

Background This episode will focus on the development of the automobile and the many ways it changed transportation across New York State (and beyond). In particular, we will look at early auto racing on Long Island and the lasting impact of the sport. Maker of Focus: Auto Race- First U.S. Auto Race held April 14th, 1900, 50 mile- roundtrip Queens to Babylon. Sponsored by American Auto Club, Won by Andrew L. Riker.

NYS Social Studies Standards 11.5 INDUSTRIALIZATION AND URBANIZATION (1870 – 1920): The United States was transformed from an agrarian to an increasingly industrial and urbanized society. Although this transformation created new economic opportunities, it also created societal problems that were addressed by a variety of reform efforts. 11.5 a new technologies and economic models created rapid industrial growth and transformed the United States. →Students will examine the technological innovations that facilitated industrialization, considering energy sources, natural resources, transportation, and communication.

Activity Review the sources below to answer the associated questions:

1909 Advertisement for Chase Motor Wagon



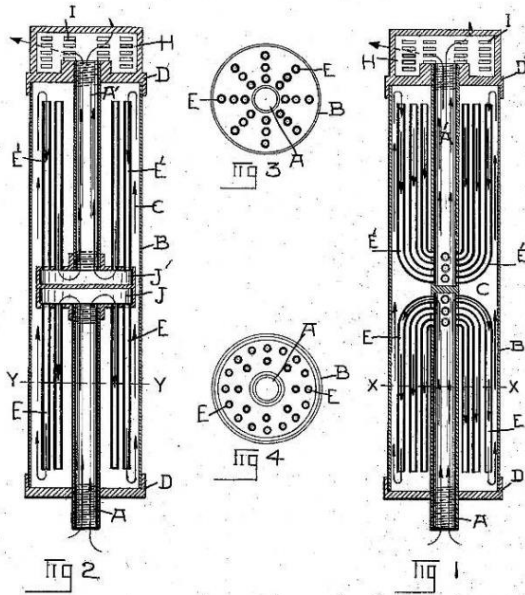
The Argus, April 4, 1909. Christian Weeber advertised Chase trucks. New York State Library, Manuscripts and Special Collections.

What modes of transportation were early automobiles competing with?

What promises are being made in this advertisement?

Patent Illustrations of Weeber Muffler and Combined Steering and Braking Device

No. 692,094. C. F. WEEBER. Patented Jan. 28, 1902.
 MUFFLER FOR EXPLOSIVE ENGINES.
 (Application filed Sept. 7, 1901.)
 (No Model.)

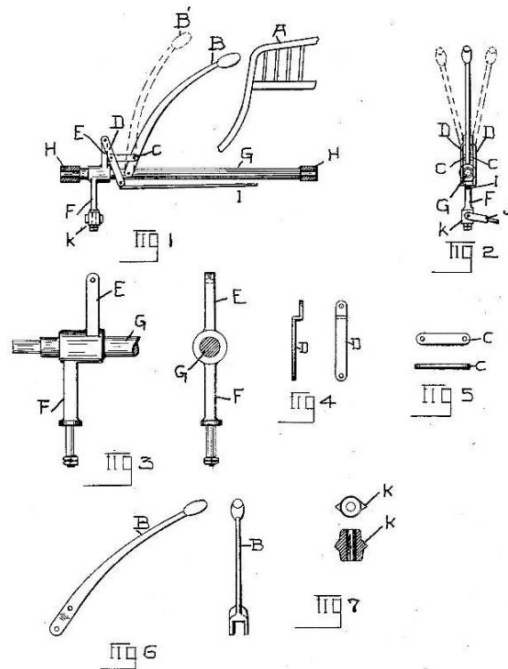


WITNESSES
Lottie Prior
Frank Reed

INVENTOR
Christian F. Weeber
 BY his ATTORNEYS *Ward & Cameron*

THE ROBERTSON CO. PHOTO-LITHO. WASHINGTON, D. C.

No. 704,156. C. F. WEEBER, JR. Patented July 8, 1902.
 STEERING AND BRAKING DEVICE.
 (Application filed Dec. 13, 1901.)
 (No Model.)



WITNESSES
Lottie Prior
William Fairchild

INVENTOR.
Christian F. Weeber, Jr.
 BY *Ward & Cameron*
 his ATTORNEYS.

THE ROBERTSON CO. PHOTO-LITHO. WASHINGTON, D. C.

Patent illustration of Weeber muffler (#692,094). United States Patent Office. <http://www.uspto.gov> (left) Patent illustration of the Weeber combined steering and braking device. United States Patent Office. <http://www.uspto.gov> (right)

Patents are government documents that grant the inventor exclusive property rights for a set number of years. What automobile innovations did C.F. Weeber patent in 1902?

What new economic opportunities did the invention of the automobile create for inventors and manufacturers?

What were possible benefits of owning an automobile for the consumer?

Excerpt from 1914 Advertisement for Haynes Electric Gear Shift

Haynes' 4 Cylinder
Electric Shift, \$1,985.00



"HAYNES"

The Haynes is the oldest American automobile. But one was built during the 1893-1894 season—the first successful self-propelled vehicle in this country. It now stands on exhibition in the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. Today, this season, three thousand Haynes cars will be built—and sold. Sold, not alone because the Haynes possesses this, the greatest of all records and exclusive to the Haynes car, but because its owners have been demonstrating during these twenty-one years in road "races," in reliability "runs," in "hill climbs," of every description, under all conditions, in this country and abroad, with themselves the only "competitors," that Haynes cars are good cars, and that given ordinary care and attention, the Haynes remains a good car, a mighty good car—indefinitely.

Another feature possessed by the present day Haynes, which, though not exclusive, is practically so, and one which has made the Haynes the most widely-discussed car in America, is the Vulcan Electric Gear Shift, conceded everywhere as the acme in automobile refinement.

When the Haynes Automobile Company adopted the idea of shifting gears by electricity, the use of the hand lever was abolished for all times, not only in so far as the Haynes car is concerned, but among all manufacturers of medium priced cars, who will likewise adopt this new mechanism, with the advent of the 1915 season. Meanwhile, the Haynes Automobile Company offers it now as standard equipment on all models.

C. F. WEEBER MFG. WORKS
Automobiles and Supplies
170-172 Central Ave., Albany, N. Y.

In the Albany Evening Journal, March 3, 1914, Weeber Mfg. Works display advertisement touted the Haynes Electric Gear Shift the day before the opening of the Albany Auto Show. Courtesy of the New York State Library, Manuscripts and Special Collections.

" Today, this season, three thousand Haynes cars will be built—and sold. Sold, not alone because the Haynes possesses this, the greatest of all records and exclusive to the Haynes car, but because its owners have been demonstrating during these twenty-one years in road "races" in reliability "runs" in "hill climbs" of every description, under all conditions, in this country and abroad, with themselves the only "competitors" that Haynes cars are good cars, and that given ordinary care and attention, the Haynes remains a good car, a mighty good car—indefinitely."

How did early auto races advance the marketing and purchasing of automobiles as a consumer good?

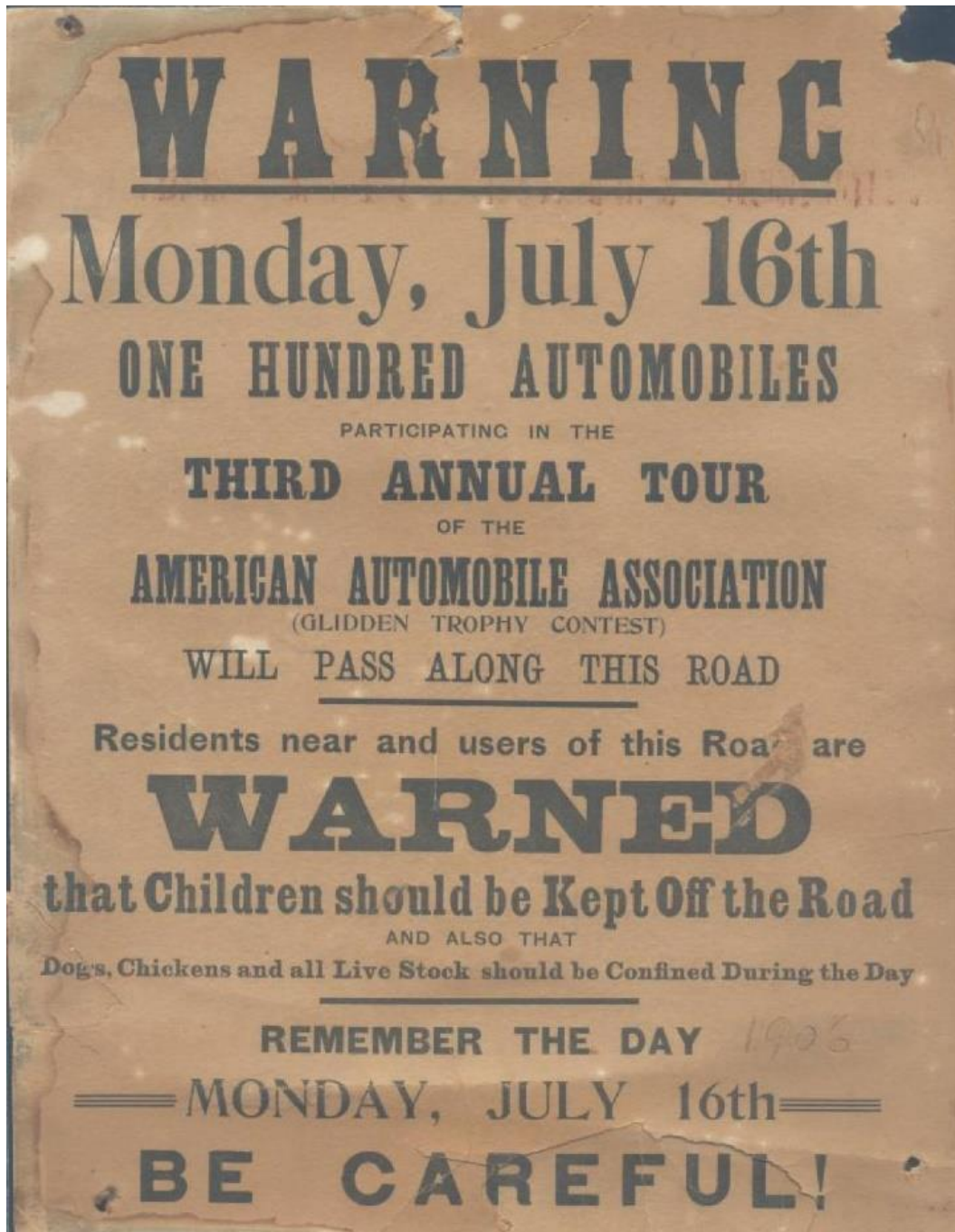
Photography of Christian Weeber Driving a Ford Model S in First Annual Hill Climbing Contest of the Albany Automobile Club in 1908



Photograph by Christian Weeber's friend, Arthur B. Strough, of Weeber driving a Ford Model S to victory in the First Annual Hill Climbing Contest of the Albany Automobile Club, May 23, 1908. NYSM Collection, H-1987.39.9.

What safety features are missing from early automobiles and early automobile races?

Adirondack Automobile Tour "Be Careful!" 1906 Broadside



Adirondack Automobile Tour, "Be Careful!," 1906. Broadside. Collection of the Adirondack Museum. Blue Mountain Lake, NY.
<https://considerthesourcenyc.org/document/adirondack-automobile-tour-be-careful-1906>

What safety concerns did early auto races cause for the surrounding community?

A New York Minute in History Podcast- *Early Auto Racing in New York State*



Early Auto Racing in NYS. A New York Minute in History. podcast episode. <https://wamcpodcasts.org/a-new-york-minute-in-history/>

What kinds of companies would sponsor early automobile races?

Why would these companies sponsor automobile races?

What were the different energy sources used to power early automobiles?

How do these sources support the idea that the United States was moving away from being an agrarian society?
