



An early photo of "Wag" completing another chapter in the history of the automobile.



Fred Wagner, right, with Lew Cody, silent film star (with cap), and Cliff Durant, (holding pipe) builder and driver of early-day race cars, including some of the first cars to run with engines built by Harry Miller.

# THE SAGA OF THE ROARING ROAD

## I

A checkered career marked with a checkered flag! That, in epitome, is the part I have played in this drama called life!

True, other rôles have been mine—advertising salesman, magazine publisher, tradesman in tires and country squire—but the years I like best to recall have been clocked with the split-second watch and the electric timer, and memory stumbles over such sordid statistics as agate lines and cash register receipts and bushels per acre.

For four decades I have been associated with the most thrilling and cleanest sport in all the welter of competition—a sport that I honestly believe has been productive of more practical benefits to a greater number of people than have any of the older and more popular pastimes.

Of course, I expect such a sweeping statement will be challenged, yet I know of no other thrill comparable to that of a number of racing cars circling a speedway at an average of 100 to 150 miles an hour, while the first automobile race driver has yet to answer to charges of dishonesty and breach of faith—charges on which baseball idols and ring champions have been tried and found guilty!