

RECORDS, TITLE AND CUP TO "MISS BARDAHL"

► Three records, two national titles and victory in the second annual San Diego Cup regatta were achieved by Ron Musson driving *Miss Bardahl* in the last unlimited race of the season. A spectacular fire in Harrah's *Tahoe Miss* plus a record breaking performance thrilled the crowd of 40,000 along Mission Bay as a full program of nine heats were run under ideal water conditions on Oct. 3.

Posting a total of 7,777 points for the the season, *Miss Bardahl* won the national high point title for the third straight year and it was the second unlimited driving honor for Ron Musson. *Notre Dame* with Rex Manchester behind the controls scored runner-up honors with 6,364 pts.

All lap, heat and 45-mile race records over a three-mile course were erased by *Bardahl*. Her lap mark of 117.878 m.p.h. bettered the 117.647 set on the same course last year by *Miss Exide*; *Bardahl's* heat speed of 116.079 m.p.h. improved the former tops of 113.660 posted by Musson last year on Mission Bay; and the overall 45-mile average of 115.057 m.p.h. surpassed the previous high of 109.459 set two years ago by *Tahoe Miss* in Seattle.

With the course limited to five boats, the 16 entries were divided into four sections in each of the two elimination heats. In the initial heat, San Diego Cup defending champion *Mariner Too* made a perfect start from the outside lane to lead *Tahoe Miss*, *Such Crust IV*, and *Savair's Mist* over the line. Coming

up fast on the inside spot at the first turn, Chuck Thompson in *Tahoe Miss* was hit by a deluge of water from *Mariner's* roostertail as Gardner cut sharply to the buoy line. This knocked the *Tahoe* entry out of action as *Mariner* pulled away and powered up the backstretch well into the lead until lap #2 when engine trouble sent the craft to the pits. Jack Schafer's twin Allison-powered, *Such Crust IV* with Fred Alter at the controls, took over to come home the winner. *Savair's Mist* trailed.

Rex Manchester ran a perfect race in Heat 1-B. An excellent start put *Notre Dame* well into the lead which Manchester increased on each lap to finish 45.2 seconds ahead of *Miss Budweiser*. Rookie Rex Bixby driving \$ *Bill* constantly challenged for second from his outside position and came across only 15 feet back. *Miss Tri City Sun* took fourth.

Bill Brow brought *Miss Exide* over the starting line a fraction too early in Heat 1-C. "Leading" the pack during the five-lap heat, Bill was actually a lap behind *Miss Madison* and *Miss Smirnoff*. Confusing to many of the spectators, *Miss Exide* instead of taking first was awarded third after lapping the home-town *Miss San Diego* on Brow's fourth go-around. The starting camera upheld Referee Newton's decision that *Exide* had jumped the gun.

Heat 1-D was a complete walk-away for *Miss Bardahl*. The "green dragon" posted the fastest 15-mile heat ever recorded on a three-mile course. *Berryessa Belle*, former *Slo-Mo-Shun V* and holder of two Gold Cup victories, was runner-up with *Savair's Probe* third. On

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mediately moved in to get Chuck and subdue the stubborn fuel-fed flames. Preliminary inspection revealed the all-metal hull withstood the 15 minutes of intense heat remarkably well. It is believed the craft can be repaired to race another day. Most important, Thompson sustained only light burns. As soon as Chuck entered the water the race was halted and re-scheduled after Heat 2-D.

Miss Bardahl made Heat 2-C nearly a repeat of her earlier contest. Musson completely dominated all five laps winning at a near record average of 115.-355 m.p.h. Only seconds before the one minute gun, *Miss Smirnoff* pulled onto the course, headed directly to the starting line to come over second followed by *Bill* and *Tri City Sun*. And that's just the way they finished.

At the start of Heat 2-D Buddy Byers had *Miss Madison* at the line just as the gun sounded. *Miss San Diego* and *Such Crust IV* followed. To the dismay of the home town crowd, Alter steered the massive *Such Crust* past *San Diego* on lap #2. From that point on, it was *Madison* in front followed by *Such Crust* and *San Diego*. *Mariner Too* went dead 100 feet past the starting line.

The re-run of Heat 2-B held a high stake in the over-all finish of the regatta. With all points considered, it was determined that only the winner would be eligible for the final heat. At the start, *Miss Exide* immediately jumped into the lead with *Budweiser* second and *Savair's Mist* third. Brow extended his advantage on each lap to lead by 37.3 seconds at the end and thereby qualify for a position in the final event.

The top five high point contenders selected from the preliminary heats went into the final go-around. The outcome of the regatta rested on the battle among *Miss Bardahl*, *Miss Madison* and *Notre Dame*. Each had 800 points. *Such Crust* had an outside chance with 700. Fifth was *Miss Exide*, 625.

At the important start, Manchester brought *Notre Dame* across the line a moment before the gun followed by legal starters *Bardahl*, *Madison*, *Exide* and *Such Crust* in that order. Around the first corner and up the backstretch *Notre Dame* led the closely bunched pack. On turn #2, Musson slipped past *Notre Dame* and into the lead with a blistering 114.89 m.p.h. first lap pace. Ron matched this with another on the following circuit to literally wrap up the heat and regatta victory for the *Bardahl* camp. Behind the fleeting Champ, *Notre Dame* was forced to drop out from a "stretched" blower with *Exide* moving up to second. *Madison* maintained third and *Such Crust* fourth to complete a long day of unlimited racing—nine heats and 10 starts.

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her second lap *Berryessa Belle* lifted her bow to a kiting position reminiscent to many veterans of the time the late Lou Fageol did a complete somersault in the same hull during qualification for the 1955 Gold Cup in Seattle. This time she settled back in the water.

The 14-year-old *Berryessa Belle* made a perfect start with Bob Miller at the controls to lead *Notre Dame* and *Savair's Probe* to the first corner and up the backstretch of heat 2-A. *Notre Dame* went by on the second turn to take the lead which Manchester held to the finish. Engine trouble forced Bill Muncey in *Miss U.S. V* to drop out on the third corner as the *Belle* retained second spot with *Savair's Probe* third.

At the start of Heat 2-B it appeared both *Miss Exide* and *Tahoe Miss* were out to rectify their poor showing earlier. As the two roared into the first turn, the Tahoe entry suddenly exploded into a mass of flames when the engine's supercharger "blew," knocking the carburetor off and igniting its volatile mixture. The fire enveloped the craft so quickly, Thompson had only time to shield his face as he went overboard—leaving untouched switches controlling the built-in fire extinguishing system and the electrically-operated fuel pumps. Patrol and rescue craft im-