

# Temporary Repairs Fail to Solve Major Problems

Millrace history since the war has been one of gradual deterioration; and temporary repairs and maintenance applied to damaged sections have failed to solve the problems of low level, slow flow and unsanitary water. The present millrace committee, beginning with an engineering study, is looking for an answer to these situations.

The biggest example of where temporary repairs have not answered the problem is the intake dam, at the mouth of the Millrace. Originally this structure stretched all the way across the river to the north bank. Floods and high water caused the north end to wash out, however, and erosion was quick to take hold. City officials, seeing the problem, attempted to correct it by dumping gravel out into the river above the dam to divert the water to the millrace outlet. This served the opposite purpose,

however, and instead caused the water to rush around the north end of the dam even more.

By referring to the aerial photo on the following page, the reader can see that the river has washed almost three acres of city land down the river, despite the gravel jetty which extends into the river.

Another trouble spot lies on the south bank of the Willamette, just below the dam, or on the north bank of the millrace canal wall. High water in the 1940's caused a portion of the wall 75 feet long to topple into the river. The canal on both sides of the break was dammed up and a pipe buried to connect the two sides;

but even now this pipe is starting to leak.

Water that does get into the Millrace, and flows through the entire distance hits a bottleneck at the lower outlet. When the superhighway was built, the

highway crews installed only a 30 inch pipe to carry water the remaining 2000 feet to the river. The cost to replace this pipe with a larger size is almost prohibitive, and the committee is looking for another outlet.

## New York Alums Ask 'What to Do?'

(Following is a copy of a letter received by the Eugene city manager April 18, 1955. It was read before the council on April 25, and then referred to the city's Millrace committee. The signers of the letter are some of Oregon's outstanding alumni, several from the class of 1923, one of the University's most prominent classes.)

The Common Council of the City of Eugene, Oregon  
Gentlemen:

From time to time some word reaches us former students of the University of Oregon residing on the East Coast, of proposals to restore the Mill Race to something like its original form, or perhaps, through foresighted plans, to make it even more attractive as a small waterway of recreation and beauty. Wishing that we might be of some use in whatever is undertaken or done, we are sending this letter indicating our desire, and also as evidence of our appreciation for the efforts you are making to help work the problem out with the University.

All of us here remember the beautiful old stream. The University of Oregon Club in New York includes former students as far as sixty years back, from about 1894 to 1954. Our oldest member is Edward ("Ted") P. Shattuck who was in the University in 1893 and will be remembered by old timers as a famous football player. He is a very successful and still active lawyer in New York City. Several members of the class of 1954 have found their way to New York and we have a sprinkling of students all along the years.

We have constituted the Executive Committee of the Oregon Club a special committee to do what we can to help make the Old Mill Race a beautiful feature of the landscape and a source of pleasure and pride to the students of the University and the people of Eugene.

We will appreciate any report of progress from the City Council and any suggestions of ways in which we can encourage or help in the restoration of the old stream so dear to us.

Yours very truly,  
John M. MacGregor, '23  
Philip Bergh, '27  
C. M. Calloway, '23  
L. A. Culbertson, '23  
Laura H. V. Kennon, '11  
Allen Eaton, 1902.

## In Days of Yore



ONCE UPON A TIME, there was much canoeing on the Millrace. All the Millrace houses had some type of boat, and an afternoon cruise was "just the thing" for a hot spring afternoon. There are still plenty of "shady places by the old Millrace," but a lack of canoes kept students off the water. By fall term however, the Student Union plans to expand its recreation program to the Millrace area with a boathouse and canoe rentals.

## First 'Fete in 14 Years



THIS FLOAT, BUILT by Tau Kappa Epsilon, Phi Gamma Delta, Carson hall and Alpha Xi Delta took first place honors in the 1955 Canoe Fete, the first since 1941. Many returning alums and townspeople, remembering the fetes of previous years, ranked this as one of the best ever. One of the problems facing the Canoe Fete committee was a means of propelling the floats. They could not have swimmers push them because the health department labelled the water unsanitary and prohibited swimming in it. A sanitary flow is one of the aims of the present millrace committee, which is planning an engineering study this summer.

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