Saanich Remembers World War One – 1914 to 1918
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**SMITH SWEEPS AUTO EVENTS**

Wins Two Races and Time Trial at Holiday Meet; Foster Crashes Fence, Unhurt

The roar and whine of racing motors came back to Victoria yesterday after many years' absence and a holiday crowd of about 2,000 watched the drivers scuffle the dust at the Cowichan mile oval.

Competition was not very keen, as several of the machines ran into trouble, as we are accustomed. But the spectators were treated to a few thrills and some action when Phil Foster, of Victoria, driving a Dutch Special, crashed through the fence during the ten-mile feature auto race. Foster, who was unhurt, apparently became confused as he was turning off the back straight when a heavy railroad guard started falling. The machine jumped through the outside fence and narrowly missed a group of watchers. It was badly damaged.

Phil Smith won the event with an average speed of fifty-three miles an hour, his time for the ten miles being 11:42.

Smith also captured the five-miles event for cars in 5:31.3-6, an average of fifty-six miles an hour. This was marked by a spectacular mad dash at the bottom turn made by Ed Allen, in his Allen Special. Allen was the only one able to give Smith anything in a race, and was in second position when his machine did a double spin.

He continued the race, but had slipped to third place in the meantime, and Phil Foster took second.
Documents and photographs generously provided to Saanich Archives by Daryl Foster.

You can learn more about the Saanich Remembers World War One project by visiting our website at http://saanicharchives.ca

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