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A Few Recollections ... **Honored Millrace Memories Return From Good Old Days**

(The following feature on the 1949, and is being reprinted at this canoe pageant. time because of its special significance on Junior Weekend.)

By BOB TWEEDELL

Just about fifteen years ago, the Junior Weekend publicity committee received the following message:

"Congratulations on the happy selection of the 'Melody In Spring' theme for Oregon's Water Pageant. It should be very beautiful.

. . Would you like some sort of a parties-and the romancing. Hollywood token for the young lady who does a good job on one of the floats?"



That's just a sample of the fame tory parade. of Eugene's old millrace.

Alum Remembers

More recently, an Oregon alumnus wrote from his home in Japan about the "days I enjoyed canoeing along the millrace."

So it goes. Old-timers-Eugeneans and Oregon alumna 'round the world-remember the placid old stream of the days when it was the center of innumerable leisure-time activities. They fondly recall the "I am happy to extend my best picnics, the canoeing, the dunkings, wishes for the success of the event the tugs-of-war, the swimming

They remember much more that makes the millrace mean something special. They remember when the millrace waters turned the big water-wheels that supplied power for Eugene's industrial plants.

They remember when the circus came to town, and the elephants went bathing in the race. The big animals liked it-liked it so well that they staged a sit-down strike when their keepers tried to get them out.

Race Causes Feud

the millrace was the center of and years. feuding among home-owners along and gardens-and so the scenic charms of the old stream were preserved a while longer.

millrace in 1937. Loyal Ducks the legion of millracers. fought a victorious battle against Flow on forever, old millstream!

The letter was signed by Bing | an invading horde of Oregon State millrace was written by an Oregon Crosby. Bing was referring to Beavers. The Beavers, light-headed alum now working for the Denver plans for a Crosby-donated prize from a gridiron victory over the Post. The article originally ap- to be awarded to the coed chair- Ducks, descended on the Oregonpeared in the Emerald on Nov. 19, man of the winning float in the campus to add insult to injury by taunting their victims with a vic-

> The ill-planned affair ended in a disastrous defeat for the Corvallisites. Most of the Beavers ended up in the millrace, tossed there by Order of the O men and re-enforcements from the rest of the student body. Even the girls got into the fray; a crowd of them watched, "eyes filled with sadistic ecstasy" while captured Beavers were unceremoniously disrobed and thrown into the chilly waters of the race.

> Other persons remember other things about the old millstream. They remember how the moonlight glistened on the water and the stars were reflected from the limpid, black pools. They remember the shadowy places along the banks, where the willows and ferns hung down to form inviting rendezvous for canoers. They recall the soft swish of paddles, the plink-plunk of ukeleles and guitars, the joyous and sometimes raucous voices of impromptu choral groups.

Sad Days for Race

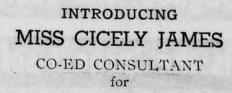
And they remember, too, the sad days when the race became a dirty trash-filled ditch, neglected and forgotten. Days that began when the Willaniette flooded and broke the retaining wall and intake dam. The old-timers remember when Days that stretched into months

It's not so easy for newcomers its banks and the millrace-power to Eugene, or to the University, to owners. The men interested in de- think about the millrace as do veloping the power potential want- those who saw it "when." It's not ed to widen the race; the people so easy, now, for them to appreciliving along the race fought suc- ate what the millrace means. It's cessfully to keep industrial de- hard for them to understand the velopment from destroying their glamour and romance that is concarefully-nurtured, beautiful lawns nected with the beautiful old stream.

But now that the millrace has been restored, the come-latelys will And it doesn't require such a have a chance to learn about the ong memory to recall the famous old stream's charms. And they, too, war" fought in and around the will probably become members of

Junior Weekend Special







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