

Timaru Herald. 8 March 1911 (page 7) [26/05/2015]

THE MOTOR CAR TRIAL

CONTINUED.

A WORLD'S RECORD ESTABLISHED.

Per Press Association.

INVERCARGILL, March 7.

Mr C. Stevenson, of Timaru, who put up a phenomenal motor run from Invercargill to Christchurch yesterday, arrived here at 10.55 this morning, completing a non-stop run of 740 miles in a 14-16 horse-power Darracq. He left Invercargill on his return to Timaru at 4.45 to-day. .

Dunedin was reached at 4.58, and left at 5.15. Oamaru was reached at 9 o'clock last night, and the car entered the garage in Timaru at 11.6. The total distance travelled was 1064 miles, and the total time taken, 44 hours including all stoppages for meals and rest. There were no stoppages for repairs or breakages. The complete run constitutes a world's record for a small car driven by one man. The car was examined on arrival, and found to be in as good order as when it started out. The car is open to public inspection. From 3 a.m. on Monday when he left Invercargill for Christchurch until his return home last night, the driver had not enjoyed a wink of sleep, and came back apparently still quite fresh, and hence forthwith he will have the distinction of being the world's champion long distance driver. Stevenson is going Home shortly, and before he leaves Mr Bockaert intends to ask him to accept a gold watch in recognition of his meritorious performance.

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A LIVELY CHAT.

A: Hullo! Did you hear what got all smashed yesterday.

B: No.

A: All world's records for small cars?

B: In America I guess?

A: No -- you chump, America be-hanged, here in Now Zealand, and by a Timaru boy.

B: What boy.

A: Charlie Stevenson.

B: Get out.

A: Yes, certain.

B: On what car?

A: On one of those 14-16 Darracqs.

B: What rot, a bloke told me they won't stand hard graft, they'd fall to pieces.

A: Who told you.

B: That bloke that sells a Yankee car.

A: Look here old chap, do you honestly think that your friend can better the Darracy record.

He has to leap (not drive) over 214 water-races in one afternoon between Timaru and Christchurch and return. It will take a good one to do it.

E. BOCKAERT.

Agent for the Darracq.

MOTOR TRADE FOREGATHER.

TOAST A RECORD BREAKER.

PRESENTATION TO STEVENSON.

A social gathering of a very enthusiastic character was held in the Arcade Cafe, when eighty-four representatives of the motoring and allied trades, together with other friends, assembled to do honour to Charlie Stevenson in recognition of his great motoring feat from Invercargill to Christchurch, back to Invercargill, and up to Timaru, and as a farewell before his departure for the Homeland, where he intends to gain experience in the motor trade. The gathering was thoroughly representative of the motor trade, and included many private motorists and friends of the young champion. Mr Cecil Wood occupied the chair, and made a happy opening speech. In proposing the health of the guest, Mr Wood made reference to Mr Stevenson's great enthusiasm in his work and his very unassuming nature, which had made him popular in the trade and amongst his companions. He was a young man with a great future before him. During the great run, he had shown determination, judgment, precision, and skill in piloting his little car over the roads, rough and crude as they were in places, and had proved himself to be as good a car driver as any yet known, and a good deal better than the ordinary. (Applause.) Mr "Wood remarked on the good feeling which existed between "the trade" in Timaru as shown by the fact that eighty-four of them should gather together to spend a social evening. Incidentally, he uttered a warning note to motorists pointing out that reckless driving could 'only lead to one result, namely legislation limiting the speed to a pace which none of them would appreciate. Some drivers were careful enough in the boroughs but when they got outside they seemed to think they had free license to drive at any speed. This irritated other users of the road, and in their own interests they would do well to adopt a reasonable speed at all times and in all places. Consideration should also be shown for ladies in respect of the dust nuisance. By slowing down when passing people the dust nuisance could be reduced to the minimum.

It was mentioned that some people did not seem to realise the great feat performed by Stevenson in putting up this record over such roads and under such conditions — taking the water-races and ditches as he did, at the rate of thirty miles an hour. It was said too that all along the route the driver had shown the greatest possible consideration for other traffic.

Mr Bockaert presented to Mr Stevenson a very fine gold watch, and presented Messrs Lamborn and Glover (mechanicians) with silver cigarette cases in recognition of their services during the run, and Mr Pigott presented Mr Stevenson with an enlarged photograph of himself in his record-breaking Darracq.

Mr Stevenson's reply was brief. He heartily thanked the chairman and those who had entertained him for all their kindnesses, but said that he had been wondering what all the fuss was about.

Other toast honoured were: — The Ladies, The Press, and a very unusual one — the Police.

Mr Bockaert said he hoped some other firm would make an effort to break this record, and if they did so he would lend all the assistance that he could.

Yesterday Mr Bockaert received a cable from London complimenting Stevenson and himself on the great performance, news of which has now been cabled practically all over the world.

Lyttelton Times. 14 June 1915 (Papers Past) [05/01/2026]

Private C. E. Stevenson was one of the younger sons of a family well-known in Timaru, one of whom was killed in the Boer war. The family record is a good one. An older brother of Private Stevenson is Sergeant-Major J. Stevenson, who took a prominent part in defence matters during the old volunteer days. Private Stevenson was a motor mechanic. He became prominent in motoring circles a few years ago when he established a record for the journey from Christchurch to Dunedin and back.

Press. 16 June 1915 (page 7) [27/05/2015]

THE FALLEN AND WOUNDED.

PERSONAL NOTES,

PRIVATE C. E. STEVENSON.

Private Charles Edward Stevenson (Canterbury Battalion, killed), who was 27 years of age, was the youngest son of the late Mr James Stevenson, of Timaru, and a brother of Trooper Walter Stevenson, who was killed in action at Bot..asberg in the South African war. Private Stevenson was driving on the Mount Cook service for about two seasons, was chauffeur for Mr H. A. LeCren for about three years, where he was employed when he joined the Main Body of the Expeditionary Force. Private Stevenson learnt his trade with Brockaert's Ltd., and while in their employ he established a world's record in motor-car driving, travelling from Invercargill to Christchurch, back to Invercargill, and finishing at Timaru on the return journey, a total distance of 1020 miles, in 48 hours 6 minutes, a non-stop run, averaging $26\frac{3}{4}$ miles per hour. Motoring was alike his work and recreation.