



**0. Seabiscuit - Story Preface**

1. SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE
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Photo of Seabiscuit with his owner, Charles S. Howard. Image online, courtesy Colonel Michael Howard and the Seabiscuit Heritage Foundation.

*He was getting so good, he scared me.  
I'd never seen the kind of speed  
he was showing in his workouts.  
He burned the top off the racetrack.*

*Tom Smith, Seabiscuit's Trainer*

San Francisco was a city dependent on horses when Charles Howard arrived there in 1903.

Automobiles had evolved since Nicolaus Otto invented the gas motor engine (in 1876), Gottlieb Daimler (formerly Otto's assistant) and Wilhelm Maybach improved that engine (in a shed, outside Daimler's home, in 1885), and Daimler adapted a Wilhelm Wimpff & Sohn stagecoach to create the world's first four-wheeled car (in 1886). Those were the early years.

And ... even though Daimler (since 1889) and others - the Duryea brothers (beginning in 1893) and Henry Ford (beginning in 1896) - were building new cars (not adapting *previously existing* vehicles), automobiles (like the Duryea's 1896 version - one of America's first) were the laughing stock of San Francisco's residents. The "newfangled" vehicles couldn't even make it up the city's steep hills.

But Charles Howard viewed the new mode of transportation quite differently from other residents in his adopted town. The man - who soon had exclusive rights to distribute the cars of a new company (called General Motors) in the western United States - had only positive thoughts about the future of automobiles.

He could not have imagined that, one hundred years later, he would be remembered more for a horse than for cars when he said:

*The day of the horse is past.*

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Seabiscuit)

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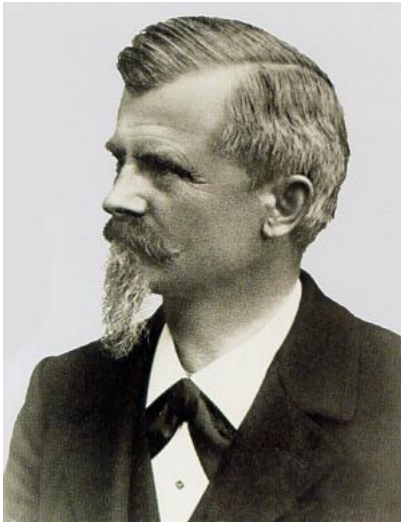


### Nicolaus Otto

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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### Wilhelm Maybach

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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### Work Shed Near Daimler's Home

Image online, courtesy the [lake2005.com](http://lake2005.com) website.

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### Wilhelm Wimpff & Sohn Stagecoach

Image online, courtesy Complexmania.com website.

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## The First Four-Wheeled Car

Image, described above, online courtesy About.com

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## Gottlieb Daimler

Image depicting Gottlieb Daimler, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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## Henry Ford

Image online, courtesy [University of Virginia](http://www.universityofvirginia.edu).

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## 1896 Ford

Image online, courtesy "Vote View" at the University of Houston.

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## Seabiscuit

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