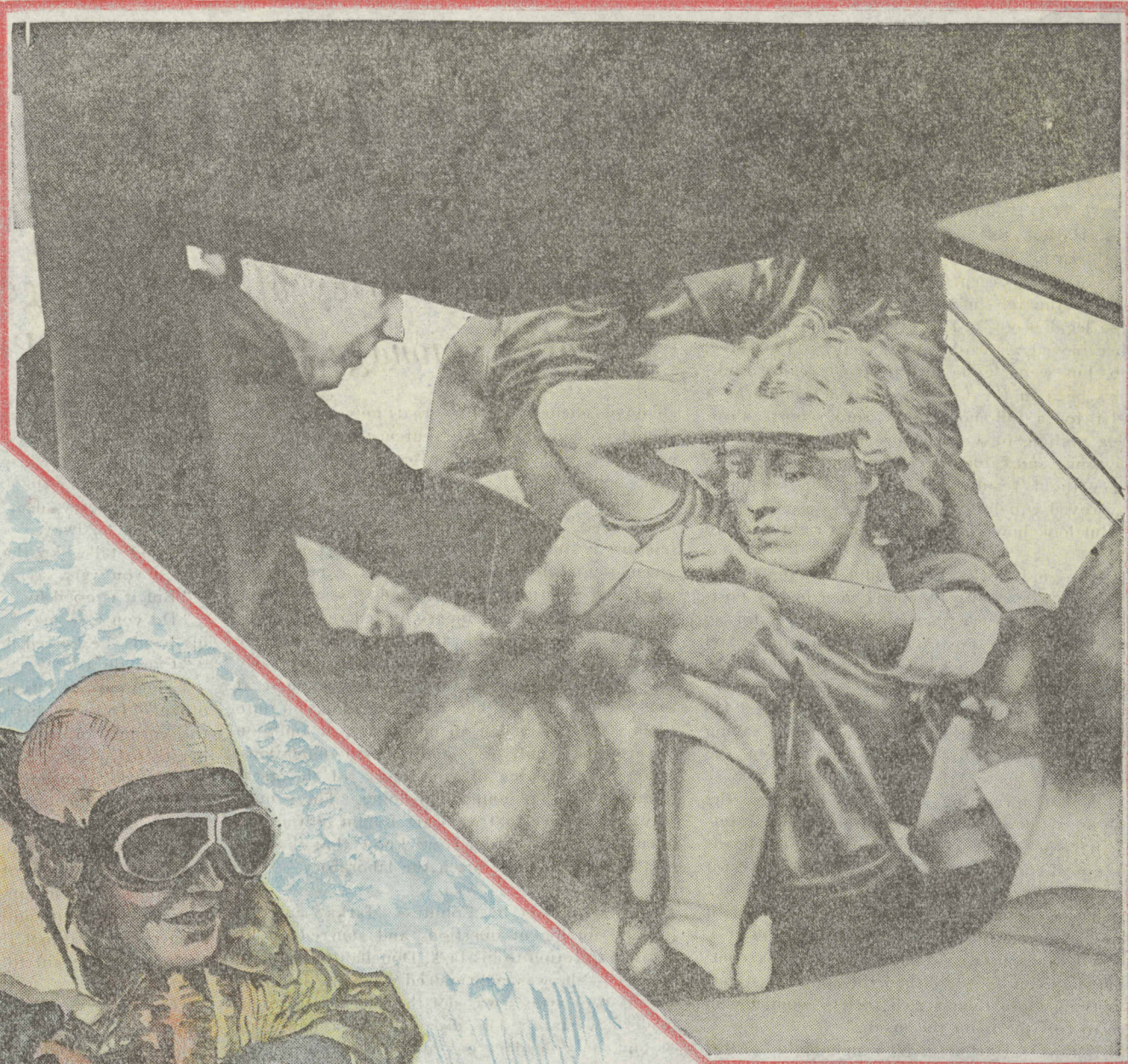


# THRILL HUNTING TAKES HEAVY TOLL OF LIFE



At left: A mountain climber ascending the almost perpendicular side of the "Chimney" of the Matterhorn, one of the Swiss Alps and the scene of more fatal accidents than any other mountain of Switzerland.



(Associated Press photo.) Amy Johnson Mollison, who, with her husband, J. A. Mollison, flew across the Atlantic from England last summer.

By Vincent Mitchell

IS THE game worth the candle? That question has been asked from time to time about every one of the more dangerous sports. Statistics on the number of persons annually killed or injured while participating in contests of speed, endurance, or physical skill are printed frequently, as are shocking accounts of fatal accidents to men and women whose names had become pre-eminent in the dizzy-paced world called sport. But apparently small heed is paid to such facts and figures by the young men and women who risk their necks with such furious abandon. They leave the worry over possible consequences to their parents, the spectators, and the readers of the sports pages. So, whether worth the candle or not, the game is the thing; not in spite of the danger, but because of it. That is the element which provides the thrills which, in this confusing age, have become a vital necessity.

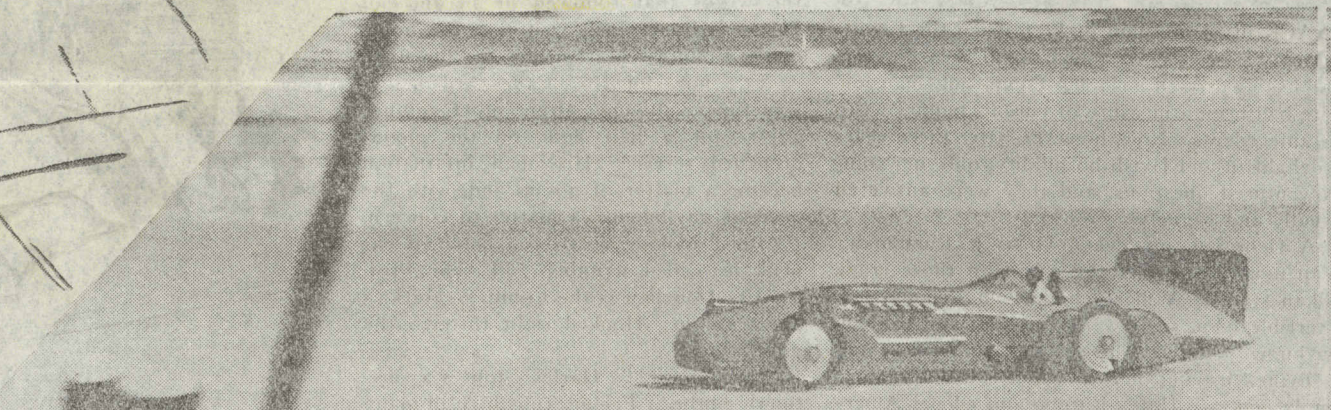
Of the many hazardous sports, the one most perilous to participants cannot be accurately determined without considering a multitude of comparisons. First of all, the number of persons who engage in the sport over a given period must be considered. Thus, although the game of football cost the lives of thirty-seven young men during the season of 1932, and fewer than a dozen deaths were attributed to automobile racing in that year, the latter sport is by far the more dangerous.

In the United States the outstanding automobile race is the 500-mile classic held annually at Indianapolis on Memorial day. Few of these races have been unmarred by tragedy. On the fifty-mile stretch of hard beach at Daytona, Fla., Sir Malcolm Campbell of England early this year established the world's automobile speed record of 272.463 miles per hour. In the last ten years the scene of this amazing achievement also has been the scene of numerous accidents, some of them fatal.

Lee Bible, 42 years old, an American racing driver, was one of the victims of a spectacular accident at Daytona in 1928. He was driving a tri-motored racing car on the beach speedway at 202 miles an hour when the machine got out of control. As it plunged into the rough sand dunes near the shore it struck and

Loretta Turnbull, one of America's outstanding speed boat drivers, at the wheel of her runabout, Miss Holly-craft, taking a turn at top speed to win a race at Lake Elsinore, California. (Associated Press photo.)

(Acme photo.) Below: Malcolm Campbell, English auto racer, in his high-speed car on the beach at Daytona, Fla.



At right: Football is considered by many to be the most dangerous of games. Statistics usually show fatalities each season. Comparatively, however, football is far less dangerous than some other sports.



tion, the tragedies have had slight retarding effect.

Motor boat racing, especially since the development of outboard racing craft, has become an exceedingly popular sport in recent years. It is a highly spectacular pastime; but, with such notable exceptions as the accident in which Maj. Segrave lost his life, it is comparatively safe.

Alpine mountain climbing and African big-game hunting are two much publicized sports in which danger is an obvious element, although the perils attached to them have not been particularly emphasized. Especially is this true in connection with the hazards attendant upon the stalking of lions in the African jungle. At Nairobi in Kenya colony is a graveyard, unheralded and little known, in which are many graves of men who matched their skill against the "king of the jungle" and lost. In spite of elaborate precautions taken to minimize the danger of the lion hunt for amateur sportsmen, including the presence of expert native and white professional riflemen, a wild lion at bay, even though seriously wounded, is a deadly enemy, capable of killing a man or a horse with speed and force comparable to those of a bolt of lightning. A notable example was the tragic experience of George Grey, a brother of the late Viscount Grey of England.

Grey had been warned not to approach nearer than 100 yards a wounded lion at bay. Either he forgot or disregarded the warning. He dismounted at a distance considerably less than 100 yards. Before he could raise his high-powered rifle the infuriated beast leaped from its powerful crouch and crushed Grey to the ground. Before help arrived Grey was dead.

tragic as they are, never have decreased the popularity of the sport. The silent challenge and the awful beauty of the Jungfrau, the Matterhorn, and the other majestic peaks remain as potentially alluring as before.

Thousands of mothers of American school and college football players exist in a state of fear each fall from the opening of the gridiron season in September until the final game in November. Then, if Johnny, Bill, or Frank got through with no more than a few sprains and bruises, they sigh profound prayers of thanks and relief, not giving a thought to the probability that their sons are taking a greater chance of being killed every time they get into an automobile than ever they did playing football. There were 37 fatalities attributed to football in 1932, which fact, if considered alone, would indicate the game to be extremely dangerous. In light of the fact that 450,000 boys participated in organized school and college games, and probably an equally large number took part in sand-lot and other nonscholastic contests, the number 37 diminishes in significance.

Each year, since the era of the "flying wedges" and the other bone-crushing plays which made the early football games such gory spectacles, the rules of the game have been changed for the primary purpose of increasing the safeguards against injuries. A boy who is physically fit to play the game today is favored by preponderant odds against being hurt fatally or even seriously. Investigation of the individual football fatalities usually discloses that the victim was either physically unfit for such competition or played in a game lacking proper organized supervision. Football usually is cited as the most dangerous game because it has become our most popular athletic spectacle. It is no more dangerous to healthy boys than many other forms of physical competition.



Mrs. Martin Johnson and George B. Dryden, celebrated big game hunters, beside a large trophy of an African lion hunt.

new speed boat, Miss England II. The boat overturned. Also killed was Segrave's mechanic.

Automobile racing and, to some degree, aviation are highly commercialized, however, and this must be considered if any comparison is made between them and the games and sports in which the purely amateur spirit prevails. The automobile drivers and pioneer aviators who risked and in many cases lost their lives seeking to establish new records were in a sense scientific investigators whose achievements greatly aided in the advancement of these forms of transportation. Aviation is not so strictly limited as to the number of amateurs participating, and to that extent flying may be considered as a sporting pastime. There is no need to point out its dangers, nor to recount the number of amateur pilots and passengers who have been killed. In view of the ever-increasing interest in aviation as a sport and as a modern means of transporta-

killed Charles Traub, a movie cameraman. A moment later Bible was killed when he was thrown from the wrecked racing car. Others killed attempting to establish new speed records at Daytona were Frank Lockhart, famous American racer, and J. G. Parry-Thomas, English driver.

Maj. H. O. D. Segrave, whose land speed record of 231.362 miles per hour at Daytona later was broken by Sir Malcolm Campbell, was a witness of the accident in which Bible was killed. Segrave retired from auto driving and devoted all his efforts to speed boat racing. He was killed on Lake Windermere, England, two years later while testing his