# Seabiscuit



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Photo of Seabiscuit with his owner, Charles S. Howard. Image online, courtesy Colonel Michael Howard and the Seabisuit 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  $\underline{\text{Nicolaus Otto}}$  invented the gas motor  $\underline{\text{engine}}$  (in 1876), Gottlieb Daimler (formerly Otto's assistant) and  $\underline{\text{Wilhelm Maybach}}$  improved that engine (in a  $\underline{\text{shed}}$ , outside Daimler's home, in 1885), and Daimler adapted a Wilhelm Wimpff & Sohn stagecoach to create the world's  $\underline{\text{first}}$  four-wheeled  $\underline{\text{car}}$  (in 1886). Those were the early years.

And ... even though <u>Daimler</u> (since 1889) and others - the Duryea brothers (beginning in 1893) and <u>Henry Ford</u> (beginning in <u>1896</u>) - were <u>building new cars</u> (not adapting *previously existing* vehicles), automobiles (like the Duryea's <u>1896 version</u> - 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

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Seabiscuit

Media Stream



<u>Nicolaus Otto</u> Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. PD

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Wilhelm Maybach
Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.
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Work Shed Near Daimler's Home
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Wilhelm Wimpff & Sohn Stagecoach
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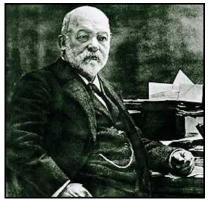


The First Four-Wheeled Car

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 <u>University of Virginia</u>.

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#### 1896 Ford

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