

View from above

Mayor Brown stated: "We rose gently to an elevation of 2,000 feet in an easterly wind, following the Merrimack River over the grandstand of the automobile course (the dirt track along Pawtucket Boulevard), where we heard the cheering and the band playing and saw the marathon racers followed by automobiles on the course ... We passed over North Chelmsford to a point over the Fletcher quarries.

"At 3,500 feet we met the westerly wind which carried us back over Lowell. At the highest elevation we could see Boston, all of the islands in the harbor and all of the coast

cities from Boston to Newburyport.

"When nearly over Tewksbury, we descended to the 2,000-foot level where we again encountered the westerly wind and sailed back over the southerly part of Lowell and Chelmsford center.

"Ten minutes before the landing, the mayor, under instructions, took charge of the balloon and successfully brought it down at the home plate on the baseball field at Graniteville." Walter Perham, a relative of Glidden's and one of the few to own an automobile at that time, met them at the landing spot with about 3,000 people who witnessed the packing up of the balloon.

In March 1911, Glidden, as president of the International Aeronautic Pilots Association, in a letter to Adjutant General Gardner Pearson, "offered to supply the government immediately with six of the finest spherical balloons in the world, and the professional pilots to operate them." It was suggested that the balloons could be used either captive or free-flying to assist in the military operations along the Mexican border.

In an entirely different field, Glidden is credited with doing more than any other man to popularize the automobile. After he retired in 1900, he and his wife, the former Lucy Cleworth, made the first world

tour of the world by auto, travelling 46,528 miles in 39 countries.

His tour was made under a special order from the government, authorizing him to inspect the roads in the foreign countries through which he journeyed. His automobile, the first ever to be seen in many countries, including Palestine, was a great curiosity to the people of the Holy Land. Thousands greeted him when he motored up to the Jaffa Gate at Jerusalem.

Glidden was a 32nd-degree Mason and an active member of several Masonic organizations. He died in Boston on Sept. 11, 1927 following a lengthy illness.