

CHESTER TIMES – December 9, 1907

FASTEST MOTOR TRACK IN THE WORLD FOR DELAWARE COUNTY – Largest and Safest Course Ever Built Will Be Constructed Near Llanerch on the Line of the Philadelphia and West Chester Road – Great Enterprise by Philadelphians

Philadelphia capital and enterprise has planned to build immediately the largest and fastest automobile track in the world. Before next summer arrives, it is expected that the course will be ready and that new world's records galore will go down on the pages of motoring history.

The only track that can compare with it is the Brooklands of England, where S. F. Edge has made marvelous time in twenty-four hours and for shorter periods. So safe will the course be that a car can take it at the rate of 20 miles an hour without the slightest danger of an accident.

Since the course will have no competitor in this country, it will become national in the interest it creates, and thus Philadelphia will be center of speeding and all the great cars constructed in the United States and abroad will be sent here to compete. For enterprise and daring, Philadelphia has long ranked ahead of any city of the nation, and the first signal from the American Automobile Association, the controlling automobile body in the country, that racing on mile or half mile horse tracks would be discountenanced, the American Motordrome was organized and has now proceeded to such a stage that success is certain. No club affiliated with the American Automobile Association, with any degree of respect for the lives of competitors, would attempt to hold a race meet on a track now, and freelance promoters would not be permitted to make the attempt for all, who participated would be declared outlaws. So it remained for enterprising capitalists to undertake the great task and Philadelphia will have the honor of inaugurating the first great track this country has ever known – and what will prove the fastest in the world.

A beautiful plateau just beyond Llanerch on the West Chester Pike has been selected from a number of sites, and there 212 acres of ground have been purchased. The location is ideal. It is but little over half an hour from the center of Philadelphia, the spectator taking the elevated to the terminus and then the West Chester Traction Co. cars to the track. The latter company is already making plans to lay a spur directly to the course, which is but a short distance from the company's main line. So short is the traveling distance and so low the rate of fare that thousands and thousands of people will take in the great battles of motor cars that are planned.

"The course will be between two and three miles in length and will be 100 feet wide at the narrowest part, said president Louis Bergdoll, "while the turns, which will be a quarter of a mile long, will be 135 feet wide with an elevation of thirty per cent, which will make the greatest speed absolutely safe."

He added: "Engineers are already at work on laying out the track, and as soon as their plans are completed contracts will be let for the building of the course. It is planned to have the track made of concrete and cinders, the surface being just rough enough to prevent skidding. Such a composition gives the tires every chance to take a firm hold and with the splendid grades wonderful time should be the result."

Mr. Bergdoll added that one of the great features of such a track was the absence of dust, which has caused a great many fatal accidents in automobile races. "Have you noted," he said, "that there has not been a single accident at the Brooklyn course? And

there will not be if drivers use any degree of caution. An accident on our course would be almost impossible.”

Immense grandstands and field seats are on the plans, so that a great throng may be taken care of. Besides, there are two large public garages and every other feature that will be welcomed by motorists.

A GREAT MOTOR CLUB – There is no one feature of the plans more interesting than the formation of a great automobile club, which will have a gorgeous building for a club house, and every convenience and pleasure that a country club could offer, with the added advantage of the use of the track at any time for members. This club, now in the process of formation, will have besides the automobile feature, a long golf course, tennis and plenty of room for all other field sports. The club house will contain bedrooms, so that members can reside there throughout the summer months. There is to be a swimming pool several hundred feet long among the other features. For the benefit of these members, it is also said that there will be a large garage, parking spaces for the automobile races and a complete machine shop, where repairs will be made at cost, and a small accessory store where members may buy at cost.

The location of the track will be ideal for motorists, surrounded as it is by several roads. For instance, the West Chester Pike on one side, while City Line Avenue is but a short distance from the lower end. Entrances will be constructed at three or four points. There will be subways, so that no one, either spectators or cars, will have to go across the track.

Plans already prepared are very complete and interesting, and from the amount of interest already taken in the project success is certain. Dealers of Philadelphia are particularly interested because it will give a splendid place to test cars and to give demonstrations without fear of breaking the laws.

The American Automobile Association is naturally very much interested and it is believed will aid all that is possible in making the course popular with manufacturers throughout the country. Secretary Elion said to an official of the car organization some time ago that such a track would be the greatest kind of a boom to not only the motorists generally, but to the manufacturers who now have no place to test the real merits of their cars. And it is the consensus of opinion among these manufacturers that racing has aided more in the development of the automobile than any other factor.