

# 80-year-old Methodist junior running for homecoming

FAYETTEVILLE—(UPI)—At 80 years of age, Alice Pearce doesn't look like a college junior, much less a candidate for homecoming queen.

But according to tradition, the homecoming queen at Methodist College is supposed to represent school spirit and popularity. And Pearce says she has plenty of both.

She holds down the jobs of great-grandmother, grandmother, mother and a part-time worker for the Fayetteville Symphony besides her work toward a degree in English. Her activities have given rise to a rumor that she has already burned out two heart pacemakers.

"I'm on my second pacemaker, but it's not because I burned the first one out," she said during a short break in her biology lab.

Her 18 opponents in the competition are

all young enough to be her granddaughters, but the contest has no talent or beauty competition, and Pearce figures that also gives her an edge.

She said if she does win the voting, which took place Wednesday, it may have something to do with her son, Richard Pearce, president of the college.

"He's a big man on campus, you know," she tells folks with a grin.

She said her son was behind her all the way. "He said they already call me the dowager queen, so I might as well go all the way."

Pearce said she decided to enter on the urging of the students.

If she wins, Pearce says she plans to take part in all the things expected of a homecoming queen, such as dances, bon fires, and pep rallies.

# Huggins

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He pointed to a picture of a young man in brogan boots and an oversized suit. "That's Andy Griffith. I gave him his first job as an entertainer." He told Griffith a football story and asked him to tell it at a hardware dealers' convention. Griffith later made the story into the hit record, "What It Was, Was Football."

The headline, "Tarheels March on Durham" brought another story from Huggins. "When word came over the wires that we had beaten Alabama in the 1924 Southern Basketball Championship, a bunch of us gathered in front of the university president's house and raised hell. Somebody shouted, 'Let's march to Durham,' so I climbed on somebody's shoulders and asked for a show of hands. It was unanimous."

Over 400 rowdy students formed a column which stretched for a half mile. They set out for Durham, with Huggins running up and down the ranks, urging the on. At 4 a.m. the group arrived at the homes of "Sprat" Cobb and "Cart" Carmichael, two of the winning players.

"Mrs. Carmichael came out and congratulated us," Huggins said. "She apologized for not having enough food to feed us. So after we serenaded them, we marched into town to eat breakfast. We ate those cafes plumb out of eggs and cereal."

The students piled into taxis after they finished eating and rode back to Chapel Hill. Most of them made it to their eight o'clock classes.

Huggins admitted that some of his antics did not work so well. There was the time that he took the band to its first away game. He rented a bus and off they went to Richmond

for a game against Virginia. The bus broke down on the way home and Huggins spent the rest of the night hitching rides for the others.

Graduation in 1925 was a big letdown. "I was right lonely that first year, but the next fall, they invited me back as a guest cheerleader. What a welcome that crowd gave me when I jumped the picket fence and ran out on the field. That crowd yelled like hell."

Huggins taught civics and coached the drama team at Winston Salem Reynolds High for a year after graduation. He led the team to a state championship in drama and to a third place finish at the International Drama Festival in New York. Huggins was a UNC Playmaker and an inter-collegiate debator himself as an undergraduate.

The year at Reynolds was the only time Huggins has spent away from Chapel Hill. He lives with his wife, Rebecca, in a modest, two-story brick home on Ransom St. Rose bushes and other flowers grow in the yard. Inside, bookcases and framed pictures line the walls. He has a woodworking shop in the basement, where he makes some of his colonial style furniture.

A trophy room upstairs holds many of his golf trophies, bridge-playing awards and other mementos from his cheerleading days.

Huggins' name is familiar to Chapel Hill residents. Merchants remember him as an enthusiastic businessman. He managed Huggins Hardware on Franklin St. for 25 years.

"Vic went about everything he did with enthusiasm," said Ronald Matheson, who worked for Huggins in the hardware store. "If I set up a display that he liked, he would



Vic Huggins, shown here in his trophy room, is known by many as one of the most popular promoters of school spirit UNC has ever had. His accomplishments range from creating the fight song, and introducing the mascot Rameses to football games. Staff photo by Fred Barbour.

praise me and give me a silver dollar. That's the kind of man he is."

Daisy Mae Hartley, a Roses employee, has known him for 35 years. "Mr. Huggins used to come in and talk for hours. He still comes in to chat and buy picture frames."

Huggins cannot see as many of the games

now as he would like, but he is an active member of the Alumni Association and a charter member of the Rams Club.

His secret to being a successful cheerleader was an unending enthusiasm and hard work, he said. Perhaps his greatest accomplishment was including co-eds in the cheering section.

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OH, ABSOLUTELY! SEE, THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR WENT WAY OVER BUDGET.

YEAH, BUT I DIDN'T THINK THAT WAS HIS PROJECT.

WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? OL' JOHN WAYNE HAS COME OUT FOR THE CANAL TREATY!

THE DUKE? YOU KID-DING ME?

HE MUST NOT HAVE THE FULL STORY! SOMEONE'S BEEN FEEDING HIM A LOT OF BULL!

I MEAN, I KNOW THE FACTS, HE'D SAY, FORGET THE DAMN TREATY, AND SEND IN THE MARINES!

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- Students should have a reasonable length of time in which to evaluate their courses and professors.
- The length of the drop period should reflect sensitivity to the views of both faculty and students.
- An extended drop period would not contribute significantly to grade inflation.

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