

OLDFIELD'S BIG AUTO CRASHES INTO TREE

Racer's Wife Badly Hurt When
Car Is Wrecked and
Burned at Lowell.

(Special Dispatch to the Boston Herald.)
LOWELL, May 31.—While running 20 miles an hour in a trial spin over the course of the big automobile race to be held here in July, a touring car driven by Barney Oldfield tonight crashed into a tree and turned turtle. Mrs. Oldfield was badly injured, and others of the six occupants of the car more or less hurt. Oldfield himself escaped without injury.

Mrs. Oldfield is at the Lowell General Hospital with a strained back and had a bad gash over the right eye.

The car was one of five which had come here to try the course preparatory to the race. The party had stopped for dinner at the Vesper Country Club, and about 10 o'clock were rushing down the boulevard along the Merrimac at terrific speed.

A short distance outside of the city, where the boulevard runs into Varnum avenue, there is a curve. In rounding it the car skidded, one of the front wheels broke and the car crashed head on into a tree by the side of the road. It turned over and all the occupants were thrown out. They were the Oldfields, Harlan W. Whipple of Andover, owner of the car; Joseph O'Brien of Boston, Robert Allen of Hartford and Dr. Park of Andover. O'Brien's right ankle was badly sprained, but he was taken home in one of the other cars with the rest of the party.

The automobile caught fire and an alarm was sent in, but before the apparatus arrived it was destroyed.

At the hospital, late tonight, Mrs. Oldfield was said to be resting comfortably. Her injuries were found to consist of only a severe shaking up, in addition to the gash over the eye.

WON'T WORRY OLDFIELD

Smashed More Often
Than Any Man Alive.

Accidents to Drivers Began
Early This Season.

June 17 is a Fine Day for
Postponed Races.

Barney Oldfield got a bit of a bump last night near Lowell, but a little thing like that will not worry him. He is used to it. No other man has been in so many smashies and still lives to tell of it.

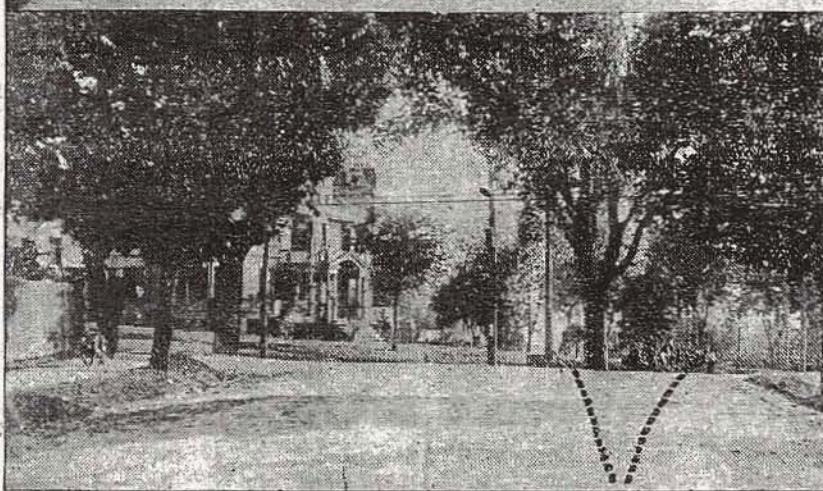
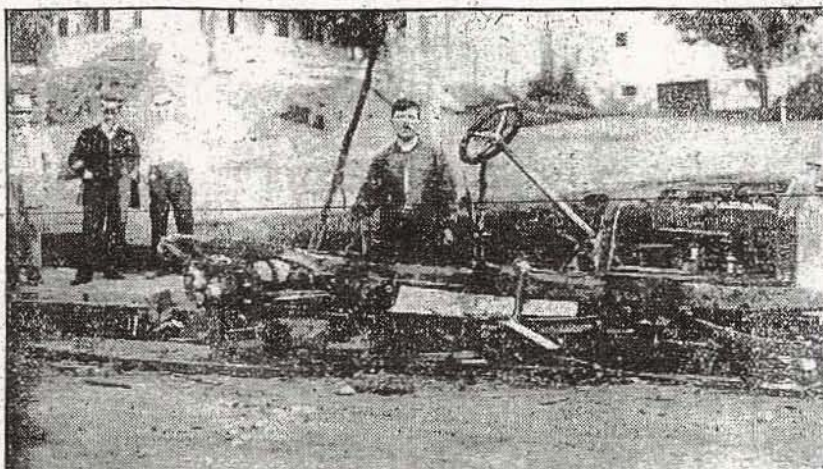
Oldfield was out visiting Harlan W. Whipple, vice president of the Bay State club, who lives at Andover. It was Mr. Whipple's car that Barney drove in the Briarcliff event and which he was also to handle in the races Saturday which were postponed.

Accidents to drivers are beginning early this year. The death of Cedrina at Baltimore last Friday was deplorable. Everyone that had ever met the Italian driver liked him. He was always the same, and he certainly could drive a car well.

Few people that go to a race meet on a track realize the strain under which men drive. When a car is taking corners there is a tremendous strain on the front wheels, as the car and the wheels are sometimes at angles, and

HOPE TO SAVE MRS. OLDFIELD'S

Victim of Auto Accident at Lowell Comfortable as Could be
No Disposition to Blame O'Brien for Wrong Direction



Upper View Shows Dismantling of What Was Left of Oldfield's Automobile After Accident at Lowell. In Lower Scene, Dotted Line to Right Indicates Proper Course; That to Left One Oldfield

LOWELL, June 1.—The condition of Mrs. Barney Oldfield remains about the same tonight at the general hospital. She is as comfortable as could be expected and it is hoped the sight of her left eye can be saved.

Joseph O'Brien will be a patient in the Lowell general hospital at least six weeks. He sustained a compound fracture of the right leg and he is bruised upon the body. His place of business is at 266 Dartmouth st., Boston, and his residence is at 133 Beacon st. in that city.

The latest reports regarding the accident do not place any blame on Mr.

OLDFIELD AND HIS WIFE ARE HURT IN AUTO CRASH

LOWELL, Mass., June 1.—Barney Oldfield's wife was seriously injured and Joseph O'Brien of Boston suffered a fracture of one ankle in the

crash. Mrs. Oldfield is at the Lowell general hospital, and O'Brien is at the Lowell hospital.

Residents of Pawtucketville along the boulevard and Varnum av. say the noise of the five automobiles coming down the boulevard was like that made by a locomotive and a long line of heavily loaded freight cars.

One Pawtucketville resident said this morning: "Three large touring cars with passengers were ahead of Mr. Oldfield's car as they came speedily from the Lowell entrance of the boulevard to Varnum av. Another touring car was at the right of Mr. Oldfield's car and a little ahead of it. This compelled Mr. Oldfield to take the left of the large

tree in the center of the boulevard toward Varnum av.

Mr. O'Brien sent word by the matron of the hospital that he did not feel well enough to talk on the accident.

The small tree in the center of the boulevard was the cause of the collision. The speed of the car was too high to give any other man a chance to prevent an accident.

OLDFIELD, UNHURT, SAYS "YOU CAN'T PUT ME IN HOSPITAL"

By J. C. Kerrison.

"Hello, Barney, I thought you were in the hospital," I said to Oldfield as we met yesterday afternoon.

"You can't put me in the hospital," said the hero of many an automobile accident. "I am not hurt a particle," continued the man who has seen the motor world at his feet. "It was rather a narrow escape, but the Lowell accident was one of those unavoidable things, and we all fortunately escaped without serious trouble. Mrs. Oldfield was most badly hurt of the party and she is not by any means on the dangerous list. She was pretty well shaken up and her nerves somewhat bothered. The accident resulted from a skid. We were not travelling fast. It was just a quick turn and the use of racing tires that caused it all. Mrs. Oldfield will remain in the hospital a few days and then we will both go back to New York and return here for June 17. The car was not as badly injured as has been reported. It will have to be overhauled a little, but either that car or its duplicate will beat Redville on June 17, and I shall drive it." Oldfield is no more afraid of meeting with his end on the race track or at the throttle of a car than he is of flying, and he really thinks the latter proposition most likely, as in his opinion flying machines are com-

mon to June 17. There were many people who wanted to see the cars started, and some of the drivers were ready to race, but it would have been dangerous to use the track. An effort was made to dry it up, but the second shower put it in worse shape than ever.

June 17 will make an ideal day for the meet, as it is a holiday when there is nothing going on in the way of sports outside of Boston. This will allow motorists from all over New England a chance to come here to see the events. All the men who were to race Saturday will be on hand; and the committee will probably make a few more special matches in the meantime.

AUTO HIT A TREE

OLDFIELD BREAKS 5-MILE RECORD

Speed Trial on Glenville Track, Cleveland, He Drives
Winton Bullet No. 2 That Distance in 4:49 2-5

Cleveland, O., Sept. 30.—Barney Oldfield put up a new record for 5 miles yesterday at the Glenville track with the eight-cylinder Winton Bullet No. 2, the one used by Alexander Canton in the Gordon Bennett cup race in Ireland. This was really the first fair trial the car has had by Oldfield as it has not been in action during the circuit races. Oldfield felt positive that he could lower the time with this car and he made good.

The time for the 5 miles yesterday was 4:49 2-5, beating the previous record of 4:51 by 2-5 seconds. Just before making this record-breaking run he drove 5 miles in 4:56 2-5. The

Barney Oldfield's Machine Upset Near Lowell--- His Wife Injured

LOWELL, May 31.—Unfamiliar with the turns of the boulevard which runs from Lowell to Tyngsboro on the north of the city, Barney Oldfield, the noted automobile racer, suffered his first road accident late tonight.

His car was overturned and Mrs. Oldfield was seriously injured, while another occupant of the car, Joseph



Mrs. Oldfield and J. O'Brien Suffering From Injuries

Pawtucketville Resident
Accident Which Occurred
Yesterday.

LOWELL, June 1.—Mrs. Barney Oldfield, one of the victims of last night's automobile accident, is in that city. The latest reports re-

... people came to see the old champion, as he will have little competition outside of Christie and his big new front drive car, which seems to have put it on "Barney" last Friday at Fort Erie in Canada, but then "Barney" turned the tables on Christie the next day, so the real merit of the two men and machines are still undecided.

What The Globe motoring department would suggest to the Motor Racing Association, and A. B. Cordner, its chairman, is to invite "Barney," Christie, Maurice Bernin, and Ralph De Palma to engage in a first class match for money at Brighton Beach during the next meet, and make the distance, say, fifty miles. Christie held the five-mile track record for years, and still holds the 100 miles in 82 minutes, made on the Ormond-Daytona Beach in Florida, with his small front drive car, which has never been beaten by an American car, but has been by big foreign cars. Then there is Maurice Bernin, who made the 100-mile record in Florida two winters ago with his Renault, and De Palma holds the one, five, ten, and twenty mile track records with his little Fiat Cyclone.

Oldfield would have nothing over De Palma on a mile track, notwithstanding the difference in power of their machines, as the little Cyclone could cut the corners faster than the Benz, but on a road or beach the case would be different.

Now here are four men who could put up a first-class battle and draw an immense crowd to Brighton Beach if they were offered inducements to appear by the Motor Racing Association. These men would draw double the amount of the purse offered them, so that there would be money in the pockets of the M. R. A., and besides, give the public a red hot race, and that is what the public seems to demand, notwithstanding the danger of the present-day horse-race-track automobile racing.

Barney Oldfield drove into Roth's garage on State street at 9 o'clock last night and was not only met by the ardent motor enthusiasts of the city, but by a crowd of people, the proportions of which could be reckoned only from the number the building will hold. Oldfield's car, the 120 horse-power Benz, had been installed in the garage by the merchantman early in the day and all day long had been surrounded by sightseers who were anxious to see what Barney's press agent tells us is "the only racing car in existence that has been driven to victory in every race in which it has started." Everybody that saw the car was on hand to see its owner, and a few hundreds more. Barney was given as royal a reception as was ever accorded man of fame. Those who knew him when he claimed glory in these parts as a bicycle rider were up in front, first behind an aged uncle of Barney, who had not seen his nephew for many years.

PRESAGES IMMENSE CROWD.

Last night's demonstration in honor of Oldfield and the attention accorded the Benz car all throughout the day presages in the minds of the promoters a record attendance at this afternoon's races at Reed's track. The Peerless racer to be driven today against Oldfield's Benz and in an exhibition by E. C. Crocker was also a big attraction at the Star garage and those who saw it were more impressed with its appearance than with the Benz, which latter vehicle is nothing more or less than a monster engine capable of generating 150 horse-power and which shows externally the effects of the gruelling races in which it has figured prominently in Savannah, Worcester, Russia, France, Indianapolis, in fact every place where the daredevil pilots have congregated in the past two years. The Benz car has four cylinders, 6 7-8 inch bore and an 8 inch stroke. The Peerless car is of 80 horse-power and is a long, low craft built primarily for track racing. Mr. Crocker is an experienced driver and has met Oldfield several times, the last match being at Fort Erie, when Crocker defeated Oldfield in one of the three races.

PROGRAM OF RACING.

The first events on this afternoon's program will be the motor cycle races, of which there are four. Following these events will come the first novelty race. This will be open to all local drivers. The name of the race is properly derived. The conditions are as follows: The operator drives the first lap alone. At the end of the first lap he picks up two passengers; at the end of the second lap he stops and discharges all passengers; at the end of the third lap he picks up two passengers, then discharges them and races alone to the wire.

The second event will be another novelty race, in which the cars will be stationed some distance away from the wire. The drivers will race on foot a prescribed distance to the cars, crank them, drive to another point, stop the

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The next event will be an open race for local cars and will be from two to 10 miles. The distance to be decided for day. Oldfield will then drive an exhibition mile against his world's record of 1 minute 6 seconds, made at Flindlay, O., early this week. Crocker and Oldfield will then meet in a match race of two miles for a purse of \$1,000 and a side bet which the managers of the two drivers have posted.

The last event on this tentative program will be a 10-mile open race for local chassis or cars and will be the star attraction of the day from the standpoint of the local drivers. In it will be seen two Buicks, a Thomas Flyer, a Hufmobile, two Cadillacs and possibly others.

WILL BE OTHER EVENTS.

The foregoing list of events are those which had been closed up to a late hour last night, but two or three more will be added this morning. Oldfield and Crocker will probably race in at least one other event, possibly a five mile, or perhaps a longer race. This will all depend on the rapidity with which the many events are disposed of and the condition of the track. The track last night was in excellent shape. Two Buicks and two Cadillacs went some fast miles last evening and the drivers declared the course to be in perfect condition.

The judges officials for the races this afternoon have been chosen as follows:

Referee—R. K. Jarecki, president of the Erie Motor club. With Mr. Jarecki will be A. C. Ferguson, secretary, representing the contest board of the A. A. A.

Judges—R. J. Saltzman, L. Streuber, Timers—W. L. Thompson, J. Johnson, Burt Arbuckle.

Clerks of course—C. J. Minnig, S. W. Ramsey.

Starter and announcer—E. W. Moross.

PRECAUTIONS FOR SAFETY.

The races will start promptly at 2:30 o'clock. Extra transportation service has been guaranteed by the street car company and every arrangement has been made to accommodate an immense crowd. No spectators, automobiles, carriages or vehicles of any kind will be allowed inside the fence enclosing the track. Kohler's band will occupy the band stand and the officials will be in the judges' stand. This precaution is taken in view of the fact that cars losing tires or experiencing other trouble invariably crash through the inner fence.

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OLDFIELD HIT BY AUTO. Automobile driver was run over and killed. Michigan State High School. (London). At 10:15 a.m. fatal R.

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OLDFIELD GOING FAST PACE

Oldfield's appearance in Erie today has aroused added interest and enthusiasm on account of the fact that he has just closed a record-smashing tour of the racing centers. At Indianapolis at the opening of the new speedway he broke all world's records from one to 25 miles. His mile record was 43 1-10 seconds, and his average per mile for the entire distance was 40 seconds.

CLOSE CALL AT INDIANAPOLIS

In talking of the Indianapolis race last night and the fatalities which attended them, Oldfield remarked that in his career as a driver he had never experienced such gruelling races as were run last week over the new Indianapolis speedway. He ascribed all of the accidents to the unfinished condition of the course, which, he said, fatigued the drivers to such an extent that they lost control of their cars without having enough strength left to guide them or check their mad speed. He said that he had been in many accidents, had many narrow escapes, but never before came so near to losing his grip on the big wheel as he did on the last few laps of the 25-mile race. The bunhooks of the course had so taxed his strength that when he reached one of the last turns he found himself unable to turn the wheel. He looked down at his tires, thinking that one might be flat, but finding nothing the matter with the machine, he realized suddenly that his arms were paralyzed. He shouted to his mechanic—who will ride with him today—to help him turn the wheel. The young German has a limited understanding of English and, as Barney explains, this fact almost cost them their lives. He made the German understand the predicament and then the mechanic, with one arm bruised and swollen from clinging to his seat, reached, grasped the wheel and between them they managed to find distance without mishap.

ENJOYING THE GAME

Barney is a picture of good health and says he enjoys the game. He weighs close to 200 pounds, is clear eye and vigorous. He motored away from Cleveland last night in his National touring car in company with his wife and a party of six men prominent in the automobile world and their wives. He will be at the Reed track while in Erie. He will probably remain here for a few days, as his next race is in Lowell, Mass., Sept. 7.