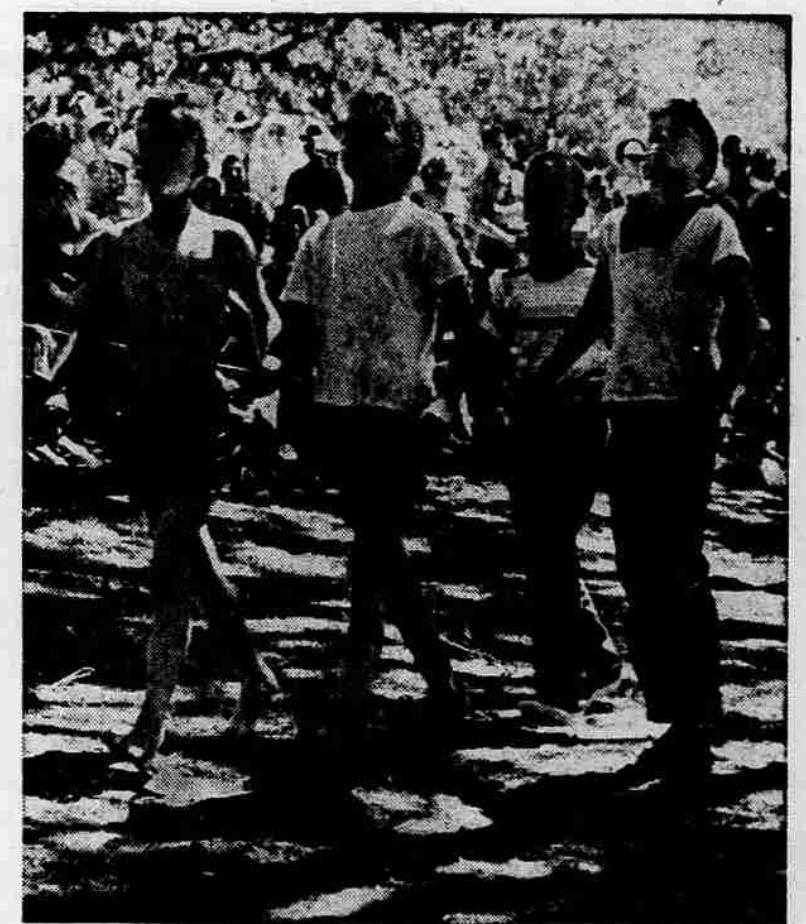




A pair of pretty little tap dancers who provided entertainment for the 1955 Catfish Derby are shown here during their numbers. The dancers are Cecelia Kee (at left) and Judy Morris, both students of Colleen Hope's studio.



The queen and princesses were honored at the annual dinner which precedes the Derby, and flashed their prettiest smiles in their pose. Queen Betty Miller is shown standing at left, with Princess Linda Durkee beside her and seated are Princess Pat Eckel (at left) and Princess Myrna Calloway.



Winner in the spoon and egg contest was Bucky Sullivan (at left) while Mike Neathamer (far right) was second. Jimmy Norlander (striped jersey) was third. The fourth contestant remains unidentified. Another fun contest was the pie-eating race, with contestants' hands tied behind their backs.



On Catfish Derby day the queen and her court dress in shorts and blouses and the princesses wear the traditional headgear—a black derby hat. Queen Betty Miller is shown here with Kingfisher Frank DeSouza (at left) who placed the tinsel crown on her head, and posing with her (left to right) are Princesses Pat Eckel, Linda Durkee and Myrna Calloway. At right is H. B. Shaw, who with Kingfisher DeSouza judged the contests. The idea of a Catfish Derby was the brain child of Kingfishers DeSouza and Frank Perl.

MEDFORD  TRIBUNE
SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 1955

Catfish Derby Attracts Hundreds

By OLIVE STARCHER

That unique Jackson county event, the annual Catfish Derby, was held last Sunday at TouVelle park, attracting a crowd estimated at 4,500 by the sponsoring group, Medford 20-30 club. The Derby is a family playday, and everyone from great-grandpa to the littlest tads join in the fun.

Queen Betty Miller ruled over the 1955 Derby, and members of her court were the Misses Pat Eckel, Linda Durkee and Myrna Calloway. The queen and court were chosen by their classmates at Medford Junior High school before school closed.

The program of music, dancing and contests was climaxed by the fish derby with prizes for the most fish, the smallest, the largest and to the youngest and oldest fishermen.

(Brainerd photos).



James Clyde Hostutler, Lake Creek, 89, won the prize for being the Republican registered for the longest period; Mrs. Effie Permenter (center) received a prize for the Democrat registered for the longest period of time and Mrs. C. E. Naffziger, Medford, second prize for the longest-registered Democrat. Many prizes were given, including one to couple married the longest time, to the owner of the oldest car, to the youngest person and to couple with largest family.



Catfish Derby fans came from all parts of the county for the annual event. Many families make it an annual outing and arrived with picnic dinners, lawn chairs, and toys to keep the children happy. Concession stands provided that all-American treat, the hot dog, soft drinks and ice cream bars. Members of 20-30 club, a service group, stage the Derby as a treat for families of the district who enjoy such outings and although they seldom make a large profit, if any funds are netted this is donated for charitable work in the community.



Final plans for the annual Catfish Derby are always made at a dinner traditionally given a few days before the event. This year's dinner was held at the Rogue room of the Medford hotel and was attended by club members, Kingfisher Frank DeSouza, the queen and princesses. Pictured here are (left to right) Dick Schuchard, who served as master of ceremonies for the Derby program, Laurel Krause, Kingfisher DeSouza and Dick Frost.



Among the Derby winners was William Edwards, shown here with his two-pound catfish judged the largest entered in the contest. Smallest was of minnow size.



Jules Padois, 80, Jacksonville, judged champion catfisher, receives prize from Queen Betty. Derby rules say catfish may be caught anywhere, and Mr. Padois fished at Willow Springs. Mr. Padois was oldest fisherman in Derby.