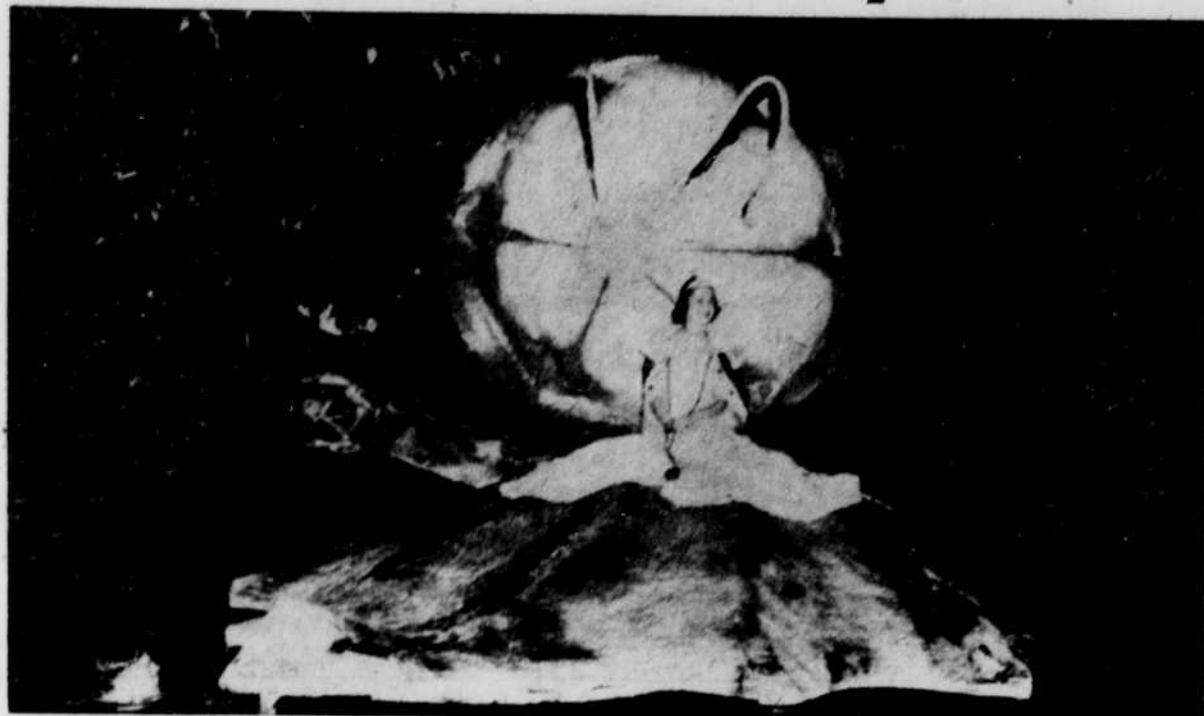


Millrace History Recalled, Forecast



HEADING THE MILLRACE 1940 Canoe Fete Parade was the Queen's Float, carrying Queen Betty Buchanan. The theme that year was "Springtime in Vienna." All themes that year had a Viennese theme, and Strauss waltzes were played by the orchestra as eleven floats came down the Millrace. (Photo copy by Rich Scott)

By CORNELIA FOGLE
Emerald Associate Editor

Nearly 100 years ago, long before the University of Oregon was begun, a stream ran through the area east of the infant town of Eugene and was harnessed to provide power for the town's only industry, an excelsior plant. As the town grew, other industries including a woolen mill located along the stream, also using its power.

In 1877 the University was established, and soon the stream, now called the millrace, became a center of student social life. With the advent of electric power, it was abandoned for a time.

Lined With Trees

Rowboats were popular during the 1890's, and canoes came with the turn of the century, according to Karl Onthank, associate dean of students. The little stream, lined with trees and shrubs, had water lilies, roses and cattails along the edge. It was a very beautiful and unique addition to the campus.

Canoeing was the thing to do then, for there were few automobiles, and none owned by students. Hiking was also popular.

Picnics Were Popular

Weekend and evening picnics on the millrace was a favorite outdoor recreation, and often houses were paired for a picnic. Often groups would picnic on the bank across the river. But often it was just a couple out for a leisurely afternoon or early evening ride.

The canoeing route was a long one up the millrace to the river, then down a comparatively mild stretch of the river (through or around several tricky rapids) coming back into the millrace near where Cable's Drive-In is today. The canoe house was located on Eighth street, near Patterson.

Canoe Sports Held

Canoe races, jousting tournaments were held during those days, Onthank recalled. Swimming in the millrace was a favorite sport.

Upset canoes were frequent, especially when amateur paddlers decided to take their girls for a ride. Tossing in freshman men was practically a daily occurrence, for celebrations, a little excitement or just for fun.

Girls weren't tossed in then though, Onthank said. That practice came in with women's drive for equal rights.

Water Carnival Begins

The idea of a water carnival originated in 1911. That year they had canoe races, swimming meets and diving contests. It received the name of Canoe Fete in 1912, but it was not until three years later that it became a float parade. At first the floats were built on two canoes, but later platforms built on oil drums were used.

Progress Comes

The years went by and the Canoe Fetes grew.

Until 1941 each spring the University staged its Canoe Fete, complete with decorated floats, gay lights and orchestra music. But with the coming of the war, a street parade was substituted, and it continued until 1955.

Wartime Casualty

The millrace was a wartime casualty. During the early '40's the government got wartime clearance to fix the highway, and a relocation project began. The area near the one-time anchorage was eliminated, and the millrace fell into disrepair.

The highway went along close to the curve of the millrace, and it was necessary to dig a new channel, moving the curve farther away. All the trees and shrubbery fell beneath huge machines.

Why was nothing done then? Most of the men students were away fighting, as well as half the faculty. Those left at home were thinking of other things, and no one was watching the Millrace.

Outlook Improving

Several years ago the site was landscaped and the stream was

widened near the physical plant for the new Canoe Fetes.

In the 1955 the Canoe Fete was revived, and immediately thereafter a drive was begun to restore the Millrace to its former beauty.

Alums Enthusiastic

Alumni are eagerly awaiting the outcome of the drive, for many of them have fond memories of the Millrace. For instance:

Don Belding, of Foote, Cone & Belding Advertising Agency in Los Angeles:

"Every higher institution that values its traditions has a gimmick which lingers on in the minds of its graduates for the rest of their lives.

"At the University of Oregon it is the Millrace and the memories it brings. Good luck in your campaign to preserve it and make it even better. You'll never regret it."

Ed Crowley, general manager of the Sheraton Palace Hotel in San Francisco and the Sheraton Town House in Los Angeles:

"Junior Weekend, the old Millrace and the University of Oregon were synonymous. To me and the alumni of the 'roaring twenties' and early thirties, the Millrace was Oregon. I'll be glad to contribute and hope I can help you."

'Nostalgic Feelings'

Jack Mulder, correspondent for Lloyd's of London in Cleveland, Ohio:

"Some of my fondest memories associate the Oregon campus and the Millrace so inseparably that it is difficult to visualize the old campus with the 'Race in such a state of disrepair. No doubt we all recall with nostalgic feelings the picturesque beauty of the Millrace and the fine times it provided for all for swimming, canoeing and other activities.

"My fondest personal memories of the Millrace are associated with the many times when we Phi Delt's hauled all the residents of the Beta house from their snug beds on a cold evening and threw them bodily into the Millrace. This may be a subject of great debate, however true.

"We hope that the enclosure will be found useful."

Now the Millrace dream is almost a reality. If students can raise the money today, work can start this summer. Then, soon, once again there can be the "shady place by the old Millrace" for "dreams of Oregon."

Browser Duck Display Currently in Library

A Browsing Room exhibit, "The Adventures of Browser Duck," is currently on display in the University library circulation lobby. Material available in the Browsing Room are shown in the exhibit, in addition to winners in the Peter Pauper Press essay contest.

Breakfast Tickets Sell

Mothers' Weekend breakfast tickets are on sale at the Student Union main desk for \$1.25. Tickets will be sold through May 15.

The breakfast is scheduled for May 19.

New Recreation Area Planned

Development of a Millrace recreation area is planned once initial restoration of the Millrace itself is completed. No definite date has been set for the building of an anchorage, and the development of recreation facilities for many other expenses come first.

The new anchorage will overlook the Millrace. It will be headquarters for students going to and coming from the Millrace, students who just want a restful place near the water to watch other people, and a place where meetings and banquets can be held.

Facilities to be included in the anchorage were outlined last year in a report to the ASUO Millrace Committee by Si Ellingson, director of the Student Union.

Dining Facilities

The building would have dining facilities large enough to accommodate about 150 people, and a dance floor. He suggested a small soda bar located at the boat and canoe dock level, and possibly a soda bar in connection with the dining facilities. An outdoor terrace will open off the dining-dancing facilities.

Boats and canoes will be stored at the anchorage. There will be several meeting rooms, an apartment for the manager, an office, dressing rooms for swimmers and an equipment rental room.

Types of equipment which may be available to students are bicycles, picnic hampers, ice boxes, portable grills, skiing, hiking and mountain climbing equipment, golf equipment, tennis and badminton.

Develop Recreation Area

The development of the area north of the Millrace is also being considered, and they are many plans which concern this area also.

On the millrace itself, swimming facilities and a dock for boats and canoes will be built.

Plans for the area to be developed include horseshoe pits, tennis courts which can be changed to badminton and volleyball, miniature golf course and putting green, rifle and pistol range, archery range, outdoor shuffleboard courts, an amphitheatre and picnic facilities, including benches, tables and outdoor fireplaces.

REVIEW PETITIONS CALLED

Petitions for Northwest Review literary magazine editor and business manager are due no later than 12 a.m. Tuesday.

Wilson, Brittsan Back Today's Millrace Day

The Millrace has been one of the most beautiful and memorable attractions on the University of Oregon campus for many years and is revered religiously by students, faculty and our alumni.

Its present status is pathetic as we all know, and I'm sure these others know too. The program to restore the 'race to its original self for the enjoyment and admiration of all of us is something we should all appreciate. The 'race can again be an attraction of the University, rivaled by few and equalled by none.

I wholeheartedly endorse the proclamation of Millrace Day and hope that everyone concerned—students, faculty and alumni alike—will support the program to regain this most valuable asset to our campus.

Darrel Brittsan
ASUO President

The Millrace Committee of the ASUO has asked me to proclaim Monday, May 6, as Millrace Day on campus. I take great pleasure in meeting their request.

Throughout the years, no single feature of the campus

Development Fund To Pay Additional Restoration Cost

Providing that the University student body is able to raise \$10,000 by June 1, the University of Oregon Development Fund has agreed to pay the remainder of the University's share of the initial Millrace restoration cost.

Students have already raised \$7000, and now only \$3000 needs to be raised during this last month. The Development Fund's share will amount to between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

The University of Oregon Development Fund is a non-profit corporation set up to help channel gifts presented to the University into projects which will help to improve the University and increase its prestige.

Membership is made up of 24 alumni of the University. These men find out needs of the University which can't be filled by state funds. Then they find ways in which these funds can be raised. Most of these funds come through grants and gifts from alumni.

had greater meaning to students and alumni than did the Millrace. Few campuses could rival it; none could duplicate its beauty.

Today this is not the case. What was once a sparkling, swift-running stream has become a sluggish, mud-laden pond. This can be remedied. The Millrace can be restored to its former beauty if all will join in the effort.

I would like to urge every member of the student body, faculty, and staff to lend their fullest support to the Millrace drive. To do so will be to restore to the University and to Eugene, one of its most beautiful and useful attractions.

O. Meredith Wilson
President

Ion Lewis Grant Given to Michael

Gary Michael, a fifth year student in architecture and allied arts, was awarded the 1957 Ion Lewis Traveling Scholarship in architecture.

Michael will use the \$2000 award to go on tour as a "traveling fellow" of the university. After completing his baccalaureate degree work in June he will leave for a six-month stay in Europe.

During this time he will study and travel, visiting such important architectural centers as London, Paris, Chartres, Rheims, Nice, Florence, Rome Athens, Istanbul, Venice, Lucerne, and Berlin.

The scholarship was founded under the will of the late Ion Lewis, pioneer Portland architect, to advance the architecture profession in the state.

AWS Asks Women For New Rule Ideas

Any women students, freshmen or upper classmen, wishing to make recommendations concerning women's rules have been asked to either mail them or drop them in the mail box of the office of Associated Women Students on the third floor of the Student Union. The request was made by Bev Landon, chairman of the AWS standards committee, which is currently investigating women's rules.