

AUTO EXPLODES AND SETS TRACK ON FIRE

Atlanta Speedway Spectators
See Sheet of Flame Fol-
lowing Loud Crash.

OCCUPANTS' ESCAPE NARROW

Driver Kilpatrick and Mechanician
Church Stop Abruptly While Going
Seventy Miles an Hour.

ATLANTA AUTOMOBILE SPEED-
WAY, November 12.—H. J. Kilpatrick and
his mechanician, R. Church, had a re-
markable escape from death today when
Kilpatrick's Pope-Toledo car exploded
and was burned up.

Kilpatrick, holder of the straightaway
record of 37 seconds for the mile, made on
Long Island last year, had just made a lap
of two miles in his best effort of the pre-
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steering wheel for another attempt and
had completed the second turn when a
cylinder exploded with a deafening crash.
The machine was going seventy miles an
hour and a sheet of flame twenty feet
in length shot back.

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Kilpatrick, holder of the straightaway record of 37 seconds for the mile, made on Long Island last year, had just made a lap of two miles in his best effort of the present meet, in 1:35. He bent low over his steering wheel for another attempt and had completed the second turn when a cylinder exploded with a deafening crash. The machine was going seventy miles an hour and a sheet of flame twenty feet in length shot back.

The spectators believed that neither driver nor assistant could escape. A rush was made across the paddock, but both men were found expostulating with the ambulance physician against going to the hospital. They had merely been scratched up.

When the explosion occurred the machine skidded against the outer fence, and in the fraction of a second before the flames shot back, Kilpatrick and Church were thrown from their seats. Both landed in a big pile of brush, which had accumulated in clearing out the undergrowth for the new speedway. Kilpatrick picked himself up nearly 150 feet from where the wreck occurred.

Track is Set on Fire.

The asphaltum covering of the track was ignited by the burning wreck and furnished a fiery spectacle for some time before it could be extinguished. The machine which was destroyed was built to enter the Vanderbilt cup race, and was the property of Asa G. Candler, Jr., president of the speedway company. The car was valued at \$25,000.

Perfect weather greeted the crowd at the speedway today. A feature of the program was the twenty-mile handicap, restricted to cars which took the New York-Atlanta reliability run under the auspices of the New York Herald and Atlanta Journal and the Atlanta Constitution state contestants. The longest race of the day was a free-for-all at fifty miles.

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(Special to The Indianapolis News.)

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