

Fifty years of magic

By Carol Swink

The historic events of 1945 included more than the birth of the United Nations and the close of World War II, the year also marked the beginning of a cherished Meredith College tradition.

Cornhuskin', originally called Corn Husking Bee, was developed by the A.A. (Athletic Association) with the assistance of Doris Peterman, a physical education professor.

The event was designed in honor of new students to the college, especially freshmen.

The first Cornhuskin' was held in the Dining Hall, with events beginning at 6:15 p.m. and ending at 8:15 p.m. Following the class competitions, the Folk Dance Club performed for both students and faculty in the courtyard.

In addition to a rustic barnyard scene, a unique aspect of Cornhuskin' was that students went with "partners." One student would dress up as a girl, with a frilly dress, gloves, and a fancy bonnet, while the other student would dress as a boy, with a plaid flannel shirt, blue jeans and a frayed rope belt.

Throughout the years, many Cornhuskin' events developed. Some of the events such as hog calling, corn shucking, apple bobbing and tall tale still exist today.

Chicken calling and hog calling were presumed to be similar events, yet one can only guess the many ways in which to call a chicken. The winner of the chicken calling event received a basket of eggs and the hog

calling victor appropriately won a piggy bank. The winner of the corn husking competition received a corn cob pipe.

In an earlier event, known as the sing-song contest, one student from each class would sing a musical selection in front of everyone gathered for the Cornhuskin' competition.

This competition was not judged on musical talent, but according to the October 1945 edition of the Meredith newspaper, *The Twig*, students were judged on showing "pure corn and hill-billy-ishness."

Tall tale was developed in 1949. A class representative for the event attempted to relate the most original and unbelievable story imaginable. In today's version of the tall tale, class representatives dress up as an inanimate object to explain their incredible tales.

In 1957, two diverse events developed: a pie eating contest and a cow-milking contest, where, according to *The History of Meredith College* by Mary Lynch Johnson, classes were instructed to "make its own cow."

Class themes began in 1957 with the sophomore class devising the first theme.

The only class to be victorious all four years was the class of 1960.

Throughout 50 years of Cornhuskin', some students may think that "It's a Jungle in Here," or may believe it is "A Three Ring Circus." But, "Abracadabra," with the continued magic of Cornhuskin', its golden anniversary is celebrated with Meredith pride. And, after these 50 years, "If They Could See Us Now!"



The seniors piece together their theme through Can Art.



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When: November 18th, 9:30AM-2:15PM

Where: Dogwood A&B below Belk Dining Hall

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Cost: \$10 members; \$15 non-members (\$5 will be refunded if you join NCAFCS during the conference) This money will cover luncheon, handouts, and speaker costs. If you want to sit in on one particular speaker, there is no charge.

The Acorn (Meredith's own literary and art magazine) is taking submissions for this year's edition. If you like to write poetry or short fiction, or if you have art or photography that you feel should be published, the Acorn needs you! Submissions can be placed in the box by the English and history office in Joyner or in Cate Center. If you have any questions, call Deanna at 859-3819.

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