

'49's Top News Stories Continue in '50

By Gretchen Grondahl
 With the first chill days of January, 1950, comes a rash of "top" this-and-thats—the greatest fifty men of the half-century, greatest movies of the year, and so forth. The Emerald has the spirit too. Not to be outdone, we put on earmuffs and woolies to thumb through the 1949 files of the campus daily in the libe's frosty basement—to come out with what we

modern Carson Hall, women's dormitory. Still under construction are the long-awaited Student Union, scheduled for a spring opening, and the library addition, which is planned to give students access to the stacks. Oregon coeds moved into Carson amid the hammering hubbub of construction but now find their new rooms, with their seven-foot-wide windows, worth the inconvenience.

for many years. Johnson's running mate Lou Weston took the second vice-presidency for the USA ticket, but Yell King and class victories went to candidates of the AGS, a revamped version of the former ASA. The Independent Students' Association renounced political aspirations to become a purely social organization.

USA candidates John Chaney and Virginia Wright topped AGS aspirants Bob Gitner and Shirley Hillard in January's freshman elections.

5. Faculty rating, traffic court, and the renewal of the Ore-Nter were ASUO council projects accorded the limelight in the movement toward more student government.

After many pros and cons from students and faculty members, Laura Olson's committee put through a voluntary rating for those professors who desired it.

A student traffic court was set up and put into operation. Senior member Carl Davis guided the court through its first weeks of operation, then resigned, turning the chairmanship over to Dick Neely. Merv Hampton was appointed new sophomore member and Steve Church continued as junior member.

The Ore-Nter was a chatty introduction to UO life for new students, replacing the informative but sometimes dry Welcome Book. Trudi Chernis and Olga Yevtich piloted members of Theta Sigma Phi to the completion of the volume.

6. Two Junior Weekend Queens were named for the first time in the history of a school where strange things, including canine candidacies, have been known to happen in such contests.

Mary Margaret Jones and Phyllis Morgan shared honors and crowns at the combination Junior and Mothers' Weekend festivities early in May. Their unique position, caused by a tie vote, created all sorts of knotty problems of precedence, symmetrical arrangement of the court, and so on.

7. A change to the semester system was advocated by a faculty vote described as "close" early in the year. Close, all right, the campus decided when the margin was later revealed as one vote. When the measure reached President H. K. Newburn's desk, however, he declined to send it on to the State Board of Higher Education, thus administering a sort of "pocket veto."

Akin to this move was the reshuffling of final schedules and the cutting of spring vacation in

8. Unexplained dismissals from the School of Health and Physical Education and complaints about men's dormitory food caught the spotlight in an eruption of gripes at the beginning of December.

Five women students were advised to discontinue courses in the PE school on the grounds of poor attitude. The women complained of inadequate notification; their story was taken up by the Emerald. A storm ensued, but as the Emerald stopped publication Dec. 7 it was reported that the women had hopes of reinstatement and that the school in future would give adequate warning to such students as it considered unfit for

helpfully provided quite a bit of newsworthiness during 1949. Students returning for winter term classes found nearly six inches of snow blanketing Eugene; the white stuff stayed in varying degrees for a good portion of the term in the hardest winter in years.

With the melting of the snows came threatening floods and the migration of trailer-housed families to the curbstones of McArthur Court.

Fall '49 was punctuated by an unexpected hail storm and relieved by a trifle less rain than usual. As students return for winter term 1950, they find the ground



1949's unusual winter weather conditions are typified by this snow scene on the old campus.

consider "The Ten Top Campus News Stories of 1949."

Any story which aroused campus interest between January, 1949, and January, 1950, was eligible for the competition. Undoubtedly there will be disagreement with our choices; some of the yarns have been virtually forgotten now, but they all were first on the list of campus conversational topics in their time.

1. Deferred Living-in. First blast on the famous (or infamous, depending on your point of view) plan requiring all University freshmen to live in the dormitories for one year really came in late 1948. In January, 1949, the plan was tabled to fall, 1950. The real squawking began this fall, climaxing around the Homecoming celebration in mid-November.

Attention was first centered on the plan itself, tagged the DuShane plan in its early infancy, after Director of Student Affairs Donald M. DuShane, from whose office the original announcement came.

Protests came from both fraternity leaders and dorm heads, with complaints ranging from "weakening of the fraternity system" to "damaging to dorm unity." Alumni were brought into the fray; letters circulated, leaflets and cartoons littered the Quad, and a portion of the Homecoming flashcard section rebelled in a chant "Deferred Living—No!"

Into the midst of things stepped Emerald editor Don Smith, urging via his editorial page that the way to make the plan work was to institute deferred rushing.

Various committees and organizations now studying the Plan are working on the assumption that it will go through but that administrative details must be worked out.

2. Building Construction hit new peaks on the campus with the completion of the music school addition, new University theater, and

Carson girls are envied their elevator by stair-climbing women in Hendricks, co-ops, and sorority houses.

With the first performance of "Winterset" last month, the new University Theater received its formal baptism. Students in evening dress admired scenery and technical facilities afforded by the new building.

3. The Millrace had its ups and downs during '49. Students and townspeople hoped to see the return of water in the race, a bed of weeds and junk since 1945. A blow to such hopes was dealt when Koke-Chapman Company placed a fill across the race. Although student picketing failed to stop the operation, hope returned when the company left pipes under the fill, making it possible for water to be piped into the old stream.

Things plugged along, with much talk of getting easements from property owners along the Race. With Eugene City Council approval of the project April 12, the Emerald came out in two-inch type stating "We'll Get Race!" As it turned out, the announcement was a bit premature. It still remained to the students to collect their \$3500 share of pledges towards the refilling project. Warren Davis chaired a campus drive to sign over breakage fees to the Millrace Fund; in this manner the funds were raised.

Even after the water finally trickled in, the venerable old stream ran into difficulties. Health authorities declared it polluted; its level fluctuated with the Willamette from a mere puddle to near bank-high; and the current was pronounced too sluggish to move Junior Weekend floats at sufficient speed.

4. Elections, moved up to April, found off-campus student Art Johnson winning the ASUO presidency in the first independent win



ART JOHNSON and MARGUERITE JOHNS receive the Koyl and Gerlinger cups for the outstanding junior man and woman. Johnson's election as ASUO prexy was a top 1949 news story. Miss Johns made more headlines later as 1949 Homecoming Hostess.

order to dismiss classes one week earlier in June. Oregon students saw some of the effects of this plan during the latest exam week; finals now begin and end in the middle of the week, with a weekend between tests.



CO-QUEENS Mary Margaret Jones and Phyllis Morgan broke precedent in Oregon's first double coronation Junior weekend.

teaching physical education.

A letter printed in the Portland Oregonian, criticizing dormitory food and signed by 397 students, touched off a furor which simmered down to some changes in the atmosphere of the Veterans' Commons, where Vets' Dorm residents eat. White lights replaced blue, dishes were preheated, and other steps planned.

Out of this and similar complaints grew a movement to air campus grievances through proper channels rather than to bring unfavor-

again covered with snow, although the blanket is worn thin in spots.

10. The Cotton Bowl game just barely squeaked into the annals of '49, being played on New Year's Day. After being disappointed in their try for a Rose Bowl berth, the Webfoots trekked to Dallas, Texas, for a try against Southern Methodist in the Cotton Bowl, where they were defeated 21-13.

Shortly after the Bowl game, Webfoot supporters were relieved to hear of the refusal of Coach Jim Aiken of an offer to take over at Nebraska.

There they are—the ten top stories. They may not be the ten most important or the ten most valuable things that happened to the University in '49; they were among the most talked-about.

As usual when eliminating a field to a few items, there were many yarns which could be logical candidates. Campus-wide events like Homecoming and Dads' Day occupied Emerald space and campus conversation for weeks.

The All-Campus Vodvil, a new idea to combine the development of talent with fund-raising for the World Student Service Fund, met praise and criticism, the latter because of its Good Friday scheduling. Mysties replaced Twisties as Phi Theta Upsilon's annual bid for the campus palate; rallies reached new highs under the system of pairing men's and women's living organizations.

All in all it's been quite a year. But one can't help wondering if the new 1950, with the opening of the Student Union and the proposed revamping of the ASUO Constitution, won't make this one look pale.

able publicity to the University through outside sources. Last action of the ASUO Executive Council in 1949 was a resolution along these lines.

9. The weather, that proverbial topic for stranded conversations,