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Mr SHARIN  
13. EPR

Ken

The Barnado's organisation is to arrange for a "Star" (probably a rock n' roller or Pop singer) to appear. More details of this later.

END CLIFFE VALL RD  
SHEFFIELD

So that Rag Ball will merit its name, novelties will be arranged: and we don't mean paper hats. 16.0

The Procession of Floats.

Saturday, October 29th.

Start: 10 a.m. Finish approximately 11-15 a.m.

Route: Through the centre of Sheffield. See attached map.

In money raising ability, Sheffield University Rag lies third among English Universities, after Manchester and Newcastle. But it is generally agreed that Sheffield's Procession is the finest in the country. This is probably because this event has been well established for over 30 years and because a high degree of police co-operation (the streets of the City are closed for a while) allows more than thirty lorries to participate. 9

A Rose Bowl is awarded annually to the builders of the best float and some remarkable results are achieved, especially by the Engineering and Architecture Faculties. Floats are built and entered by University Societies, Faculties and Halls and by associate Colleges.

More than 100,000 spectators are estimated to watch the Procession each year and over £2000, mainly in pennies, is thrown at the "raggers". The latter figure confirms the popularity of the event (something like 250,000 pennies and half-pennies are passed to the Bank on Rag Day evening.)

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The Procession last appeared on cinema newsreels in 1954.

Rag Day Night.

*possible*

On the evening of Rag Day (October 29th.), the focus shifts to two centres. In the Central Technical College, volunteers count the money collected as the students return their collecting tins. As the evening progresses, an "election-like" atmosphere sets in the Hall as the total climbs towards last year's record total (£8,800 went to the charities, eventually.)

Meanwhile a Carnival atmosphere runs through the Sheffield evening as weary raggers (some half drunk, others dead drunk) converge on the University and join the Torchlight Procession which, hundreds strong, makes its way to the Bonfire; an enormous pyre made by burning the floats from the morning's Procession.

A roving cine-camera in Sheffield on Rag Night could hardly fail to capture some vivid shots.

The Rag Boat Race.

Saturday, October 29th.

Start: 2-30                      Finish 3-00 to 3-15.

Venue: River Don, Sheffield, from.

This event, unique among University Rags, has been very popular for many years with the thousands of spectators who line the two mile course, standing three or four deep to watch.

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The rules of the race demand that the boats be built by the participant and that "the materials cost less than £1". There are prizes of equal value for the first boat to finish, and for the most original "decorated" boat; there is also a ladies prize.

Last year there were over 50 entries, about half of whom finished; most of the remainder sank as a result of the failure of the boat to hold water or the crew to hold out against the chilly, dirty October river.

A few boats failed to finish after meeting gangs of wreckers who supported rival craft. There is strong, almost bitter rivalry between the Men's Halls of Residence in this race, which is preceded by moonlight raids and pitched battles in the boat-building workshops of the various Halls.

The Boat Race was filmed by Movietone News in 1954 and featured in cinema newsreels. It would appear to be an eminently suitable event for televising, perhaps as a live broadcast. The Sheffield Rag Boat Race is well-established and well organised and has never, within current memory, been less than a huge success with the spectators.