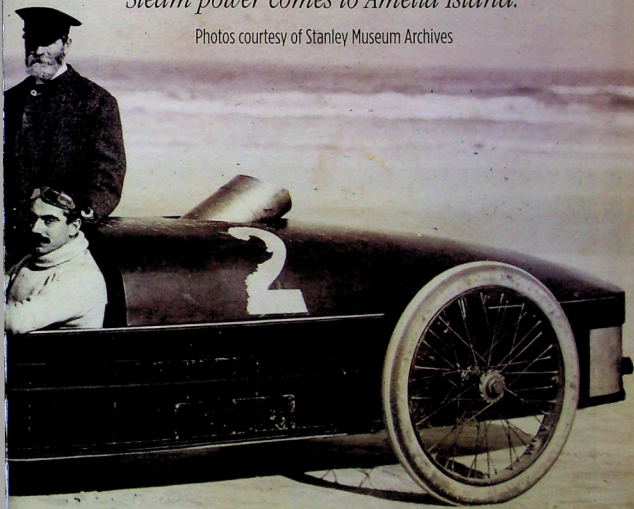


Stanley Celebrates Land Speed Record Centennial

Steam power comes to Amelia Island.

Photos courtesy of Stanley Museum Archives



■ F.E. STANLEY WITH FRED MARRIOTT AND RACER AT ORMOND BEACH. Probably taken Sunday, January 28, 1906. Note the metal at the back of the car, denoting the repair when the engine cylinder blew out the day before. The number "2" was used on the car in both 1906 and 1907; this is the 1906 configuration.

IN 1903, THE SMOOTH, HARD-PACKED SANDS OF Ormond Beach, Fla., became a proving ground for automobile inventors and drivers. These first speed tournaments in the U.S. earned Ormond the title "Birthplace of Speed."

Records set here during speed trial tournaments for much of the next eight years would be the first significant marks recorded outside Europe. Motorcycle and automobile owners and racers brought vehicles that used gasoline, steam and electric engines. They came from France, Germany and England as well as from across the United States.

Racing on Ormond Beach started in 1902. But the city's famous connection with racing began the next year when the Winton Bullet won a Challenge Cup against the Olds Pirate by two-tenths of a second. American records were set that year, and the world took notice.

On January 26, 1906, F.E. Stanley's Rocket Racer, driven by dare-devil Fred Marriott, set the mark that became Ormond Beach's most famous land speed record. The incredible speed of 127.659 mph gave Stanley the legendary title of Fastest Car in the World for the first decade of the 20th century. The record held for four years, a remarkable achievement in a speed age where

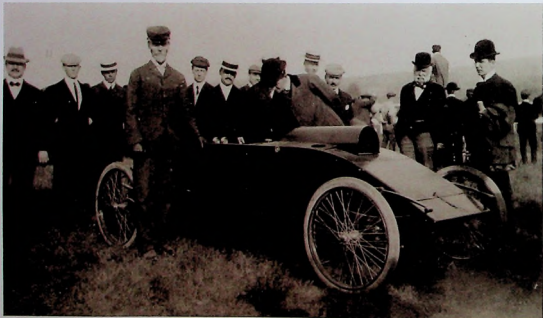
records sometimes fell within the hour. The Marriott record was finally broken in 1910 by 4 mph, when Barney Oldfield raced his Lightning Benz at 131.723 mph.

Visitors at this year's Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance will get a chance to see the steam-propelled vehicles of Stanley Steamer fame as part of the centennial celebration of the 1906 land speed record presented by the Stanley Museum. "We are very excited to feature the great cars of The Stanley Motor Carriage Company," said Bill Warner, founder and chairman of the Amelia Island concours. "In the early 1900s, steam power was very popular and Stanleys were a leader for a number of years. These cars occupy a

very important place in transportation history. We are fortunate that Stanley owners from across the country will already be in Florida to celebrate the marque's land speed record set in 1906."

The Amelia Island concours includes three classes of Stanleys, featuring condenser, coffin nose and tiller styles in addition to other steam marques, among them the White, Locomobile and Doble.

■ F.E. STANLEY AND THE TORPEDO RACER. F.E. stands next to his streamlined 1903 racer at the Readville, Mass., track. Stanley drove this car, also called the "Turtle," to a world's steam track record on May 30, 1903.



■ ORMOND GARAGE.

Louis Ross in his steam-powered "Wogglebug" #4 poses in 1905 with other participants in front of the new Ormond Garage, built by Ormond Hotel owner Henry Flagler in 1904, the year after the races started. The garage addition helped support the automobile tourism the new races on the beach were designed to attract.



■ THE STANLEY WRECK, 1907. From his recovery bed, driver Fred Marriott requested the pieces of the Rocket be gathered together and shipped back to the factory in Massachusetts. This crash is the source of the myth that the Stanleys would give a car to anyone who dared open the throttle of a Stanley.



■ FRED MARRIOTT. Ormond Beach, 1906. (Photo Stanley Museum Archives, courtesy of the Larz Anderson Auto Museum)



■ THE RUN THAT MADE STANLEY LEGEND. On this run, Marriott drove the Stanley Rocket Racer to its land speed record of 127.659 mph, a record that would hold for four years, giving Stanley the legendary title of Fastest Car in the World for the first 10 years of the 20th century. (Photo Stanley Museum Archives, courtesy of the Larz Anderson Auto Museum) AIC

