

The Racing Car Girl

How Young Miss America, Eager to Rival the Heroes of the Speed Track, is Entering the Hazardous Game of "Eating Up Miles" in the Modern Racing Machine.



their sex, and are fighting in the ranks of European armies. Others, as aviators, are daring the dangers of the air.

Women have, it seems, entered nearly every avenue of man's domain, yet, in spite of the wide variety of their involvements, it has remained for the new type of dashing American girl to seek a most unique and hazardous career. Out of the multiplicity of new callings for women has come this distinctly new embodiment—the Racing Car Girl.

The advent of this new type of femininity has been made known by a simple announcement, with which is to go the title of feminine champion of automobile drivers.

Miss Dahlgren and Miss Wetherill have announced that they are planning to race their high-power cars against each other on the automobile

en how to drive their own cars than any other member of her sex.

She has been working to have the contest board of the American Automobile Association lift the ban and permit women to enter automobile races.

Miss Thornton has been racing on half-mile and mile dirt tracks in the middle West. People who have seen her declare she is a wonderful speed pilot, and that there is no doubt but what she can show a speed that will be a surprise to professionals.

"Dare Devil Dahlgren."

Miss Dahlgren first won wide recognition as an expert automobile driver last summer in the Berkshire Hills, with her 120-horsepower car, known as the "little yellow streak."

Her many attempts to go better than 75 miles an hour over the Lehigh roads soon made her the reckless chauffeur-enemy of the village constables, and the terror of all the conscientious highway policemen. It seemed that she was so buoyant that she could only satisfy her cravings for excitement by driving in mad dashes over the country, in defiance of the country constables.

Three times in one week they arrested this slip of a girl, whose cool, clever driving was the envy and the despair of all the younger set.

Finally Miss Dahlgren's license as a driver was revoked by the Massachusetts Highways Commission. She had just planned a thrilling race with George Turnure, Jr., on his motorcycle, when the flint-hearted commissioners thus summarily terminated the affair in the bud. They well-knew that this race would beat Miss Dahlgren's former loose light-

Young Miss Frances Thornton, Who Is Known as One of the Most Daring Drivers in America.



daughter of Rear Admiral John Dahlgren, and also of the late Joseph Draxel. She is 20 years old, bright-eyed and red-cheeked. Glad in rakish motor togs, she has been described as moving with a lithe freedom that goes well with her expression of daring, impudence and lightness of heart.

Miss Maria Lawrence Wetherill, Who Aspires to Be the Best Woman Auto Driver in America.

LOOK to your laurels, you De Palmas, Oldfields, Burmans and other professional speed kings!

Here come the speed queens from different parts of the country, among them Miss Katherine Dahlgren, Miss Maria Lawrence Wetherill and Miss Frances Thornton, of New York, society girls and expert automobile drivers, who have firmly made up their minds to establish new speed records in motor car racing.

A hundred-miles-an-hour automobile race with girls at the wheel: Are the speed laurels at last to be wrested from masculine brows?

A new career for women!

These words are not to imply a subject as elusive as a will-o'-the-wisp, and leave you floundering fruitlessly in a morass of "reasons for the economic independence of women," but rather to direct your attention to woman's rapid invasion of what heretofore has been regarded exclusively as man's domain.

It has taken a great war to show that the day of woman's ascendancy is at hand. Now she has abundant opportunities to satisfy her longings for a career—whatever she may choose, for many unusual vocations have been brought within the reach of women.

"Women are successfully filling the places of men in all lines of work," says Miss Mary McArthur, president of the National Federation of Women Workers of England. "They are thinking as they never did before—and acting, too. It has surprised every one to learn what women can do; it has surprised even the women themselves."

"As engineers, for instance, they have been a revelation. They not only run intricate machines and keep them in order, but they are now setting them up, a feat which it was supposed only men could accomplish. They are learning to handle many of the difficult skilled positions formerly held by men, and they are doing the work most satisfactorily. I doubt if these places will be given back to the men after the war is over."

The belligerent nations are becoming accustomed to the changes brought about by the war. These changes are nowhere more evident than in the new arrangements which have been necessitated by the departure of millions of men of military age to the areas of war. The



Miss Katherine Dahlgren, Who Will Race with Miss Wetherill for the Championship.

quiet dress and the equally quiet methods of the "remplacants" have quickly recommended themselves to the people.

What Are Women Not Doing?

The capital cities of the warring nations have grown familiar with the sight of policewomen, women chauffeurs, women gardeners with their prize carrots and turnips, women porters, post-women, ticket collectors and, above all, women workers in munition factories, on whose labors hang such important issues.

In England the work of the "Woman's Legion" has demonstrated conclusively that trained women in military kitchens are greatly superior to men.

Widows of French soldiers attend military schools, where they are replacing men in the study of the scripture of war.

Hundreds of women have denied

speedway at Sheephead Bay, New York this spring for the honor of being adjudged the best woman automobile driver in America. Miss Dahlgren has already said that she wants to establish a new high-speed record.

This race is to be no novice affair. Each girl will have her own mechanic, and, during the contest, will assume entire charge of her own car. They expect to make at least 100 miles an hour.

"I want to go after the big records," says Miss Wetherill. "I am determined to earn the title of the best woman automobile driver in the country. If I win my first race I mean to go record-smashing. I shall accept other challenges if I do."

Miss Thornton is said to be one of the most daring automobile drivers in the country. It is claimed that she has instructed more wom-

Was Charles XII., of Sweden, a Woman?

HISTORIANS have tried to prove that Queen Elizabeth was a man. To explain the fate of the lost Dauphin attempts have been made to discover the identity of the Man in the Iron Mask. Now, it is the sex of Charles XII., one of the foremost warriors and generals in history, that is called in question.

Ernest Aurell, a former instructor in the University of Stockholm, who is now living in New York city, has made an exhaustive study of the life of the famous monarch, and has gathered together data which he believes sufficient to prove that Charles XII. was a woman.

Mr. Aurell began this research work several years ago, when a commission appointed by the Swedish government opened the graves of Charles XII. and Gustavus Adolphus. There has been a controversy as to the manner in which Charles met his death, some declaring that he was assassinated, others that he was killed by a random shot. More than 200 books and pamphlets have been published on the subject, and twice, once shortly after his death, and again in 1859, the Swedish government ordered a formal inquest to determine the manner of his death. A few years ago, when his body was exhumed for the third time, and a careful examination made, it was discovered, according to Aurell, that the body in the coffin was that of a woman.

The possibility that the body of Charles XII. had been removed from the coffin and the body of a woman substituted was scarcely to be con-

sidered, as the coffin had been hermetically sealed. In addition, the features were regarded by the commission as those of the young conqueror, and there were other evidences that the body was that of the remarkable person known to history as Charles XII.

While none of the histories of the life of Charles XII. even questions that he was of the male sex, Aurell points out that all historians agree on certain facts which at least tend to suggest doubt upon the subject.

In many ways Charles XII. was one of the most noted figures of all times. As a general he has had but few equals. According to Voltaire, his best historian, "he experienced whatever is most brilliant in prosperity and all that is poignant in adversity without having been everally by the one or having wavered though but for one moment with the other."

Charles XII. was born in 1697. His father, Charles XI., had long been anxious to have a son to succeed him. Aurell argues that if the child was a girl, the father and the court might have announced that a son had been born. It is known that his own father was Charles's chief instructor, and that everything was done to make the young prince hardy. He spent hours in gymnastic exercises and hunting, and thus developed the iron constitution which stood him in such good stead in his subsequent campaigns.

When 15 years of age Charles XII. became King of Sweden, his father having died. Every effort was made

to have him marry, but the young King not only refused to take a wife, but never formed any attachment with a woman. According to Voltaire, who wrote his history from accounts narrated to him by Charles's prime minister, "the young King was of medium stature, with a noble air. He had a fine forehead, large blue eyes, full of sweetness, a handsome nose and withal a face that a beautiful woman might envy."

Other historians agree with this description, all of them saying that while his figure was masculine, it resembled that of a woman more than a man, and that his hair was very thick and beautiful.

Another important fact that every historian of the monarch touches on is that hair did not grow on his face, and that throughout his entire life he never used a razor. This is considered by Aurell to be most convincing evidence.

Mr. Aurell says it is in Charles's private life, especially after his defeat at Poltava, that circumstantial evidence is overwhelmingly in favor of his being of the gentler sex.

He fled to Turkey in 1709, after the Russians had totally routed his army. He was cordially received there and allowed to establish a residence somewhat befitting his royal rank. His followers fitted up harems for themselves, but although the Sultan of Turkey and Chouroulli Ali Pasha, the grand vizier, sent him scores of beautiful girls for his harem, Charles refused to accept them, and lived by himself with only one body servant.

After a residence of nearly five years in Turkey he was seized by the

Turkish government and taken to Demotia. He was imprisoned ten months, during which time he feigned sickness and remained in bed. He eventually made his escape disguised as a woman. He travelled through Austria, Bavaria, the Palatinate, Westphalia and Mecklenburg in that disguise, and reached Stralsund in his own dominions in safety. He had scores of adventures during that striving flight. When he was killed at Frederichshall in 1718 one of the officers put his hat and wig on the King's head, and carried his body through the midst of their troops, who saw the dead King pass them without ever dreaming that it was he.

The body was buried with the utmost secrecy, and this final action is pointed out as doing much to strengthen the theory.

Largest Producer of Radium

ACCORDING to a writer in Radium, the Austrian government—the largest European producer of radium—obtained 2014 milligrammes of radium element in the salts produced in 1911 and 1933 milligrammes of radium element in 1915. The data on production in 1914 are not yet available so far as the writer is aware, and, while strenuous efforts were being made to increase the output in 1915 and 1916, it is doubtful whether more radium will be obtained than in preceding years.

There are said to be as many as 240 ways of preparing potatoes.