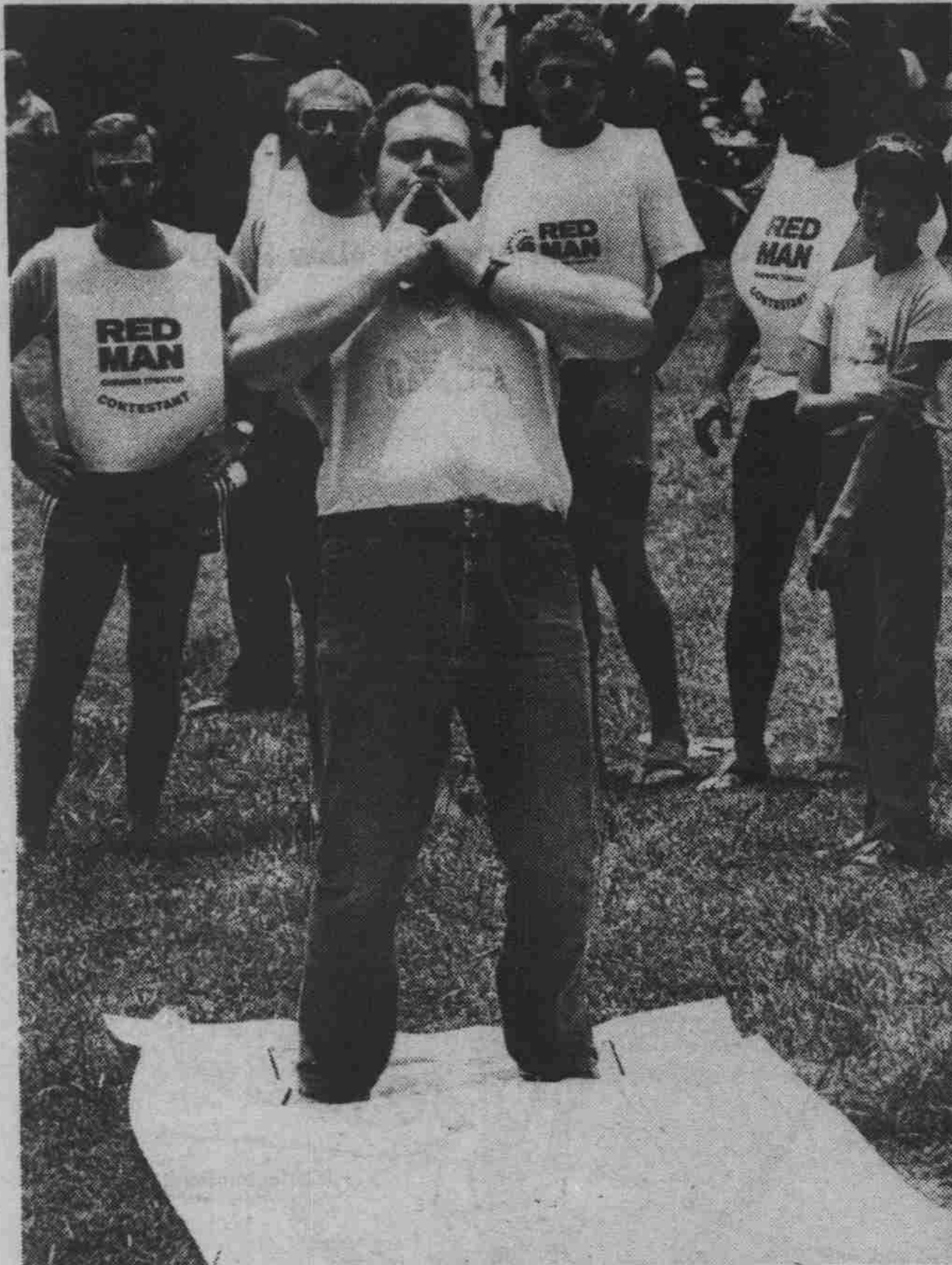


# FEATURES



Delbert Yates demonstrates his winning technique

... he won first place in the Tobacco-spitting contest with a spit of 19'11".

Tar Heel/Jeff Neuville



# HOG DAY

By LISBETH LEVINE  
Tar Heel Arts and Features Editor

Hillsborough Hog Day Saturday brought back memories of days gone by for some and a slew of first-time experiences for others. The headliners of the day — hogs — were overshadowed by events such as a tobacco-spitting contest, a hose-off among local fire companies and a hog-calling contest.

The major culinary attraction, barbecue, found itself competing against a Chinese fast-food concession, cotton candy, sno cones and watermelon.

The Hillsborough festival grounds were littered with craft booths featuring hand-painted, hand-carved wood sculptures and hand-made ceramics, as well as giant furry monster puppets constructed from all man-made materials and E.T. balloons.

One booth that got particular attention was the Liggett & Meyers tobacco stand offering free sample packets of Red Man chewing tobacco, just in case some of the contestants in the tobacco-spitting competition wanted to warm up early.

A long paper with marked measurements was rolled out for the contest. Each of the contestants donned a paper bib.

The sight of tobacco being spewed into the air and splattering on the paper was enough to turn some first-time spectators' stomachs, especially since two of the contestants were of a more appropriate age for bubble-gum blow-



ing. But Delbert Yates showed himself to be a master of technique, and he performed admirably under pressure in the finals with a 19 foot 11 inch spit. For his prize-winning effort he received a spittoon and trophy.

Meanwhile, across the creek and up the hill from the tobacco spitting, local fire companies were pitted against each other in a hose-off. The heat of battle was somewhat tempered by the spray from the fire hoses. The firefighters also cooled down bystanders when their aim was off, which was often. Each team had one member stand in a plastic kiddie pool while the teams raced to see which could fill the pool faster with water sprayed from a distance of about 50 feet. There was only one slight complication — the sprayers were blindfolded and had to rely on the directions of their sopping pal in the pool. After several rematches, Caldwell Fire Department came from behind to defeat New Hope in the finals. Afterwards, they turned the water on the crowd of young onlookers, who were delighted for a reprieve from the heat.

The hog-calling contest was won by a practiced caller who used a tried-and-true formula to beat some strong competition. Fred McPherson of Hillsborough said he was raised on a hog farm, and added that his call had gotten live results in the past.

Over at the dunking booth, crowds lined up to have at Orange County Tax Collector John T. Horner. At three tries for a quarter, revenge was never so sweet.



Tar Heel/Jeff Neuville

Local firefighters compete in a hose-off. The blindfolded water sprayers (left) race the other team to fill up the plastic pool first while their teammate (above) shouts instructions.

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