

OLDFIELD, GREATEST OF SPACE ANNIHILATORS, HAS ACCOMPLISHED THE ULTIMATE IN SPEED

His Famous Mile at Daytona Is
Fastest That the World
Ever Knew.

"I guess we were going some," says the man who takes his first automobile ride at 45 miles an hour. And he was.

It wasn't so many years back that a man had to go to the top of a 10-story building and fall off to get up that much speed. And there weren't many 10-story buildings then.

Now, so habituated to high speed are modern Americans becoming, that it takes something startling in the way of speed to attract their attention.

And it remained for Barney Oldfield, the great Barney, who will race this fall on the Atlanta Speedway, to do the stunt startling.

For Barney is the man who sets and holds the world's speed record.

A Blur, a Whiz, a Record.

Man's utmost speed, since the world began, was a blur of gray, streaming flame and blue vapor, hurled above the smooth sand of Daytona Beach, Fla. The apparition was Barney Oldfield in his 200-horsepower "Blitzen" Benz, and the miles swept beneath his wheels at the rate of two miles in considerably less than a single minute. The wings of death fluttered in the rear of the exhausts and the pound of the surfs as Oldfield drove faster than anything save a bullet ever traveled before.

What did it mean? It meant that Oldfield traveled more than 300 feet a second. It meant that he would have outdistanced any means of locomotion pitted against him; it meant that the veteran of speed and a first-tempting, chance-taking vocation attained a speed never imagined by the most learned mechanical experts and a new era was opened in the rate of speed which a human being can travel without disaster. A kilometer— $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile—at the rate of 142 miles an hour, a full mile in 27.33 seconds, or at the rate of 121.75 miles per hour; two miles in 55.28 seconds, or at the rate of 123.33 miles per hour—such were the remarkable achievements of the man who annihilated space in the one great daring feat of the country.

The sensations of such speed are overwhelming. The average man naturally quails at the bare thought of facing the terrific wind resistance of more than two miles a minute, to say nothing of the attendant dangers incurred by the comet-like flight. But Oldfield never thought of such things; his mind was centered on the guidance of the throbbing mass of steel.

A Sensation Even for Oldfield.

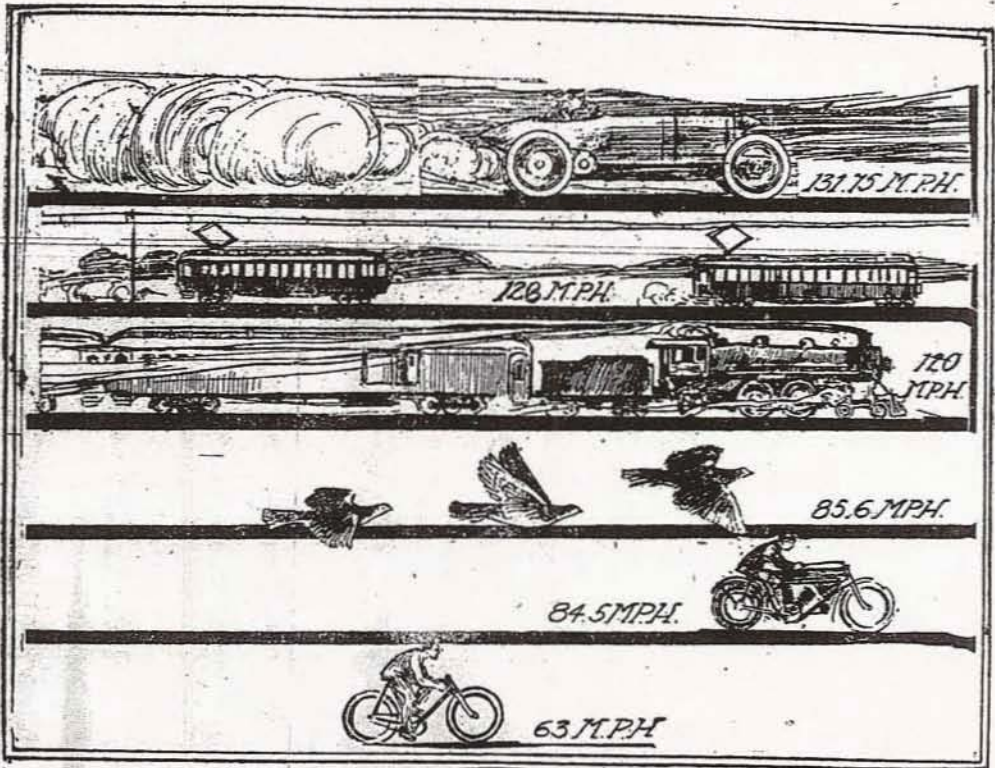
"I have realized my life's ambition," he remarked at the finish, biting off the end of a cigar. "I have traveled faster than any other person in the whole world. I have shot along the rock-like sand of Daytona Beach at a greater speed than any of the wise men believed was possible without encountering disaster.

"I believe I am calloused to the ordinary dangers of automobile racing, but there was a new dread and fear for me. The limit of speed, I was going faster for mile after mile than scientific automobile engineers figured could be attained without the tires being thrown off the wheel by centrifugal force. The loss of traction was startling. Fully a third of the distance the wheels were off the ground. The front wheels were shooting up and down in a weird dance that caused me to shut down my motor until they would hold to the ground. I knew the motor was capable of 50 many hundred revolutions per minute. I knew that the gearing would admit of a speed of 150 miles an hour when the engine was wide open. It was up to me to find out what the limit of speed really was. I would wait for a particularly good stretch of beach and then I would let the great old car have its head. Down would go the throttle and the spark would be advanced well along. Then we would shoot thru space. I would begin to shake, everything before me would become enshrouded in a haze and I would suddenly feel as tho I was in the middle of a nightmare, about to jump off some mountainous precipice. Then I would shut her down. I had driven faster than human ever traveled. Far faster, for 142 miles an hour is almost a million times as fast as it looks in print. That is as near the limit of speed as humanity will ever travel. More powerful automobiles may be built tho it is not necessary, for my Benz has never been wide open, but not even on Daytona Beach will that speed be beaten. I stuck to the wheel and kept the car as far open as I could until I felt myself becoming unconscious. Another second or so and it would have been all off. Others may talk of such speed, but I am the only man in the world who ever got near the limit of speed."

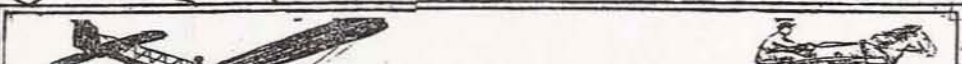
What Such Speed Means.

Here is table comparing the speed of various methods of locomotion ranging from the record of a swimmer for one mile to the marvelous performance of Barney Oldfield with the "Blitzen" Benz on the Florida Beach when the champion driver sent his car faster than anything save a bullet ever traveled.

Oldfield was timed by the Warner electrical and mechanical device, probably more accurate than the timing of the other record.



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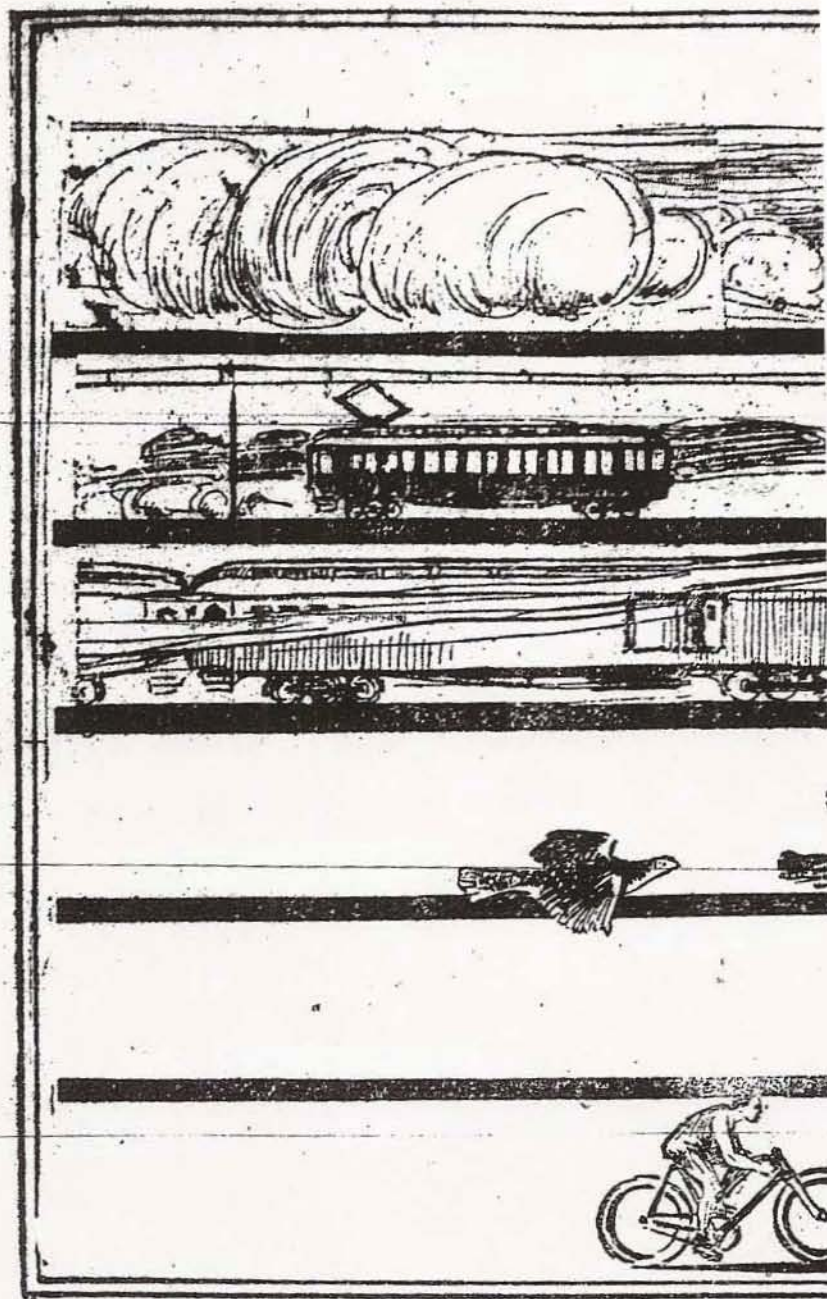
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What did it mean? It meant that Oldfield traveled more than 200 feet a second. It meant that he would have outdistanced any means of locomotion pitted against him; it meant that the veteran of speed and a fate-tempting, chance-taking vocation attained a speed never imagined by the most learned mechanical experts and a new era was opened in the rate of speed which a human being can travel without disaster. A kilometer— $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile—at the rate of 142 miles an hour, a full mile in 27.33 seconds, or at the rate of 131.75 miles per hour; two miles in 55.88 seconds, or at the rate of 128.88 miles per hour—such were the remarkable achievements of the man who annihilated space in the one great daring feat of the country.

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Motor Car.

131.75 m. p. h.—Straightaway mile in 27.33 by Barney Oldfield in Benz at Daytona, Fla., March 16, 1910.

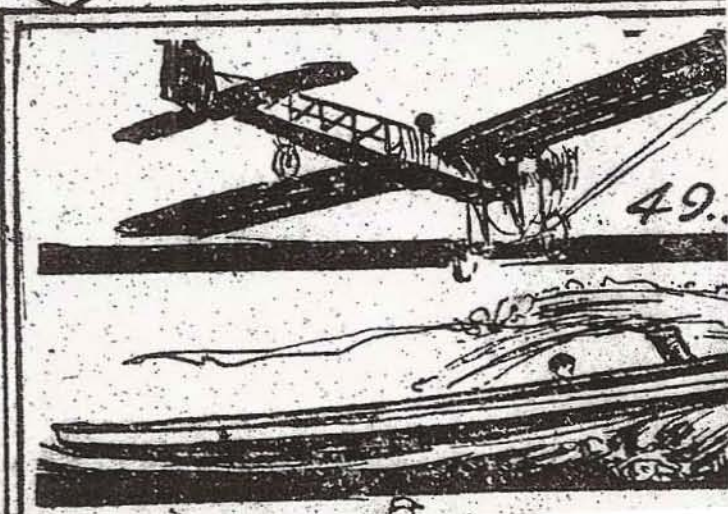
(Oldfield traveled a kilometer ($\frac{5}{8}$ of a mile) at the rate of 142 miles an hour. This table being figured on the basis of a full mile, his average of 131.75 m. p. h. is used.)

Electric Trolley.

128.55 m. p. h.—Average speed, made by electric trolley in German government test over Berlin-Zossen road in 1902.

Steam Locomotive.

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Steam Locomotive.

120 m. p. h.—Average speed made March,
1901, in run from Fleming to Jacksonville,
Fla., by Plant system locomotive in 5-mile
run; time 2:30.

Pigeon.

85.6 m. p. h.—Average speed made in
1900 by bird owned by W. J. Lautz, of
Buffalo, N. Y., made in 100-mile flight.

Motorcycle.

84.5 m. p. h.—Mile on three-lap circular
track at Springfield, Mass., July 31, 1909,
by Fred Huyck on Indian; time 42 3-5,
which is faster than the straightaway mile of
43 2-5 made at Ormond, Fla.

Bicycle.

63 m. p. h.—Made by Paul Guignard be-
hind motor pace at Munich, Germany, Sep-
tember 15, 1909. Distance, 68 miles, 189.8
yards per hour.

Aeroplane.

49.99 m. p. h.—Made by Leon Delagrangé
at Dorchester, England, October 26, 1909.

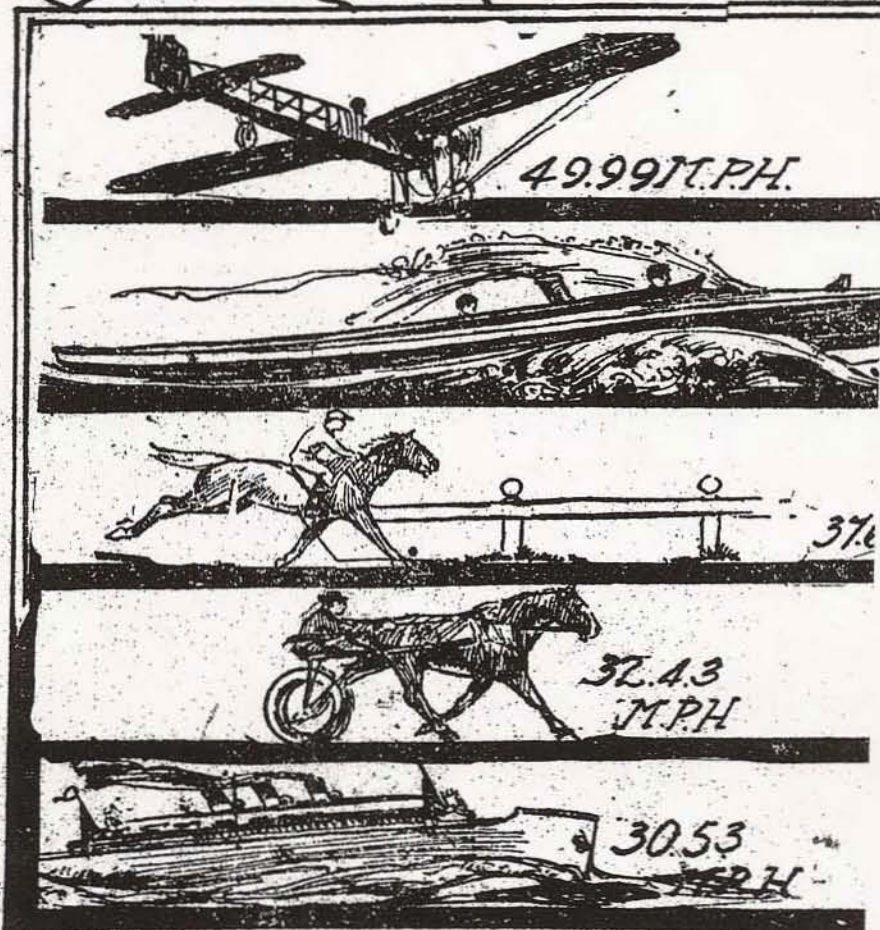
Motor Boat.

37.93 m. p. h.—Average speed made by
Dixie II over 30-knot course on Hudson river,
September 17, 1909.

Running Horse.

30 m. p. h.—Straightaway mile in

BARNEY OLDFIELD



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