

Thomas Flyer—Worlds Champion Endurance Car Makes Another Wonderful Record

The following article on the great record race is
from the San Francisco Chronicle of May 24th

Auto Makes Remarkable Dash Between Here and Los Angeles

Great Bursts of Speed in Run For Record

Trip to Los Angeles Made in Less
Than Seventeen Hours

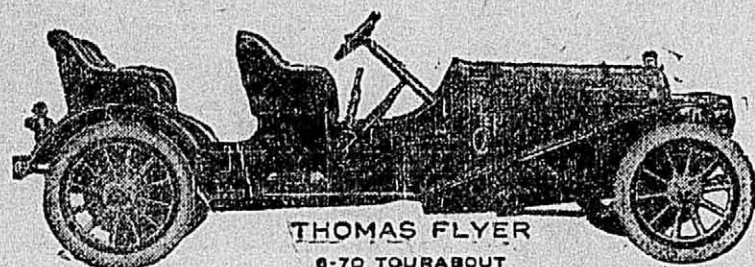
Disaster Once Very Near

Car Strikes a Sand Dune and
Jumps a Twelve-Foot Ditch.

Special Dispatch to the "Chronicle."

LOS ANGELES, May, 23.—In a remarkable dash against time, Rene Brassy's Thomas Flyer smashed the San Francisco-Los Angeles automobile record by thirty two minutes today. The car left Market and Guerrero streets, San Francisco, at 4 a. m. and arrived at the Times office here at 8:45 p. m.

The elapsed time between the two cities was



16 hours and 45 minutes. The former record, held by Fernando Nelson and his White steamer, was 17 hours and 17 minutes. The actual running time of the Thomas was 15 hours and 55 minutes. Fifty minutes was lost on the road on account of repairs and a delay at Santa Barbara, where the record-breakers were obliged to put up a hundred-dollar bond on a warrant for exceeding the speed limit.

DISASTER, THEN ARREST.

When about twenty miles out of Santa Barbara, on the coast highway, the big touring car unexpectedly plowed into a sand dune and the car jumped a twelve-foot ditch, and was blocked with a terrific jolt by another pile of gravel. A cross rod on the steering gear was badly buckled and forty-five minutes was lost in making the necessary repairs.

Another five minutes was lost in Santa Barbara when Sheriff Matt Stewart forced the Brassy car to stop at police headquarters and put up bond to cover his arrest. The Sheriff then road on the car to the limit of the county and forced the drivers to slow down to a very slow pace. Again in Ventura the police met the car. Here it was given more speed, however, and the Sheriff allowed the driver to push it at every possible chance.

Considering these delays, the run of the Thomas is one of the greatest road feats ever made on the Coast, and the record made by Brassy and his crew will undoubtedly stand for some time. In the car at the start besides Brassy were Elmer Huber, Kirk Simpson and Charles Cerille, representing the Diamond Tire Company. Huber, the factory expert, drove the car from San Francisco to Paso Robles. Herrick, another crack driver, was awaiting the car at Paso Robles.

SEVENTY MILES AN HOUR.

Record time was made from San Francisco to Paso Robles, the distance of 218 miles being run in six hours. A new mark was also established for

the eighty-mile stretch from San Francisco to Gilroy, Herrick taking the big car through in one hour and forty-five minutes. The trip to Paso Robles was easily the best leg of the run, and the big touring car bounded over the level stretches at over seventy miles an hour.

From Gaviota to Santa Barbara the road was wretched. The run stretched parallel to the coast, and sand dunes and the tide water had cut in from the sea and the spring freshets had carved gullies in the path of the car. Tearing off the miles at a dangerous clip, the big car suddenly pushed two wheels into the treacherous sand. Huber was at the wheel. He shut his eyes and grimly clutched the hang-on. Hesitation would have caused the car to turn turtle.

NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH.

But Huber by his remarkable nerve, steadied the plunging monster, and the damage amounted to a buckled steering rod. Brassy, who was in the front seat, jumped off the car into the road. The men in the tonneau were powerless to jump, so swiftly was the danger met and passed.

Four miles out of Santa Barbara Sheriff Nat Stewart of Santa Barbara arrested the flyers. All formalities were prearranged and only five minutes lost. The run from then on into Los Angeles was without incident.

By breaking the White steamer's time, the Thomas car captures the Fernando Nelson challenge cup, which fifty-three cars have attempted to take without success.



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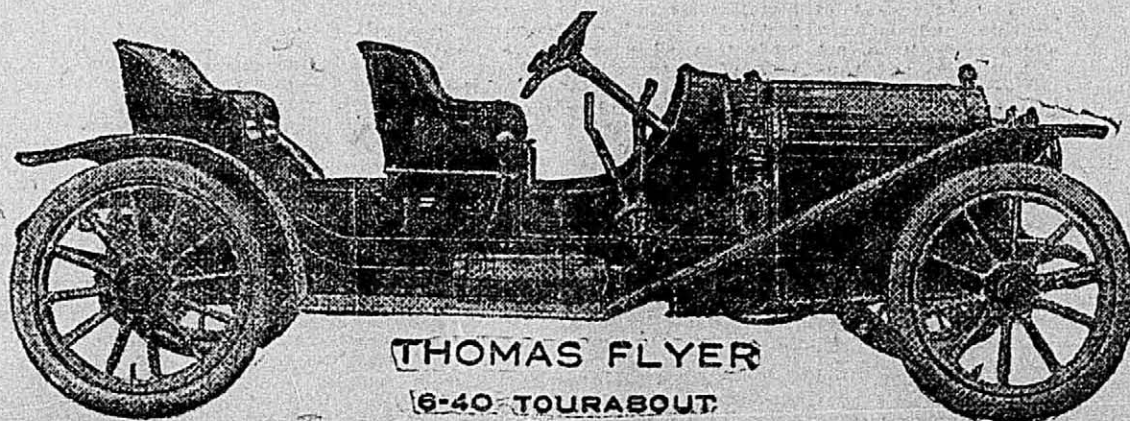
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