



PAUL THOMAS

With a shower of spray almost enveloping boat behind, Ron Musson takes *Miss Bardahl* around the mark on Seattle's Lake Washington.

Ron Musson Wins his Third Gold Cup

This was to be the season that the new *Miss Bardahl* made her debut in unlimited hydro racing, but the lack of a gearbox meant she would not be ready in time. Nothing daunted, Ole Bardahl's crew went to work on the old boat, affectionately called the "Green

Dragon," and Ron Musson drove her to victory on Seattle's Lake Washington for his and *Miss Bardahl*'s third straight Gold Cup.

Musson won his first and second heats and took second to Bill Brow in *Miss Exide* in their third heat. All but *Miss Exide* had jumped the gun and were required to make an additional lap of the course.

In the final, *Miss Exide* caught fire while leading, forcing Brow to jump. This automatically stopped the race. Musson took the lead at the start of

the re-run and held it until the finish. *Notre Dame*, driven by Rex Manchester, was second.

The fire completely consumed *Miss Exide* in spite of efforts of the Coast Guard and a Seattle fireboat to extinguish it. Thus ended the career of a boat that has often shown great promise in unlimited racing. In this race she had been fastest qualifier by 5 mph with a speed of 120.356 and had the fastest lap in any of the heats. *Exide* earned fourth place on the final point tally.—*Jack Seville*