

Hydroplane:

Water-Flier

Gene Whipp in "Little Mogul" Is Completely Airborne As He Races Down Ohio River

By JIM NICHOLS, Daily News Staff Writer

The water turns to a streak of churning white. A man crouched over the wheel guides a shell of a boat around a buoy and over the finish line.

Behind him other drivers strain to get speed from their crafts as the boats, like an angry swarm of bees, pursue the leader.

On shore excited spectators watch and cheer their favorites.

THIS SCENE is repeated almost every weekend during the spring, summer and fall as hydroplane racing enthusiasts follow the racing shells.

Since the close of World War II boating as a recreation has grown to a place of prominence among leisure seeking

Americans. Hand-in-hand with it has grown the interest in racing boats—especially the speedy hydroplanes.

Last February area boat racing enthusiasts formed the Dayton Motor Boat Racing association, an affiliate of the American Power boat association.

STARTING WITH just a few members under Commodore Gene Whipp it has grown to where it has more than 100.

Its purpose, according to one of the charter members, Phil Kunz, is "to promote boat racing and water sports in general."

Its immediate goal, also according to Kunz, is "to stage a regatta in the Dayton area at any desirable site."

MOST OF THE members and drivers

now rendezvous at the Boat House on South Dixie.

Area regattas are held at such places as Celina on Grand Lake, Columbus on the Scioto river, Cincinnati on the Ohio river and Madison, Ind., on the Ohio.

AT PRESENT a group of Daytonians are at Morgan City, La., taking part in the national hydroplane championships.

They include Richard Boyer of Germantown, the national point leader, and Eastern division champion in 48 cubic inch craft.

Others are Jim Davies, 145 cubic inch Eastern division champion; Dave Thomas, 7 litre Eastern division titleholder; Charles Fyffe, Joe Fyffe, David Koch, Ronni Brunner and Elroy Spicker.