

Michigan Every Day **By Patrick Sullivan and Carole Eberly**

Oct. 10, 1901
Ford wins race

Henry Ford had a promising career as chief engineer at Detroit's Edison Illuminating Company but his first love was tinkering with automobiles. He had tried and failed the previous two years to develop an auto manufacturing business. He had wealthy backers and attempted to get the Detroit Auto Company off the ground but it was not to be. So on Oct. 10, 1901, Ford took one of his contraptions to the Grosse Pointe Race Track, where he entered a race against Alexander Winton, a Cleveland auto manufacturer considered one of the greatest racers of the day. It took Ford some time to discover how to make the turns at a high speed but once he got the hang of it, Ford overtook Winton, whose car suffered mechanical problems. Ford won the race and much positive publicity. The win helped him recruit backers who put up money to form the Henry Ford Motor Company, a precursor to the corporation that would make Ford one of the world's wealthiest men.