteran Who Won Laurels as Driver and Automobile Designer Will Lead Field Across Tape May 31.

Louis Chevrolet, retired veteran of automobile racing, who won laurels as a pilot on scores of American tracks and two Indianapolis 500-mile races as a designer-builder of victorious cars, will lead the field across the tape for the start of the fourteenth international 500-mile race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway promptly at 10 o'clock, Monday, May 31, as a pacemaker in a Chrysler "80."

Chevrolet, disinterested as an active competitor in this year's Speedway race, as he has not been building race cars since he saw his younger brother, the late Gaston Chevrolet, romp across the tape a winner in 1920, and Tommy Milton repeat in a car of his making in 1922, will make a competent leader for the largest field entered at Indianapolis in many years, as it sweeps down the straightaway and across the line for the start of the biggest American race of the year.

At the heel of a stock roadster, Chevrolet will send the field under the starter's red flag at a flying start of eighty miles an hour. He will be accompanied on the pace lap by T. E. (Pop) Myers, general manager of the Speedway.

Chevrolet is one of the really picturesque figures of the speed sport and one of the most ancient as time is reckoned in the automobile industry.

BORN IN FRANCE.

Born in France, he knew nothing about automobiles until he came to this country in 1900 when he began his racing experiences with the very founding of the industry. He raced motor tricycles in Europe before the experimental stage of the industry was out of its swaddling clothes.

In his first appearance as a racing driver, Chevrolet established a world's record by driving the mile at the old Morris park track in Chicago in :52%.

He was the hero of one of the most spectacular scenes in automobile racing when his car caught on fire during a race at the Sheepshead Bay track just outside of New York city.

Flames leaped through the thin floorboard so rapidly that before he could put on the brakes he was forced to stand in his seat to keep from being burned alive. Around the track, Chevrolet and his mechanic swept, Louis driving as he stood in the seat.

As the car lost momentum and slowed to sixty miles an hour he grazed the car along the pit walls until it was rolling slowly enough to permit him and his mechanic to jump to safety.

Chevrolet now makes his home in Indianapolis.