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# MERZ HEARKENS TO CALL

## WILL PILOT RACERS AGAIN

**NOTED INDIANAPOLIS DRIVER PLANS TO SHAKE DICE WITH DEATH DESPITE FORMER HARROWING EXPERIENCE.**

Vivid glimpses of the Land of Eternal Shadow are not enough to drive away the lure of the motor racing game when once a man has clung to the throbbing wheel of a thundering speed creation, has seen the landscape blur and heard the plaudits of the mighty throng as he rushes in mad flight to victory and fame. A bursting tire may hurl him close to death, may snuff out the life of his brave mechanic on the seat beside him, may kill and maim spectators—and yet he wants to get back into the game.

Such is the experience of Charles Merz, son of an Indianapolis policeman, and the daring youngster who hurled the great National stock cars to so many victories during the last three years. Last August, at the Speedway meet, the right front tire of the speeding National with Merz at the wheel, burst, precipitating an accident that demanded the ghastly toll of three human lives. The big car, swerving from the course, shot like a meteor through the stone coping of a bridge, somersaulted and spinning around crashed into the fence and turned over.

Kellum, the brave mechanic, was fatally crushed and two spectators were fatally maimed and one or two others slightly injured. Merz used the throttle and crawled from underneath the car without a scratch. The car itself was overhauled and on the track within two weeks, but Merz retired.

### Abandons Simple Life.

And yet Merz wants to come back, and it is probable that he will overcome parental objection and all other advice and again take the steering wheel of the National speedster on track and hill, this season. Merz is now connected with a Western branch house of the National Company and doing nothing more strenuous than demonstrating. However, with the coming of spring and the thunder of

# PRISES ALL

## BLE RECORD

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**OBILES**

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...And the National Company has...  
 ...first step in permitting him to enter  
 ...the speed limits once more. Merz is a  
 ...brilliant driver and has won many  
 ...ties with the National. He is an ex-  
 ...perienced hand and a brave, cool and  
 ...pilot. There is no reason why he  
 ...should ever meet the same danger  
 ...perances as last summer with the im-  
 ...proved safety devices found on modern  
 ...speedways and race courses.

The lure of speed is a peculiar thing, and Merz, paying, felt the call, was finally  
 ...probable his on the job once more,  
 ...winning fame and glory for himself and  
 ...National.

**Nationals Show Well.**

...Alker and Fode...  
 ...National drivers are now work-  
 ...ing out regularly on the local Speedway  
 ...preparing for their 1919 debut, which they  
 ...will enter at the Atlantic meeting.  
 ...The Nationals are show-  
 ...ing several fine and eighty miles per  
 ...hour, and the local company is hopeful of  
 ...making even a greater showing with its  
 ...fast stock cars this year than it did last  
 ...season when it won so many important  
 ...races on track, speedway and hill.

...A... the well-known amateur  
 ...pilot, who has achieved fame with the  
 ...Thomas and other big cars. He joined  
 ...the rank of National drivers. He has  
 ...bought a National four-forty stock speed-  
 ...way model, with which he expects to go  
 ...after the honors in the amateur events  
 ...this season.

...Greater is expected to be a formidable  
 ...opponent in the national amateur cham-  
 ...pionship contest which will be held on  
 ...May 10 at the Indianapolis Speedway.  
 ...This struggle will be the first real cham-  
 ...pionship title event ever held, and is ex-  
 ...pected to attract every amateur driver  
 ...with a speed ambition in the country.

**PREMIER PUBLISHES ORGAN.**

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**Local Branch New**

**"THE GOBBLERS" TAKE  
 SUNDAY TOUR TO**

Spend Day Celebrating With  
 Various Games and Gen-  
 Good Time.

Sunday the foremen of  
 of the Overland Automobi-  
 department, that are band-  
 in a secret society called "The  
 took their first summer outin-  
 "The Old Kentucky Home" on  
 thirty-four miles southeast of In-  
 Superintendent State and the  
 the Marion Motor Car Compan-  
 pled them as invited guests.  
 The party of forty-five were  
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 After spending the morning  
 doing their usual work in ex-  
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And the National Company has placed him upon their reserve list, which is the first step in permitting him to go after the speed limits once more. Merz is a brilliant driver and has won many trophies with the National title of an expert mechanic and a brave, clever, and intelligent pilot. There is no reason why he should ever meet the same dangers and experiences of last summer with im- proved safety devices found on modern speedways and race courses.

The fate of speed is a peculiar thing, and Merz, having felt the edge, will in all probability be on the job once more, winning fame and glory for himself and National.

**Nationals Show Well.**

Johnny Aitken and Tom King, the two National drivers, are now work- ing out results on the local Speedway preparing for their 1919 debut, which they expect to make at the Atlantic meeting. Mr. Aitken and the Nationals are show- ing seventy-five and eighty miles per hour, and the local company is hopeful of making even a greater showing with its fast stock cars this year than it did last season, when it won so many important races on track, speedway and hill.

Art Grier, the well-known amateur pilot, who has achieved fame with the Thomas and other big cars, has joined the rank of National drivers. He has bought a National four-forty stock speed- way model, with which he expects to go after the honors in the amateur events this season.

Grier is expected to be a formidable opponent in the national amateur cham- pionship contest which will be held on May 19 at the Indianapolis Speedway. This struggle will be the first real cham- pionship title event ever held, and is ex- pected to attract every amateur driver with speed ambition in the country.

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