

Cannon Booms— Finally

By CARL HOWARD

When Dayton's first Inboard Regatta in 11 years finally drew to a close at Eastwood Lake yesterday, Commodore Gene Whipp of the Dayton Motor Boat association was able to settle back and give a big sigh of relief. The race had gone off without a hitch — almost.

BEFORE THE RACE began, the official starting and signaling cannon fell into the lake and had to be retrieved by a skin-diver. After the cannon had been cleaned and set up again it was fired — and caught the starting flag on fire.

After the blaze had been extinguished, the power failed and all the timing clocks had to be restarted. Then two boats flipped over and another caught fire.

But in spite of these few inconveniencies the race came off on schedule with everybody happy.

THE BOAT DRIVERS had nothing but praise for the course. "It is a beautiful lake," said Jovial Dean Chenoweth of Xenia, E Class.

"We want to race up here from now on," said William Sterett, driver of the 140 mph. "Miss Crazy Thing," and 1965 7 Litre, Junior Gold Cup points leader. "It is one of the best race courses in the country. I was a little afraid of the seaweed though," he said. Two of the drivers had fouled their props in the recently cut, floating seaweed.

"We are well pleased with the race in general and especially the crowd turnout, said Whipp. "We will have this race against next year."