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Shell Aviation

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The Collings Foundation: Races of the Century

These extraordinary events pit some of the greatest technological advancements in air and ground transportation against each other in a series of amazing "races."

During the early 1900s the first electric and hybrid auto carriages were invented. The thought of a "horseless carriage" rumbling down the path - or better yet - a "flying machine" moving through the air seemed fantastical. The traditional horse and buggy quickly became history with the emergence of auto carriages like the 1904 Franklin. Which technologies will win? There is only one way to find out:



• Horse/Carriage Vs. 1904 Franklin Type A Roadster: No competition here... silly motorized carriage. We all know where the real "horse power" lies.

For further information e-mail Hunter Chaney, Director of Marketing: hchaney@collingsfoundation.org or call 978.562.9182.

The Contestants:

Make/Year: 1904 Franklin Roadster

Manufacturer: HH Franklin Manufacturing Co., Syracuse NY

Type: Two-passenger "horseless carriage"

Engine: Transversely mounted, 10 H.P. 4 Cylinder with jump start ignition and splash lubrication.

Weight: 920 lbs. w/o passengers

Top Speed: 15 - 20 mph depending on conditions.

Vs.

Make/Year: 1867 Concord Stage Coach

Manufacturer: Concord Coach Mfg., Concord NH

Type: Classic design, 6-12 passenger.

Engine: A pair of horses - typically draft breed.

Weight: 2,200 lbs. w/o passengers.

Top Speed: With a good pair of horses and the right conditions, she'll do about 15 - 20.

Results:

On both days - From the word "go" the stagecoach kept a comfortable lead. It was the driver of the Franklin who looked uncomfortable as he leaned forward and squirmed in a futile effort to make the Franklin go faster.

The driver of the Franklin later explained that the engine was running on only three of four pistons. At the paltry speed of 10 mph on medium height grass - we think the 1904 Franklin never had a chance.

Tune is next month for the next installment of the Races of The Century featuring the Horse/Buggy Vs. 1908 Stanley Steamer: This will be a close race. An automobile that runs on water? Incredible! Can it be the horse and buggy has met its match?

Presented by the Collins Foundation.

