

Grant's Speed Surprises Auto Company Officials

When Harry Grant won the Vanderbilt Cup in 1910 for the second time, driving the same identical car with which he won the cup in 1909, all the comment that his mechanic, F. H. Lee, made was, "and they said we couldn't come back."

This remark was recalled last week when Grant drove the same car, familiarly known as "Old No. 18," over a measured half mile on the Long Island Motor Parkway in 16.45 seconds. This is the equivalent of 107.8-10 miles per hour. The performance of this wonderful car was a surprise even to those officials of the American Locomotive Company, who are familiar with it, and who had been watching the grooming of the car, which Grant has been working out for the 500-mile race at the Speedway.

The car was seen at many of the automobile shows during the winter, and Grant was in attendance with the car at all these shows. Since the close of the show circuit, the car has been thoroughly overhauled and inspected in the technical room of the Automobile Club of America. It is essentially, however, the same identical car with which Grant won the two Vanderbilt races, and will be one of the very few strictly stock cars in the Indianapolis race. It carries on its cylinders and other parts of the engine the stamps of the technical committees which examined it in 1909 and 1910 previous to its starts in the Vanderbilt races of those years.

Grant made three separate trials over the Long Island course. His first was the fastest, recorded above. The other two half-miles were driven in 17 seconds flat, each. This is the equivalent of 105.1-10 miles per hour. Those who were privileged to see the performance were amazed at the power developed, and the officials of the company who rode with Grant in his three trials were unanimous in declaring that the car ran as easily even at top speed as a rocking chair.