

NATIONAL SPRINT CAR HALL of FAME & MUSEUM

ARTHUR & LOUIS CHEVROLET

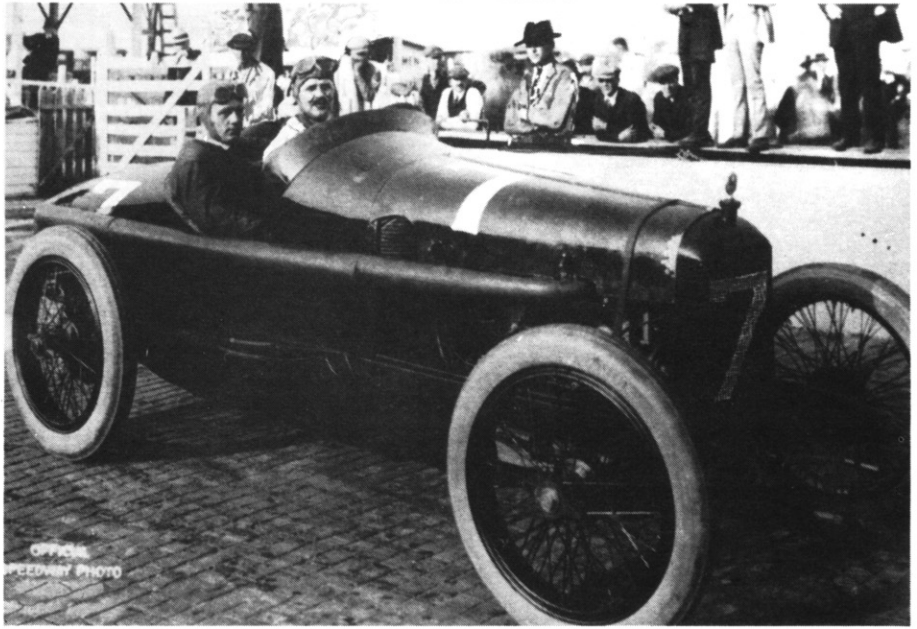
by Dave Argabright

Louis Chevrolet was born in 1878 in Switzerland and his brother Arthur was born in 1886 in France. They came to America in the early 1900's, and both enjoyed early success behind the wheel of a racing car.



Louis Chevrolet
Bruce Craig Collection

Louis worked with W.C. Durant to design the first Chevrolet passenger car, but shortly thereafter ended his relationship with the firm. He and Arthur, along with their brother Gaston, raced in several Indy



Arthur Chevrolet
Bruce Craig Collection

500's and in other races throughout America. They also built the very successful Frontenac racing machines, which won Indianapolis in 1920 with Gaston driving (the #4 car was called a Monroe). The auto also won in 1921 with Tommy Milton aboard.

In 1920, Louis and Cornelius Van Ranst designed a special eight-valve, pushrod head for the Ford Model "T". Arthur headed the manufacturing plant, and the

firm eventually produced over 10,000 heads, which were called "Fronty Fords" and sold for approximately \$100 each. They had pioneered the high-performance competition equipment industry. The heads sold well until the early 1930's when changing engine technology made it obsolete.

Louis died in Detroit on June 6, 1941 and Arthur passed away at his Louisiana home on April 17, 1946.