

## Profiles in Masonry: Earl “Lucky” Teter (by Nolan Keck)

*Pioneer Freemason Daredevil stunt driver who entered in the 1936 Indy 500.*



Name: Earl “Lucky” Teter

Occupation: American Stunt Driver

Time Period: Born October 9, 1901 in Noblesville, IN; Died July 5, 1942 in Indianapolis, IN.

Interesting Facts: Pioneered and popularized the stunt driving show “Lucky Teter and His Hell Drivers” that had great success across the United States and Canada for six straight years starting in 1936.

Working as a gas station attendant, Lucky was performing automobile and motorcycle stunts by 1932. He is credited with originating such now-staple stunts as jumping a car from ramp to ramp and rolling a car. “Lucky Teter and His Hell Drivers” were so popular that in some years he would perform in the afternoon at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, and then fly to Syracuse, New York to appear at the New York State Fair at night. Such feats required two sets of equipment. He was also the first stunt driver to be sponsored by an automobile company (Plymouth). He entered the 1936 Indianapolis 500 but did not race. But he appeared in some documentary shorts and was an uncredited stunt driver for the 1936 feature film “Speed,” which featured Jimmy Stewart in his first starring role.

On July 5, 1942 he was the last performer at an Army Relief Benefit at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. He was planning to break his own world distance record by jumping 150 feet (46 meters) over a transport truck. He drove a 1938 Plymouth at 65 miles per hour and jumped off the first ramp, but came down several feet short and crashed into the supports of the landing ramp. He passed away in the ambulance on the way to the hospital. His widow sold the show to Joie Chitwood. He was the subject of a 2011 documentary, *Lucky Teter and His Hell Drivers*, which was released on DVD. Lucky was a member of Noblesville Lodge #57.

An annual Lucky Teter Rebel Run Car Show is held at Forest Park on State Road 19 in Noblesville, IN. All proceeds from the show benefit The Noblesville Masonic Angel Fund.

### More:

<https://www.luckyteterrebelrun.com/> - next show August 21, 2021 9am to 3pm

<https://www.luckyteterrebelrun.com/about-lucky-the-man.php> ; <https://www.teterorganicfarm.com/who-was-lucky-teter/>

A short clip of Teter jumping over a bus - courtesy of Getty images:

<https://www.gettyimages.ca/detail/video/earl-lucky-teter-puts-on-crash-helmet-teter-gets-into-car-news-footage/502472243>

### Sources:

Lucky Teter - Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Lucky\\_Teter&oldid=996099995](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Lucky_Teter&oldid=996099995)

<https://readthereporter.com/noblesville-masons-rebel-run-to-help-kids/>