

JAKE DE ROSIER IS AMBULANCE "HERO"

Lightly Built Motorcycle Record Breaker Has Gone Through Many Accidents.

STORY READS LIKE BATTLE

Veteran Will Be Asked to Make Speedway Record Here This Summer.

"Splintered" Career of Jake De Rosier

Compound fracture of the left shin-bone; four-inch cut in back; deep cut over right eye.

Fractured skull and many body lacerations and cuts.

Deep fracture of the left leg at the ankle.

Left forearm broken in two places.

Finger ribs broken on the right side; three-inch piece of one rib removed by surgeons; in hospital three months.

Ruptured blood vessel near the bladder; hemorrhages for seven days.

Neck broken three times.

Both legs badly burned from toes to knees a dozen times by fire flashes from the motor engine.

Artery severed in the right forearm.

Splinters three and four inches long driven into his back.

Remained one night in New York jail for fighting a policeman.

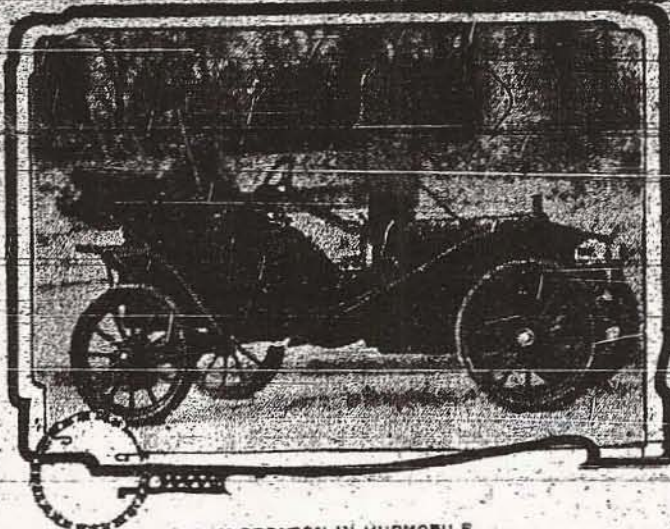
Etc.

It may be fine business to wear big diamonds, get out of bed when you are tired of sleeping, and eat nothing but half fried and terrapin whenever you are hungry or not, but if you have to break your legs, arms, head and ribs and pass all your spare time in some hospital in order to get such luxuries, the ordinary man would probably rather take a chance at the bare bed and savings of life than at the big bluff that makes one's stomach think he's a better fanner.

There are others who do not think that way, however, and one of these is Jake De Rosier, motorcycle record holder. He has had all kinds of accidents, from knocking his head to having his feet burned, and he has probably gouged through his splinters out of board-racing tracks to build a small-stand cottage, with a chicken house and a back yard fence.

De Rosier would make a consumptive of the life he leads by comparison, for he is a slight, slender fellow that a strong California branch might blow over. He has a bad cold, though, for otherwise he could not have gone through the thresh-

Pugilist Takes to Auto Recreation



RAY BRONSON IN HUPMOBILE.

ing machine of four years as a bicycle rider and eleven years as a motorcycle professional, carrying his life about for years between two of his fingers, while he was knocking down posts and fences with his body.

Jump Wrong Man.

As if all this would not satisfy an ordinary mortal in the way of experiences, De Rosier was once arrested in New York city for fighting a policeman, when he rushed on the track to help a fallen friend. He was taken by four others and thrown into jail, and passed the night there because he could not find any of his many friends by phone to bail him out. He was discharged the next day. Incidentally, Jake was covered with bandages after an injury.

There is only an incident in De Rosier's life, and one would imagine that he had been slammed about enough to make him sour on the motorcycle game, but he can not quit. For the same reason that Harriman only quit the railroad-building game because he died, it is seldom that auto drivers, motor riders or aviators decide to retire until some barber is hired for \$5 to shave them so they will look natural. De Rosier says he will not quit because he is not a quitter.

De Rosier began as a bicycle rider in amateur races at Fall River, Mass., in 1894 and rode four years with, like many other "amateurs," he made so much money that the chairman of the racing board made him a professional. Straws to say, he never had an accident of importance as a bike rider.

When Henry Fournier arrived in New York from France in 1898 he brought with him as excess baggage two fast racing motorcycles. De Rosier saw his chance and immediately got in with Fournier as a steersman, and rode in the first motor-paced bicycle race ever run in this country, which was at Waltham, Mass., in 1898. He paced Henry Elkies in that race and later on paced one of the contestants in the race in which Henry was killed when his rear tire blew up and he was hit by a motorcycle. De Rosier continued as a pacemaker until 1902, when he began to ride the motors as a racer.

Has Skull Fractured.

His first bad accident happened in 1902 in a race in Madison Square Garden, when

his rear tire blew up in a race. His skull was fractured in the fall and he lay unconscious six hours in the Bellevue Hospital.

A few days after the pieces of his head had started to grow together following the fracture of the skull he went to the garden to watch another race, with all his many bandages on. There being no one to ride a certain race De Rosier volunteered to try, but after going several miles the machine broke down. Jake went into the grand stand to watch the other fellows, and some minutes later one of the riders had a bad spill. Jake jumped over the railing to lift up his fallen friend and had his fall resulting fight with the policeman, who tried to throw him from the track.

Ten days later he was racing Jimmy Michael, the bike rider, in a race at Worcester, Mass., when De Rosier's rear tire exploded. The motor jumped from under him, and then, having bucked him off, the machine leaped on top of him. In addition to a bad cut over the right eye and a deep four-inch gash in his back Jake got a compound fracture of the left shin bone. The bone was split lengthways for four or five inches, and had to be "attached" together with wire, the operation being a "long way" from a nerve tonic.

His next serious spill was at Providence, R. I., in 1905, when in riding a motor race against Fred Hoyt on a half-mile dirt track, De Rosier's motor slipped from under him and he broke his left ankle and was in bed four weeks. Five months later, while riding one night on a dark road near Fall River, Mass., his machine ran into a hole and he fell off, breaking his arm in two places.

The next year, in 1907, he had a match race against Hoyt in New York and was riding so fast that the rubber was burned off the canvas of his rear tire. The machine fell and De Rosier's chest struck the handle bars, breaking three ribs. He was in the hospital three months, and his chest swelled to such a size that the surgeons finally cut it open and found a piece of rib three inches long dangling around inside. This was cut off.

His most serious mishaps occurred last spring in Indianapolis, when the front tire jumped from his machine. In the fall his body was badly cut in several places and a blood vessel near his bladder was ruptured. He was forced to remain in the hospital for two weeks and had hemorrhages for seven days. Just when the surgeons were to operate on him the hemorrhages ceased. For four days and nights he did not sleep. Some sharp stones had been used in making the track and these had been covered with asphaltum. His legs were badly lacerated by these stones and they left deep wounds half-filled with tar.

Real Scourer.

In a dozen different races the tire has jumped from the post holes in this motor engine and burned his legs from toes to knees, leaving many scars that are always tender. In a race at Springfield, Mass., some years ago, he fell on the board track, and in addition to many cuts and bruises a big splinter four inches long penetrated his back, accompanied by one three inches long. Another shorter one, length and a half, in his right forearm. One of the arteries in his right forearm was severed, his nose has been broken three times and his eyes blackened on a number of occasions.

There is hardly a patch of skin on his back three inches square that has not been lacerated. He has never been a prize fighter, football player or auto driver in the world that has ever had the accidents that

Jake De Rosier,
1909 Indianapolis
Motor Speedway
Motorcycle Races.

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