

Dublin, OH to Indianapolis, IN

Stage 4 seemed to be like every other day when Team Walla Walla pulled away from the hotel to start the route. I was uncomfortable with the fact that I discovered number 1 cylinder was not firing. I told Tony that he was going to have to run on three and compensate for the lack of power. About twenty minutes after he left as I was loading the trailer, I found the top to a spark plug on the ground where the Model A had been parked. All day long I wondered if it had fallen off while we checked the spark this morning.

Car #11 was still in the parking lot and I hear comments that they may pack up and go home. They were having a rattle and could not find it. Particles of metal were found in the oil pan but no one could find the source. This morning the engine was apart again. They discovered that the cam nut had backed off and tore up the timing gear. Into my box of parts I dug and handed them a new timing gear I had brought as a spare. I helped them get the gear in and the engine back together and they were off to the races.



As luck would have it, I learned that our car had broken down some time in the morning. The word coming down the chain was that the distributor shaft had broken. There was nothing to do but pace Monument Circle in Indianapolis waiting until the last car came in for the night. We were on the “grim reaper” and would be carried across the finish line.

With the car on the ground at the hotel we began to diagnose the problem. The distributor shaft was fine and all the pistons moved. The next thing was to look at the timing gear. It was not moving. With a screwdriver and the crank we go it to move. As the gear came around we saw what I feared most. Four inches of teeth were missing from the gear. I had given our spare to another car this morning.

There are 15 Model A's in this race so finding parts was not a problem. We worked on the car until 1:30 in the morning and when we were done the car was running on all 4 cylinders and sounded great. I took it for a spin in the freeway before I headed to bed.

This day was not good for X-Cup teams. Although we were the only car hauled in today, all the X-Cups had high scores or some trouble. Lawrence ended up in a soybean field at one point and had to be pulled out by the sweep crew. Troubles will come and we will resolve them. That is symbolic of life itself and a good lesson to learn. If we work together we can accomplish anything.

