

## A History of Junior Weekend

By Angela Zach

Sixty-two years ago this spring, Oregon's junior class became restless and generally fed up with day after day and week after week of class. Probably the entire student body was restless but it took the juniors to kick the props out from under convention and start the ball rolling. They flatly ignored the call of class bells and exerted what influence they had to make the rest of the student body tardy or absent.

Actually, the tradition started with Dr. Luella Clay Carson's program called Junior Exhibition. She thought it a good plan to give each junior a foretaste of commencement, then an ordeal in which each graduating senior delivered an oration. Music and oratory of top junior quality constituted the entire program.

### Junior Flag Rush

A rowdy demonstration, the junior flag rush, accompanied the sedate Junior Exhibition. During the year, junior girls sewed a flag of class colors with class numerals on it. Junior men defended their flag and class honor on a day secretly agreed upon by juniors in which they displayed their flag from the northwest tower of Villard. At first seniors and later sophomores took it upon themselves to defend the dignity of the school against the juniors and the sight of the junior flag unfurled from a majestic university building.

Blows were exchanged and blood shed. Sophomores sometimes bound juniors and kept them captive by the flag pole in front of Villard until they were overpowered and like treatment meted out to them.

The flag was frequently stolen. On one occasion, it was given to a faculty member for safekeeping until the appointed day. Another year, a junior wore it to school under his vest until he could run it up the flag pole in front of Villard.

### Full of Fun

One year, juniors ingeniously hoisted a class member supplied with a water hose to defend himself, food and the flag in a wooden box half way up the flag pole. Scheming sophomores captured the water supply, doused the pole-sitting junior and forced him to relinquish his position on the pole. After one such uproarous day, President Frank Strong remarked, "Well, another day is over. It's a relief to see the buildings still standing."

President Prince Campbell in 1903 declared a junior holiday and diverted hoodlum spirits into constructive channels. An old fence enclosing the entire campus was torn down and carted off the first year. Bleachers were built on the athletic field and cement walks built about campus on successive

years. Junior Day became University Day and the entire student body participated in a campus work party. Girls served a luncheon to the laborers on the lawn between McClure and Friendly, and out of this grew the annual all-campus picnic.

### Named in 1908

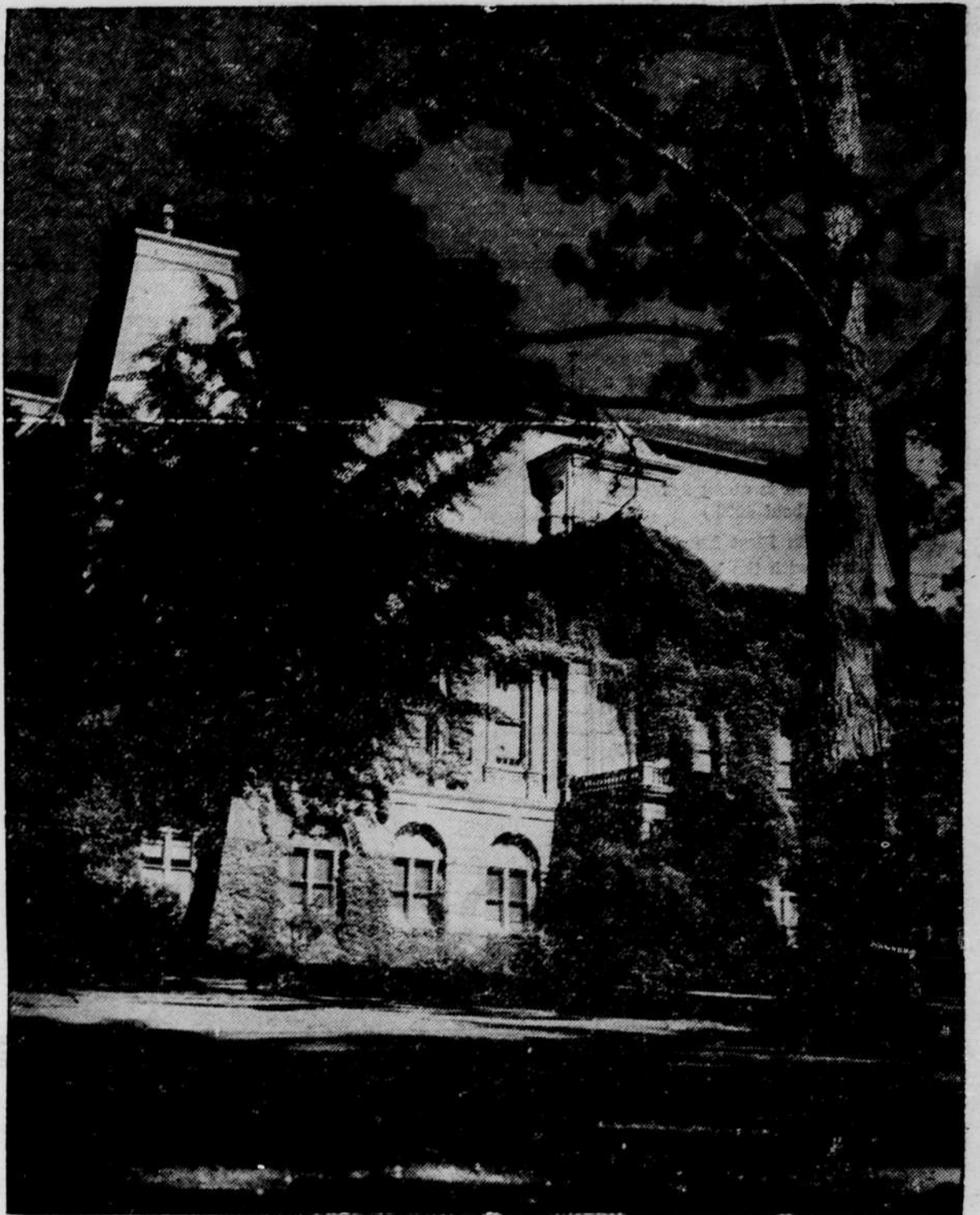
The affair was first called Junior Weekend in 1908, the same year juniors constructed a huge "O" on Skinner's butte. Ravages suffered at the hands of visiting vandals are repaired annually by a coat of paint applied to the "O" by freshmen under junior supervision.

From the first water carnival in 1911 evolved the colorful canoe fete, which by 1915 had become a traditional part of the weekend. Elaborately decorated barges evolved through the years from simply decorated canoes. The fete attracted national attention (recorded in newsreels) until 1944 when the mill race no longer served to display the annual pageant. The all-campus sing and a float parade were substituted.

### Other Events Added

All work and no play produced fatigue and no entertainment so that in 1909, athletic events were added to enliven the program. Other features were added to the festivities along the way. Plays and proms were included, a sunlight serenade became traditional and mother's weekend was incorporated into the activities. A freshmen - sophomore tug-of-war began in 1915, with the freshmen defeating the sophomores annually until 1949, when sophomores dunked the traditional winners in the millstream.

A queen was added in 1916, and a theme around which to center activities shortly after.



VILLARD HALL: Campus Landmark

### The Cover

Queen Jo Martin, ruler of this year's Junior Weekend festivities, is a member of Delta Gamma sorority and a sophomore in liberal arts.

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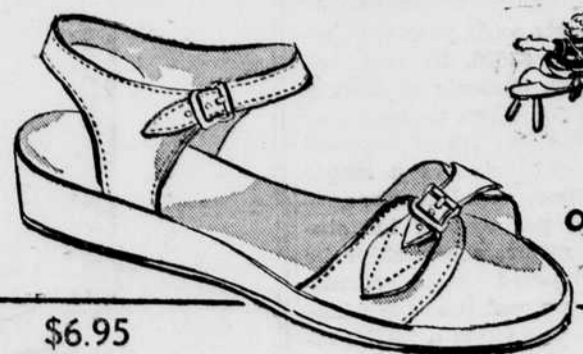
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