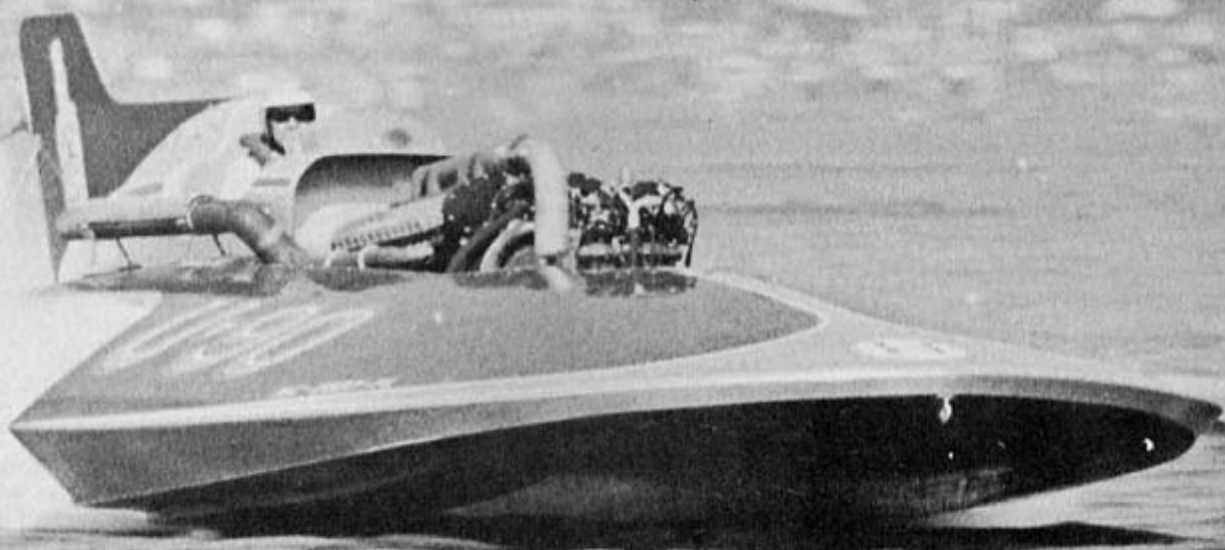


Miss Smirnoff Makes a Victory Cocktail



By Eileen Crimmin

ON A BAD LUCK day, Sept. 13th, the bad luck boat, *Tahoe Miss*, went out to race on bad water in the 33rd Annual President's Cup Regatta. Cold, constant rain was blown by light wind over water so rough officials, owners and drivers argued whether it was safe to race. Repeated postponement brought withdrawal by *Notre Dame* after her first heat, and this reduced the 17-boat field to 16.

True to optimistic prediction *Tahoe Miss* led a Heat 1A parade to first place finish with 98.253-mph. *Notre Dame* was second, *Savair's Mist* and *U.S. V* were third and fourth.

Heat 1B livened slow action with a restart after *Budweiser* spun out in the

upper turn. Though Chuck Hickling warped the boat into racing shape again it was too late to stop a worried official from triggering a flare. The restart followed a squall that smoothed water sufficiently for *Bardahl* to romp home with a 108.958 mph speed. And ailing, smoking *Madison* was second, *Budweiser* and *Gale V* third and fourth.

Heat 1C brought *Smirnoff* a 104.186 mph win with *Such Crust* second and *Tempo* third because of circling to pick up a missed buoy.

This pattern of initial heats resembling exhibitions reflects each camp's tendency to play it safe enough to be ready to battle during remaining heats and the Final.

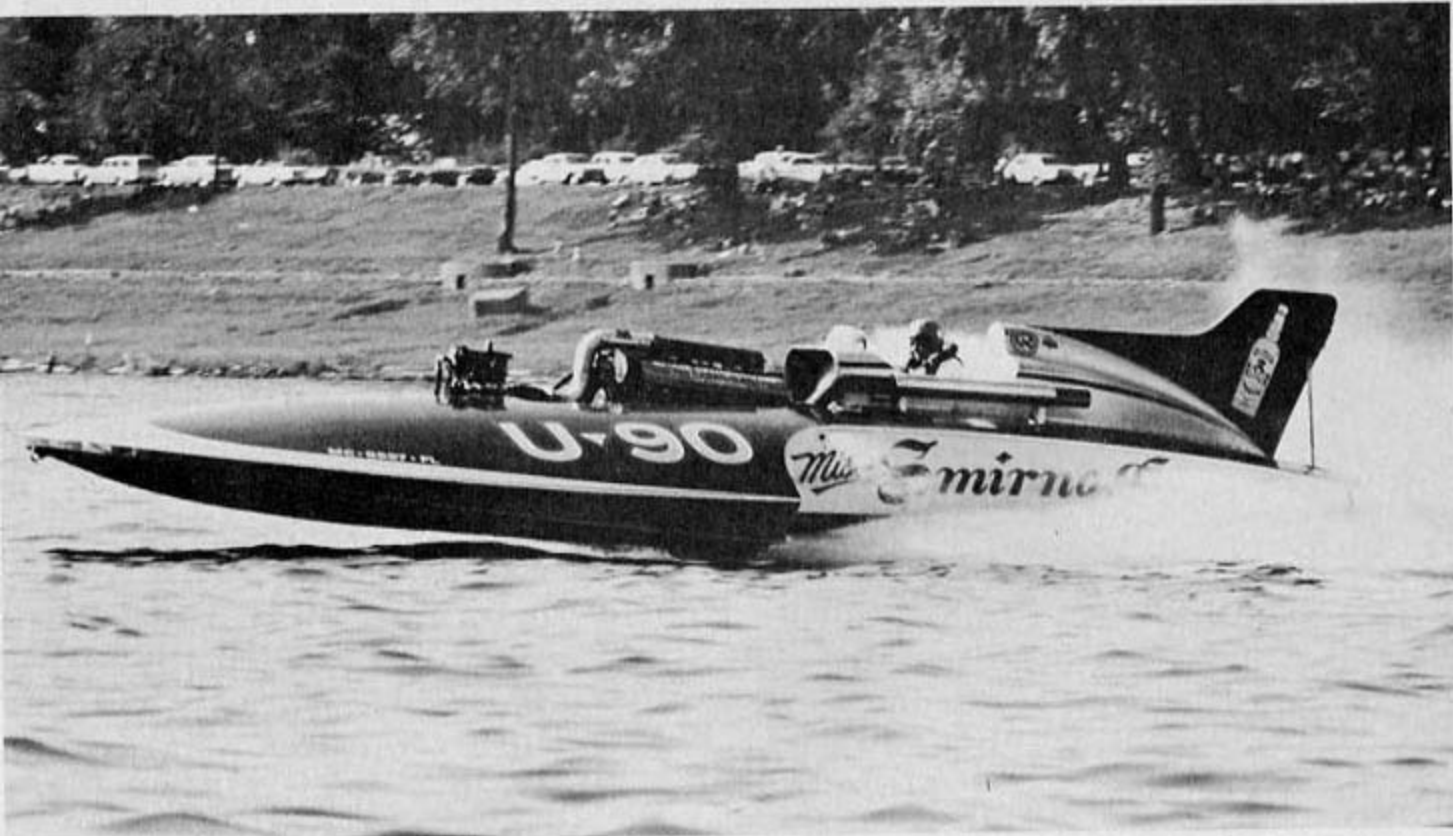
Following a 30-minute postponement Heat 2A brought *Budweiser*, *Gale V*,

Madison, *Savair's Mist*, *Mariner Too* and *Blue Chip* early to the start. *Madison* and *Gale* scrapped for second and in lap three *Madison* got it. In lap four *Gale* regained second behind *Budweiser* who, surprise, was found to have jumped the gun!

Madison won the heat with 103.349 mph, *Gale* was second followed by *Blue Chip*, *Budweiser* (extra lap penalty), *Savair's Mist* and *Mariner Too*.

In Heat 2B all boats started and finished in the same order. *Tahoe Miss* averaged 109.644 mph to win. *Smirnoff*, *Bardahl*, *U.S. V* and *Tempo* followed. *Such Crust* recorded a DNS. The excitement of the heat was *Smirnoff's* second place at 109.400 mph.

The Final looked like an easy *Tahoe Miss* victory because she led in points



BOB CARVER

Smirnoff was a surprise winner at Washington, D.C., with Bill Cantrell driving, the boat showed amazing speed for a newcomer.

with *Madison* and *Smirnoff* tied for second. *Bardahl*, *Gale V* and *U.S. V* completed the field.

In a rather confused start with several boats alternately leading toward the turn, *Smirnoff* emerged in the lead by the end of lap one. *Bardahl* was close behind and even *Gale V* was ahead of *Tahoe Miss*!

But in lap two *Tahoe Miss* began picking off the competition. First *Gale V*, then *Bardahl* were passed as Thompson in *Tahoe Miss* charged after *Smirnoff*. But Cantrell herded that motating gin bin through 112 and 113 mph laps that even *Tahoe* couldn't surpass.

During a sizzling lap three a spurt of flame issued from her engine. By lap four blue smoke poured from *Tahoe's* left engine bank. It foretold the end.

Meanwhile, *U.S. V* moved from last to fifth place. Then, as *Tahoe Miss* entered the fifth lap she skidded to a halt in the lower turn leaving *Smirnoff* the heat winner at 108.346 mph with *Bardahl* second followed by *Madison*, *U.S. V* and *Gale V*. In overall standings it was *Smirnoff* with 1100 points, *Madison*, 1000; *Tahoe Miss*, 800; and *Bardahl*, 752.

There was little time to bemoan *Tahoe Miss'* loss because another race was shaping up on the adding machine. *Madison* was within striking distance of the *Bardahl's* national high point standing. Unless Musson pulled a win at Tahoe the steady, stock *Madison* helmed skillfully (and sometimes hair-raisingly) by Buddy Byers, was in position to wrest a title from hot boat *Bardahl*.



• Miss Madison, runner-up to Bardahl for the '64 national championship, placed second to Smirnoff for the President's Cup off a Heat 2A win. LEO WILDMAN



• Standing behind *Tahoe Miss* for the "hard-luck" title of the year, was *U.S. V*. After a poor outing at Washington, it had an engine dropped on its deck at Tahoe. BOB CARVER