

Idea for UO Canoe Fete Originated First in 1911

If history repeats itself the Canoe Fete tonight should produce some comical events as well as beautiful float displays.

The first idea of a water carnival on the race originated in 1911. That year canoe races, swimming meets, and diving exhibitions constituted the show. Not until 1915 did the Canoe Fete become the basis for what we are to see tonight.

Alpha Tau Omega won first prize that year with a submarine "0-29" that fired blank cartridges as it flowed down the race. Delta Gamma took second with an all-white float entitled "Dawn." Pure white canoes, white roses, a white and silver butterfly, white lights, and girls dressed in white carried out the all-white theme.

The Sigma Chi's staged the famous "Cleopatra coming down the Nile." One of the men portrayed Cleopatra and "accidentally" fell into the race as the float passed in front of the audience. Afterwards the men admitted the idea was somewhat premeditated.

In 1916 the water fete grew larger and John McMurray, Ireland's champion swimmer, did a high dive through flames from the roof of the race-way as the feature attraction.

The 1917 Fete distinguished itself with the eruption of a volcano, in this case it was the Delta Delta Delta float volcano. A defective sparkler set the cotton on fire, but no one was injured.

From 1918 through 1925 the Fete kept growing with improvements in underwater lighting effects, greater detail in float construction and creation of the float theme. In 1926 awards were given to winning floats in two divisions, artistic and humorous. Each float appeared through the mouth of a brilliant dragon, which arched over the race and belched forth clouds of fiery colored steam.

"Canoe Feet" of which Tau Nu and Phi Gamma Delta were the originators, was a parody on college styles. The two canoes were feet, while away up on top, at the end of a pair of huge yellow and green checked trousers, a young man smoked non-chantly.

No records have been found of the 1927 Fete and it is believed that the Fete was discontinued due to special problems or lack of interest.

Canoe Fete in 1929 went along without any particular outstanding incidents. However, in 1930 the Delta Delta Delta and Sigma Pi Tau dragon float caught fire during its jaunt down the race and the fire from the dragon's own breath gutted its entire head, and reduced him to a smoldering framework of wood and steel. Two hours later it was awarded first prize for being the most effective and best float.

The annual Fete continued from '30 to '35 when that year Bing Crosby offered a prize to the winning float. For some reason the award was kept secret and no records ever told just what the prize was.

The Alpha Chi Omega and Phi

Sigma Kappa float "Kathleen Mavoureen" in 1936 won second prize but not before the mule on the float jumped into the race and decided to swim to shore.

From 1937 till the last fete in 1941, the University continued to stand apart from the rest of the collegiate world each spring when once again the picturesque floats would move down the race under gay lights and to the strains of orchestral music. "Arabian Nights" was the theme of that last Fete. A mock canoe fete was held in the afternoon. Such floats as "Stars Fell on Ali Baba" and "Persian Slave Market" lent an air of comedy to the day's events. Since 1941 a street parade substituted for the famous fete. A highway relocation project eliminated the area near the one-time Anchorage, and the mill race fell into disrepair. The site was landscaped recently and the stream widened near the University physical plant in anticipation of the revival of the Canoe Fete.

The Canoe Fete steering committee organized this year's fete on the basis of a long range plan which will be improved on and continued as the main event of Junior Weekend activities. The barges for the floats are to be permanently stored at the physical plant, the large Canoe Fete banner will be kept from year to year for publicity. All in all, these initial plans cost money, which is why the committee found it necessary to charge admission this year. In future years costs should decrease and even bigger and better Fetes are anticipated.



Mix Mode
for the young in heart....

interprets the ever-popular coat dress in this "summer cooler" . . . sheer and airy as a breeze and crisped with scalloped white lace in wonderfully washable combed dimity. Pink, blue or navy Young-in-heart sizes 7 to 17 . . . 10.95

Hart-Larsens

Welcome Mothers



Our congratulations to **Queen Betti**

May We Have The Opportunity to Make Your Portraits, Too?

Phone 4-3432 For An Appointment

The Fehly Studio
On The Campus

Food at It's Delicious Best

OLD FAVORITES

- Chop Suey
- Chow Mein
- Fried Rice
- Sweet & Sour Spare Ribs
- Egg Foo Young

Open Till 3 a.m. Fri & Sat

LESLIE'S SPECIAL

- Almond Chicken
- Egg Roll
- Subgum
- Combination orders from 95c up

LESLIE'S

MANDARIN RESTAURANT

1249 Alder Ph. 3-6234

"The Home of Good Food on Campus Edge"

Welcome Mothers

Town & Travel

Smith's Womens Shop

WEAR IT



WASH IT



HANG IT



save pressing time with

Ship'n Shore's

Touch'n Go*

gingham plaid

2.95



SHIP'N SHORE'S wonderful new wash-and-wear plaid! Iron it only if you wish . . . have more time for summer fun! Convertible johnny collar with kerchief back . . . stay-put shirt tails . . . luxury smoked pearl buttons. Textured nubby-woven gingham . . . deeptone plaids on white. Sizes 30 to 38. See solid-color SHIP'N SHORE'S too—broadcloths, pimas, linens!