

coming on special trains to see the speedway event, and the greatest demand for fight seats are coming from these.

Speedway Helmet Is Older Than Auto Game

How the speedway helmet, now commonly worn by Bob Burman and other noted pilots when engaging in fast brushes on the track, came into existence, is an interesting story, harking back to the days of motor paced bicycle racing. It seems that F. Ed Spooner, the noted Detroit automobile writer and photographer, is the originator of the device, in its application to the gasoline industry. At one time, when a cycle meet was in progress at the Charles River Park track, Boston, during which an unusual number of injuries, chiefly about the head and shoulders, had resulted among the wheel pushers, Spooner, from the top of the wood structure, into which the race course was built, in a manner similar to that of the old Newby oval, happened to observe a number of football players, armed with leather head guards, at scrimmage practice near by. Seeing them buck the line, head on, again and again, without apparent injury either to themselves or their opponents, he conceived the idea of fitting the crippled cyclists with dome protectors like those of the pigskin chasers, with a view to cutting down the number of injuries among them. He accordingly bought one of the affairs and fitted it on Johnnie Nelson, then the king of motor pace followers, just as an experiment. Nelson had barely started out after donning his new head harness when the tire of his pacing machine exploded, with the result that he experienced a nasty spill.

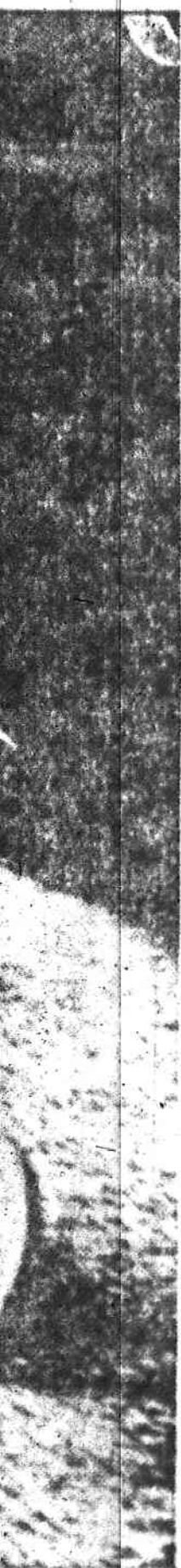
On being picked up unconscious it was found that his helmet had a hole in it large enough to admit a couple of fingers, while he himself had escaped with but a slight concussion. Without a doubt the skull envelope had saved his life, as the blow which it deadened, judged by the location of the rent in it, had been sustained directly on the top of his cranium. From that day there was

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