In August of 1919, the World Championship Road Race was held in Marion, Indiana. Read the articles entitled, “Marion Preparing for Entertainment of Many Thousands for Big Race,” and “Many Prominent Motorcycle Men in City for Race” then answer the questions below.

1. News reporters write so that people can visualize in their mind, as if they were right there. What descriptive language does the author of this article use to help you visualize the setting of the race?

2. Why do you think the race is going to attract so many people?

3. According to the news reporter, what do the riders need to do to prepare for the race?

4. Why do you think those steps are necessary?

5. In the article, “Many Prominent Men,” the author mentions Charley Spencer, C.D. Franklin, William Ottoway, and H. B Myers. What important contributions did these men make to the world of racing?

6. Read the “What the Captain Says” articles. Which captain do you think is most persuasive? Why?
The Marion Chronicle (cont’d)

With visitors flocking to the city by the hundreds, Marion is fairly seething with excitement prior to the World Championship Road race that will be held Labor Day. Everything is ready for the speed event except for the vast crowd to assemble at the course and for the starter’s pistol to fire the shot that will start the world’s premier riders off on the greatest road race of the season.

Nothing is undone, and each camp is fairly bristling with anxiety and enthusiasm. Every racer is in trim for the event, and every mount is in shape to put forth its best efforts to bring home the bacon to its camp and rider.

**Huge Grandstand**

The grandstand has been erected, and will hold five thousand wildly excited race enthusiasts. The course has been carefully gone over, and is in condition for a fast race. Down the stretch in front of the stands and pits the course has been oiled in order for the spectators to have a better view of the racers as they whirl by.

The pits have been placed directly opposite the grandstand, and the outlookors will have an opportunity to see pit work that will exceed in the speed of the pitmen at Indianapolis in the automobile classic. The pit work of the teams plays an important part in the winning of the race and each team is well supplied with men who can see that they are not delayed in that part of the race.

Each team manager and rider seems confident that their mount will pull under the wire in first place. A calm determined spirit prevails in every camp, and every man is determined to battle to cross under the wire in first place. A calm determined spirit prevails in every camp, and every man is determined to battle to cross under the wire in first place.

**Preliminary Trials.**

The riders have been tuning up on the course for a week, and know each little peculiarity of the machine. Every machine can easily make 90 miles or better. Every racer knows that the race will be won largely by the skill of the rider, as all road races are, and as a result they have strained to know their machines and the course to perfection.

The riders are resting up on their mount, waiting for the time when they line up for the crucial test, Sunday, the machines will be given the final going over under the direction of the consulting engineers and the racers. The final once over will be given riders and mounts alike, and then the various teams will lay the final plans for winning the event.

The race will begin promptly at 11 o’clock Monday morning. It is expected that the winner will flash across with a victory about two o’clock. It is expected that a speed of around 10 miles per hour will be maintained. Nineteen riders have been entered in the event.

Many prominent motorcycle men are in Marion today, coming early for the 200 mile race Monday. This contest is attracting widespread interest throughout the world and some of the biggest men in the motorcycle trade are coming for the event.

Charley Spencer, an old competition speed rider, who is connected with the Indian team this year and who is well known, will be invaluable to the present racers. C. D. Franklin, who with Spencer, designed an entirely new Indian within the past five weeks is also here. He is known as the “silent mechanic” of the Hendee Manufacturing Co. He has been on the automobile designing board of the government and his knowledge is recognized.

William Ottaway, a Harley-Davidson expert, whose skill is shown in the speed of the Harley at present, is also in Marion marking time for the big contest Monday. His judgment in racing matters is considered as paramount among motorcycle men.

H. B. Myers, lately discharger from the Motor Transport Corps of the U. S. Army is also here awaiting the opening shot of the pistol Monday. He served in the Motorcycle Paris department of the Maintenance Division.

**What The Harley Captain Says**

**“RED” PARKHURST**

“If we’re running at the finish, we’ll be the only men, and we are always running at the finish. The Harley is a good old bus, and I think that we have the shift to turn in another victory here in Marion. I’m just saying, watch the Harley.”

**What The X Captain Says**

**BOB PERRY**

“The old X is right there, and will give them all a battle for first honors. We are not bragging but I think that the man that wins will have to beat the X team. Our entire team are veteran riders and will give a good account of themselves on the course. The machines have the stuff, the tryouts have proven that, and I have hopes an X rider will pilot one to first place.”

**What The Indian Captain Says**

**TEDDY CARROLL**

“The Indian has just as good a chance as any machine on the course and I am satisfied that the Indian will make a good showing at the race. I expect that one of our men will flash under the wire a winner. The factory has built special machines for this event, and I think that they will carry one of our team to a victory. We have worked hard and have at least an even chance to win.”