

Johnny Bresnahan Visions Auto Racing Boom After War



JOHN BRESNAHAN

Back in Syracuse, John Bresnahan, former auto racing mechanic who rode to championships in a seat beside Gaston Chevrolet and other famous drivers, sees a silver lining for racing after the war clouds clear.

Born here in 1890, Bresnahan learned to love racing as a boy and saw his first big races at the New York State Fair Ground. He joined the Chevrolet brothers, Arthur, Louis and Gaston in 1918, helped them build racing cars, and rode as a mechanic until 1923, when one-man racing cars were introduced.

He rode with Gaston Chevrolet on that winning ride in the 500-mile race at Indianapolis in 1920, going the distance without a tire change, and rode with Gaston here the same year when Ralph De Palma won the State Fair race.

Bresnahan has seen the wheels of racing spin fortune for some and misfortune for others, and while the financial road has been bumpy for the 51-year-old veteran, he still has his spirit and a desire to obtain employment here.

Along with the Chevrolets, he was a mechanic for such drivers as Cliff Durant, Joe Boyer, Roscoe Searles, Wade Morton, Ed Hearne, Art Klein, Jerry Wonderlick and others. Their successors at the wheels of racing cars will be less conspicuous until after the war, but he thinks they'll come back again with roaring motors.