

# N. Y. TAXICAB DRIVER HANGS IT UP ON BARNEY OLDFIELD

## Angry Broadway Chauffeur Cripples Speed Marvel With Monkey Wrench

By C. E. Van Loan

NEW YORK, Jan. 31.—Barney Oldfield is in town, walking with a slight limp.

After risking his life on all sorts of circular tracks and cutting a wide swath across the country without so much as losing his famous cigar butt, Barney had to come to New York to get into trouble, and, whisper it softly, it was a New York taxicab chauffeur who nailed the speed marvel.



It goes to show that the mahouts of these multiplication tables on wheels are no respectors of persons. There was an argument about the price of a taxicab ride. The driver said that he wanted nine dollars. Barney said that when he was in the market to BUY a taxicab he wanted to be sure and get a good one, and this so provoked the chauffeur that when he drove away, seven dollars shy of his original charge, he hurled a monkey wrench which struck the other celebrated mahout on the knee and crippled him slightly. Think of it! The man who made automobile history being crippled by the meek and lowly mechanic of a twenty-mile-an-hour Broadway land crab!

Barney cannot keep away from New York. He has to be in every little while himself that the lights of Broadway.

still nothing but a boy—is the marvel of the age. He was the first great star at the circular track game, beginning by setting a record which amazed the automobile world. His success brought out a horde of competitors, and Barney saw these men take his record away from him and have fun with it.

"All right," said Barney, philosophically. "Some day I'll get a car which will better all these marks."

The mile record did a great deal of traveling. Barney began at one minute flat and saw the figures knocked down a fifth of a second at a time until it seemed that they could go no lower. Other men, in faster cars, took a shot at Oldfield's laurels, and Barney chewed his cigar end and bore it the best he could.

A few weeks ago, out West on a sandy track, Barney came into his own again. He set the record for one mile at 52 flat, and this will bother any of the circular track demons when they go out to lower it. Barney is one champion who "came back."

### Competitors Disappear

The men who started out to follow Barney's flying-wheel tracks went three ways. Some of them are under ground; some of them are crippled for life, and the others have quit the game. Barney sees the crops come and go, and he is still in the game, little altered from the old days. His hair is a trifle thinner than it used to be and there is a suspicious bulge at his waist line which speaks of good living and easy times, but he is still driving and says that he will guarantee to take the championship away from any man foolhardy enough to go after that record of 52 flat for the mile on a mile track.

There isn't a life insurance company in the country that would take a chance on Barney Oldfield. Any man who drives fast on a mile track is fooling with fate, for the least accident sends the car into the fence, and after that happens it is a gamble on the life of the driver. Oldfield has had more accidents than any driver in the business, and more blind luck than all of them put together. He is at once the pioneer and the veteran of the most dangerous racing game in the world.

And to think that a taxicab chauffeur hangs something on him!

Y UNDECIDED.

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d it was all over. Oldfield came  
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card, a five-mile affair for the  
championship, and to receive the  
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ten miles, free for all handicap,  
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as it brought out three of the  
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ps that brought out all that was  
neat. The winner turned up in Ben  
his Darracq machine, having re-  
conds handicap. Barney Oldfield  
ar, who had 32 seconds handicap,  
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JANUARY 7, 1910.  
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Ralph De Palma, automobile driver, who once in the racing & accident last fall with Danbury, Conn., rec-comparisons between De Palma now hold five mile world's & some remarkable road it and, therefore, I about.

"Track racing different contents. As far as the matter of taking a mile or two-mile turns at a speed of five miles an hour, many turns to be opportunities are slight driver must be more drive well on an oval "Road courses are in sharp angles and t by entirely different at