

LE SOIR D'ALGIERS

Thirty-Third Year

1 April 1934

One New Franc



The German racer makes a practice lap through Staouéli, as many Algerians and French accompany him on the fair streets, the sun shining and palms waving in the light springtime winds of our fair city.

ITALIAN DRIVER ISSUES CHALLENGE

Sebi Orsi Promises Maserati a Win!
He States Car is Working Perfectly!

Ranked as perhaps Italy's most notorious driver, Count Eusebius "Sebi" Orsi arrived today on the weekly cruise steamship from Napoli, Italy.

"Count" Orsi, whose title he declares boldly to any who might listen, may not be an actual Count, but that doesn't seem to detract from his popularity. News writers in Italy have repeatedly claimed his title was inferred from his friends' slight to his apparent mathematical limitations. Still, he arrived with a great flourish and today's crowd was not disappointed.

Despite his reputation, it seemed that Orsi's audacious personality immediately gripped the crowd gathered at the docks. He leapt from the steamship soon after it arrived, surrounded by dozens of ladies.

Crowd Nearly Uncontrollable

The entire harbour was filled with the chants of the people, "Sebi! Sebi! Sebi!" Wild Berber drumming echoed from the warehouses from down the streets.

The ladies say you can see Orsi's soul in his eyes, although to this writer, the man's soul seems so shallow that, even if the ladies could see it, they would be able to read this newspaper through it.

The Italian newsmen who accompanied him were quick to dispel false rumours, pointedly making note that Orsi is known more for his appetites for women and fast life than for any level of refinement, despite his racing prowess. Today, in Italy, he is plagued by report of ongoing scandal. It is widely rumored that he has compared notes with none-other-than Charlie Chaplin.

Scandal Plagued Italian Still Popular

Perversely, it seems this level of scandal is what inflames the very crowds here in Algeria. They gathered to see him, knowing he is the consummate performer. It is widely said (mostly by the Count himself) that he takes great pains to be very thorough in the confessional, bringing graphic details that would make most men blush and women faint. Dare we mention that he is not a paragon of good taste?

After Orsi disembarked, he danced into the streets, twirling ladies and other men's wives stealing kisses. He even missed the welcome platform of the Race Organizing Committee – who then met his mechanics.

But for all his wild antics, Orsi is a man without fear; and if it were not for cars, he would be a man without marketable skills.

He is both loved and hated by the crowd – who know that his kind of behavior always comes to a bad end; and they want to be there when it happens.

MORE RACERS EXPECTED THROUGH THE WEEK

Many Drivers Reportedly Enroute from
Ports in Southern Europe

LA BRIDJA – It is heard that numerous drivers are enroute from Southern Europe's ports to Algeria at this time to compete in the Premiere Race of North Africa, the Grand Prix d'Algiers at Staouéli, here along the northern coast.

Drivers from Italy and Germany have already arrived, and, if the preliminary reports from the Race Organizing Committee are correct, Staouéli can expect others to come from England, Switzerland, France, Spain, and perhaps as far afield as Finland, Sweden and Norway.

Each new arrival will be welcomed with grand events and ceremony. Many local businesses have opened their doors to the newcomers and many local wares are already being snatched up by eager souvenir hunters.

Many officials and top businessmen have already issued invitations to the drivers and teams. No doubt, Algeria will welcome with sumptuous dinners of our nation's finest cuisine, such as lamb and boiled green peanuts, stuffed dates and walnuts, sahlab, and saffron and raison couscous with fresh mint tea.

FAMED SWISS ENGINEER APPEARS FOR RACES

Many Others Now Arriving to Observe the Grand Prix d'Algiers

ORAN – This coming weekend, a party will be held by the Race Organizing Committee to celebrate the opening of the first Grand Prix of this racing year's season – here in Algiers.

Many noteworthy personalities will attend the event, including the reclusive Jacques St. Jean, famed as the Swiss Engineer who made his fortune in the 1929 Grand Prix season and has been experimenting in new racing technologies of late.

Joining him at the pre-race party, according to a list just released by the Race Organizing Committee will be the following noteworthy personages, among others:

- The Prince and Princess of Monaco
- The Prince and Princess of Lichtenstein
- Britain's Wing Commander Baits, whose Benzine fuel additives used at the Schneider Cup Seaplane Races
- The Lady Swindon-Harpe, daughter of the British tyre magnate, Lord Hamilton Swindon-Harpe
- Sven Magnusson, the famous race fuel additives expert from Uppsala, Sweden
- Victor Montoya, the retired matador and auto aficionado from Madrid, Spain
- France's Grand Prix Committee Chairman, Claude d'Etoile, and his wife, Genevieve d'Etoile
- Tex Harper, the American adventurer and former Olympian
- Olaf Hammarsfjold, the well-known Norwegian metallurgical engineer
- Otto Klüge, Germany's retired Grand Prix driver from the early 1920s
- Amb. Watanabe Tomitani, Japan's Ambassador to Italy, who is a well-known Grand Prix fan

The pre-race party will be held outside, beside the Loges and Paddocks at the start line near La Bridja.

Invitation only, though it is expected that many Algerians and French will crowd the gates from outside, hoping for a chance to glimpse their race heroes.

With such assembled leading dignitaries, it will surely be a Grand Prix for all Algiers to remember!

GERMAN RACER ARRIVES

Great Throng Greet
Driver & His White Bugatti

ORAN – Upwards of two thousand men turned out at the port to greet the first arrival for Algeria's Grand Prix, which takes place next week between Staouéli and La Bridja.

A great crowd of Algerian well wishers cheered and ululated as the driver's custom racing car, an Italian made Bugatti T51A, was unloaded, gleaming in its bright white paint. Spare tires, an engine block and many other automobile components were unloaded in great chests and boxes from the Kaiser Line Fast Steamship, "Sterne".

Long before noon, the first sign of the ship had brought the port city to life with calls from the Muezzin nearly drowned out by the throngs driving to the harbour to partake of the interesting events of the day. Even as the ship was tied up, a band made ready to play the national anthem of Algeria to welcome the first of many drivers yet to come.

Disembarking from the ship, the German driver, identified as Godeschalk Hegkman von Grebeneck, waved cheerfully to the crowd as he descended the gangway. Dressed in a snappy leather jacket and racing helmet, his goggles perched atop his head, he immediately entered the Bugatti and started the engine. Without a moment's delay, he raced out to the site of the Grand Prix circuit for a test drive of the course.

Von Grebeneck in Practice Lap

Starting at La Bridja, von Grebeneck took his little white Bugatti racer past the future start line and headed smartly toward Staouéli. His speed was so fast that he was able to pass the daily passenger train from the inland before it arrived at the Station Staouéli.

By the time von Grebeneck could arrive, his car was already surrounded by nearly a half dozen other vehicles as well-wishers beeped and cheered. Many veered to and fro around his car in a jolly show of welcoming him. Upon the corner at Place Staouéli, Le Soir's chief photographer, Farid el Salama, was able to take a snap despite the speed of the racer as it dashed past, skidding around the curve.

The German driver ran the El Wahid-Sinistere chicane several times to test the best driving line, which many say is the hardest in Grand Prix racing.

Shortly after the German had departed the docks, the weekly steamship from Napoli arrived carrying one of Italy's most renowned drivers and his all-red Maserati speedster.

The Italian is unbeaten in its previous races, but this is to be his first race in the North African sun, but hopefully not his last. In past years, Germany and Italy have been keen rivals, and that aspect of the Grand Prix history is expected to play out in spades at Staouéli.