A PUBLICATION FROM ARCADIA VALLEY R-II SCHOOLS

THE AMBUSH



VOLUME 7 | OCT 2026

TRADITION PRIDE CHARACTER



Schedule of Events

Friday, October 16

Alumni Check-in 5-10 PM AV Downtown
Chili Supper 5-10 PM AV Downtown
Walking History Museum 6-9 PM High School Gym
Float Viewing 6-8 PM Various Locations

Saturday, October 17

AV Downtown Open 9 AM-2 PM
Fall Festival Parade 10 AM Main Street, Pilot Knob & Ironton
Parade Conclusion Party 11:30ish AM HS Gym Parking Lot
Walking History Museum 11:30ish-6 PM High School Gym
100TH Annual Coronation Voting 5 PM High School Gym
100TH Annual Coronation 6 PM High School Gym

WELCOME TO THE AMBUSH MAGAZINE

Dear Reader,

One hundred years. Ten Decades. A Century. No matter how you say it, that is a long time. I have not heard of any other school event that, on a yearly basis, lasting this long, where the school and community partner together in the name of tradition, pride in your school, competition, and working together. Some may argue as to why a school would put emphasis on an event like this. At AV, we would argue, why aren't other places finding ways for students, teachers, families, community members to come together to build pride in their school and community like we do.

It would be a travesty for me to not mention some of the individuals who have helped to gather this information or played a part of getting this information together for this 100th celebration. There are too many to write down here, but I would like to highlight a few below.
The museum crew of Kim Cofer, the Tate Family, and the Erpenbachs, who were led by Pam McLaurin and Anna-Marie Beard. All of you who brought in stuff for us to use. The AV Historical Society... especially Pam Inman. Individuals like Charlie Brooks, Frances Hardy, Jim Finley, Rebecca Orrick, Ashley Turnbough, Mark Yates, Mike Garner, Karen Sargent, and Carol Hardy. The many of you who shared your stories or wrote your stories for this magazine. The Ambush creators Nicole Thomas and Anna-Marie Beard, who in just a few weeks and at the last minute put together this incredible memory piece. In addition, Nicole Thomas has been creating and running the incredible AV Fall Festival 100: A Centennial Celebration Facebook page... Go check it out! AV can't thank you all enough.

And finally, Anna-Marie Beard has spent literally a few hundred hours over the past months researching historical documents, uncovering newspapers articles, interviewing individuals, and putting information together that hasn't been written about or has been lost over the last 100 years. All this is not just a document we created or pictures we threw up on walls, it required time, energy, and work to find some of this information. Forever grateful for your passion and committment to the wonder of this festival.



Dr. Brian Beard
Superintendent

100 years worth of history, stories, and tales of Arcadia Valley's most treasured event.

What's with the Name?

Ambush:
A group of tigers in the wild

The Ambush:
The family
of Arcadia Valley Tigers
who embody
Tradition, Pride, Character



A.V. CARNIVAL TIME

BRINGS BACK OLD MEMORIES

by Dorothy Reese

Originally published in The Mountain Echo

Arcadia Valley High School will be hosting their 75th anniversary Fall Festival on Saturday, October 27, 2001. It is reportedly the longest continuous fall festival in the state of Missouri.

To make it a special occasion, Arcadia Valley High School is in the process of trying to get in touch with all the past queens to invite them to this special event.

Meanwhile, The Mountain Echo is re-printing an article by the late Dorothy Reese published many years ago (approximately 1970). It is titled *A.V. High Carnival Time Brings Back Old Memories*:

"When Mayno Talmage won the queen contest in her senior year, she completed a four-year victory for her class. Each year, the class elected its queen. In the Freshman year (1941) it was the beauteous Barbara Russell; Anna Mae Imboden with the impish smile and drumming ability was elected in the sophomore year; Marie Pallo was cheered as the class roared on to its third victory; and Mayno Talmage (remember that lovely black and white formal her mother made?) made the class the only one thus far to elect its candidates every year!

"And the jubilating class celebrated with a dance on November 11. Bill Brown, class president, gave several comedy imitations during intervals between dances. Music was furnished by the school juke box. Refreshments? Of course, they ate! Sandwiches, doughnuts, iced cakes, and coffee!

"Bingo! That was game which drew old and young alike. A huge stand was placed in the gym (its floor modestly covered with sawdust and shavings) and prizes were donated by the town's merchants. Members of the Rotary Club took turns calling out the magic numbers and avid players put grains of corn on the numbered cards. Happy shrieks of "Bingo!" was the occasion of winning the prizes. Games cost $.10 to play a card. This was a booth that proved profitable until the game was made illegal by the 1945 Missouri Constitution.

"Study hall shows were produced by the Alumni until there was no longer a study hall in the high school building. On a temporary stage, alumni sang, danced, joked and cavorted in happy fashion. Mrs. Lois Faris usually played the piano. Helen Bartlow, Dorothy Bartlow, Oogie Rayfield, "Maestro" Gorg, Ruth Ann Boring, Jack Chapman, Bill Raby, Janet and Jean Woollett, Bill Mattingly - oh, there were lots of these original and good natured people who put on the show. The one in 1948 was a 'take-off' on the Ironton-Arcadia Depot with authentic sound effects produced by Wilbur Faris. One memorable study hall show featured a song written by Jack Chapman and the late Melvin Dinger. It had a world premier right here in our high school - "The Moon is Aflame Tonight" was the song.

"Faithful teachers through the years have worked with students on the floats. Bands have marched, always to the delight of the onlookers, and put on a special maneuvers on the ball diamond before the float judging was announced. Perhaps one of the most enthusiastic faculty members has been Mr. Jim Finley, whose floats are always a production. One of the teachers longest associated with floats was Mr. Cecil Slover.

"In the very beginning (1927) there were no floats, no bands. An automobile carrying all the queen candidates toured the three towns of our valley. The girls waved balloons and cried out 'Vote for me! Vote for me!' Later, in the 1930s and 1940s, floats were hastily constructed on truck beds - a few cornstalks and pumpkins and black and yellow crepe paper streamers did the trick. The early 1940s saw a more elaborate creation on cotton-batting covered trucks. For a time, floats were built on jeeps. Carolyn Koenig rode the first of these, called 'Carousel.' Then somebody came up with the idea of putting two together and making long floats. Jane Hixson rode a junior float made like an engine and a car on the railroad. Real smoke came out of the smoke stack! Modern floats built on hay wagons and pulled by tractors have supplanted all others. They are safer!

"It was Superintendent H.E. Grayum who introduced the plan of using chicken wire for float foundations and stuffing the tiny holes with paper napkins. Blackwell-Wielandy Company in St. Louis never did puzzle out why the school used so many napkins. Superintendent Marvin Powell suggested the paper we now use on floats. This comes from Memphis, Tennessee.

"The silver anniversary of the carnival (1952) was observed with special invitations to former queens, eighteen of whom came. A fine float was built by alumni for them, they attended a luncheon, and were in the queen's procession in the evening. Cleo Eye, the very first queen in 1927, was present. All were beautiful and gay and made a colorful note for the 25th anniversary.

"The thirty-fifth carnival again honored the former queens. Sixteen returned for the event. And the forty-fourth brought them back again. All are alive now and perhaps looking forward to the 50th! One queen, Gwen McCabe (Mrs. Hodge of Lesterville) has attended all these occasions. She was queen in 1935.

"Former queens now living here are Mrs. Frances Fisher McWherter, queen in 1933; Mrs. Hattie Miller Bullis, queen in 1939; Mrs. Patsy Winder Connor, queen in 1946; Mrs. Patsy Eidson Quelch, queen in 1949; Mrs. Sandra Boring Lot, queen in 1962; Mrs. Nancy Whited Peck, queen in 1965; Miss Ellen Huitt, queen in 1966; Miss Mary Moses, queen in 1968; Mrs. Vicki Callahan Reichert, queen in 1969; and Miss Jeannie Fitts, queen in 1970.

Money wise, the carnival has progressed from about $100 (1927) to $6,000 (1970). All done in one evening, this is real work for the students!

The country store was a lively addition to the carnival. Students collected all manner of items (toys, books, clothes, accessories - all sorts of things). They had a certain time to turn them in and then the student council had the extreme pleasure of sorting out the 'junk,' putting a value on each class offering, sacking it all up ready for sale. People bought the sacks for $.10 in a special booth in the gymnasium - buyers didn't know what was in the sacks until they bought them. Mrs. Richard Baldwin once came up with 40 comic books and a battered pocketbook. Like Bingo and the study hall show, the country store has been a thing of past for many years! Ross Scott once brought a pickup truck load of these items and just as he backed it up to the front door of the school and got ready to shovel it in - lo! the time limit bell rang! And all his stuff was too late! Oh, it was sold, but the class got no credit for its accumulation!

"From first to now, it has been the enthusiasm of the school kids and the marvelous support of townspeople, the loyalty of the alumni and the love of a good time that has made every carnival a wonderful success. This is the oldest and the best school carnival in the state of Missouri!"

1927
THE CARNIVAL BEGINS

The brainchild of Ironton High School principal Harold Garnett, the goal of the Carnival was to create a fun community event that would raise funds for the school... and keep kids from mischief on Halloween. Students and faculty created carnival games and the community bought tickets to play them. Classes competed with each other on how many tickets they could sell, and the candidate of the winning class was crowned that night.

1970
FALL FESTIVAL IS BORN

With the impending move into the new school, a new Carnival structure was created. The games went away, and victories were no longer decided by tickets sold. Instead, the different aspects of the festival were now a category to be won for the crown. Instead of being a separate competition, winning Float was a victory toward the crown. Instead of just being a pep assembly, Boy Skits were judged on coronation night. Fundraising for floats became a competition, with classes limited to one week to sell tickets for a Saturday meal. Voting at the door was one of the five, with each patron only allowed to purchase one ticket. And a brand new category entered the scene: Talent.

1998
BIG CHANGES

Fall Festival had evolved through the years, adding and subtracting a few things here and there, but the 1998 Fall Festival marked more sweeping changes: Candidates were selected after all workdays were completed. The entire grade took one vote to decide the queen candidate. Winning workday came down to how much money you made before you built your float (instead of what was leftover after you built it). Floats were given length, height, width restrictions. Talent time limits were strictly enforced.

2020
ANOTHER BIG YEAR

While the festival continued evolving since 1998, there were still some issues that needed to be resolved. And as the world changed quickly, so did the festival. Gone were designated work weeks. Now classes fundraise during the same two week timeframe. Instead of multiple events throughout the week, all classes have one evening for a silent auction.

FOUNDER OF THE FESTIVAL
HAROLD GARNETT



It's interesting that in all the extensive research done to piece together the history of our beloved festival, only one photograph of the most important person in the history of the carnival could be found. But after learning more about his humble character, perhaps this is appropriate for the kind of person he was.

In her article "Queen Cleo First Started It All" in the Iron County Register, Dorothy Reese writes "Master-minded by the late Harold Garnett, the carnival was originally designed to get money for athletic equipment and to keep youngsters from soaping windows and committing other outrages on Hallowe'en."

It's true. The more information uncovered about this man, the more passion for the Carnival and the community is revealed.

Harold Garnett was born October 17, 1898, in Sturgeon. He married Frances Phillips of Belleview on May 21, 1929, and they had one daughter Judy (Garnett) Giddens. He died on October 7, 1967, at the Boonville Hospital in Boonville, MO at the age of 68.

Harold Garnett came to Ironton High School in 1922 as a science teacher. He later served as principal and in 1935 he was hired as superintendent. A graduate of Central College, Fayette and the University of Missouri, he championed the vocational school. He also served on the School Textbook Commission and as president of the Mineral Area District School Masters Club.

He was a dedicated IHS boys and girls basketball coach, even driving the boys team to away games in his own automobile. In a speech, he once recalled how the players on his team each donated one dollar so they could purchase one basketball for the entire season. Maybe it was this lack of funds that drove him to come up with a way to raise money toward the projects of the school. Maybe that's why the Carnival was born.

Garnett wanted the Carnival to be something fun for everyone, and he wanted it to be a successful way to raise funds for the activities at school. After every carnival, he reported the audit for the festival and the school projects the money funded. Students followed suit, compelling people in the school newspaper Tiger Talks to come and support whatever cause the Carnival proceeds were earmarked for. We've found only two quotes by Cleo Eye, our very first Queen. In one she reports how she doesn't remember much (not even her escort) except her yellow rose and that "Mr. Harold Garnett had charge of the whole thing." In the other she grieves his passing.

Mr. Garnett was passionate about the arts. When the students "rebelled" and started a little orchestra, Garnett and Superintendent Loran Townsend were reported as "smiling in approval." Garnett went on to promote the formation of the band, designating Carnival funds for a couple of years to go toward band uniforms.

Staff memos in the thirties urge faculty to come up with new carnival games: "It takes work to clear over $150 in one evening. Roll up your sleeves." He was always adding new activities to the Carnival to make it more appealing to the town. His attempts were successful. Each year the attendance and profits grew as more and more school projects were funded.

The Carnival became bigger and the school became better under Garnett's passionate leadership.

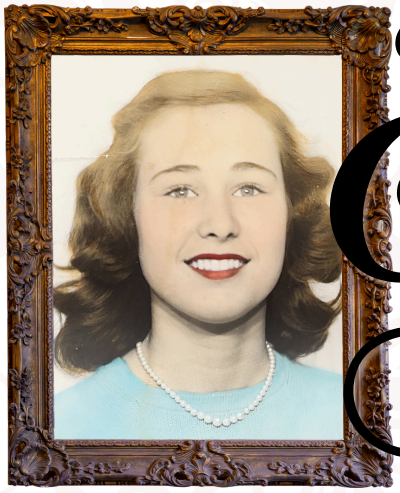
Dorothy Reese talks about Harold Garnett in several of her updates, describing his "calm manner," and designates him as one of the "Immortals of the School Faculty" for "winning friends and influencing people..." Garnett was invested in the community as well. He golfed, he bowled, he performed in a play at the Baptist church, and he kept a scrapbook of his time at IHS that was "a goldmine for reminiscing." A true testament of his love for the valley.

In 1942, after 20 years of service in Ironton, Harold Garnett moved to Boonville to teach physics at Kemper Military Academy. He remained there for 25 years, retiring as Dean Emeritus in June of 1967. Although there is no documented reason for his departure from Ironton High School, it would be reasonable to assume it could have something to do with his desire to do his own part in the fight of World War II. In April of 1942, he led a competition in the school challenging students to purchase Defense Stamps. It was so successful he received a letter from the State Administrator of the War Saving Staff thanking the school for donating $1,200.00 in War Savings Stamps.

But he remained connected to the valley, and in 1946 he founded Camp Taum Sauk, returning in the summer with his daughter Judy to conduct summer camp. The camp remains a popular summer camp today.

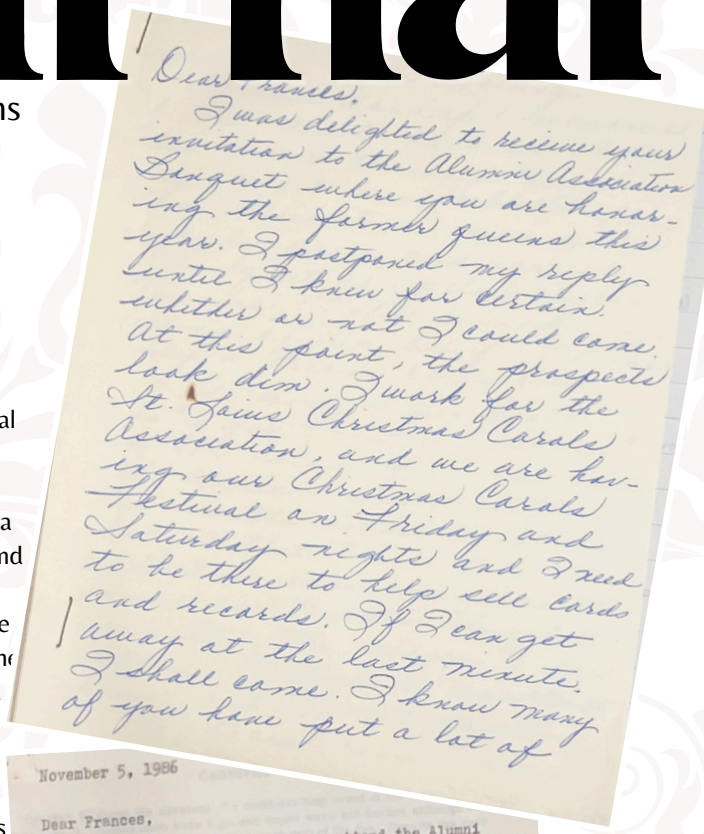
Our Fall Festival Founder is perhaps best described in a tribute written to him in the May 17, 1940 issue of Tiger Talks:

"Mr. Garnett is by nature very modest and retiring. Because of this fact he has not always been given full credit for the time and energy he has expended in improving school conditions. He is a man who believes in untiring perseverance in the right direction. Sincerity of purpose and trustworthiness are two outstanding traits of his character.
He is admired and respected by the faculty, students, and a multitude of school patrons because of his sterling worth and executive ability."



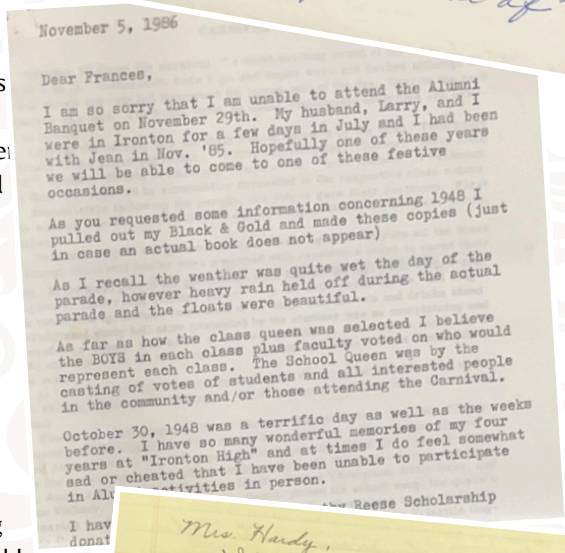
The Frances Hardy Journal

By Amie (Hardy) Adams



Dear Frances,

I was delighted to receive your invitation to the Alumni Association Banquet where you are honoring the former queens this year. I postponed my reply until I knew for certain whether or not I could come. At this point, the prospects look dim. I mark for the St. Jame Christmas Carols Association, and we are having our Christmas Carols Festival on Friday and Saturday nights and I need to be there to help sell cards and records. If I can get away at the last minute, I shall come. I know many of you have put a lot of



November 5, 1986

Dear Frances,

I am so sorry that I am unable to attend the Alumni Banquet on November 29th. My husband, Larry, and I were in Ironton for a few days in July and I had been with Jean in Nov. '85. Hopefully one of these years we will be able to come to one of these festive occasions.

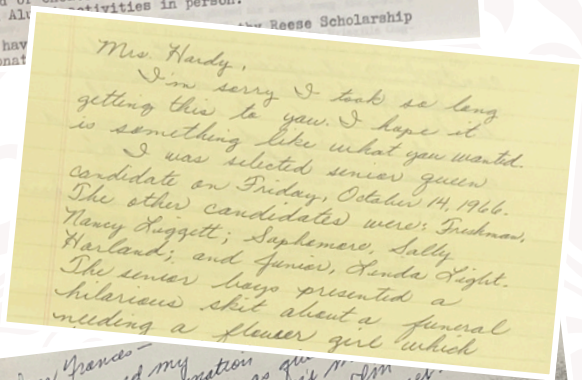
As you requested some information concerning 1948 I pulled out my Black & Gold and made these copies (just in case an actual book does not appear)

As I recall the weather was quite wet the day of the parade, however heavy rain held off during the actual parade and the floats were beautiful.

As far as how the class queen was selected I believe the BOYS in each class plus faculty voted on who would represent each class. The School Queen was by the casting of votes of students and all interested people in the community and/or those attending the Carnival.

October 30, 1948 was a terrific day as well as the weeks before. I have so many wonderful memories of my four years at "Ironton High" and at times I do feel somewhat sad or cheated that I have been unable to participate in Alu[illegible]tivities in person.

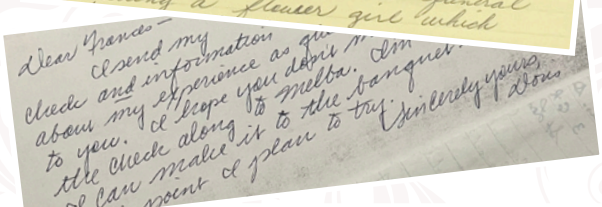
I hav[illegible] donat[illegible] Reese Scholarship



Mrs. Hardy,

I'm sorry I took so long getting this to you. I hope it is something like what you wanted.

I was selected senior queen candidate on Friday, October 14, 1966. The other candidates were: Freshman, Nancy Liggett; Sophomore, Sally Harland; and Junior, Linda Light. The senior boys presented a hilarious skit about a funeral needing a pleaser girl which



Dear Frances—

I send my check and information about my experience as [illegible] to you. I hope you don't [illegible] the check along to Melba. I can make it to the banquet. I plan to try. Sincerely yours, Doris

Growing up, I knew there were several things my Grandma Hardy loved deeply: her family, Gone With the Wind, playing bridge, and Ironton High School (now known as Arcadia Valley High School). But there was another love: Fall Festival.

My grandma knew Fall Festival brought people together and created memories that last a lifetime. She experienced it first hand as a student, supported it as a mother, celebrated it as a grandmother.

As Arcadia Valley prepares to celebrate 100 years of Fall Festival, her Fall Festival journal has become an unexpected gift to all of us.

Etta Frances Daphne Ray was born December 4,1935, in Cookeville, Tennessee.

Growing up, her family moved around, but when they moved to the Ironton area it felt like home. Frances entered Ironton High School in 1950 and she quickly found a place she loved.

In 1951, during the 25th anniversary of the Carnival, Frances was selected as the class's queen candidate. She had to borrow her float dress and coronation dress. The class float, "HMS Sophomore" was a large riverboat that won first place. Grandma remembered details like a boy who had just graduated telling her he had $10 left and was putting it on the senior class. The senior class won. By $10. Her class finished second overall.

Sixty-one years later, her great-granddaughter, Cate Newstead-Adams, was a 1st grade attendant and the class rebuilt Grandma's first place HMS Sophomore float. also remember Grandma bursting with pride when I was chosen as the Junior Queen Candidate for the Festival's 70th anniversary. She helped in every possible way and all her family came to support me and her.

Grandma married Finis Hardy and moved to Blytheville, Arkansas. She left Ironton, but she kept up with classmates, organized reunions, attended Alumni Banquets and collected yearbooks.The family returned to Ironton in 1971 and she became involved and rarely missed a Fall Festival. Grandma didn't just attend Fall Festival. She studied it and collected Fall Festival memorabilia. She saved photographs and wrote letters. She kept track of queen candidates, escorts, attendants, floats, winners and scores. She was even selected to be a Fall Festival float judge occasionally.

Grandma used all of this to keep a journal of Fall Festival. She was simply doing what she loved. None of us could have known how important those memories would become. That journal is helping us remember a century of Fall Festival. Its pages contain names, winners, candidates, floats, scores and details from years many of us can no longer remember firsthand. Her handwriting captures pieces of history that could easily have disappeared with time.

The journal will now be preserved so future generations can experience the history Grandma worked so hard to save. It feels fitting that the school she loved will become the home for the journal she created.

Grandma Hardy understood that traditions only survive when people care enough to keep them alive and that memories only survive when someone takes the time to save them. She saved a lot of them. As we celebrate 100 years, her memories help us remember where we've been and what makes this tradition so special.

She wrote it down. And we are so lucky that she did.



Loran Townsend

Loran Townsend was my grandmother's (Jeanette McKinney) maternal uncle. He was my great-great uncle. He was the eldest of five kids: Loren, Hallie, Emma (my great-grandmother,) Albert, and Mabel. They were from Belleview. Loran was passionate about education and rode his horse to Caledonia to attend high school.

He became the superintendent of the Ironton School and believed strongly in the importance of involving the community in educating kids – and involving kids in the community. He helped start the Carnival/Fall Festival and the Basketball Tournament.

After leaving Ironton, he went to Columbia where he became on staff at MIZZOU. He later became the Dean of the College of Education from 1945-1963. The building at MU that houses the College of Education is named after him – Townsend Hall.

I knew Uncle Loran fairly well. He came back to Belleview to visit my grandparents and great-grandmother several times a year as I was growing up. When I attended MIZZOU, I would sometimes go to his house on Sunday afternoons where he would quiz me on my studies. (He did the same with my father every Sunday when Dad was in medical school.) I got to introduce my husband Brian to him before he died.

Uncle Loran died in Columbia in 1999. He was 100 and still sharp as a tack.

-Emily McKinney Parker

Today's Fall Festival Coordinator is Ashley (Tate) Turnbough. Ashley has been in this role since 2006, but Fall Festival was in her blood long before that.



Ashley (Tate) Turnbough

It began with her mother's candidacy in 1967. Terry (Queen) Tate represented the freshman class, and green has been the family color ever since. Ashley's first memories of the festival are from 1989 when she was a first grade attendant for her sister Misty, the freshman class candidate. Her other sister Brandi was a freshman candidate in 1992, and then Ashley was a freshman candidate herself in 1997. Both of her nieces (Riley and Reese Brogan) represented their freshmen classes, and their brother Carter was also an escort... his freshman year. Everything came full circle in 2023 when her daughter Braelyn became the freshman candidate for the Class of 2027.

Her family's involvement instilled a love for the festival that she's been passing on to her students for the past 20 years. Each year during the week of float building, Ashley devotes time to a Fall Festival unit, where students learn about the history of the festival and the traditions we still have today. They go through the whole process, from the selecting of a theme to how they make money to build the floats, all the way up to coronation.

They get out old yearbooks, go through the whole packet of rules that the candidates get, and they look at past float winners and past queens. She loves watching her students react. "They always have stories to share. 'Oh, that's my mom! That's my sister!'"

Ashley notes that prior to high school, many students view the festival only from a distance through attending the parade and coronation, without understanding the preparation and effort involved. Her unit provides them with a deeper appreciation of the work behind the scenes.

Ashley has experienced the Fall Festival from multiple perspectives throughout her life, blending rich family tradition with her passion for teaching. By preserving these long-standing customs and sharing them with new generations, she ensures that the spirit and pride of the Fall Festival continue to thrive for years to come.

Ashley resides in Ironton, Missouri, with her husband Ricky and daughters Braelyn and Briar.



Toni (Ricketts) Erpenbach has been a part of Fall Festival since her freshman year at Ironton High School. She was a Carnival Queen in 1967, served as a class sponsor, and then was the Fall Festival Coordinator from 1991 until 2007. Toni loves Fall Festival. She loved it from its Carnival beginnings, through its transition to Fall Festival, to what it still means to our school and community today.

As Coordinator, Toni was passionate about making the festival more enjoyable for everyone and leveling the playing field for candidates. Under her tenure came big changes in 1998. Many of the changes were made to make it so a candidate's family wouldn't feel the need to contribute money to win. Workday became about gross profits, meaning all the money you made before building a float and before a candidate is chosen. Before that, Workday was based on how much money you had after building the float. Parents felt a lot of pressure to buy the float, so that more money would be left over for the Workday total. Also under Toni's leadership, the school began providing triangle backdrops so that families wouldn't have to buy them and a stipend for the candidates for all the costs of the different wardrobes. She also moved away from the school choosing the first grade attendants. When she started the job, the school chose only children of alumni as attendants. She didn't feel that process was fair so she changed the rule and allowed each candidate to choose her own attendants.

Toni's commitment to our school, community, and the Fall Festival have had an incredible impact and made a lasting impression on the festival for years to come.

CARNIVAL
THE BEGINNING

Carnival and Fall Festival: A Look Back

by Cindy Demand

Originally published in the 1976 Fall Festival issue of The Mountain Echo.

Ever pick up one of dad or mom's high school yearbooks and flip to the pages where the Carnival and Fall Festival pictures were? We've all taken many strolls down memory lane, but as we approach the 75th anniversary of the Carnival and Fall Festival, it's easy to conjure up so many memories of what that Saturday in late October meant to so many of us. Let your memories come flooding back as we remember together some of the highlights of past Carnival and Fall Festival activities.

There was one picture that stands out of one of the very first Carnival parades. There were no floats, just cars. Lots of (today's antique) cars and beautiful candidates moving slowly through our little Valley. And, can we ever forget the cardboard crowns that one former queen told us of losing because it fell apart in the rainstorm?

The excitement was contagious in the weeks before the big day! Class members scrambled to build the largest and most beautiful floats. There was a time when the floats were so large that two trailers were attached to make each class float. Local men proudly shined up their prize pick-up trucks and pulled the decorated floats through the streets.

In those days, the parade did not begin until 2:00 p.m. Bands, floats and decorated cars lined up in Pilot Knob to begin their colorful journey along the parade route. The parade always took the same route beginning in Pilot Knob, working its way to Main Street in Ironton, turning at White's Funeral Home in order to make the two extra blocks up West Wayne to wind around St. Mary's Hospital. After all, the patients and employees were waiting at the windows hoping to catch a glimpse of the Carnival parade.

In later years, the parade made its first turn at the courthouse square, then traveled down South Main Street into Arcadia. We all then ended up at the baseball field of the Ironton High School where the bands performed, with majorettes throwing their batons high into the air and each candidate sat nervously atop her float waiting for the judges' decision as to who the first place honors would go to. If you didn't hang around the field too long, you could get home just in time to dress up and head back to the gymnasium where the evening excitement would begin.



35th ANNUAL HALLOWEEN

CARNIVAL

Arcadia Valley H. S. Auditorium

Saturday, October 28, 1961

Parade at 2:00 p. m. — Doors Open 6:30 p. m.

CLASS QUEEN CANDIDATES

Freshmen — BRENDA THOMAS
Sophomores — PATSY STARK
Juniors — KAREN REVES
Seniors — BETTY SPITZMILLER

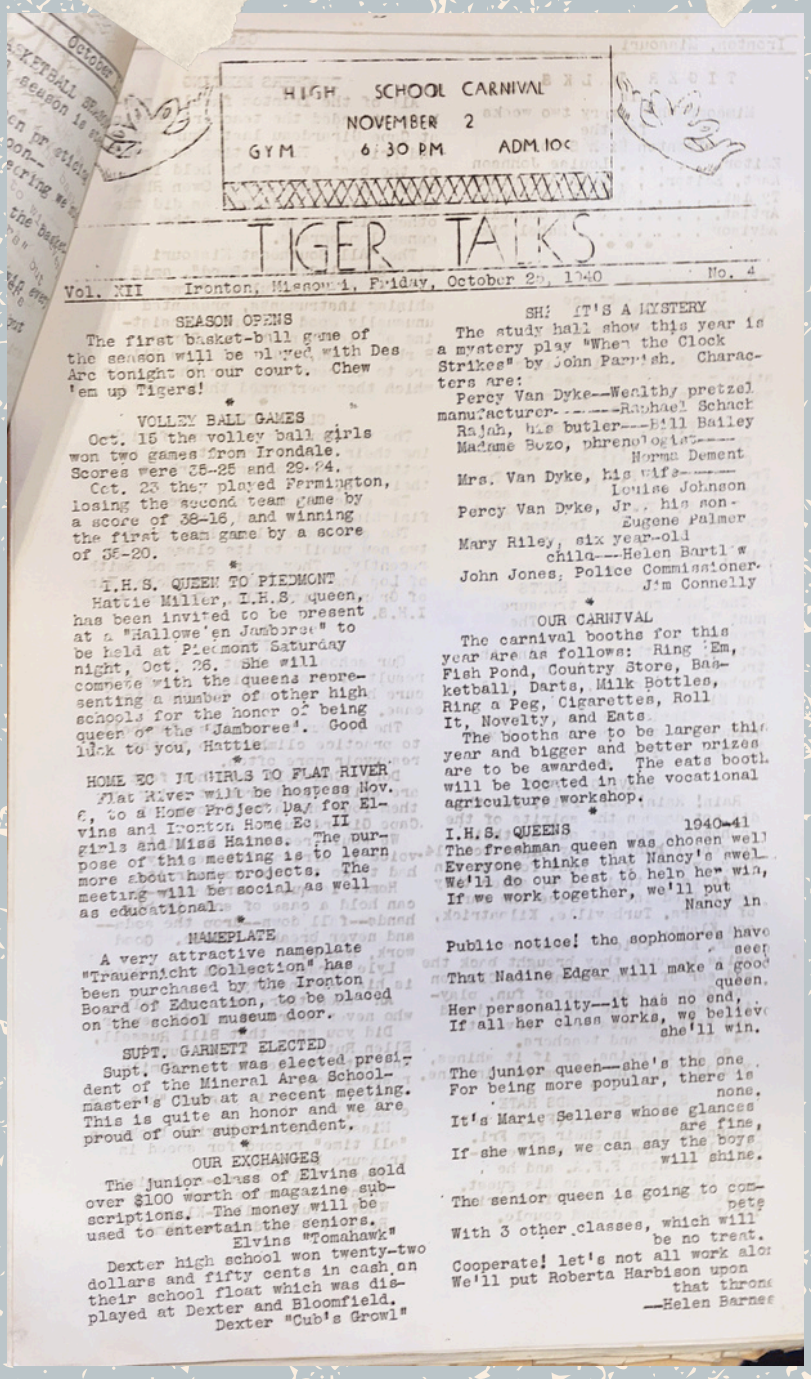
Crowning of Queen at 10:30 P. M.

SEE THE OLDEST AND BIGGEST CARNIVAL OF THEM ALL!

Come One - Come All

ADMISSION: 10c





HIGH SCHOOL CARNIVAL
NOVEMBER 2
GYM 6:30 PM ADM 10c

TIGER TALKS

Vol. XII Ironton, Missouri, Friday, October 25, 1940 No. 4

SEASON OPENS

The first basket-ball game of the season will be played with Des Arc tonight on our court. Chew 'em up Tigers!

VOLLEY BALL GAMES

Oct. 15 the volley ball girls won two games from Irondale. Scores were 25-25 and 29-24.

Oct. 23 they played Fermington, losing the second team game by a score of 38-16, and winning the first team game by a score of 35-20.

I.H.S. QUEEN TO PIEDMONT

Hattie Miller, I.H.S. queen, has been invited to be present at a "Hallowe'en Jamboree" to be held at Piedmont Saturday night, Oct. 26. She will compete with the queens representing a number of other high schools for the honor of being queen of the 'Jamboree'. Good luck to you, Hattie.

HOME EC II GIRLS TO FLAT RIVER

Flat River will be hostess Nov. 6, to a Home Project Day for Elvins and Ironton Home Ec. II girls and Miss Haines. The purpose of this meeting is to learn more about home projects. The meeting will be social as well as educational.

NAMEPLATE

A very attractive nameplate "Trauernicht Collection" has been purchased by the Ironton Board of Education, to be placed on the school museum door.

SUPT. GARNETT ELECTED

Supt. Garnett was elected president of the Mineral Area Schoolmaster's Club at a recent meeting. This is quite an honor and we are proud of our superintendent.

OUR EXCHANGES

The junior class of Elvins sold over $100 worth of magazine subscriptions. The money will be used to entertain the seniors.
Elvins "Tomahawk"

Dexter high school won twenty-two dollars and fifty cents in cash on their school float which was displayed at Dexter and Bloomfield.
Dexter "Cub's Growl"

SH! IT'S A MYSTERY

The study hall show this year is a mystery play "When the Clock Strikes" by John Parrish. Characters are:

Percy Van Dyke--Wealthy pretzel manufacturer---Raphael Schack
Rajah, his butler---Bill Bailey
Madame Bozo, phrenologist---Norma Dement
Mrs. Van Dyke, his wife---Louise Johnson
Percy Van Dyke, Jr., his son-Eugene Palmer
Mary Riley, six year-old child---Helen Bartlow
John Jones, Police Commissioner-Jim Connelly

OUR CARNIVAL

The carnival booths for this year are as follows: Ring 'Em, Fish Pond, Country Store, Basketball, Darts, Milk Bottles, Ring a Peg, Cigarettes, Roll It, Novelty, and Eats.

The booths are to be larger this year and bigger and better prizes are to be awarded. The eats booth will be located in the vocational agriculture workshop.

I.H.S. QUEENS 1940-41

The freshman queen was chosen well
Everyone thinks that Nancy's swell
We'll do our best to help her win,
If we work together, we'll put
Nancy in

Public notice! the sophomores have
seen
That Nadine Edgar will make a good
queen.
Her personality--it has no end,
If all her class works, we believe
she'll win.

The junior queen--she's the one
For being more popular, there is
none,
It's Marie Sellers whose glances
are fine,
If she wins, we can say the boys
will shine.

The senior queen is going to compete
With 3 other classes, which will
be no treat.
Cooperate! let's not all work alone
We'll put Roberta Harbison upon
that throne
--Helen Barnes

Then, the big night arrived. You just had to get there by 5:00 p.m. or you would never get inside. The gym floor was so crowded with the masses of Alumni and townspeople that you literally had to squeeze yourself through the visiting crowds.
There was the popular duck pond game and the fishing booth. I can still feel the thrill of throwing my fishing line over the top of the curtain to “fish” for my prize. We went home that night with our arms full of stuffed animals, whistles and candy. Most of us saved our dimes and nickels for months just for the chance to try our luck at one of the many booths lined around the gym.
There was the four-sided ticket booth in the center of the gym floor. Each side was decorated in the four class colors, and you walked up to the window of your choice to purchase as many ten-cent tickets as you desired in order to vote for the candidate of your choice. Class members scrambled around the crowded floor hawking their tickets because, after all, the one with the most tickets was later crowned Fall Festival Queen.

It’s hard to ever forget making your way across the stage to the back of the gym where the Junior class sold their famous mouth-watering fried cheeseburgers. That was part of the annual ritual of attending the Carnival — getting to sink your teeth into one of those juicy delights!

There were so many Alumni to visit, too. And everyone always looked so nice. Dressed up their Sunday best, hundreds and hundreds of people hugged and chatted. This was the place to be on the last Saturday in October, and everyone came back to the Valley for this event.

Around 10:30 or 11:00 p.m., the center of the gym floor was cleared, and the middle roped off to form an aisle. Crowds began to scramble for the best place to stand alongside the ropes in order to get the best view possible for the coronation procession. The balconies were filled to capacity as the onlookers readied their cameras for the action below. Then, after what seemed like an eternity, time that you made your way back through the crowds and out of the gym.
There were many additions and changes through the following years of the Carnival.

When we moved into the new Arcadia Valley High School, the changes were evident. Gone was the Carnival as the Fall Festival was born. Now we entered through the cafeteria where we purchased a $1.00 ticket and voted for our favorite candidate behind a screen. We were seated in the gym and watched the queen talent presentations first before the coronation.

WORKDAY

WHERE THE MONEY IS MADE

In the early years of the Carnival, classes needed money to purchase materials to build floats. Students fundraised in any way they could. From raking leaves and washing cars, to picking up walnuts and selling them, everyone worked hard to earn as much money as possible.

As workday activities evolved, classes turned to preparing meals on a Saturday in order to raise more money. We had chili dinners, burgers, spaghetti, catfish and, of course, Mr. Finley's famous barbecue chicken on the IGA parking lot.

In 1970, "Workday" became an official category in the competition for Fall Festival Queen. The class who had raised the most money after all bills were paid (and after building their float) was the Workday winner.

Each class was allowed a Monday through Friday to sell tickets and then a weekend to conduct fundraising activities. Over the years, raffles, penny pots, T-shirt sales, sports tournaments, dances and many other creative fundraising activities have expanded Workday fun.

In 1998 Workday rules changed to declare the class with the most gross profit as winner rather than net.
In 2020, classes began fundraising over the same two-week period, culminating in a school-wide silent auction event that continues today.

For the Centennial Fall Festival celebration, the carnival has been brought back as a piece of the Workday competition, providing the nostalgic excitement in a new form.







Workday bake sale 75-76 year in front of old IGA











SELECTING A QUEEN

FROM BOY SKITS TO LIP SYNC BATTLES

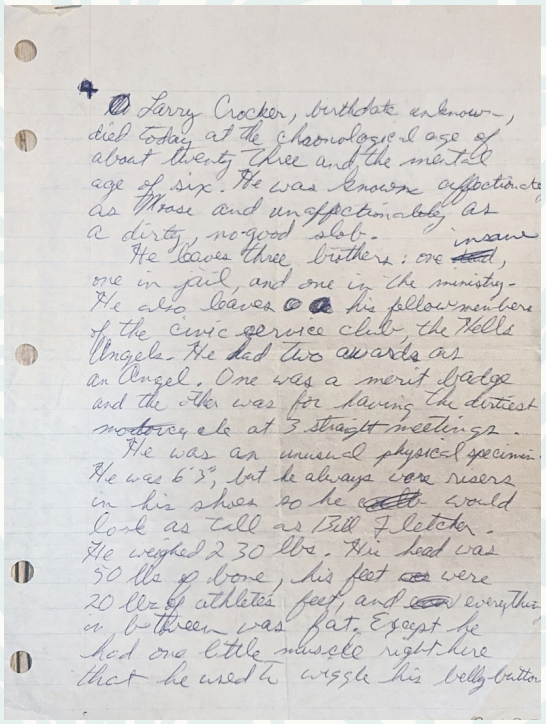
FUNNY, FEARLESS, AND SOMETIMES TOO FAR: THE LEGACY OF THE BOY SKITS

Maybe it was “thin-skinned teachers.” Maybe it was all the “improv” in their final performances that sponsors hadn’t approved. Maybe it was the “Pieman” skit that involved a cream pie (or was it more?) thrown at the stage curtains? Whatever the culprit, 1979 is the last documented year of Boy Skits.

From the very beginning of the festival, the boys were responsible for choosing a candidate for their grade. There was no campaigning; girls never even made it known they wanted to be candidate. The boys would get together in the study hall and decide who they were going to choose, and then there would be an assembly to announce their class queen. Somewhere along the way, a simple selection turned into an all-boys skit that would reveal who their candidate was at the very end. There are references to skits as far back as 1955, but it could have been even earlier. From Hollywood producers searching for their next starlet to buzzing bees looking for their queen bee, the boys never ceased to find creative and humorous ways to select their class candidate.

And then there was the legendary skit of 1966 when Ellen (Pruitt) Crocker was chosen to be the flower girl for a funeral of one of the Hell’s Angels. Apparently a fight had broken out in a tavern, and when the plot moved to the church, a little sign flipped down over the end of the word and it became “Tavernacle.” Ellen, who later went on to marry that fallen angel, says, “Larry must have had an unpleasant odor because they kept spraying him with some sort of spray they found in the boys’ locker room!” While this is going on, the preacher, Vernon Hatridge, just kept on with his hilarious storytelling. She says, “Finally, the preacher said they needed a flower girl for the funeral. They came out to the senior girls and I was fortunate enough to be picked for that part in the ‘infamous skit!’”

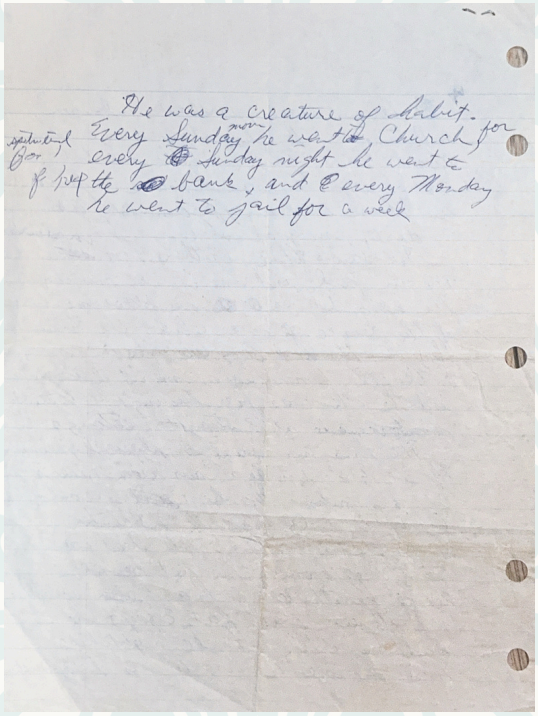
In 1970, “Boy Skits” became an official category in deciding the crown. The boys would perform their skit at the queen selection assembly to choose their candidate, and they would perform it again the night of the coronation, between candidate Talents. The skits were judged and points assigned, and the results contributed to the overall victory.



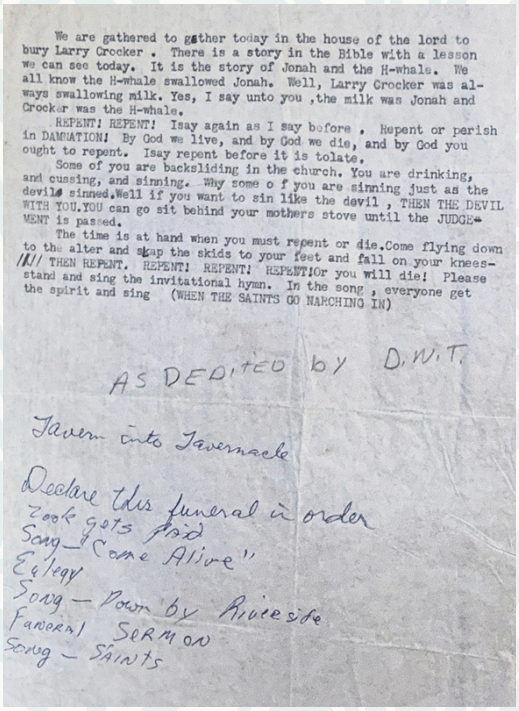
Larry Crocker, birthdate unknown, died today at the chronological age of about twenty three and the mental age of six. He was known affectionately as Mose and unaffectionately as a dirty, no-good slob. insane

He leaves three brothers: one [illegible], one in jail, and one in the ministry. He also leaves his fellow members of the civic service club, the Hells Angels. He had two awards as an Angel. One was a merit badge and the other was for having the dirtiest motorcycle at 3 straight meetings.

He was an unusual physical specimen. He was 6'3", but he always wore risers in his shoes so he would look as tall as Bill Fletcher. He weighed 230 lbs. His head was 50 lbs of bone, his feet were 20 lbs of athletes feet, and everything in between was fat. Except he had one little muscle right here that he used to wiggle his belly-button.



He was a creature of habit. Every Sunday he went to Church for spiritual food. Every Sunday night he went to prayer meeting. Every Monday he went to bank, and every Monday he went to jail for a week



We are gathered to gather today in the house of the lord to bury Larry Crocker . There is a story in the Bible with a lesson we can see today. It is the story of Jonah and the H-whale. We all know the H-whale swallowed Jonah. Well, Larry Crocker was always swallowing milk. Yes, I say unto you ,the milk was Jonah and Crocker was the H-whale.

REPENT! REPENT! Isay again as I say before . Repent or perish in DAMNATION! By God we live, and by God we die, and by God you ought to repent. Isay repent before it is tolate.

Some of you are backsliding in the church. You are drinking, and cussing, and sinning. Why some o f you are sinning just as the devil sinned.Well if you want to sin like the devil , THEN THE DEVIL WITH YOU.YOU can go sit behind your mothers stove until the JUDGEMENT is passed.

The time is at hand when you must repent or die.Come flying down to the alter and slap the skids to your feet and fall on your knees-/// THEN REPENT. REPENT! REPENT! REPENTor you will die! Please stand and sing the invitational hymn. In the song , everyone get the spirit and sing (WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN)

AS DEDICED by D.W.T.

Tavern into Tavernacle

Declare this funeral in order
Look Gots Paid
Song "Come Alive"
Eulogy
Song — Poem by Riverside
Funeral SERMON
Song — Saints

Dale Thorn, playwright, Class of ‘67

ARCADIA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

QUEEN CORONATION

OCTOBER 30, 1971 - 7:00 O'CLOCK P.M.

(As this program begins, two contests toward the Queen selection have already been held: Each class had a work weekend, and the most money earned above the expenses of the work projects and the cost of the float represented first place in the first competition. The second was today's parade of floats constructed by each class. The Talent contest and the Skit competition follow.)

TALENTS (TO BE ANNOUNCED BY DAVID BATES, STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT)

Freshman Candidate Miss Donna Thorn
Sophomore Candidate Miss Rosemarie Yates
Junior Candidate Miss Jenna DeVore
Senior Candidate Miss Gerri Menne
(To be judged on Originality, Presentation, Costume, and Poise)

SKITS *(Same order--freshmen first)*

Freshmen boys portray a scene in the Kingdom of Arcadia Valley, where a new queen is being sought. The king sends forth his knights and wizards to select a young maiden to share his throne with him. They fail to please him, so he takes it upon himself to find his queen.

Sophomores are staging a cabinet meeting held by President Nixon for the purpose of filling the two vacancies recently filled (since the origin of the idea). Among the applicants for the position are Martha Mitchell, Jacqueline Onassis, Geraldine, Mrs. George Wallace, Mrs. Olson, and our own Miss Reese. The cabinet members decide that none of these ladies is right for the job and so the queen candidate is chosen.

The juniors present the " '73 Seniors Laugh-Out, With Ban Roll On and Dick Martini," a take-off of a television show, which includes the party, the park bench scene, an interview with a champion spitter, a group of chorus girls, and Ernestine the telephone operator. The skit concludes with a newscast interviewing the newly-elected junior queen candidate.

A take-off on the Johnny Carson Show is the senior skit, in which Tiny Tim and his wife Miss Vicki are married. Several other guests are introduced at the beginning of the show and then the wedding ceremony begins. The skit ends when"Miss Vicki"runs away and "Tiny Tim" selects the senior queen candidate for his new bride.

(To be judged on Originality, Humor, Costume, and Presentation)

DEDICATION SPEECH *(Five Minutes)* . . . PAUL LASHLEY
(winner of speech class competition)

If Judges' reports are ready, the program will continue immediately.

QUEEN'S PROCESSION . . . *(narrated by David Bates)*
THE ALMA MATER (Audience remains seated)
Organist, Lyle Adams, Jr.
Bonnie Coad, Connie Coad, Miss Jeannie Fitts, Edward Hennessey;
Molly DePew, Robert Racer, Miss Donna Thorn, John Smith;
Laura Mayes, Mark McKee, Miss Rosemarie Yates, Steve Myracle;
Amy Dettmer, Mike Holder, Miss Jenna DeVore, Gregg Hitchings; and
Janet Reese, Ronnie Wadlow, Miss Gerri Menne, and Randy Dettmer.

CORONATION

* * *

JOE WOMBLE AND MIKE GRAJEK, *Ushers*

you can
Steal second--go--now, easy, not too gay,
There get a lead-a hit-now you're away,
Keep on-don't stop-don't lose that dandy stride,
You've got to beat that throw in-

The queens are:
SENIORS- Irene Crocker
JUNIORS- Sadie Jane Fletcher
SOPHOMORES- Margaret Mary Phillips
FRESHMEN- Ruth Wilson





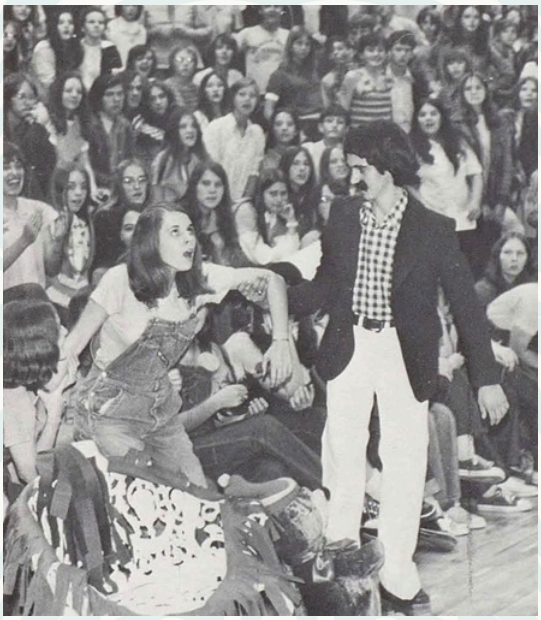
The Freshmen Class boys' skit centered around a softball game in which Cheryl Bennett was their favorite cheerleader. Cheryl swept first place in talent by performing a skit "The Sound of Music" and ended by playing the organ. They chose "2001 Arabian Nights" as their greatest book and placed the legendary Aladdin's Lamp and a magic carpet on their float. For their workday they held a fishfry.

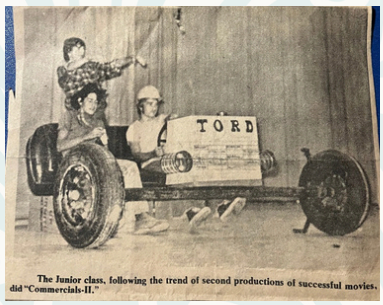
The Junior boys performed their skit, "The Carol Bernuttey Show", choosing Denise Myers as their queen candidate. Denise performed for her talent a skit on "The Way We Were." She used a variety of hats to portray a special moment in her life.

The Juniors won first on their workday which was barbecued chicken.









The Junior class, following the trend of second productions of successful movies, did "Commercials-II."

The boys of the Freshman Class chose Kay Inman as their queen candidate after presenting a skit entitled, "Commercials." Kay presented her talent by doing a puppet act and playing the piano. She included in her act excerpts from "The Sting".

The Freshman held a hamburger dinner for their workday.





JUNIORS

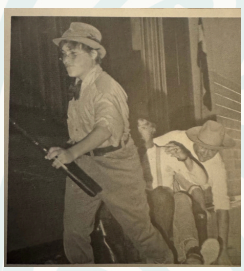
Pam Degonia was chosen to represent the Junior Class. The Juniors made the most money on their workday by serving Chile and they received first place. Their float, "Don Quixote", featured a red and white windmill with Don Quixote bravely standing in front. The boys put together their skit and presented "Let's Make a Steal". Pam based her talent on a comedy skit with her computer "Sammy". She also played her guitar and sang.



Lucia Rohrer was chosen queen candidate for the Sophomore Class and was also elected Fall Festival Queen for 1974. She tied for first with her ventriloquist act, in a Mexican setting. She also played the guitar and sang. Lucia added to her act by playing the flute and doing a Mexican hat dance.

The sophomore boys took first on their skit, "The IHS Senior Prom of 1958." They had a fishfry.

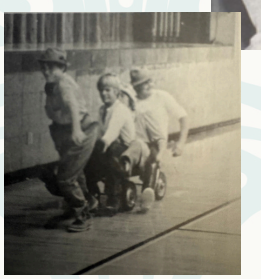






Arcadia Valley High School classes presented their annual skits at the school Friday afternoon. The skits will not be presented on the night of the Fall Festival as has been the custom. However, winners will be announced at that time. Above the Freshmen present "The Gone Show," a take-off on the Gong Show.





A Star is Born

by Mark Sutton



Maynard does the dirty dog.

In the fall of 1972, I was a freshman in high school at AV. The tradition of the school carnival had just been modified from its former days. No more games and chaos on the gym floor. Nonetheless, we were all excited about the new fall festival. There were points given for the categories of float, workday, boys' skit, queen talent, and votes at the door. The boys' skit culminated in the picking of the girl to represent as class queen candidate. Our class sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Finley, Mr. Pierce, and Mr. Trowbridge. Enthusiasm bubbled and there was plenty of energy for the tasks at hand.

Mr. Finley asked me to put down some ideas for the boys' skit. Some notions were kicked around and finally the very popular show "Hee Haw" was mentioned. It sounded good so it became our skit. Haw Hee was our chosen title. Fortunately, our class was blessed with talent and individuals who resembled the cast of the TV show. We had guitar players with R. Reed as Roy Clark, M. Keith as Buck Owens, me as Minnie Pearl, and Maynard Giles as Junior Samples. We had all the other characters covered with boys who pulled this whole skit off.

I, with guidance and editing from Mr. Finley, wrote the skit. We had music, jokes, a corn patch, a dog, "girls" in bikinis, and dancing. We had skit practice several times over the two weeks prior to selection of queen's day.

Now Maynard had two responsibilities. First, in a joke, while laying on a bunch of feed sacks and chewing on a piece of hay, one of the bib overalls wearing boys' line was, "Look at them naked girls over there." Junior Samples was supposed to reply, "I wish my head was turned that way."

Maynard chewed Copenhagen all the time. For whatever reason, he could never get his one line right. Frustrated somewhat, he mumbled a cuss word or two and on we went. Additionally, Maynard had a part where he was to dance to live music provided by the guitar players. Nope! Not once in practice would Maynard dance. "I'll do it when I need to," was his response.

The day of the skits to choose the queens arrived and we being freshman, were the first up. All going well with bits, jokes and music. The costumes of bib overalls and plaid shirts depicted the actual TV show to a tee. Maynard messed up his only line about wishing his head was turned that way to the laughter of the entire audience. Then the music started for the dance of Junior Samples. Maynard soft shoed to the center of the stage and promptly started doing the "dirty dog." No one had ever seen this in skit practice or otherwise. Maynard was a fair-sized lad, and he could roll and rumble every inch of it.

I and all the boys cheered and jeered him on. The entire auditorium went crazy. Our musicians could see the reaction and had the good sense to keep playing. Maynard did it all. The glide, the two-step, and the boot scootin' boogie. Awesome it was to behold! We finished our skit and chose Carol as our queen. We had several more skit practices with the same results, with no dance from Maynard, but assurance he would perform when necessary. The queen coronation night included the boys' skits put on for the attending public. Word had spread of our star, Junior Samples a.k.a. Maynard Giles. The auditorium was packed to capacity. Flawlessly we executed our skit, except for Maynard messing up his line. On que, when the music started, Maynard hit the floor and brought the house down. From my place on stage, I could see people in the aisles, laughing and cheering. What a moment! Skit complete. We were given second place. It didn't matter.

In Keeping with Tradition

Boy skits came to an end in 1979. Elementary school skits and music performances replaced them at the coronation, and Queen Selection became its own separate assembly, full of the same anticipation and the same goal of changing one girl's life for the next 2-6 weeks. While the boys voted in a classroom with their sponsors, the girls were doing cheers and waiting in anticipation for the results.

Throughout the years, the time between selection and coronation varied. During the Carnival days, candidates had a week or two, and for a period of time in the 1990's, candidates had as many as five weeks to prepare. Today candidates have around three weeks between selection and showtime.

In 1980, class voting opened up to allow the entire class to participate in choosing a queen. The whole class would vote and the top three would be chosen. The three girls would be notified and, if they agreed to go on to the next stage, the boys would then gather and choose between the three. The candidates would be announced at the pep assembly.

Sometimes the assemblies occurred during the day. Sometimes they occurred during a night assembly that included community members. This process continued until 1998 when it was decided the entire class would be the only vote to determine the candidate, and the announcement would come in an afternoon assembly.

Today voting is done on computer through a Google form. Around noon, the voting opens. Students click a button to choose their candidate and the system instantly tallies the votes. Candidates are kept secret by the high school principal until the afternoon assembly. At the assembly there is a lip sync battle between the classes. It's not a category in the final crowning of the queen, but it does instill some pre-festival class pride.

The excitement of Selection Day remains. Each class sits together in the bleachers with their section decorated in class colors. Student body representatives open the envelopes and announce the candidates. Then the excitement and flurry of activity surrounding Fall Festival officially begins.





1957 Queen Marilyn Matthews identified herself as the one in the middle. "That was the day we would go to the gym in the afternoon... and then they would choose the girl, and they would come back in and announce it... and then that was our junior group of girls waiting to find out."

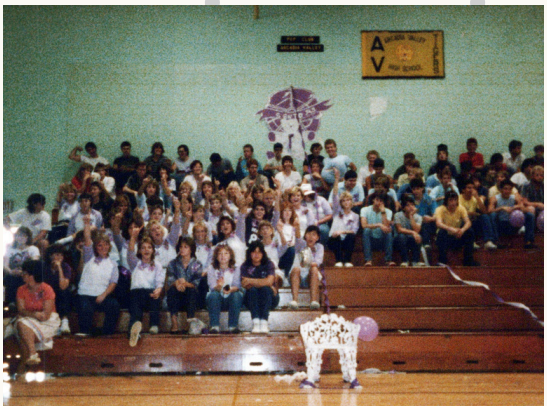








Nathan Williams gets a l'il bit excited at Sophomore Fall Festival Queen Selection.






















FRESHMEN



QUEEN SELECTION: CIRCA 1993

by Robin (Baldwin) Ridlon

In 1993, I was a sophomore in high school at Arcadia Valley. My brother had graduated the spring before and joined the army. My mom owned a t-shirt/gift store in town called "Expectations T-shirt shop." She created most of the t-shirts worn by students during fall festival events such as workday, queen selection, float building, coronation, etc.

I remember sitting in English class in the old quads when Mrs. Erpenbach quietly pulled me out of class to let me know that I was one of the three girls in my class nominated for queen candidate that year. At that time, this was how queen selection took place; get three candidate nominees, ask them if they are interested (we didn't take our names off of the list back in the day), and let grade level boys vote for the one that will serve as their grade's candidate. I, of course, was so excited to be among the three girls that would be vying for such an enormous honor, so I quickly told Mrs. Erp that I would love to stay on the list.

When the day came for candidates to be selected, all classes gathered in the gymnasium during an end-of-day assembly. This was after the days of the boys' selection skits and before the lip sync battles of today. I, of course, wore the shirt my mother had made for me at her shop. I listened as the Freshman candidate was announced, the sweet Jessica McHenry. Then it was time for the sophomore recognition of our former Freshman candidate (and queen), Brandi Tate. Next, it was time to hear who would have the duty of representing our class that year, but in blue. I remember later thinking that it felt like I was in a dream when they said my name. I felt numb walking from the old wooden bleachers to get my flowers before being seated at those notorious white wrought iron chairs that many others have sat in before and after me. I then sat and watched as the Junior class chose one of my best friends, Brandi Bennett, to represent their class. And then the Seniors chose the very talented Marjory Propst. I remember going to my mother's t-shirt shop on main street after school, sitting on her counter, and being completely humbled by the honor of representing my class.

At the time we had 6 weeks to prepare our skits, raise money, have dresses made and make countless memories with our friends and families. Some of my favorite memories were staying the night with Brandi the night before my workday even though we were representing different classes, seeing our posters displayed in businesses across town, seeing my name on Andy's sign, building one of the best floats to date (Thank you, Mr. Finley) with my classmates, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and my mom and dad, and waking up to the beating of pots and pans the morning of Fall Festival led by my brother who had come home from his army training in order to be able to drive my uncle's corvette adorned with blue balloons and construction paper behind my float. I didn't bring home the win for my class that year, but I remember being so happy for my friend who did and so very grateful for the opportunity to be a part of something so special. Since then, I have had the privilege of being a sponsor myself, working with great people like Steve Pursley, Brandi Brogan, Dana Ward, and Carole Gore. I have added up a total of 21 floats that I had the opportunity to help design and/or build. I've worked with hundreds of students and their families to carry on such an amazing tradition. Fall festival is what you make it, and I am thankful for all of the magic that I was able to be a part of. Happy 100th Arcadia Valley!





1993-94 Arcadia Valley High School queen candidates

Left to right: Jessica McHenry, freshman; Robin Baldwin, sopho- more; Brandi Bennett, junior; and Marjory Propst, senior.



FLOATS

THE LONGSTANDING TRADITION

Floats, as we know them today, entered the parade in 1937. In the early days, candidates rode through town on the back of an automobile, and automobiles were decorated in crepe paper streamers, cornstalks, and pumpkins.

In this first parade, the judges couldn't decide between juniors and freshmen, so it was a tie, both classes receiving 2500 points.

NOTE: Earlier accounts identified 1944 as the first year of judged floats. Newly uncovered scrapbook photographs donated by Dorothy Houston to the Iron County Historical Society, together with entries from Frances Hardy's journal and issues of Tiger Talks, helped identify these earlier, previously undocumented floats.



1937 1st place:
"Toys"
Juniors, Eileen Yount
TIE with Freshmen
(photo unavailable)



1939: Juniors, Helen Bartlow



1939: Seniors, Betty Russell



1938 1st place: Juniors, Helena Wood (Float designed by Sammy Palmer)

QUEEN PARADE

As a whole, the Queen Parade this year was one of originality and thoughtful planning. The Seniors placed Maxine Webb in a royal cloak behind a delicious white cake decorated with purple icing. On the cake were three candles--green, blue and red--signifying the three years of victory in past contests; the fourth, a purple candle, Maxine held in her hand. Helena Wood sat on her throne under an ultra-modern arch bearing her name and class. The Sophomores chose an Indian scene, and, dressed in costume, spread themselves lavishly about their queen, Louise Johnson, the Indian maid. The Freshmen depicted a farming scene; among the flowers they did little toil, but made a good impression for their contestant, Evelyn Ringo. Business men of the town judged the attractiveness of the floats in this order: Juniors, Sophomores, Seniors, Freshmen.

November 11, 1938, *Tiger Talks* Vol. 2X No.4

QUEEN PARADE

Every year, on Saturday afternoon of carnival day, it is the custom for the different classes to parade through Ironton and surrounding towns in cars decorated in their class colors, to further advertise the carnival held on Hallowe'en night. Each class may be recognized by certain colors: seniors, purple and white; juniors, red and white; sophomores, blue and white; and freshmen, green and white.

Instead of all queens riding in a special float this year, each class is to decorate a special float for its queen. There will be five judges in the crowd watching the parade to judge the winning float, and 5,000 queen votes will be given the victorious class.

October 29, 1937, *Tiger Talks* Vol. 33 No.4



1937 - Seniors, Maxine Rice



1939: Freshmen, Hattie Miller "Windmill and Dutch Girl"



1939: Sophomores, Marie Whitworth

Floats of the 1940s

In the '40s, float building was even more involved. Cotton and crepe paper were used to cover truck beds to create more elaborate designs. The parade took place on the afternoon of the Carnival, following a route down Main Street and back up to the IHS baseball field. It was a separate competition that did not determine the queen; instead, the Queen was still selected based on the number of tickets sold at the Carnival. Candidates rode in the parade on their floats, and float judges announced their decisions immediately following the parade. Notably, 1947 marked the first time the parade was rained out.

NOTE: Until this recent research, the 1944 junior float, 'American Beauty Rose,' was documented as the first winning float. The school's discovery of a 1944 yearbook revealed photographs and records of the 1943 floats, including their winners. This newly uncovered evidence moves the earliest documented winning floats back to 1943.



1946 Senior Jennie White "hitches her wagon" to her Dad's logging truck.



1943 1st place: Seniors "Angel of Mercy"



1943 2nd Place: Juniors, Marie Pallo



1944 1st Place: "American Beauty Rose" Juniors, Mary Jane Kennedy



1943: Freshman - "Rosie the Riveter"



1948 First Place: "Make Mine Music" Juniors, Faye Miracle



Our Float was built on the back of a flatbed truck. The whole thing was covered in white cotton and Crepe paper trimed in red. I sat on two big books with a big open book behind me, which said Fairy Tales. There was a little fairy & Elf setting on the end of the float. I don't remember there names. It was a beautiful day. I wore a red sleeveless dress. We won First Place.

1946: Juniors, Pat Winder From the Frances Hardy Journal



1943: Sophomores, "Pistol Packin' Mama"

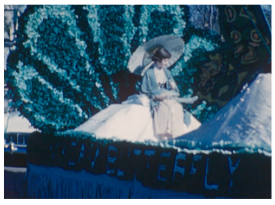


1945: Sophomores, Dorothy Robertson (a cotton covered float covered in stars)



1946: Freshmen, Annette Ringo

Floats of the 50s & 60s

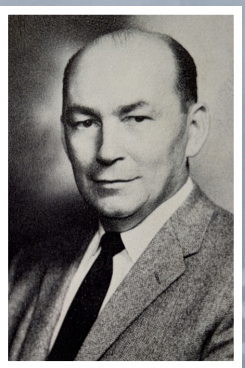








1956 was the first year for float themes: Song Titles
Before this time classes could make whatever themed float they wanted.



Herbert Grayum
The grandfather of "stuffing."

The '50s and '60s were a time of innovation for our valley's parade floats.

Somewhere around 1950, Principal and later Superintendent Herbert Grayum introduced the idea of what we refer to as "stuffing." Napkins from Blackwell-Wielandy Company in St. Louis, MO were stuffed into chicken wire to create the "pomped" look that became a trademark of Arcadia Valley Fall Festival floats.

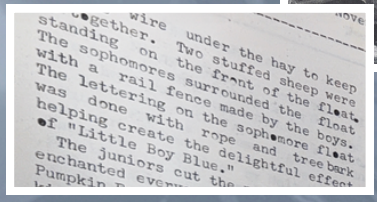
By the 1954 parade, all four classes had adopted this new way of creating Carnival parade floats.

THEMES

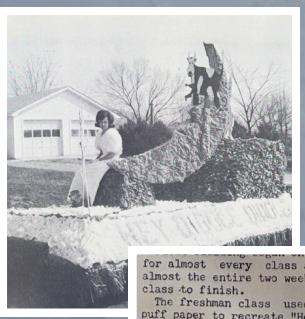
1956 SONG TITLES
1957 MUSICALS
1958 MISSOURI HISTORY
1959 CHILDREN'S TOYS
1960 COUNTRIES
1961 ENGLISH LITERATURE
1962 FAMOUS MOVIES
1963 HOLIDAYS
1964 THE SPACE AGE
1965 FAIRY TALES
1966 NURSERY RHYMES
1967 WONDERFUL WORLD OF WALT DISNEY
1968 HISTORICAL EVENTS
1969 CARTOON CHARACTERS



Floats of the 1966 parade experimented with even more new ways to create their masterpieces...



wire under the hay to keep
together. Two stuffed sheep were
standing on the front of the float.
The sophomores surrounded the float
with a rail fence made by the boys.
The lettering on the sophomore float
was done with rope and tree bark
helping create the delightful effect
of "Little Boy Blue."
The juniors cut the
enchanted even
Pumpkin



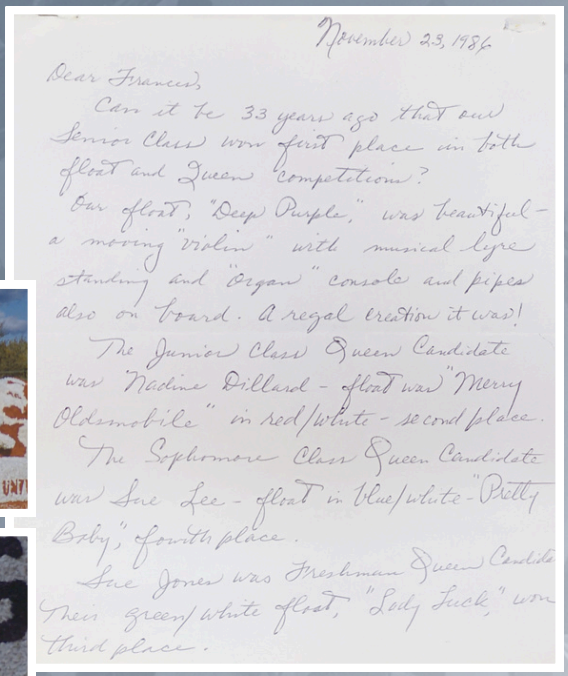
for almost every class and it took almost the entire two weeks for every class to finish.
The freshman class used the new puff paper to recreate "Hey, Diddle, Diddle." They put the paper on sheets of cardboard with wallpaper paste. After the paper was on the cardboard it was bunched together. The animals on the float were wooden and painted. The float was accented by a large, crescent moon.
The sophomores gained a rustid effect by using burlap bags dyed blue. The floor was covered with artificial grass. A haystack was added by



1954 Winner
Stairway to Paradise Rosalie Bay, Senior



1950 Winner The Carousel, Caroylin Koenig, Junior



November 23, 1986

Dear Frances,

Can it be 33 years ago that our Senior Class won first place in both float and Queen competitions?

Our float, "Deep Purple," was beautiful - a moving "violin" with musical lyre standing and "organ" console and pipes also on board. A regal creation it was!

The Junior Class Queen Candidate was Nadine Dillard - float was "Merry Oldsmobile" in red/white - second place.

The Sophomore Class Queen Candidate was Sue Lee - float in blue/white - "Pretty Baby," fourth place.

Sue Jones was Freshman Queen Candidate Their green/white float, "Lady Luck," won third place.

1953 Queen Marilyn Earls, The Frances Hardy Journal

1962
The junior float "Streetcar Named Desire" caused quite the "controversy," according to Queen Sandra (Boring) Lotz: "School had to have a special meeting because it was such a 'risque movie.'"





Two-part float in parade of '54









The 1955 parade featured a spinning piano!

Floats of the 70s & 80s

In 1970, the float competition became a part of the categories for the crown, no longer its own overlapping competition. Our Fall Festival had back-to-back years where they suspended colors: We celebrated the bicentennial in 1975 by allowing classes to use patriotic colors, and again in 1976 to mark the 50th anniversary of the festival.

In 1987 the parade was postponed due to rain.

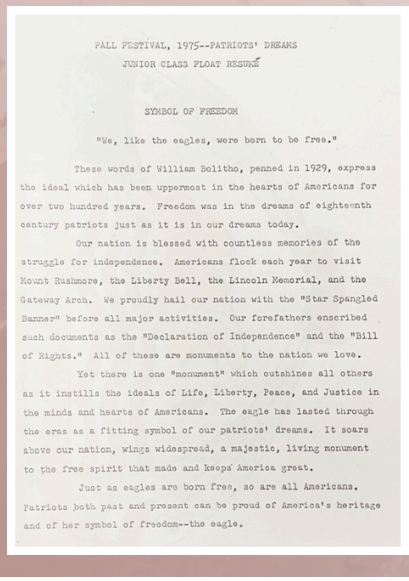
Only two classes in festival history—1987 and 1991—achieved a four-year sweep of the float competition.











FALL FESTIVAL, 1975--PATRIOTS' DREAMS
JUNIOR CLASS FLOAT RESUME

SYMBOL OF FREEDOM

"We, like the eagles, were born to be free."

These words of William Bolitho, penned in 1929, express the ideal which has been uppermost in the hearts of Americans for over two hundred years. Freedom was in the dreams of eighteenth century patriots just as it is in our dreams today.

Our nation is blessed with countless memories of the struggle for independence. Americans flock each year to visit Mount Rushmore, the Liberty Bell, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Gateway Arch. We proudly hail our nation with the "Star Spangled Banner" before all major activities. Our forefathers enscribed such documents as the "Declaration of Independence" and the "Bill of Rights." All of these are monuments to the nation we love.

Yet there is one "monument" which outshines all others as it instills the ideals of Life, Liberty, Peace, and Justice in the minds and hearts of Americans. The eagle has lasted through the eras as a fitting symbol of our patriots' dreams. It soars above our nation, wings widespread, a majestic, living monument to the free spirit that made and keeps America great.

Just as eagles are born free, so are all Americans. Patriots both past and present can be proud of America's heritage and of her symbol of freedom--the eagle.





















THEMES

1970 OLD WEST
1971 HAPPINESS IS . . .
1972 OUTSTANDING EVENTS
1973 GREAT BOOKS
1974 A MAGIC MOMENT
1975 PATRIOT'S DREAM
1976 FIFTY GOLDEN YEARS
1977 NURSERY RHYMES
1978 MOVIES
1979 NATIONAL MONUMENTS
1980 IT'S A SMALL WORLD
1981 ACROSS THE SEAS
1982 IRON COUNTY HISTORY
1983 DOWN ON THE FARM
1984 UNDER THE BIG TOP
1985 SONG TITLES
1986 THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT
1987 THOSE WERE THE DAYS
1988 SOUNDS OF LAUGHTER
1989 CELEBRATE

Floats of the 90s & 2000s

THEMES

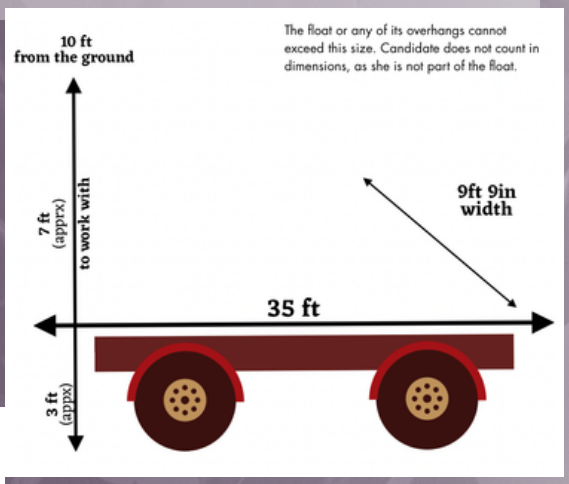
1990 THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD
1991 ONCE UPON A TIME
1992 THE MAGIC JOURNEY
1993 HIP, HIP, HURRAH FOR . . .
1994 ONE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS
1995 AMUSEMENT
1996 1926-1996: 70 YEARS OF MEMORIES
1997 POSTAGE STAMPS
1998 MY FAVORITE TOY
1999 INVENTIONS OF THE 20TH CENTURY
2000 THE OLYMPICS
2001 DECADES OF THE PAST
2002 CARTOONS
2003 FAIRY TALES
2004 COLOR MY WORLD
2005 BOARD GAMES
2006 TV LAND
2007 A TRIBUTE TO. . .
2008 82 YEARS OF COLOR
2009 GREATEST STORIES EVER TOLD

The '90s were an interesting time for floats. We said goodbye to gargantuan floats with a grand finale and ushered in a new era of float building with limitations on height, width, and length.

In 1990, not only did the seniors round out their Fall Festival float domination, their float Cinderella won a national competition as well. The following year sophomore float Alice and Wonderland won the same national contest. The '90s finished strong with the

Class of 1999 creating floats so big they had to use hinges and raise power lines to get floats in and out of their buildings. In 1998, float restrictions were established so the maximum dimensions of a float matched the door of the smallest float size. A new evolution of float building begins.

Floats in the 2000s begin to focus more on the details to maximize creativity within new restraints.







Floats in the 2000s begin to really focus on the details to maximize creativity within new restraints.



First year with new restrictions.













Floats of the 2010s & 2020s













The most recent years of AV floats bear witness to the continued incredible workmanship tradition that makes these so incredible. In these two decades you often see more varying structures, more unique custom lettering, and yet a consistent nod to the history. How does this all get done in 41 hours?

The school purchased new wagons for all four classes and extended the bases, which took away the stress of finding a wagon to borrow, saved money on extensions, and allowed everyone to have the same starting point.

THEMES

2010 REMEMBERING OUR FAVORITE LITTLE GOLDEN BOOKS
2011 SUPERHEROES
2012 BEST OF THE BEST
2013 A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES
2014 THE MAGICAL WORLD OF DISNEY
2015 CANDY
2016 LOONEY TUNES
2017 SEE US ON ROUTE 66
2018 ROCK AND ROLL
2019 CLASSIC TOYS
2020 BROADWAY
2021 RETRO VIDEO GAMES
2022 MYTHICAL CREATURES
2023 DISNEY PIXAR
2024 FAST FOOD ICONS
2025 DR. SEUSS
2026 FALL FESTIVAL 100: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION











FLOAT WINNERS
THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

Before 1937 floats were not judged

1937 Tie: Toys / Eileen Yount, Junior
Unnamed / Leona Basden, Freshmen
1938 Modern Arch / Helena Wood, Juniors
1939 Unknown
1940 Unknown
1941 V for Freshman Victory / Barbara Russell, Freshmen
1942 Unknown
1943 Angel of Mercy / Jeanette Moore, Seniors
1944 American Beauty Rose / Mary Jane Kennedy, Junior
1945 Senior Paradise / Byrdean Hughes, Senior
1946 Fairy Tales / Bettye Thompson, Junior
1947 In an Old Dutch Garden / Betty Raby, Junior
1948 Make Mine Music / Faye Reed, Junior
1949 Now is the Hour / Orpha Lou Sutton, Junior
1950 The Carousel / Carolyn Koenig, Junior
1951 The H.M.S. Sophomore / Frances Ray, Sophomore
1952 The Junior Special / Jane Hixson, Junior
1953 Deep Purple / Marilyn Earls, Senior
1954 Stairway to Paradise / Rosalie Bay, Senior
1955 Queen of the Universe / Carole Edwards, Junior
1956 Madame Butterfly / Nancy Haig, Freshman
1957 The King and I / Roberta Wilkerson, Senior
1958 Missouri Queen / Mary Carol Denton, Senior
1959 Toyland / Pearl Statler, Senior
1960 Japan / JoAnn Poinsett, Senior
1961 A Thing of Beauty is a Joy Forever / Betty Spitzmiller, Senior
1962 Streetcar Named Desire / Sandra Boring, Junior
1963 Easter / Mary Beth Vasterling, Senior
1964 Race to the Moon / Mary Sue Miller, Senior
1965 Ugly Duckling / Sue Miller, Sophomore
1966 Old King Cole / Ellen Huitt, Senior
1967 Siam / Toni Ricketts, Senior
1968 Discovery of America / Debra Hull, Sophomore
1969 Quick Draw McGraw / Susan Blankenship, Sophomore
1970 Sacajawea / Madelyn Ringo, Junior
1971 A Trip Around the World / Gerri Menne, Senior
1972 Eiffel Tower / Carol Woodcock, Freshman
1973 Treasure Island / Paula Dinger, Sophomore
1974 Graduation / Sheila Latham, Senior
1975 Spirit of '76 / Ann Russell, Senior
1976 50 Golden Years of the Tiger / LaDonna Meeks, Senior
1977 Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe / Mary Devaney, Senior
1978 Chitty Chitty Bang Bang / Tina Fisher, Junior
1979 Spirit of St. Louis / Susan Ries, Senior
1980 Children's Playthings / Tracy Inman, Senior
1981 China / Jill Schroer, Freshman
1982 Episcopal Church / Holly Chambers, Junior
1983 Easter / Lora Guhse, Freshman
1984 Jumbo / Kara Finley, Sophomore
1985 Mexican Hat Dance / Sherry Anderson, Junior
1986 Senior Fair / Janice Dennison, Senior
1987 Mardi Gras / Jill Dettmer, Freshman
1988 Smurfy Fun / Kelly Dettmer, Sophomore
1989 Celebrate Cardinals / Heather Cofer, Junior
1990 Cinderella / Erin Wynn, Senior
1991 Alice in Wonderland / Dawn Dettmer, Sophomore
1992 Egypt / Brandi Tate, Freshman
1993 Gone With The Wind / Robin Baldwin, Sophomore
1994 The Circus / Alison Reichert, Senior
1995 Arcadia Valley Golf / Anna Marie Martin, Freshman
1996 Carnival / Kylie Hill, Freshman
1997 Iron Mountain Railroad / Breanna Myracle, Junior
1998 Just Like Daddy / Alisha Harris, Freshman
1999 Follow in Our Tracks / Kelsey Vaughn, Freshman
2000 Let the Games Begin / Ellie Thurman, Junior
2001 Roaring Twenties / Adrienne Carver, Sophomore
2002 Blues Clues / Gaetana Franklin, Sophomore
2003 The Beauty of Everafter, Sleeping Beauty / Jacque Reed, Senior
2004 Tie: It's Not Easy Being Green / Cassie Persons, Freshman
NBC, Nothing But Color / Jackie Adams, Senior
2005 Candyland / Kassie Walker, Sophomore
2006 I Love Lucy / Monica Reed, Junior
2007 Crocodile Hunter / Abby St. Clair, Freshman
2008 Blue Angels / Hailey Vaughn, Sophomore
2009 Where the Wild Things Are / Megan Cross, Senior
2010 The Monster at the End of the Book / Callie McLaurin, Sophomore
2011 Wonder Twins / Kayla Chamberlain, Senior
2012 Mardi Gras / Melia Ackley, Freshman
2013 Drive-In Movie / Megan Marler, Senior
2014 Queen of Hearts / Kristen Kirnbauer, Junior
2015 Like a Kid in a Candy Store / Briley Whited, Freshman
2016 Yosemite Sam / Cali Jones, Junior
2017 A Diner on Route 66 / Haleigh Usher, Senior
2018 Great Balls of Fire / Emma Nelson, Junior
2019 We Bring the Fun: Radio Flyer / Lilee Jones, Junior
2020 Wicked / Taylor Lorenz, Freshman
2021 Frogger / Aaleigha Hopper, Freshman
2022 Gnome Sweet Gnome / Reese Brogan, Freshman
2023 Brave / Braelyn Turnbough, Freshman
2024 Our Dairy Queen / Hattie Vinyard, Sophomore
2025 Green Eggs and Ham / Maddisyn Fitzgerald, Freshman

TO BUILD A FLOAT: MANY HANDS MAKE FUN WORK

The Yates Brothers

"That right there? That's two by fours, chicken wire, and a whole lotta little square tissues...."

"See that metal arm there? We spent two hours walking up and down Lowe's looking for an accordion pipe that's big enough for a dowel rod but small enough so it looks like an arm. Then we put a windshield wiper motor underneath that part there so it moves..."

Float building is a work of art—a meticulous process starting from the wagon up. They must be constructed on site, which requires creative thinking to make a complex design from a simple drawing come to life. The structures have to be sturdy... and must be able to accommodate lots and lots of chicken wire.



Each class starts with a drawing, a wagon and a budget.

For at least 30 years, floats were built in 39 hours. Last year, with the addition of Saturday morning and removing the "all-Thursday-nighter," two more hours were added. So now we're at 41. Hours... to make a masterpiece. How do we do it? One word: Community.

One of the most challenging parts of putting their float together is finding volunteers to do the construction. No matter the number of students ready and excited to work, no matter how cool the drawing or even how well prepared classes are to execute their designs, if there isn't someone wise in the ways of power tools and construction basics, you can't build a float.

At its very best, float building is a partnership of students and community. 1957 Queen Marilyn (Matthews) Walker tells of two weeks of float building where "the dads and men of the community built the construction part of the float and then the students would come in during the second week to stuff and decorate." Now days some classes may have students who know their way around a workshop, but many (or most) do not. Even in the days when windows covered with newspapers to hide the float construction from prying eyes, there were always volunteer adults not only helping students build the structures, but teaching them how to do it themselves–creative endeavor where each generation learns from the other in the process of building something really cool together.

By senior year, students take on more and more construction projects as they've learned the art of building an Arcadia Valley parade float. Senior Maddox Coles is a great example, as he looks forward to his float project this year: "Having all these adults here that might be doing these kind of jobs for a living, and being 18 years old, a senior in high school, and having the same importance and value that they do... is just a really fun experience."

Many of those students come back as adults and the cycle starts again.

Such is the case for brothers Mark and Cliff Yates. Mark (Class of 1978) has been working on floats since his freshman year. When his kids got to high school, he got right back in it with his brother Cliff. Both are passionate about float building as a student-equipping partnership. They refer to the process as a type of apprenticeship.

Achieving this balance takes strategy from the very beginning. The brothers have worked on several floats together and they developed their own system where the students can get started right away. "We kind of made an assembly line out of it," Cliff says.

Maximizing student involvement is at the heart of how they build their floats, and they came up with a unique process for the construction: "A lot of floats used to have 2x4s and 2x2s, and it was just massive and costly... We developed a system to where it was ninety percent 1x2s, which was a fraction of the cost, fraction of the weight, easier for kids to handle."

Mark agrees. "When you get to that point, then the kids can run the saws... and cut and put together, get the wire on and they feel like they're a part of it... Then you can kind of step back and take a breath, and then build the next piece."



Each brother runs a streamlined process at the site. Instead of building a piece at a time on the wagon, parts are built on the ground and placed on the float, enabling student involvement the entire time.
It's about the students learning and working together to make a beautiful float.

And the Yates brothers make beautiful floats.

For both of them, a first place float comes down to Workmanship.
Mark says a winning float is about "clean lines," sticking to the drawing, and construction. "You have to have a good theme, a good picture, and a good idea. That's your winners."

Cliff agrees, "Good, crisp lines... When people walk up to a float and it's kind of shoddy looking, I mean, it's not going to win." He adds, "In my opinion, a good winner is stuffed and tight, nice and neat, not falling apart."

The brothers have been working on floats for several years and have seen many changes throughout the years. One of which was when the school purchased new wagons for each class and permanently added extensions around 2019. Before that time classes had pieced together wagons or in years past would have to secure a wagon from someone in town. Cliff is passionate about how much this has impacted the process. "Now they're all on the same playing field. You start from the same thing and everything's even. And that's a huge burden off of the people building floats. A huge burden."

Another change they're both fond of is the implementation of dimension restrictions in 1998. When asked if he remembered, Cliff was quick to say, "Yeah, because of this giant red train!"

He's referencing his niece's float, Mark's daughter Breanna (Myracle) Serrano. In 1997, her junior class float "Iron Mountain Railroad" was "the straw that broke the camel's back."
That year, the brothers were working on different floats. Cliff was helping his son Cody's sophomore class. They had a small building, so their float was smaller and had no trouble being finished. That was not the case with the train. "The train was so huge and big that they couldn't get it done. They were not going to get it done. No way, no how."

But the panic was an opportunity for AV students to display the character we're known for. It became one of their proudest moments. Cliff remembers many of the sophomores going over to the junior float to help. Then kids from other classes joined in the panic of meeting the 6:00 deadline. Despite the extreme stress, Mark says of all the floats he's worked on, the "giant red train" was his favorite. And it's not because of his daughter and not because it won first place. "All the classes came together. And it was fun. It was enjoyable. And they all worked hard."

The whole experience exemplifies the best parts of the festival, the kind of competition that brings out the best in people and the best in our school community.

Mark and Cliff are so very good at what they do. When Cliff first started working at the school, he didn't build an individual float; instead, he served as the Float Advisor for all classes, stepping in whenever a sponsor had construction questions or needed technical expertise. But each has been a part of multiple winning floats. It's hard to keep track. When asked, Mark counted 11 wins. Cliff's response? "Seven winners...Cheated out of four."

Even though Mark and Cliff have worked on opposite floats more times than they have worked together, the competitiveness is all in good spirit, with the goal being having fun with the kids and teaching them how to create something together. Cliff sums it up, "The whole thing is getting those kids involved in it. And then whenever it is completed and they step back and look at it, they say, 'I did that. That's my float. I'm proud of that.'"





A CENTURY OF CREATIVITY:

The Finley Float Era

by Jim Finley







Early floats were built with cotton or whatever materials they could find. These structures were usually built on trucks or Jeeps. They were often built on the morning of the parade. In the early days, the parade began at 2:00 pm but was changed to the morning hour of 10:00 am in recent years.

In all the years, the parade was rained out only one time. In 1947, the Junior float "In a Dutch Garden" won first place. This is the only float to win 1st place that was never showcased in a parade.

Superintendent H. E. Grayum suggested the use of chicken wire and using paper napkins and crepe paper for the stuffings. Paper was obtained from the Blackwell Company in St. Louis (I bet the company wondered what the school did with all of those boxes of napkins). In 1966, Marvin Powell introduced the use of tissue paper and fringe which had been used at the Watermelon Festival in Hornersville, Missouri. Prior to that time, the fringe for some floats were handmade by students.

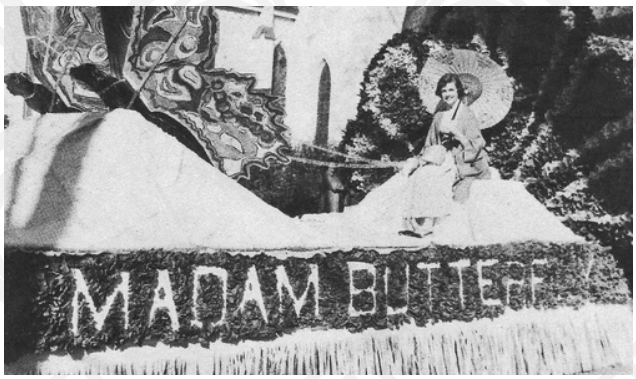




Using a theme for the Carnival started in 1956 and was chosen by the school's student council. This procedure continues today. The first theme was "Song Titles" and the 1st place float was the Freshman float "Madame Butterfly". The class sponsor was Mrs. June Hulsey who was the school's art teacher.

When I was a sponsor I liked to see three things: a backdrop, something eye-catching on the front, and the queen candidate. Sometimes, I think that the real purpose of the float was to introduce the queen candidate to the Valley community. The queen should fit the theme of the float and always look beautiful as the centerpiece of the float. The most impressive items were the costumes worn by the candidates. They were always amazing. I never liked for anyone else to ride on the float other than the queen candidate.

My preference was to use the class colors of Freshman green, Sophomore blue, Junior red, and Senior purple. I rarely used any other color besides these, but deviated one time on the float "Sacajawea". That float, in my opinion, was the most beautiful one ever built. No animation or moving parts were incorporated into my float designs. Now, of course, these options have been used often.







Floats in the early days were huge and built over two weeks time on trailers. Today, the floats are built in one week and placed on trailers supplied by the school. This detail provides a similar base for each float, but good sponsors use their creativity to make their float look individual and different. Earlier, floats were built in secret and not seen until the float viewing event. This open viewing has become important in the float building process.

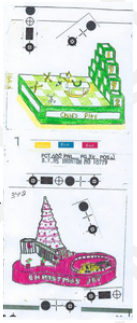




Float judges have always been chosen from local people, as they should be. Of course, no one wanted to reveal that they were a float judge or a talent judge. During my days of building floats, I aways tried to guess who was a judge. While building the "Treasure Island" float in Pilot Knob, a lady dressed to the nines sauntered into the float building, walked around the float and said, " I wondered what you were going to use for the jewels in the treasure chest". Bingo! Float Judge.

Float judges were given a sketch of what the float should look like and a synopsis of the reasons for choosing that float design.

I don't think any class or sponsor would want to build anything besides a first place float. I supervised the building of 17 first place floats and 5 second place floats. I decided it was just as easy to build a float winner as it was to build one that wouldn't be a winner. I knew my 5 second place floats were not going to win when they were finished. Two of the float years that I lost were to Dorothy Scott Cox, Ron Murphy, and ironically, Jo Ella Finley.







There were two classes that had their floats win all four years. I was not a sponsor for either class, but just one of the many parents who helped build floats over the years. Oddly, one of these was my daughter Kara's class from 1983-1986. The floats were "Down on the Farm," "Jumbo," "Mexican Hat Dance" and "Senior Fair." The other class was my son Kris' from 1987-1990. The floats were "Mardi Gras," "Smurfs," "Cardinals" and "Cinderella."In 1990, "Cinderella" won 1st place in a nationwide float contest. The prize was $200. The next year, the Sophomore class won 1st place in the same contest with their float "Alice in Wonderland."

Everyone, young and old, loves a parade. One of the main elements of each Carnival and Festival event has been the parade of floats. The creating of a float allows the students in each class to participate and put forth their creativity and pride as they showcase their queen candidate. The community continues to support the school and express their pride in the efforts of all those involved in magically transforming a truck bed or trailer into art works in green, blue, red and purple.

















When the horses passed by, that year's parade was over. Everyone would head for the school parking lot to have a close view of the wonderful floats and make their guesses as to which class has won the float competition.

On an early October morning during Fall Festival weekend, just drive from Pilot Knob through Ironton and on to Arcadia to see literally hundreds of people lining the streets in anticipation of seeing the amazing creations by high school students. I have been truly blessed by the wonderful students and parents who have become friends because of the Carnival/Fall Festival events. May it provide another 100 years of joy and friendships. It's been great y'all!

- Jim Finley













76 Trombones Led the Big Parade...

The Marching Tigers have led the way of the Arcadia Valley Fall Festival parade for decades. Though the blood, sweat, and glitter of the famous Arcadia Valley floats sometimes steals the stage at the annual parade, behind the scenes hundreds, if not thousands, of students throughout the years have put in an immense amount of work and preparation to entertain community and family members with renditions of some of our favorite marches and contemporary pieces.

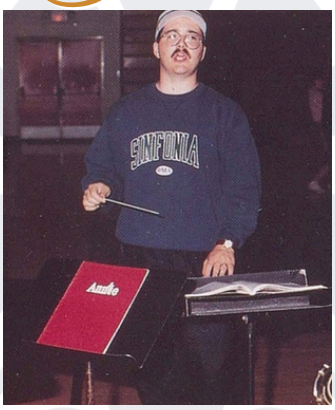
Beloved former AVHS band director Mr. Tom Broussard shared some thoughts about how he went about selecting pieces for his outstanding bands in the '90s. "The pieces performed must appeal to the audience to which it is given for many reasons. I was always proud of our AVHS Band for their hard work in preparing for the Fall Festival Parade," stated Broussard.

Broussard retired from public education after a combined 29 years at AV and Jackson High School. Currently the Director of Bands at Christian Brothers College High School in St. Louis, Missouri, he is credited for his successful, creative approach, "For me, learning who each student is as an individual is very important in building a strong band community. I also tried to have grace and patience to give students as many chances as it took for them to be successful."

After first arriving at AV, Broussard found 50 usable band uniforms for the 55 students in his band. Through his tireless efforts he was able to purchase new uniforms that year. "Every time we performed in public, we wore our [new] uniforms," said Broussard. "The community took notice of how our students took pride in how they represented the school."

Community support was evident as Broussard prioritized sharpening up his ensemble by raising funds to purchase enough uniforms for his growing band. He credits then administrators, Dr. Terry Adams and Mr. Jim Erpenbach, along with the AV School Board for supporting his work.

With no football team, marching band at AVHS has historically been celebrated during parade marching season.





The Southeast Missouri State University Homecoming Parade, Annapolis Freedom Fest, AV Christmas Parade, and even a notorious trip to Mardi Gras decades ago have highlighted the many talents that AV musicians have displayed throughout the years. In the fall of 2023, current AV Band director, Mr. Charles Lee, gave students the opportunity to witness the excitement of fall football by bringing the AV Band students to the University of Missouri where they participated in a performance with several other Missouri high schools on Faurot Field at Memorial Stadium during a Missouri Tigers game.

Whether you are an AVHS band alumnus or stand as one of the many music fans that grace our valley, you are a part of the band's success. It is you, the audience, that brings the energy and enthusiasm to the streets of town or the seats of the concert venue. For the many years of supporting the arts at Arcadia Valley Schools and ensuring that our student graduate with every opportunity available to them, we tip our plume to you.






Band 46-47
CAFE

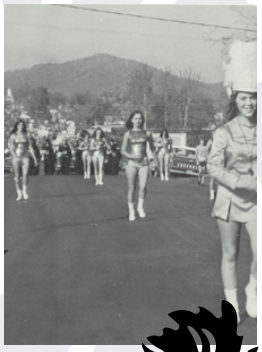

ARCADIA VALLEY
HIGH SCHOOL


ARCADIA VALLEY
HIGH SCHOOL















TALENT

A NEW WAY TO SHINE

Not only is Jeanie (Fitts) Matthews one of only 12 sophomore queens, she was also among the first group of candidates to perform a talent.

1970 was a pivotal year.

It was the birth year of what we now think of as Fall Festival.

For 42 Carnivals, the queen had been decided by which class sold the most tickets. In other words, it all came down to who could bring in the most money. The 43rd year changed all of that. All the pieces of the Carnival became competition categories to win, each worth points. Separate categories, equal importance, added together to determine the queen. Classes were already fundraising to build a float. Now fundraising became its own category called “Workday.” Classes were already creating beautiful floats that were already being judged, but now it was a category called “Float” absorbed as a part of the queen competition.

Fundraising for floats became the “Workday” competition, boy skits were judged, carnival games were gone, and tickets limited to one per person were used to vote for a category called “attendance,” and floats were absorbed into the overall competition. All of these things were already happening, with the exception of one brand new addition: Talent.

“We were really kind of clueless. We just picked what we thought we were good at and then got up there and did it.” Jeannie (Fitts) Matthews remembers no official announcement, and she can’t remember if they were told about the new talent category before or after they were chosen as candidates. She just remembers being informed it was something new they were to do. “It was scary. We were nervous because we didn’t know what to do.”

The candidates were each trying to figure out what this new category was like. “I was in the choir and I've always liked to sing. I liked Peter Paul and Mary and so I did a medley of their songs. I had a good friend and classmate, Mark Elsworth, and he played guitar.” Freshman Cheri Lambert did a modern dance to a Burt Bacharach tune and twirled baton, junior Madelyn Ringo performed a reading from Anne of a Thousands Days, and Paula Hawkins won talent that year through an original skit where she was saying goodbye to the old high school. Jeannie speculates that Paula’s victory could have been the start to the character-led skits of today. “They got more professional and progressed. I can remember Gerri Menne being Snoopy and sitting on top of his house... things moved toward comedy.”

Despite the anxiety of the new category, Jeannie laughs and remembers the whole thing with fondness. She loved the new structure of the competition because now money wasn’t the deciding factor. “We tied,” she remembers. Under the new system, a tie came down to votes at the door. “Oh, that was very cool...I felt pretty special.”



The Freshman Class chos Cheri Lambert as their queen candidate. The boy's skit was a takeoff on "Gunsmoke" and for her talent number Cherie did a Dance and Twirling routine to the song, "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head." For their workday the Freshman did odd jobs, held a car wash and a bake sale.

The Sophomore class chose the best all around girl for their queen candidate by a clever take off on the academy awards which they called the Frankfruter award. This was judged the best skit. The Sophomores also earned the most money on the work day on their fish fry project. Their queen candidate, Jeannie Fitts, sang a medley of Peter, Paul and Mary songs for her talent number. Jeannie was also named carnival queen for 1970.



CARNIVAL CORONATION

Jeannie Fitts, Sophomore Queen Candidate, was crowned queen of the 43rd Halloween carnival. This year marked a new beginning for the carnival. Gone were the games and booths and no longer was the queen selected on the basis of money. Jeannie was the first queen selected upon the basis of the five contests: (1) Floats; (2) skits; (3) Workdays; (4) Queen's talent; and (5) popular vote at the door.



Paula Hawkins, Senior queen candidate swept first place in the talent division with an original reading in which she was the old school saying goodby to her students. The seniors sponsored a ham and beans dinner for their work-day. Paula was chosen as queen candidate in a skit based on the t.v. series, "Bonanza".





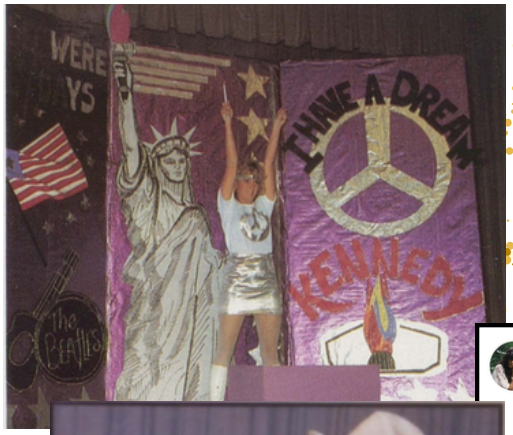
Madelyn Ringo was chosen as the Junior queen candidate in a skit which was a modern version of The Story of Captain John Smith and Pocahontas. Being chosen as an Indian princess was appropriate as Madelyn rode the prize winning float, "Sacajawea", as an Indian Princess. The Juniors sponsored a bar-b-que and a car wash for their work day project. Madelyn did a dramatic reading for her talent based on the book, ANNE OF THE THOUSAND DAYS.









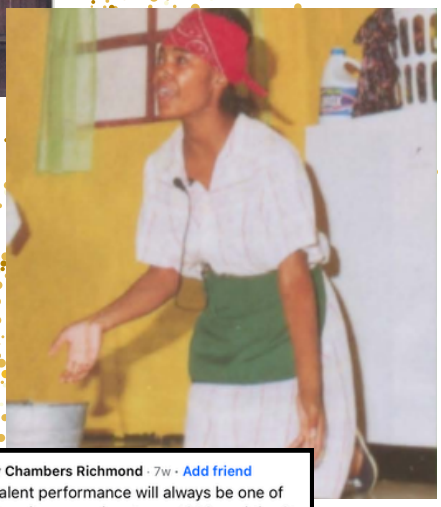






Emmalea Nelson

Ever since I was a little girl I dreamed of being in Fall Festival and performing my talent! When I was 10 I remember wanting to incorporate Bohemian Rhapsody in my skit also! Fast forward 2018 I was a Junior in high school and the theme was Rock and Roll!
My skit was thought up by my mom and wrote out by me and Brigid Trowbridge, with help from other family and friends.
When I mentioned I wanted to have Bohemian Rhapsody, Erin Trowbridge put his song writing skills to use and rewrote the lyrics to be
"Mama, it's time to fall. Put my feet onto the ground, to this tree no longer bound, mama life has just begun, but now it's time for me to blow away"
We found this beautiful instrumental version and that was how I opened my skit!







Janice Dennison-Helms · 1d

I will have to say th[illegible]t part was not my favorite. I did not like being in front of people and I had to be on stage all by myself. My talent was a debate between Harriet Woods and Kit Bond. I was dressed as half man and half woman. Now that I look back on that, it is pretty funny.
When it was time for my talent, I was in costume sitting back stage and my dad walked through to get my stuff ready for the stage. As he walked by, I said hi to him. He said hi and kept walking. I said, "dad"? And he whipped around to look at me and he hadn't recognized me because he hadn't seen me in my costume before. I felt better to go on stage then because if my own dad didn't recognize me, than, in my mind, no one would recognize me. 😂

Holly Chambers Richmond · 7w · Add friend

My talent performance will always be one of my favorite memories. It w[illegible] St. Louis Cardinals were playing in the World Series—perfect timing since I was the junior candidate and our class color was, of course, red. With about a week to prepare, I wrote an original monologue about a little girl attending her very first Cardinals game. The story was inspired by my own childhood growing up on a farm, and I took the stage in pigtails, a Cardinals jersey, shorts, and sneakers, with a backdrop of Cardinals fans at Busch Stadium. My favorite line was wondering how many bales of hay could fit inside the stadium—a tribute to my dad, who spent every summer baling hay. I was incredibly nervous, wondering if the sound system would work, if the audience could hear me, and whether the judges would even consider a monologue to be "real" talent. Thankfully, everything came together perfectly. I was crowned queen, and just four days later, my beloved Cardinals won the World Series, making it a season—and a memory—I will never forget.













TAKING THE STAGE

The Timeless Tradition of Talent at AVHS

by Pam (Murphy) McLaurin

In 1969, with the impending construction of the brand new Arcadia Valley High School and Gymnasium, the Ironton High School Carnival arrived at a crossroads. The games and crowds could no longer be sustained without damaging the beautiful, new gym floor so a committee of faculty and community members held a series of meetings to decide how the competition might be retooled in order to evolve and continue. Out of this purpose, the talent category was born.

According to Mr. Jim Finley, the idea of candidates performing talent came from the Miss America Pageant and became an integral part of the overall competition in 1970. The first queen candidates to perform a talent were Freshman Cherie Lambert, who danced to the popular song "Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head," Sophomore Jeannie Fitts sang a beautiful medley, Junior Madelyn Ringo, performed a dramatic reading and Senior Paula Hawkins incited audience laughter and nostalgia in a skit saying goodbye to the old high school.

For more than fifty years, the talent category has remained. We have seen costumes and backdrops become more elaborate and grand and have been amazed and inspired by the poise and courage of each candidate who has performed on the stage. Today, the tradition has become that each "skit" tells a story through a pain stakingly written and memorized script displaying a multitude of skills and abilities. We have seen gymnastics, a variety of dance styles, side-splitting comedy, dramatic performances, musical instruments, magic, singing and so much more.

Not only has queen talent required young ladies to perform in front of a large crowd of peers and community members, from its inception as a category, it has been judged. The first categories for talent were originality, poise, costume and presentation. Unidentified judges from other communities were invited to observe the performances and rank the candidates from 1 to 4 in each of the categories, with the candidate receiving the lowest total score being declared the winner. Talent categories have been adjusted and defined more fully in recent years. The first, Presentation, includes backdrops and costumes that are appropriate and complement the performance. Poise is defined as candidates speaking clearly and having memorized their dialogue and performances, remaining composed and confident throughout, even through unexpected technical or other challenges. Talent/Skill means these two elements are included and well executed during presentation. Finally, Entertainment Value gauges the originality or creativity in the performance as well as the experience of the audience. A time frame of 8 to 12 minutes is ideal with judges being informed of any talent presentation exceeding 12 minutes. Candidates continue to be ranked 1 to 4 in each judging category.

I remember as a young girl, attending the Saturday night coronation festivities and being so excited to read the program to get a hint of what each candidate might do in her skit. I was always in awe when the curtains opened and I got my first glimpse of the set and props and then the candidate. Where would she be? Would she be on stage, enter from the side or walk up the aisle and up the steps? What would her costume look like? Would it be sparkly and glittering in the spotlight? I always watched in wonder at the talents each candidate performed in their skit. At the end of the evening, I couldn't wait to see who would win first place in the talent category because to me, each of the candidates was a star, a feeling that is still with me today whenever I watch a young lady take that big stage at AVHS to represent her class.

As a candidate, the talent portion of Fall Festival felt like a big responsibility. I remember that Wesley Wren came up with the idea that I would be a little girl playing in my grandma's attic, finding props I would use in a twenties style dance, a humorous political speech and a dramatic monologue. Wesley wrote the script with help from my dad on the political speech. Mr. Lindell Dunivan was my acting coach and Mrs. Joann Newman made my costume. Wesley wrote the script and I studied in my bedroom until I had it memorized. I practiced long hours at home and at the Wren's house. At that time, all of the candidates recorded our skits on cassette tape because the school didn't have the modern PA system we know today. Overall, the process was really fun with only a few stressful moments. On coronation night, I remember waiting downstairs in the locker room for my turn on stage. I had been excited but as the time got close, I was suddenly very nervous. I thought several times I might even throw up but the butterflies finally calmed down and I was behind the curtain and ready. I don't remember much about my time on stage but I do remember the rush I felt afterward, knowing that I had done it! My mom came backstage and we ran up the breezeway to put my dress on and get ready for the coronation procession.

Over the years, I had the privilege of working with many queen candidates on their talents. I always enjoyed the creative process of brainstorming ideas, writing drafts of scripts and designing sets and costumes. But my favorite part was getting to know the girls, seeing the performer inside and watching their confidence grow. From my perspective, the talent category of Fall Festival is so much more than a piece of the overall competition. It is a unique experience for each candidate that can translate to special memories and lifelong lessons and growth.



The Queen's Checklist

On Fall Festival Saturday, we get to watch four young ladies smile and wave to the crowds on top of a beautiful float. Later that evening we experience them as beautiful princesses in their beautiful ballroom gowns. But the beauty doesn't convey all the not-so-beautiful tasks accomplished before that walk down the gymnasium aisle. Perceiving them as beautiful icons makes it easy to forget that these young ladies aren't Barbie dolls or Broadway Stars or paid politicians.

"The Checklist" gives a glimpse into all the candidate and her support system must accomplish before the culminating event.

No matter how hard you've worked at float building, how much money you've donated, or even the level of indifference or cynicism you bring to the experience...

Whatever vote box you drop your ticket into or T-shirt color you wear...

Regardless of the snarky comment you can't let go of or the wound you still feel from your own experience...

Even if you have one hundred pieces of "constructive criticism" to offer about one hundred style decisions you wouldn't have made, or one hundred jokes you didn't get, or one hundred "good old days" you remember...

Never forget that these are brave teenage girls doing their very best to represent their class.

CANDIDATE TO DO CHECKLIST:

- Choose and contact escort and attendants.
- Brainstorm and outline a rough idea for my talent routine
- Turn in escort/attendant names and talent outline to Mrs. Turnbough - DUE TOMORROW
- Schedule and attend my photo session.
- Email face photo, full-body photo, and questionnaire to The Mountain Echo.
- Print pics and grab supplies for poster party
- Distribute and hang posters in local businesses.
- Prepare an 11x14 photo for display at Float Viewing and Coronation.
- Contact Cheri Layton to coordinate easel/frame borrowing and turn in my 11x14 picture directly to her.
- Shop for my class color formal dress, ensuring it strictly matches my class color and does not overlap with other class colors.
- Purchase matching formal attire accessories: shoes, hoop, gloves, and jewelry.
- Design and construct a ballot box that is a mini replica of our float.
- Practice my formal bow to the retiring queen.
- Shop for thank-you/appreciation gifts for my escort and attendants.
- Set up my ballot box and framed photo on the easel in the gym lobby by 4:30 p.m. Saturday.
- Pre-assemble stage decorations and props before my designated decor timeslot on Friday.
- Help decorate backdrops and bring props to the stage during my grade's assigned Friday timeslot.
- Attend Queen Coronation practice in the high school gym on Friday at 9:00 a.m.
- Remove all props from the stage by Sunday at 1:00 p.m.
- Pick up ballot box and photo from the Principal's office (Saturday night or next school day) and return borrowed frame and easel to the office.
- Collect my float keepsakes on the first school day after Fall Festival.
- Write and send thank-you cards to sponsors, float-building parents, and helpers.

QUEEN TALENT CHECKLIST:

- Write and finalize the full script
- Shop for and gather all necessary costumes, props, and equipment
- Plan and chart out my stage blocking and movements before getting on stage.
- Submit song titles and artists to Mrs. Turnbough before the deadline, indicating any pre-recorded performance portions.
- Memorize my script and performance completely before stage practices begin.
- Recruit helpers for practices and the Saturday night performance (music controller, spotlight operator, stagehands, curtain operator).
- Make the absolute most of my strictly limited stage time during my two scheduled 1-hour gym practice sessions (Sunday–Thursday before Fall Festival) with my music controller present.
- Bring colored tape to stage practice for marking item placement.
- Decorate my assigned triangular backdrop sides (2 sides, each 8'x8'), keeping within dimensions.
- Confirm all props fit through door dimensions (63" wide x 82" high) and inside storage space (6'x13').
- Practice! Practice! Practice!

Queen Cleo First Started It All



Valley High School's first carnival queen, Mrs. Cleo Eye Clemons is pictured above in her Potosi home today—the wife of a retired minister.

By Dorothy Reese

Four queens in a hand may be a winner in poker; Arcadia Valley High School has 40 queens! The school carnival, oldest in the state of Missouri, will see the selection of the 41st queen on Saturday, October 28.

Master-minded by the late Harold Garnett, the carnival was originally designed to get money for athletic equipment and to keep the youngsters from soaping windows and committing other outrages on Hallowe'en. Through the years, Hallowe'en often failed to fall on Saturday, but the carnival has always been held on the last Saturday in October.

The first queen was Cleo Eye, elected in 1927. She is now Mrs. Leslie Clemmons of Irondale, the wife of a retired minister. Although they had no children, Cleo gives piano lessons to Irondale's young people. She played girls' basketball in high school on the team coached by Mr. Garnett, and was graduated in 1929.

In the same graduation class was the second queen, Dorothy Collins. Elected in 1928, she, too played beautiful basketball. Her mother is the former Ruth Kanouse (1908) and is Mrs. J. W. Harris of the Shepherd Mountain road here. Dorothy has two daughters, one married after graduation from Southeast Missouri State and the younger one, a freshman there.

Additional queens have been: Ruth Hughes (Mrs. Burnell Gardner of Tampa, Florida); Ruth Wilson (Mrs. Taylor Smith, of Farmington); Helen Hughes (Mrs. Al Cowan, of Texas); Emily Sue (Mrs. Bob Berkley, of St. Louis); Hilda Jones (Mrs. Denton Tims, St. Louis); Sue Higdon (Mrs. Bill Sellers, Charleston); Marilyn Matthews (Mrs. M. Walker, of Crystal City); Marilyn Hixon (Mrs. Richard Dickey, Potosi); Pearl Statler (Mrs. McClain, Ufala, Mississippi); Paula Cook (Mrs. Vivrette, Potosi); Betty Spitzmiller, Edwardsville, Illinois); Sandra Boring, St. Louis; Mary Beth Vasterling (Mrs. Douglas Hrdlicka, Ft. Stewart, Georgia); Mary Sue Miller, Belleview; Nancy Whited, Pilot Knob; Ellen Huitt, Ironton.

Early queens all rode in one car on carnival day and yelled girlish admonitions to spectators to "Vote for me!" A few balloons attached to car door handles, a few crepe paper streamers trailing in the dust of Main Street, and the "parade" was over!

Floats did not appear until the middle 1930's when a truck bed

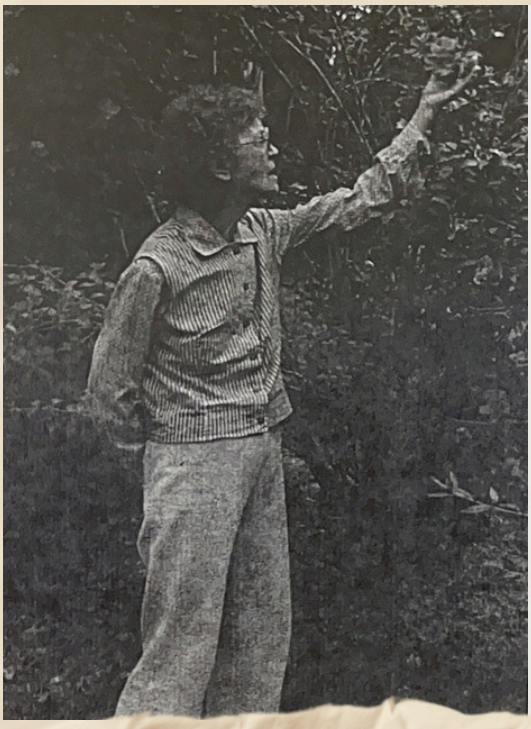
She had the best possible name for the trivia question she would forever be the answer to: Who was the first Fall Festival Queen? In 1927 junior Cleo (Eye) Clemons won the very first Ironton High School Carnival. She was escorted by Jack Chapman. After extensive research we could find only two clear photos of her. And very few documents. Went to Ancestry.com. Still no luck. In one article Dorothy Reese reveals that Cleo enjoyed the experience, loved her time at IHS, but what she remembered most were the people... and the yellow rose from her bouquet.

After a dive into documents at the historical society, we see how both were true to who she was: a humble woman, lover of flowers and of people, devoted to serving God and extending love to others. The perfect Queen of the valley.

Mrs. Cleo Eye Clemons of Irondale wrote "My four years in IHS -- the time spent in class study was interesting and I loved every minute of it and especially I liked our glee club practice and basketball. I was sorry to hear of the death of our dear basketball coach, Mr. Garnett. Our girls team won second place in the 1928 tournament at Flat River and came home bringing a cup. I suppose you still have it there. I remember a banquet was given in our honor in the Methodist Church in Ironton. I will be thinking of you during the 41st anniversary. It was an honor to be the first queen."

The very first queen, Cleo Eye Clemons of Irondale, wrote to say she could not come and that her year as queen had been so long ago, she could not remember the escort she had, the dress she wore, --she did remember that Mr. Harold Garrett had had charge of the whole thing. And she recalled keeping a yellow rose from her queen's bouquet.

Juniors! Juniors! Vote for our popularity queen, Cleo Eye. One who ...ts Elizabeth of England in the ...ark. Hurrah for Cleo!



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Our spotlight this month is on Cleo Clemons. Cleo was born Aug. 14, 1910 at Shirley, Mo. She is the youngest of six children, with four sisters and one brother. Her family moved to Belgrade when she was one, and to Irondale when she was ten. Shortly after moving to Irondale, her mother went out to feed her baby chickens and an old tree limb fell from a tree above. Her mother tried to run, but she was not fast enough. She lived for one week after this, but then passed away, leaving her young family.

As a freshman in High School Cleo was saved at a revival in Ironton, Mo. She grew in faith and service, and the Lord began preparing her for her adult life.

She became a school teacher and taught grades 1 - 9 in Ironton. Her family moved to Elvins shortly after that and she met Leslie Clemons. Leslie was a preacher, and even though Cleo loved the Lord, she vowed she would never marry a preacher. She dated Leslie for four years to make sure the Lord wanted the union. The Lord and true love won out. They have had pastorates in Missouri and Illinois, including Irondale Baptist Church for two years.

They moved back to Irondale and built their home in 1949.

Cleo taught the Sunbeam and Junior classes. She also had a boy's class for awhile. Being a Pastor's wife, she filled many positions. She played piano (her true love) when needed, and was active in WMU.

All of her life she played the piano and took continuous lessons from great piano teachers. She performed in many recitals which she loved. Never having any children of her own, Cleo shared her love and talent with many piano students. For many years she would have

(Continued on next page)

(Senior Spotlight continued)

between 20 and 25 students a week in her home. Today, at the age of 87, she still has two students.

Having a love for children, Cleo and Bro. Leslie tried twice to adopt. The first, a three year old boy, was in their home for a year when his mother remarried and took him back before all papers were finalized. The second, also a three year old boy, was with them six months. When the father, who did not know about the child, found out about him, he took the son away. Both times their hearts were broken and they relied on the Lord's strength and guidance.

Bro. Leslie was a pastor for over 45 years. He passed away in May of 1972.

Cleo's hobby is flowers. She raised African Violets for many years and sold them to two florist shops. An African Violet Magazine publisher somehow heard about her and asked her to write an article for the magazine. Her yard has always been filled with many beds of assorted flowers.

When asked about her outlook on life, Cleo said, "The Lord has been with me so many times in my life. He has answered many prayers for me. I've always believed in tithing and I would always tithe on any money I made from my flowers as well as our income. I believe in giving to others, and we gave many of our homegrown vegetables away. Most of all, I'm thankful that the Lord blessed me with 87 good years and that I'm a Christian."

A History of Queens

IRONTON CARNIVAL QUEENS

1927 CLEO EYE, Junior
1928 DOROTHY COLLINS, Senior
1929 RUTH HUGHES, Freshman
1930 RUTH WILSON, Freshman
1931 HELEN HUGHES, Freshman
1932 EMILY SUE FLETCHER, Freshman
1933 FRANCES FISHER, Freshman
1934 RUTH LOLLAR, Freshman
1935 GWENDOLYN MCCABE, Freshman
1936 DORIS BANTA, Sophomore
1937 EILEEN YOUNT, Junior
1938 HELENA WOOD, Junior
1939 HATTIE MILLER, Freshman
1940 NANCY BLANTON, Freshman
1941 BARBARA RUSSELL, Freshman
1942 ANNA MAE IMBODEN, Sophomore
1943 MARIE PALLO, Junior
1944 MAYNO TALMAGE, Senior
1945 JEAN WEBB, Junior
1946 PAT WINDER, Junior
1947 ANNE MEYER, Senior
1948 FLORA ALLEN, Senior
1949 PATSY EIDSON, Junior
1950 CAROLYN KOENIG, Junior
1951 AUDRY WEBB, Senior
1952 PATTY ANN BARNES, Freshman
1953 MARILYN EARLS, Senior
1954 ROSALIE BAY, Senior
1955 HILDA JONES, Senior
1956 SUE HIGDON, Senior
1957 MARILYN MATTHEWS, Junior
1958 MARILYN HIXSON, Junior
1959 PEARL STATLER, Senior

ARCADIA VALLEY CARNIVAL QUEENS

1960 PAULA COOK, Sophomore
1961 BETTY SPITZMILLER, Senior
1962 SANDRA BORING, Junior
1963 MARY BETH VASTERLING, Senior
1964 MARY SUE MILLER, Senior
1965 NANCY WHITED, Senior
1966 ELLEN HUITT, Senior
1967 TONI RICKETTS, Senior
1968 MARY MOSES, Senior
1969 VICKI CALLAHAN, Senior
1970 JEANNIE FITTS, Sophomore
1971 GERRI MENNE, Senior

ARCADIA VALLEY FALL FESTIVAL QUEENS

1972 CAROL WOODCOCK, Freshman
1973 PAULA DINGER, Sophomore
1974 LUCIA ROHRER, Sophomore
1975 LAURIE HENRY, Freshman
1976 KIMBERLY BOYD, Junior
1977 MARY DEVANEY, Senior
1978 SANDY PENNSTROM, Freshman
1979 SUSIE PHEGLEY, Junior
1980 TERRI MAGUFFEE, Junior
1981 JILL SCHROER, Freshman
1982 HOLLY CHAMBERS, Junior
1983 DEBBIE HERMANN, Junior
1984 CANDACE FAULKNER, Junior
1985 SHERRY ANDERSON, Junior
1986 JANICE DENNISON, Senior
1987 STACY ANDERSON, Junior
1988 KELLY DETTMER, Sophomore
1989 MISTY TATE, Freshman
1990 DEBRA HUGHES, Junior
1991 JILL FORINASH, Freshman
1992 BRANDI TATE, Freshman
1993 BRANDI BENNETT, Junior
1994 ALISON REICHERT, Senior
1995 ANNA-MARIE MARTIN, Freshman
1996 KYLIE HILL, Freshman
1997 BREANNA MYRACLE, Junior
1998 RACHEL TIEFENAUER, Senior
1999 CAROLINE REINAGEL, Sophomore
2000 LISA SPITZMILLER, Freshman
2001 ADRIENNE CARVER, Sophomore
2002 KRISTEN TIEFENAUER, Freshman
2003 JACQUE REED, Senior
2004 CASSIE PERSONS, Freshman
2005 KASSIE WALKER, Sophomore
2006 MONICA REED, Junior
2007 ABBY ST. CLAIR, Freshman
2008 ALEXA BRANSTETTER, Freshman
2009 MEGAN CROSS, Senior
2010 CALLIE MCLAURIN, Sophomore
2011 KRISTEN WILLIAMS, Freshman
2012 MELIA ACKLEY, Freshman
2013 LEXI BLEVINS, Freshman
2014 KRISTEN KIRNBAUER, Junior
2015 BRILEY WHITED, Freshman
2016 EMMA WADLOW, Freshman
2017 BRIGID TROWBRIDGE, Freshman
2018 EMMA NELSON, Junior
2019 RILEY BROGAN, Freshman
2020 TAYLOR LORENZ, Freshman
2021 AALEIGHA HOPPER, Freshman
2022 REESE BROGAN, Freshman
2023 BRAELYN TURNBOUGH, Freshman
2024 HATTIE VINYARD, Sophomore
2025 MADDISYN FITZGERALD, Freshman

CORONATION

THE CROWNING MOMENT

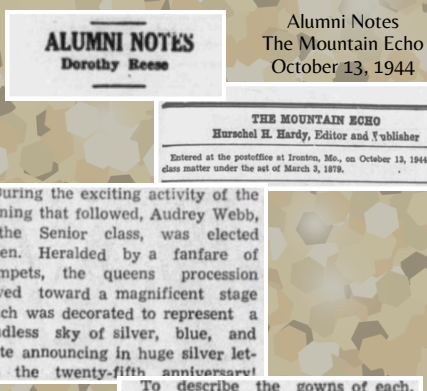
After all four candidates have performed their Talents, there's an intermission while the candidates and their court get ready for the culminating event. In the Carnival days, trumpets would often "herald" to announce the proceedings.

When Ms. Reese was involved in coronations she wanted the candidates to be able to keep their composure during the coronation, so she told them ahead of time who had won.

That has not been the case for many, many years. Instead, everyone in the gym waits in anticipation for the student body president to read the results from the sealed envelope.



1957 Queen Marilyn (Matthews) Walker Our Centennial Celebration Grand Marshal



ALUMNI NOTES
Dorothy Reese

Alumni Notes
The Mountain Echo
October 13, 1944

THE MOUNTAIN ECHO
Hurschel H. Hardy, Editor and Publisher

Entered at the postoffice at Ironton, Mo., on October 13, 1944 as second class matter under the act of March 3, 1879.

During the exciting activity of the evening that followed, Audrey Webb, of the Senior class, was elected queen. Heralded by a fanfare of trumpets, the queens procession moved toward a magnificent stage which was decorated to represent a cloudless sky of silver, blue, and white announcing in huge silver letters the twenty-fifth anniversary!

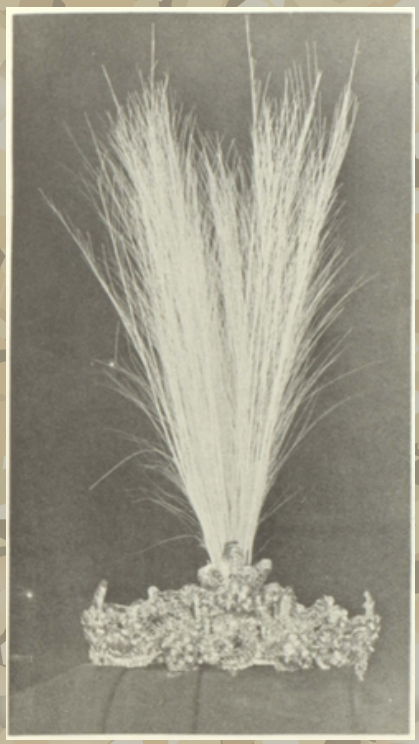
To describe the gowns of each, wuold take another column but we can tell you they were all beautiful dresses on gorgeous "gals"! And those past reigning beauties walked to their places with pride and queenly dignity that drew round after round of applause!













Hilda (Jones) Tims, our 1955 Queen, is the earliest queen we've been able to contact. She couldn't attend today.

Marilyn (Matthews) Walker, 1957 Queen, is in attendance and served as the parade Marshal of the 100th Fall Festival parade.

We posted a photo of Hilda on Facebook, and when Marilyn saw it, she was overwhelmed. "When I saw that, it just melted my heart because... right to the left of her in the picture is my husband standing there. He was a junior escort. And I could just see his picture right there. He was two years ahead of me and he was a junior when Hilda was a senior."

THE TRADITION OF CORONATION REMAINS UNCHANGED FOR DECADES

The Queen Candidates of the Arcadia Valley Fall Festival receive votes in the following categories:



1. Cash receipts for class workday
2. Float contest
3. Talent of Queen Candidate
4. Votes earned by public attendance on coronation night

Each category has the following rating scale.
1st place - 400 points
2nd place - 350 points
3rd place - 300 points
4th place - 250 points
The total points earned by each class in all categories will be totaled and the class receiving the highest number of total points will name their queen candidate as Arcadia Valley Fall Festival Queen.



What happens if there's a tie?



1. The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes at the door will be declared Queen.
If there is a tie...
2. The candidate whose class place highest in the float competition will be declared Queen.
If there is a tie...
3. The candidate who placed highest in the Queen's talent competition will be declared Queen.
If there is a tie...
4. The candidate whose class placed highest in the workday competition will be declared Queen.
If there is a tie.
5. Crown two Queens.









The Dress



1955 Queen Hilda (Jones) Tims

The striking formal gowns of the evening coronation remain to be one of the favorite aspects of Fall Festival, for both candidates and spectators. With roughly three weeks from Queen Selection to coronation, modern-day candidates sometimes have to prioritize finding a dress quickly to allow time for fittings and alterations.

The process for finding that perfect dress looked quite different than the days of old. With the traditional ballgowns becoming more popular and accessible, candidates have more options and are able to shop in specialty formalwear shops where gowns can be purchased off the rack and then altered to fit candidates perfectly. Other former candidates, like 1997 Queen Breanna (Myracle) Serrano were blessed with their own personal seamstress at home, her mother. “We looked for ready made dresses, hoping to find something so she wouldn’t have to go through all of that work, but couldn’t find anything that felt right within the budget, so she decided to make it.” With all of the many things families of candidates are busy with in the weeks leading up to coronation, sewing a dress surely felt daunting.

When we reached out to our 1955 Queen, Hilda (Jones) Tims, we were delighted to learn that she still had her coronation dress! She also had the beautiful jewelry her late husband Denny had given her when they were dating at the time. Not only that, she agreed to allow us to showcase it all in the Fall Festival museum!

We made the drive to Chesterfield, MO to meet Hilda and her gown. Both were incredible. Hilda was so gracious, and she remembered so many things about her time in the Carnival, especially about her keepsake dress.

Hilda remembers hopping on the train to St. Louis to shop at Stix Baer and Fuller for a dress. Everything was too expensive, so they moved on. “We went to Scruggs, Vandervoort and Barney and found this beautiful pink dress. It was more than Mom wanted to pay, because she really didn't have a bunch of money.” Hilda recalls, “I kind of think my two older brothers chipped in on it. And it was kind of a family affair thing...I'm sure it cost less than $100, but, I mean, to us, that seemed like a million.”

Hilda remembers the use of class colors for coronation dresses as being a suggestion, not a requirement, so it didn’t matter that it wasn’t a shade of purple. “We bought that dress and brought it home on the train. And it was just really the nicest thing I'd ever had, like, in the way of a dress.”

Not only did Hilda wear the dress for the Carnival, she wore it to prom, too. Others love the dress as well: “I think my sister Mary Carol wore it... one of her friends wore it, my daughter wore it... it's kind of a timeless dress.

Fashioned by Barb Gray

During the coronations of the ‘80s and ‘90s, one name resurfaces over and over again: Barb Gray. “I could not wait to step foot in those big dresses,” said 1993 Fall Festival Queen, Brandi Bennett. “I went to see Barb Gray and she helped me design my dress.”

Gray’s meticulous work as a seamstress is evidenced through pages and pages of yearbooks. She carefully crafted between 30-35 dresses from her first attendant gown in 1985 until her final design in 1997. Some years Gray designed and sewed the gowns for every single candidate from start to finish—in a span of just 2-3 weeks.

“Fashion is my big thing and I was always looking in magazines... I used pictures and [candidates] would give me an idea of what they had in mind, then I would just go from there,” says Gray. At that time, Gray charged families between $50-90 to design and sew gowns for candidates. “I wasn’t in it for the money, that wasn’t what I was doing it for.”

Gray recalled an especially memorable year when she was able to donate a custom gown for free for a candidate who had recently lost a parent. “I didn’t charge her for anything,” Gray remembered. “Pat Larkin gave the fabric and gave her gloves, someone else gave her jewelry.”

Paging through yearbook photos shows how styles evolved: while the earliest royal courts favored full, flowing gowns, later decades saw slimmer silhouettes. But when Barb Gray’s creations emerged in the ‘80s, grand ballroom gowns made a definitive comeback, cementing a dramatic, elegant standard for the festival. When Barb thinks of a formal occasion, the ballgowns of the 1860s come to mind. To her, they seem to be the epitome of “formal.” And the valley seems to agree.

As we approach the 100th Celebration, that legacy continues.

Many aspects of the event have changed throughout the years, but the formality of the dress has remained. Regardless of whether a candidate’s dress was custom designed, ordered from a magazine, or bought from a boutique, the timeless hoop skirt silhouette remains. It stands as an enduring reminder of our rich history and a testament to the tradition, pride, and character that unite Fall Festival candidates past and present.

Barb loved her time as a seamstress of the festival. So much so, she kept swatches of each of the 35 dresses and made a jacket of them. Each swatch bears a stitched name and date of the person who wore them. A testament to the heart and care Gray put into all her dresses.











Breah (Wheeler) Ward donning the very first Barb Gray Fall Festival dress



Attendants



Since the very beginning those cute little first graders have been a part of the festivities. How they've been chosen, however, has evolved through the years. When Dorothy Reese was coordinating, the attendants were required to have parents who were alum and she was the one who chose them. This continued through Jim Finley and Dorothy (Scott) Cox's leadership, but when Toni (Ricketts) Erpenbach became coordinator, she not only opened the opportunity for other children, she put the decision into the candidate's hands. Candidates listed their top three choices for attendants, and whoever turned in their list first on the day of the deadline received priority in choosing their attendants. The retiring queen was assigned her attendants after the candidates' selections had been made.

While this change was a big step in a better direction, it caused a lot of unnecessary drama. The process then evolved by putting attendant selection directly into the hands of the candidates, and today candidates and retiring queen are the ones responsible for choosing and contacting their own first grade attendants.















Little Tammy Keith, Kim Boyd's attendant in 1976 , adjusts her dad's tie before he escorts the retiring queen in the procession. Her little red dress is on display in the Coronation section of the museum.





Escorts

The Fellas of the Festival

Those gentlemen you see walking down the aisle with a stunning candidate at their side are more than just “arm candy.”
Well, maybe.

The role requirements for an escort are simple: get chosen by a candidate, get a tux, and make sure the candidate gets to the stage.

Many of these high school gentlemen become a much-needed partner to lean on and laugh with. Sophomore Silas Cofer was just the guy for the job when he was chosen by candidate Megan Williams in 2013. His mom, Kim (Williams) Cofer recalls, “He’s riding in the parade and starts looking at his hands and says, ‘No one told us what to do with our hands! How are we supposed to wave?’”

However small or serious they take their role, being an escort is definitely a memorable experience.

Emerson Welch, junior escort for 2025 says it was the people that made it so special: “It was fun getting to hang out with different people...and just being a part of something that’s so important in our community.”

We asked 1998 Senior Class Escort Nathan Colyott to tell us about his experience. Here was his response:

Fall Festival for our community has always been the pinnacle of celebration. All of our lives. Being involved, it was very special and important to school kids. Most of them anyway. Being a queen candidate had to be the top rank as an Arcadia Valley High School female each year. Being supportive of the queen and being an escort was just as special. Each and every year when someone was selected for either role, it was important.

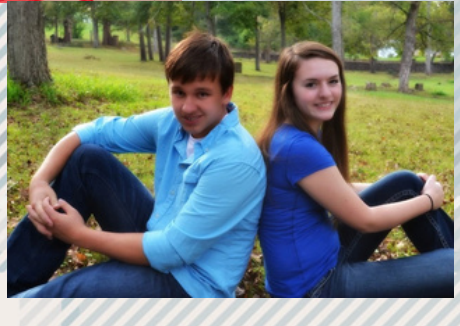
But being involved in Fall Festival as a senior at Arcadia Valley was probably the best feeling of being a young man growing up around here that you could ever have. At my age, it felt like while I was supporting Rachel (Tiefenauer), our queen, I was on top of the world. Rachel was my best friend growing up and my next door neighbor so we were very close. So it was very special to me to have her ask me to escort her.

To win was unmatchable. I don't think there could be a better feeling as a teenager, going to Arcadia Valley than to be at the top of that structure. And our grade won it most of the time, so I believe it made it feel that much better to our entire class. From what I remember, whether or not you are into school functions or not, you were still involved with Fall Festival somehow and you still love being around everyone that time of year, as a community and as students working together to do something great.

P.S. The “old guy” you see next to the retiring queen? He’s either the president or a member of the Arcadia Valley Alumni Association.





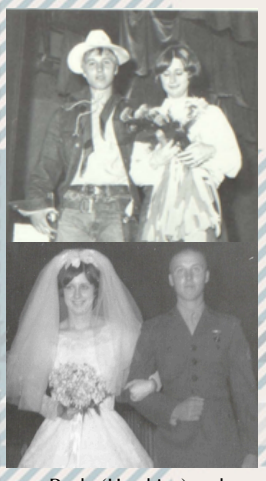


Jack Chapman tells us he was the escort for Cleo Eye in the very first carnival. He added that they were juniors then and in their senior year they elected Dorothy Collins queen. He spoke with a sparkle in his eye of that "good old class".

Candidates and escorts are not required to marry...
...but sometimes they do.



Kylie (Hill) and Chris Foster



Paula (Hawkins) and Ronnie Warren



Gracie (Dettmer) and Tatum Jones

Bows & Bows

The bow is perhaps the most puzzling tradition of the coronation. Each of the candidates we spoke with remembered the bow, but no one could definitely remember when it began. The best we can gather is that the bow is a part of debutante culture, the type of ceremony our coronation replicates.

Every year it is the same: after the candidate and her escort make it to the stage, the candidate hands her flowers to her escort, steps forward and bows to the retiring queen. These bows are not curtsie. They are elaborate, deep bows. Some candidates vaguely remember doing one, with not much attention paid. Others remember having someone "choreograph" it or being coached: "If you don't go all the way to the floor it looks bad... Oh, and lower your head when you are down, but before you rise, you need to make eye contact with the queen."







The Bow Heard 'Round the World

LEGENDARY FALL FESTIVAL ESCORT JIMMY MOREY BREAKS HIS SILENCE ABOUT THE CORONATION OF '06:



I was pretty clueless as a freshman. I think it was just a monkey see, monkey do reaction. Ashley, our queen candidate, did her bow, so I did a polite courtesy bow as well (though nothing NEARLY as elaborate as the queen candidates normally do). I can recall Kassie, the retiring queen, lightly giggling when I bowed. In hindsight, that's when I should have known something was off. However, I didn't realize how big a deal it was until much later, when they made a rule explicitly forbidding the escorts from bowing. Nowadays, when my students bring it up (and they ALWAYS hear about it this time of year), I like to put a different spin on it: I boldly defied tradition to make history. I usually leave out the "nervous freshman terrified that he had go first" part.

Editor's Note: When asked to respond to the allegations that he did not attend the required coronation rehearsal, Mr. Morey responded: "Uhhhh no comment..."

Another Editor's Note: No rule was ever made after or before this incident. It's just not what you do.

Traditionally the AVHS Student Body President emcees the Fall Festival. To celebrate the 100th, former Student Body Presidents will reside of parts of the ceremony.



Eric Thompson, AVHS Student Council President, emcees Fall Festival.

FOR THE *Love* OF ALL THINGS FALL FESTIVAL

By Dana (Poinsett) Ward (Proudly of the class of 1987)



The Arcadia Valley Fall Festival has always been a big part of our family history, starting with my dad being an escort in the '60s, and then I was a first-grade attendant in the mid-70s. I marched in the band during the parade for six years. About 20 years later, both of my daughters were queen candidates. On top of all of that, working at AV for more than 20 years has allowed me to serve as a class sponsor and work in an administrative position for the parade and coronation. And with all of those experiences, I still LOVE all of the fanfare and tradition that this festival embodies!

My first vivid memory was the year I was chosen as a first grade attendant. I walked with the Junior class queen candidate Chris Garrison. Her sister, Kelly Garrison, was also a candidate that year (I can't even imagine the chaos at that house!). I was so excited. All of my friends and I were most excited about being in the parade and throwing candy! Back then, we didn't have individual fancy cars, and we didn't ride behind our candidate. We all rode in a hay wagon together and it was fantastic! We had most of our candy gone by the time we left Pilot Knob, and I must say how several of us were very sick from the amount of candy we had eaten vs. what we had actually thrown out to the people! I woke up very early to be in the parade. All of the girl attendants wore old fashioned dresses and bonnets during the parade. My mom had put my hair in sponge rollers under my bonnet so that I would have a nice hairdo for the evening's coronation. Much to her disappointment, that did not work out—I have very straight hair and the curlers did not fix that. Cheri Layton spent the evening at the coronation trying to curl my hair. I was very nervous to be in front of all those people, but my biggest wish was that "my girl" would be the new queen. It was such an exciting and glamorous night for a first grader, and it started my love of all things Fall Festival.

I have stood alongside most of the people in the valley every year and taken photos, caught candy, oohed and aahed over every float, waved at smiling girls and watched carloads of kids screaming at the top of their lungs to support their candidate. Every time, I marvel at the amount of work, pride, and tradition that this valley shows every year. I have participated in four years of work days and float building as I went through high school here. Our class has the distinction of being the first class to ever win all 4 years of float (1983-1986), the class of 1987. We had some beautiful entries. It has been repeated after us, but I think only one other time. (But we were still first! The friendly competitiveness of this tradition is still strong almost 40 years later! Ha!)

The next stage for me in this long-standing tradition came as both of my daughters were chosen to represent their class as a queen candidate. My oldest daughter was a sophomore candidate in 2007, and my youngest daughter was a candidate during her senior year in 2015. There would not be enough time or space to write about every aspect of the experience when your child is a candidate. I'm sure they would have their own version of their experience that is probably a lot more fun and exciting than it was being the parent. Don't get me wrong, it is fun and exciting, but it is also very busy, very tiring, relatively expensive, and nonstop for the three weeks leading up to the coronation. But I wouldn't change one thing about it. It was a priceless memory. Through my daughters, I got to help build eight more floats, eight more work days, and eight years of seeing a new generation of kids be just as involved and excited as I had been some twenty years before them. The magic of this festival never dims.

It's been a privilege to help with Fall Festival behind the scenes for the past twenty years as an administrator at the school. It's truly been an amazing and memorable ride. As I approach the end of my career here and prepare to retire after the 100th Coronation, I will return to being one of the spectators in the valley. And for as long as the school hosts this event and I am still alive and well, I will forever be a person in the crowd taking pictures, waving at candidates and being so very impressed with all the work that everyone puts into this spectacular Fall Festival.







Strike Up the Band!

As the crisp air of fall breezes through the rustic streets of the Valley, children firmly grip their bags and buckets anxiously awaiting the thrill of what is in store. Generations of faces line the streets sharing their own stories of a century old tradition, when in the distance a familiar rhythm echoes off of the hills. Before the first first piece of candy is thrown or a glimpse of glitter can be spotted, the recognizable cadence of the bass drum marks the birth of a century old tradition.

For decades the dedicated students of the marching band at Arcadia Valley have pioneered the way by entertaining the masses to kick off one of the oldest traditions in the state.Trailing just behind the AVHS marching band showcases the freshman float for the class of 2030 titled, “Strike Up the Band!”, a tribute to the many students and directors who have historically led the way of this landmark parade throughout the years.

While very few students receive the distinct honor of representing their class as candidates and escorts, the freshman class chose to march to the beat of their own drum by recognizing and celebrating the hundreds of talented musicians whose primary role in Fall Festival has been representing the arts through sharing with us their gift of music. Amongst the ever changing landscape of the original Carnival that evolved into the now Fall Festival, the tradition of the marching band has remained.

The front of the freshman float denotes a large 100 with a crown fastened, to celebrate the 100th year of our proud tradition. Swirling the entire entire length of the float is a large musical staff showcasing a variety of glittering musical notes. Savvy alumni will recognize these notes as the prelude of our beloved Alma Mater. The back of the float features a large bass drum with the title boldly proclaiming the title of the freshman float. A decrescendo to our bass drum you’ll find a large detailed marching band hat and an oversized treble clef that is branded with a familiar “AV”. Prominently featured at the front of the float you will find a large marching drum that sets the stage for our candidate, who serves as drum major for the class of 2030.

Freshman students worked meticulously to set the stage by stuffing the entire base, musical staff, and bass drum of the float. Further inspection will note that in place of the traditional stuffing paper, the freshman class chose sheet music to stuff the length of their music staff. The fine details of the letters, musical notes, and hat were painstakingly designed, developed, and built using various materials and techniques including carving, constructing, and glittering.

Coined from the Gershwin musical of the same name, the phrase “Strike Up the Band!” was popularized in 1927, the same year that the original Ironton High School Carnival made its presence in our Valley, making it the perfect title to pay such a tribute. So jump on the bandwagon with us as the marching Tigers and Class of 2030 lead the way down Main Street celebrating 100 years of tradition, pride, character, and harmony at Arcadia Valley Schools.





FRESHMAN: Hayden Adams, candidate, Roman Thomas, Escort, Scarlett Shearrer & Dean Williams, attendants

Where Tradition Takes the Stage

For 100 years, Fall Festival has been more than a celebration. It has been a thread woven through the history of our little valley, a tradition that has brought neighbors together, filled our streets with familiar faces, and given generations of families something to look forward to year after year. Our float was created to honor that tradition and, most importantly, the people who have made it what it is.

At the heart of the float is a large crown, raised high for everyone to see. The crown is one of the most recognizable symbols of Fall Festival. Inside its gems are the dates of the years in which sophomore candidates have won, creating a timeline of victories that stretches across generations.
But the crown represents more than a winner. It represents all the work that happens before the crown is ever placed on someone's head. It represents the students who spend weeks creating, practicing, fundraising, decorating, and working side by side. It represents parents who volunteer, grandparents who come to watch, businesses that support the classes, teachers who encourage their students, and community members who show up year after year.
Surrounding the float are camera reels filled with photographs from Fall Festivals of the past. They capture the faces and memories of generations who came before us. Each picture is a tiny piece of a much bigger story, a story of students who have graduated, families who have grown, loved ones who are no longer with us, and traditions that have continued despite the passing of time.

The reels remind us that we are not the beginning of this story. We are simply the newest chapter. At the back of the float stands a Fall Festival stage, creating a special connection between two of the most important symbols of the celebration: the stage and the crown. The stage is where the crown ultimately finds its home.
It is on that stage that the excitement, anticipation, and hard work of Fall Festival culminate in coronation. After weeks of preparation and competition, the community gathers together to watch one of the most meaningful moments of the celebration, the moment when a candidate is crowned. That connection is at the heart of our float. The crown represents honor. The stage represents the moment. And together, they represent the tradition that brings our community together.
The stage holds a special place in the heart of Fall Festival because it is where so many of our community's memories have been made. Year after year, students step onto that stage to perform their skits, share their creativity, make people laugh, and create moments that are remembered for decades. And eventually, that same stage becomes the place where a candidate receives the crown that so many have worked toward. People come from all over to sit together and watch. And that's what makes the stage so special. For a few hours, neighbors sit beside neighbors. Families sit beside old friends. Former students return to watch the next generation. The young and the old gather in the same place, watching the same tradition unfold.

History is made on that stage. A student who walks onto that stage becomes part of a story that began long before her. Someday, she may return with her own children or grandchildren and watch another generation experience the same excitement. The stage represents that beautiful connection between generations, the passing of something special from one group of students to the next.

The back of the float also features the years in which sophomores have won Fall Festival, continuing the timeline of our community's history. Looking at those years together reminds us just how many generations have gathered in Arcadia Valley to celebrate this tradition.

Every date represents people. Every photograph represents a memory. Every crown represents a moment. Every stage holds a story. And every story is part of ours.
Our class number is proudly included as well, because while we are looking back at the history that came before us, we are also adding our own piece to it. Someday, our class will be one of those photographs on the reel. Our year will become one of those dates. Our memories will become part of the story that another generation looks back on. That is what makes Fall Festival so special. It does not belong to just one class. It does not belong to just one candidate. It belongs to a community.
In a world where traditions can disappear and small towns can change, Fall Festival has remained a reason for our valley to pause and come together.
The crown represents the tradition we continue. The stage represents the moments where that tradition comes to life. The camera reels represent the history we carry.
And the people of Arcadia Valley are what make it all matter. After 100 years, we are not just celebrating Fall Festival. We are celebrating the people who have kept it alive. We are celebrating the families who have passed it down, the generations who have grown up with it, the memories that have become part of our community's story, and the small-town spirit that continues to bring us home. Because someday, years from now, someone will look back at the photographs from this Fall Festival and see our faces. And we hope they will know exactly what we know now: We were proud to be part of something bigger than ourselves.
We were part of 100 years of tradition.







SOPHOMORE: Bella Lorenz, candidate, Hunter Dillard, escort, Georgia Wilson & Philip Thomson, attendants

The American Beauty Rose

For 100 years, Fall Festival has been more than a celebration. It has been a tradition woven into the heart of our community, a tradition passed from one generation of students to the next. It is a time when the past and present come together, when memories are made, and when the stories of those who came before us are carried forward.

For the 100th Fall Festival, the Junior Class of 2028 wanted to honor that history in a way that was meaningful, nostalgic, and uniquely their own. Our float, "The American Beauty Rose," is a recreation inspired by the very first documented winning float from 1944. While our juniors carefully studied the important details that made the original so special, they also rebuilt it with their own creativity and vision. In doing so, they have created something that belongs not only to the history of Fall Festival, but also to the Class of 2028.

At the heart of our float is the old truck, just as it was in the original American Beauty Rose. Roses fill the bed of the truck, representing the beauty and tradition that have continued to bloom throughout the years. The truck carries more than flowers, though, it carries a piece of history.
Even the smallest details tell a story. The tires proudly feature juniors, representing the students who have carried this tradition forward and who are now leaving their own mark on Fall Festival history. On the front of the truck, the license plate reads 2028, a simple reminder of the class responsible for bringing this piece of the past back to life.

Behind the truck stands a familiar piece of Arcadia Valley history, the old auditorium, the building that once served as our school before the school we know today was built. Its presence on the float reminds us that our school is not simply a building. It is the generations of students, teachers, families, and communities who have filled its halls and created memories within them.

Inside the windows of the old auditorium will be silhouettes representing Fall Festival. Each silhouette represents a story; a moment, a tradition, a person, or a memory that helped make Fall Festival what it is today. Though the faces and details may have changed through the decades, the spirit of the celebration remains. The back of our float will become a newspaper from the past, The Iron County Register, filled with memories from Junior Classes who came before us. Among those memories, we will recognize the 50th Fall Festival, including the memorable float decorated in black and gold. We will also honor the first documented Fall Festival queen from 1927, who, like us, was a junior. Her story serves as a beautiful reminder that 100 years ago, a junior stood where our students stand today, taking part in a tradition that would continue for generations. That connection is what makes this float so meaningful.

The Class of 2028 is not simply recreating an old float. We are reconnecting with the students who came before us. We are looking back at the dreams, creativity, pride, and excitement of generations of juniors who built floats, made memories, and celebrated Fall Festival long before we ever had the opportunity to do the same. Our float represents the idea that while time changes, traditions endure. The students who built the first American Beauty Rose could never have known that decades later, another group of juniors would look back at their work and be inspired by it. They could not have imagined that their float would become part of a story that would stretch across 100 years of Fall Festivals. And perhaps that is the most beautiful part of all. We are now part of that story.

When the Class of 2028's American Beauty Rose rolls down the parade route, we hope people see more than a float. We hope they see a century of memories. We hope they see the old auditorium and remember where our school began. We hope they see the roses and remember the beauty of traditions that continue to bloom. We hope they see the names and memories of past juniors and realize that, just like them, we are only here for a moment, but the memories we create can last forever. The American Beauty Rose is a bridge between generations. It honors where we came from while celebrating who we are today.
For 100 Fall Festivals, students have gathered, created, celebrated, and dreamed. For 100 Fall Festivals, our community has come together to celebrate something that belongs to all of us. Now, the Class of 2028 has the privilege of adding our own chapter.

A chapter inspired by the past. Built in the present. And created to be remembered for years to come.

100 years of memories. 100 years of tradition. 100 years of Fall Festival. And now, one more memory blooms. The American Beauty Rose. Class of 2028.







JUNIOR: Adriana Miesner, candidate, Grant Serrano, escort, Gracelynn Stokes & Kyler Blankenship, attendants

Carnival Queen

The Fall Festival we know today actually began as the 1927 "Ironton High School Carnival." It was designed as a fundraiser for the school and a way to keep kids from Halloween mischief by providing a fun activity for the community to attend. Students were assigned different booths and games to create and work, and they spent the evening running around trying to get people to buy tickets from their class. It was a frenzy of the best kind, a competition where the common goal was to support the school. The November 3 issue of the Iron County Register reported the Carnival was "a success in every way," documenting the attendance as a "monster crowd… some estimating the number of people there at more than one thousand…"

The idea stuck. Each year the students got more creative, with games like "Ring 'Em," "Milk Bottles," and "Down the Clown." Town newspapers reported bigger totals almost every single year, along with lists of school improvements and activities funded all because of Carnival proceeds. The gym was lined with Carnival games and prizes, and it was always packed with people, many of whom had gotten there at least an hour before for fear they might not get in! It was standing room only… for the entire night. Around 11:00 p.m. came the annual struggle to part the middle of the crowd to form an aisle. There are stories of kids in the balcony, craning their necks through the sea of legs to try and watch the "Cinderella Moment" when the candidates would enter the gym. Led by the little first graders, much like today, the representatives for each made their way to the stage for the culmination event of the evening: the crowning of the queen.

Everyone held their breath, standing in palpable anticipation. Who would win the crown?
Standing in her beautiful ballroom gown, adorning the plumed tiara, the Carnival Queen was the crowning jewel, a victorious symbol for the entire class.

The Class of 2027 has chosen to represent the spirit of Fall Festival by going back to its roots with their float "Carnival Queen." Starting at the back of the float are a couple of favorite games, with signs guiding the way to the other activities found throughout the gym. A senior class Carnival booth sits beneath a festive homage to the Ironton High School Carnival sign. The sign is a creation of our own, with lights hand-placed and letters hand-carved and painted, glittered and golden, beckoning to the valley to join the fun. The sign is the gateway from history to the present, a journey to the legacy, our Carnival Queen.

We've chosen to represent the evolution of float making by pulling in the past with the present. In the same way the Queen is embedded into the heart of the festival, our queen's dress is built into the float. Senior candidate McKenzie Davis stands proud within her ornate skirt, a true work of art created entirely by the senior class. We like to take "stuffing" up a notch by incorporating other elements into the chicken wire, and this year we have taken great care to meticulously create a ballroom gown worthy of royalty. Completely hand-stuffed with roses, adorned in pearls and jewels, her gown is decadent, its train cascading behind her, its intricate design flowing throughout the base of the float.

The seniors take great pride in our letters, and we wanted our final float to call back to our freshman float, with Carnival letters engraved with heat knives, their grooves painted, the painstaking work of using different colors of glitter. The "Fall Festival 100: Centennial Celebration" logo sits proudly at the front of our float, signifying that our float is just one part of one hundred moments and memories of this enduring, endearing endeavor.

The last games of the Carnival were played in 1969 as Ironton High School prepared to move into the new Arcadia Valley High School. With a new school came new gym floors, and there were serious discussions on ending the Carnival completely and replacing the event with a homecoming, even eliminating floats altogether. A series of meetings were held and it was determined that nothing could replace the spirit of the Carnival, this rally around a shared belief that the school is the heartbeat of the community.

The spirit needed to stay, but the tickets needed to go. From there, Fall Festival was born.
Throughout the years the festival would evolve. Categories would come and go, rules and requirements would be implemented, but one thing remains the same: at the end of the night we always crown a queen.

On Saturday, October 17, 2026, Arcadia Valley High School will crown its 100th queen. No matter the head that wears the crown and the class she represents, the queen is a symbol of a community holding tightly to a much greater truth: when we come together, we can accomplish some really wonderful things.









SENIOR: McKenzie Davis, candidate, Stuart Anderson, escort, Kallie Miller & Kort Freund, attendants

2026 Fall Festival Theme:

AV Fall Festival: A Centennial Celebration

Float Judging

The desire of the Arcadia Valley School District is to create a fair competition for all kids and to honor the character of our school's great tradition. There are 8 judges selected by the parade coordinator. Judges cannot have family members in any of the 4 high school classes or have any relationship negative or positive to the queen candidate, class sponsors, escort, or attendants and their families. Judges are to keep themselves confidential.

Judging Category Descriptions:

Overall Appearance: Float adheres to the theme and overall appearance is pleasing to the eye. Class color predominates with other colors used as accents. Costume adds to float aesthetics.

Workmanship: Float exhibits a level of difficulty requiring time and effort spent on construction. Float elements are proportional and objects/letters are crisp and neat in appearance. Workmanship is on display throughout viewing, during parade, and after parade. While stuffing does show time and effort, it is one of many ways a class can demonstrate workmanship. Float imitates float drawing.

Originality: Float is a creative and unique expression of the theme.



Retiring Queen:
Maddisyn Fitzgerald

Attendants:
Jaymison Hodge
Isabella Reed





2026 Fall Festival Theme:
AV Fall Festival: A Centennial Celebration

TALENT JUDGING

The desire of the Arcadia Valley School District is to create a fair competition for all kids and to honor the character of our school's great tradition. There will be 4 judges from an outside Arcadia Valley arts performance organization. The school does not know who the individual Talent Judges are. Judges cannot have any family members in any of the 4 high school classes or have any relationship negative or positive to the queen candidate, class sponsors, escort, or attendants and their families. Judges are to keep themselves confidential.

Judging Category Descriptions

PRESENTATION:
Backdrops, costumes and props are appropriate, well-made, and complement the performance.

POISE:
Candidate speaks clearly and at an appropriate pace and volume.
All elements of the talent are memorized and polished.
Candidate is confident and composed throughout.
Candidate handles unexpected challenges (e.g. technical difficulties, missed lines/steps) with poise.

TALENT/SKILL:
Elements of talent or skill (such as comedy, acting, singing, dancing, playing an instrument, gymnastics, etc.) are displayed and well-executed.
Candidate is source of talent/skills displayed. Other people may be present in skit but serve as supporting role only, with the candidate the absolute main person/character in skit.
Performances are LIVE and not recorded. Judges will be notified if any part of the presentation is recorded and will adjust scoring accordingly.

ENTERTAINMENT VALUE:
The talent presentation is an original creation. It can incorporate segments from other sources (e.g. jokes, songs, segments, characters) but the presentation as a whole is a unique production.
Talent flows well to provide an entertaining experience for the audience.
Length of presentation is appropriate, long enough to convey criteria and short enough to keep the audience's attention. The time window is 8-12 minutes. Judges will be informed if talent is longer than 12 minutes and it is up to the judge's discretion on how this weighs in on Entertainment scoring.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Dorothy Reese

excerpts by Randall Cox from his book, Dorothy Reese: Ironton/Arcadia Valley's Cheerleader, Friend, Historian, Leader, and Teacher: A Tribute



Dorothy Reese graduated from Ironton High School in May, 1922, and attended Southeast Missouri State Teacher's College at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, during the summer of 1922 (graduating in 1926). She had been an active student at the college, and she became an active member of the Alumni Assoc. In 1942 Dorothy was honored by Southeast Missouri State University for serving as Alumni President. Dorothy Reese began teaching Social Studies at Ironton High School in September, 1942.

Dorothy was one of the organizers of the Ironton (later, Arcadia Valley) Alumni Association in 1922. She was the president of the Alumni Association several times. Her "Class of 1922" had frequent reunions and served as an example for other classes to follow. Dorothy began her Alumni Notes column in the Iron County Register on January 11, 1946. Her column also appeared in the Mountain Echo. Her news of the graduates of Ironton High School/Arcadia Valley High School was "much prized and eagerly read by former students."



Miss Reese listens to comments on psychology lesson.

Dorothy was in charge of the Carnival Coronation from the time she began teaching at Ironton. When the decision was made to build a new high school and gymnasium, it was decided by a committee of administrators, teachers, and students that the 1969 Carnival would be the last one. A Fall Festival replaced the Carnival. Dorothy continued to play a major role in both the Carnival and the Fall Festival until she retired from teaching. She was in charge of the Queen Coronation. She also was a class sponsor, float designer, committee member, and promoter.

Dorothy Reese is no longer with us. We miss her spirit, her enthusiasm, her leadership, her humor, and her reminiscing about the past.





DEDICATION

To any person who lives in the Arcadia Valley and knows anything at all about the history of the town and its school system immediately thinks of one person in whom these two distinct elements seem to become fused into one being and body. This is, of course, the beloved Miss Dorothy Reese. No one person has given more unselfishly or untiring than this woman to her school and community. Miss Reese is a woman of diversified and many talents. She writes a weekly column for THE MOUNTAIN ECHO, takes care of her 93 year mother, attends most school activities, directs the most important event at our school, the queen coronation, finds time to write her little black book for the Christmas Dance, attends B and PW Club, and is a good neighbor to her many friends up and down the streets and roads of Arcadia Valley.

Miss Reese has given of herself to this school system for 31 years and has continually enriched, enlightened, and enhanced the life of each person with whom she has come into contact. After meeting Miss Reese the world seems to be a little brighter and a little better than it was before. For her untiring devotion and love — we the TIGER staff of 1973 — dedicate this annual with love to MISS DOROTHY REESE.





