

# Dedicate Millstone On Heritage Day



A FORESTRY DEPARTMENT worker puts the final clean-up touches on the millstone which will be mounted at the site of the Old Grist Mill on Heritage Day, Friday, May 17. The millstone, a replica of the original implement used to grind flour, was found in the Thumb area of Michigan three years ago.

Dedication ceremonies at the Old Grist Mill will highlight afternoon activities on Heritage Day, Friday, May 17, at 3 p.m. during Birmingham's Centennial celebration.

A bronze plaque will be placed on the millstone, a replica of the original implement used to grind flour, by Mayor Charles W. Renfrew. The site of the mill, which began operations in 1877, is located at Maple and Baldwin. The inscription on the plaque will read:

"ON THIS site for eighty-three years stood a grist mill that ground grain into flour for the Birmingham community. Built in 1835 by Roswell T. Merrill, the wooden mill—powered by water from the mill

pond (now Quarton Lake)—served local farmers until 1918.

A poem, written by Robert Louis Stevenson, will also be inscribed: "Here is the mill with the humming of thunder,

Here is the weir with the wonder of foam, Here is the sluice with the race running under  
Marvelous places, though handy to home!"

The city commissioners have approved the inscription and poem, which was submitted by the History and Heritage Committee under its chairman, James K. Flack.

A BRIEF history of the mill would begin in 1833 when two brothers, Josephus and John J.

Young, purchased a tract of land, the greater portion of what is now the Quarton Lake Estate subdivision, and built a saw mill. Both the land and the mill was sold in 1935 to Roswell T. Merrill, who rearranged the dam and head-race on the River Rouge and built a "flouring mill a short distance below the Young saw mill."

Merrill apparently over extended himself in business interests and the mill "fell into the hands of eastern creditors," according to an 1877 history of Birmingham.

The mill changed hands several times within the next years, but was destroyed by fire in 1868. It was rebuilt in 1890 by its new owner, R. E. Trowbridge. At the time a history was written in 1877 the mill was operated by G. K.

Opdyke, the son of an earlier proprietor.

NEXT IT came into the hands of Orrin Poppleton, then Mrs. Helen Opdyke, next a man named P. Hauptner.

At the turn of the century, it was owned by W. E. McClellan and G. H. Saterlee, who also owned a grain and feed store on East Maple. Their head miller was W. A. Burzaw and the flour produced was called Moss Rose Brand. The last of the millers was Niles and Sarah Hansen, who bought the site in 1910, but sold it in 1915 to Reginald C. Pryor.

It seems likely that the mill closed down in 1915 since the specifications for building homes in Quarton Lake Estates were issued

## Adult Ed. Available To Early Residents

Birmingham had adult education classes way back in 1878 only they weren't called by that name.

On Monday evenings about 75 members of a "singing school" met once a week at 7 p.m. at the Presbyterian church.

The instructor called himself Professor Webster and claimed to offer the best of instruction. The tuition was 75 cents for a 16 week term.

Though fossil camel forms suggest that the Arabian camel may have arisen in India, camel tribes began in North America. The first camels were about the size of a fox.

on May 25, 1916. It was torn down in 1919.

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## Recreation Board Sets Youth Carp Carnival

A centennial celebration may bring back memories for Birmingham's older folks, but it also provides a happy occasion for the young, thanks to the city's recreation department.

During Centennial Week, the younger citizens will have their own day. The Birmingham Recreation Board has set aside Saturday, May 23, as Youth Activities Day. Don Martin, recreation director, has scheduled the annual Carp Carnival in Quarton Lake as the main event of the day.

THE CARNIVAL, sponsored by the Recreation Board, is for boys and girls under 14 years of age. The contest will be held on the east bank of Quarton Lake from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Prizes will be awarded by the Recreation Board for the largest fish, greatest number of fish, smallest fish, youngest fisherman and most unusual fishing equipment.

Boys and girls will be divided into age divisions for purposes of presenting awards. Children may enter the contest anytime from 9:30 a.m. on but recreation officials urge fishermen to enter as near 9:30 a.m. as possible.

The Carp Carnival is an annual

event of Michigan Week, but this year will also be a feature of Centennial Week. Approximately 300 persons participated in and watched the contest last year.

WARREN KENDALL, Conservation Department officer, will judge the contest. Ribbons will be awarded winners. Bait will be furnished, but fishermen will have to supply their own hook, line and pole.

The Birmingham Optimist Club will sponsor a bike race for boys and girls in the first through eighth grades at Elon Park on May 23 at 4 p.m.

An obstacle course will be set up in the park and boys and girls will be divided into separate groups. Age divisions will also be determined.

However, in the event the MSU band presents a concert at 4 p.m. May 23, the bike race will be rescheduled to another day.

BESIDES THE special activities on Youth Day, the recreation department will hold its usual program. More than 2,000 boys will be playing baseball and 900 other youngsters will be taking swimming lessons.

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