

Expert Speed Men Fight for Supremacy in Big Auto Road Race

DRIVERS WITHOUT FEAR OF DEATH

Men at Wheel of Motor Cars Take Great Chances in Racing

Wonderful Exhibition of Skill Displayed in Road Contest at Santa Rosa

By R. R. L'HOMMEDIEU

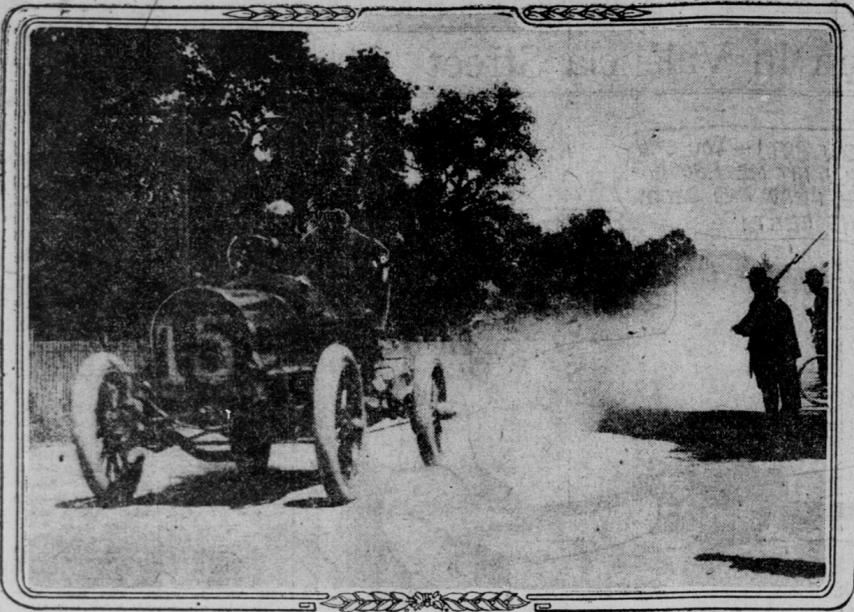
The automobiles that raced over the road course at Santa Rosa yesterday bear a striking resemblance to the chariots that were driven for the amusement of the old Roman kings and their courts in the coliseums when the Roman empire was in flower. Never did a chariot driver lash his horses into a gallop with a fury more determined than did the drivers of the automobiles yesterday, when they forced these modern chariots over a course where the chances of death were multiplied in a ratio equal to the advancement of the modern motor car over that of the chariot of the Roman empire. When one quietly thinks of the way these drivers flitted with death yesterday and yet live to receive the homage of the present day automobile enthusiasts, the only conclusion is that what is taken to be a matter of course would be in most unlightened ages considered miracles.

That 12 of these pleasure vehicles stripped to juggernauts and sent over a course that put six of them out of the running from fire and mechanical trouble so that they could not finish, and that of the remaining six only one kept up its headway from start to finish without the gladiators which drove them being numbered among the dead and injured must be considered marvelous. It is safe to say that in no place in the world have a dozen men in an automobile contest displayed such skill, keen judgment and lack of any visible sign of nerves.

NONE IS INJURED
The slightest misjudgment on the part of the drivers at the many critical moments yesterday would have closed his life story and that of his mechanic. Yet with 11 out of 12 cars practically coming to grief some time during the mad race over the 49 mile course, not one of these men received a scratch. The exhibition as given yesterday over a course which has never before been traversed by an automobile would say was practically unsafe for such a contest must prove that road racing is the only practical speed display for the automobile.

If more than a half of the accidents which had occurred yesterday had taken place in a speed contest on a track, it would be safe to say that none of those in the motor cars would have come off as luckily as they did. The crowning glory of the contest was that an amateur driver, an owner of an automobile in his maiden contest, snatched victory from the professional and seasoned driver. It was a great victory, won on nerve, cool judgment and a superior knowledge of the course. The latter factor was an advantage that showed forcibly in his case and that of Wiseman, both of whom are Santa Rosa bred. The course was 49 miles long. The first 15 miles was hilly and in many places, but it was a straight away that was badly twisted. It had several turns at an angle of 45 degrees, with the embankments pitched at the wrong angle. That none of the cars rolled over on these turns is hard to realize. Then came the loop running from Geyserville, through the Dry creek country, back to the so called straight away above Healdsburg.

ROAD FULL OF TURNS
This serpentine road was full of turns, sharp and acute, at the apex of grades that would make ordinary touring trying on the part of a driver. It was well known by the contestants that there was no hope on this part of the course to pass one another, and so before the first car was sent away, it was decided to make the 17 mile dash the field on which the contest would be won and lost. With that object in view, it was



Ely at the Wheel of the Tourist Making His Game Finish in the Road Race

How the Cars Finished in Great Road Race

Rank	MAKE	ENTRANT	Horsepower	Cylinder	Stroke	Gear	Wheels	DRIVER	Start	Finish	Elapsed Time
1	Stoddard-Dayton	A. D. Plugghoff	45	4	4 1/2	2 1/2	34	Noonan	9:09:00	10:14:18	1:05:18
2	Stevens-Duryea	Pacific Motor Car Co.	30	4	4 1/2	2 1/2	34	Wiseman	9:07:00	10:14:20	1:07:20
3	Stoddard-Dayton	J. W. Leavitt & Co.	45	4	4 1/2	2 1/2	34	Wiseman	9:00:00	10:10:23 1/2	1:10:23 1/2
4	Acme	Middleton Motor Car Co.	45	6	4 1/2	3	36	Sheets	9:01:00	10:12:37 1/2	1:11:37 1/2
5	Bluik	Howard Auto Co.	30	4	4 1/2	2 1/2	34	Murray	9:06:00	10:21:21 1/2	1:15:21 1/2
6	Tourist	A. W. Bogen, Inc.	35	4	4 1/2	2 1/2	35	Ely	9:11:00	10:26:09	1:25:09

decided to cut down the time between the starting of the cars from two to one minute, and in the mad rush to be first to and in the loop saw a battle that put many of them hors de combat. The cars that survived this strain later succumbed to the trying ordeal of the loop, while the others, when forced again when they reached the straightaway, could not bear up under it and became numbered among those that did not finish, or else crossed the line in a fit condition for the repair shop. It was a great day for the spectators, but a decidedly expensive one for the owners of the automobiles.

TAKES MANY CHANCES
Of the cars that finished, Noonan's Stoddard-Dayton came through without a stop, but the Stevens-Duryea, which carried off the second prize, had more than its share of trouble. In the loop it crashed into a bridge with such force as to crack the frame. This, when the car was forced over the rough ground, broke, yet Ontank never faltered and took all sorts of chances with his life in forcing it to victory. He also lost time in having carburetor trouble. Taking all this into consideration, it can be seen that when he was under way his car must have traveled at a frightful rate of speed.

The drive of Fay Sheets, at the wheel of the Acme, will be food for discussion for weeks to come. Seventeen miles from the finish he threw the front left tire. Never stopping for a second, he drove his car to the limit, swaying from side to side of the road until he had crossed the finishing line. In driving his Buick so hard over the rough roads, broke the gasoline feed pipe and had to repair it before he could continue his journey. The Chalmers-Detroit car only got about seven miles from the start when,

in making one of the sharp turns, it threw a tire and de Jongh gave up.

LUCKY TO BE ALIVE
Gordon in the Speedwell is lucky to be alive to tell his hard luck story. He had made a beautiful drive to Healdsburg and was a keen contender, when he struck a rock and skidded 40 feet, tearing off the rim and tire, and when he brought his car to a standstill it was pointed in the direction in which he had been coming. Soles, at the wheel of the Stearns, came to grief on the loop. Friday in the tryout the frame had been broken where it had been cracked in the contest down south. This had been repaired with angle irons, as the time had been too short to make a replacement, but the repair was not strong enough to withstand the terrific strain. The Comet was also in the running when it struck a sharp stone and a tire blew out, putting it out of the contest.

The other Stearns came to grief on account of the troubles. Bonney had worked it up into third position when he had reached the final dash for home. He had hardly got on the straight away when he lost a tire, but he did not give up and had almost covered 10 miles before he was overtaken by the next car, when he gave up. Luckily for him that he did, for when the rim was examined it was found that it was on the point of going to pieces, and the car will have to stay in Santa Rosa until another wheel is brought up so that it can proceed on its journey homeward.

The Tourist was delayed on account of the snapping of one of the wires to the battery. As Ely brought the car to a standstill it stopped in front of a big six cylinder car, the owner of which, when he realized what the trouble was, rushed to his expensive vehicle, raised the hood, and grabbing the ignition wires, gave them a mighty jerk, pulling them all loose, and rushing over to Ely got him to help him-

self and go for the finish. Ely said: "But you won't be able to drive home." To which the owner replied: "Then I guess we can walk." After Ely crossed the line he tried to find out who his benefactor was, but up to the present time the name of the good Samaritan is unknown, although much sought for by the owner of the Tourist car.

KIMMON GINKO SWINDLE FRUSTRATED

Copy of Contract Shows Plainly Scheme to Defraud

The attempt of the alleged committee of Japanese to procure possession of the books of the depositors of the Kimmon ginko, was further frustrated yesterday when members of the local Japanese colony were advised by persons connected with the bank not to dispose of their bank books. A copy of the blank letter was secured by The Call yesterday afternoon and it is plainly shown that fraud was intended. Whether or not any of the depositors signed and delivered any of the blanks to the alleged committee is not known, but if they have done so they have sold their savings, worth probably several hundred dollars, for \$1.

FISHING SPIDER FOUND IN BUENOS AIRES STREAM

Little Creature Catches Small Fish and Tadpoles in Net

There has recently been discovered in Buenos Aires a spider which practices fishing at times. In shallow places it spins between stones a two winged conical net, on which it cubs in the water and captures small fish, tadpoles, etc. That it understands its work well is shown by the numerous shrimped skins of little creatures that lie about in the web net.—London Globe.

TARS WIN MEDALS FOR BRAVE WORK

Two Men Are Presented With Tokens and \$100 Each by Rear Admiral Swinburne

While the officers and men of the cruisers Tennessee and Washington in special full dress uniform stood at attention on the decks of the warships Saturday morning George H. Wheeler, a ship fitter, and William H. Gowan, a boatswain's mate, were ordered to step forward from the ranks by Rear Admiral W. T. Swinburne and were then presented with medals of honor and money gratuities. It was recognition from the government of conspicuous bravery on the part of the two men during a fire which took place in the port of Coquimbo, Chile, while the fleet was in that port. Cheer after cheer followed the ceremony.

Wheeler and Gowan had both been recommended to the navy department for bravery by their commanding officers, and Friday Rear Admiral Swinburne received orders from Secretary of the Navy Meyer to award a medal of honor to each of the men, together with a money gratuity of \$100 each.

WOMAN KIDNAPER MEDITATES SUICIDE

Boyle and His Wife, According to Her Statement, Will End Their Lives

MERCER, Pa., May 9.—Unless present plans are changed James H. Boyle and his wife, Helen Anna Boyle, the convicted kidnapers, will be sentenced by Judge Williams in the Mercer county court tomorrow for the abduction of "Billy" Whittia.

It is certain that, if permitted, Boyle will attempt to tell a sensational story, implicating a third person in the kidnaping. Mrs. Boyle said tonight that she would have nothing to say when sentenced. She added: "Jimmy has something to say and ought not to be gagged. I will not say anything. Seriously, I want to tell you there is going to be a double suicide. I will not spend much time in the penitentiary. I have made all arrangements and have the means now to depart quietly and quickly. Jimmy will do the same."

"Do you think I am going to the penitentiary for many years? No, sir! When my sentence would expire I would be an old woman and I can not endure the thought of it."



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