



"LA FETE FANTASTIQUE," winner of last year's Canoe Fete is pictured above as it floated down the Millrace. The winning float was built by Phi Gamma Delta, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Carson hall and Alpha Xi Delta.

Tonight's Canoe Fete Theme Salutes Disney Characters

(Continued from page one)
from Lloyd's of London on their rain insurance.

Floats in the past have provided some comical scenes and sometimes despite all the committee's hard work things just slip up. Despite last minute errors and catastrophes, the 1956 Canoe Fete should be a display of originality and beauty.

This year's Canoe Fete has as its theme, "Disneyland" with each float depicting a character or story made famous by Walt Disney. Themes from the past have been many and varied but it is doubtful that any have given so much source material as this year's theme.

Fete Began in 1915

The first Canoe Fete was begun in 1915 with a display of floats much like those we will see tonight. Before this first Fete the idea of a water carnival included canoe races, swimming meets, and diving exhibitions. This sort of carnival began in 1911 and finally culminated in the sort of festival we know today.

Alpha Tau Omega won the first prize in 1915 with a submarine that fired blank cartridges as it floated down the Race. Pure white canoes, white roses and a white and silver butterfly, white lights and girls dressed in white carried out an all-white theme on the Delta Gamma float "Dawn" which won second prize.

Pranks which seemed accidental but which were staged just for effect were also part of the Canoe Fete in those days. 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 Sigs admitted that the event might have been planned.

High Dive Through Flames

In 1916 the water fête 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 eruption of a volcano distinguished the 1917 Canoe Fete. The Delta Delta Delta float featuring a volcano had a defective sparkler which set the cotton on the float on fire. Luckily 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.

Parody on College Styles

"Canoe Fete" 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 nonchalantly smoked.

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 journey 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.

Bing Crosby Offers Prize

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 swam 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 to the strains of orchestral music.

Cosmo Club Plans Picnic for Sunday

Cosmopolitan club will hold a joint picnic with its sister club from Oregon State Sunday afternoon at a farm near Junction City.

Transportation will be provided at 1 p.m. at the Student Union. People who have cars are requested to bring them.

Persons planning to attend should bring sack lunches. Hot

dogs and ice cream will be sold at the picnic. Outdoor games, including soccer, will be played according to club officers.

Comedy Floats Paraded in '41

"Arabian Nights" was the theme of the 1941 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 Millrace fell into disrepair. The site was landscaped recently and the stream widened near the University physical plant.

This year the Millrace committee of the ASUO has been working in conjunction with the Eugene Millrace committee to find a way to build up and maintain the Millrace once again. A pumping system has been devised and plans for upkeep have been drawn up. Only the most essential part of the plan, money, is now missing.

The Millrace committees are in hopes that both the ASUO and the Eugene city people will feel that this project is worthy of the efforts and money as it will add beauty and interest for the advantage of both groups.



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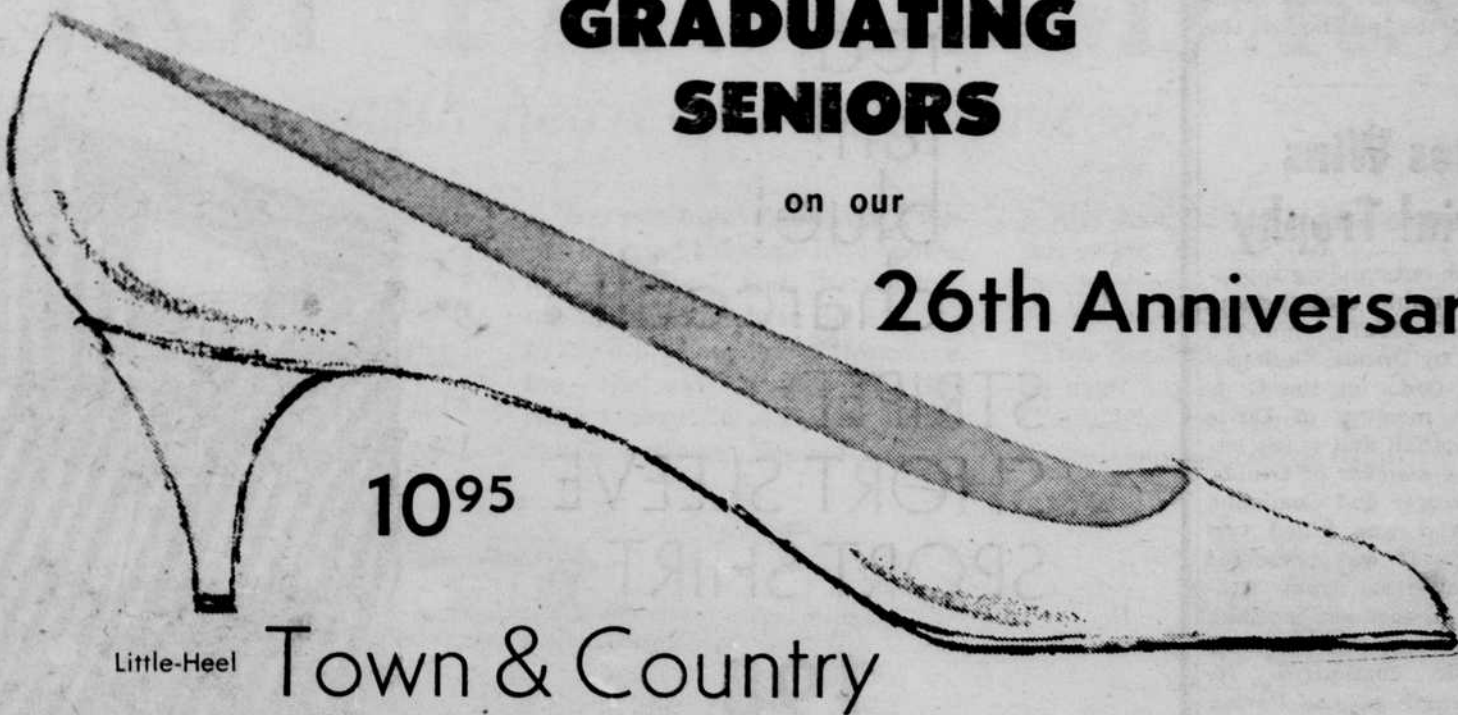
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