

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

June 25, 1959

The upcoming Bass Festival Celebration brings back memories of its origins back in the 1930's. Back then the event was synonymous with activity along the Paint River. The fabulous Paint River float trip, which ranged from anywhere from five to fifteen miles in length, was the highlight of the celebration. Plans were made weeks in advance for the big trip with checks of the sea-worthiness of boats, camping gear retrieved from storage, tested for dry-rot and cleaned of mildew. Preparations involved the erection of all contrivances erected along the banks of the river where "fishermen" had set up camp awaiting an early morning start on festival day. The echoes of boisterous sounds along the banks sounded well into the night which related to different pursuits. Campers with their reels oiled and tackle boxes crammed with hundreds of varied lures awaited the break of dawn to begin the journey down river. Many missed the early morning start because of too much "preparation" the night before. The area above the Falls Dam was the pull-out spot where the official judging and awards to the winners of the fishing contest took place.