1947

These Traditions Belong To Us

Margaret Rutherford
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker
Part of the Home Economics Commons

Recommended Citation
Rutherford, Margaret (1947) "These Traditions Belong To Us," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 27 : No. 3 , Article 6.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol27/iss3/6

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
These Traditions Belong To Us

by Margaret Rutherford

Salt and savor to college life are the traditions and customs that grow with Iowa State and leave their distinguishing mark upon those who come and go.

One sure way to secure the smiles of the gods is to cast your pennies from the rustic bridge at the foot of Union Hill. The water nymphs are certain to be favorably impressed and grant the donor’s wish. This tradition began when women’s dormitories were Navy V-12 barracks. The men started tossing in their pennies on those fated blue book days.

Dormitory living contributes to many traditions found at Iowa State. Each fall freshmen women are welcomed into dormitory life at a candlelight ceremony held in the center of the dormitory court. Christmas finds women participating in the traditional white breakfast ritual which begins with the singing of carols and a candle lighting procession through hall corridors. The women, dressed in white, eat a special holiday breakfast.

Campanile

Landmark and symbol, the Campanile has been a favorite source of student tradition. The carillon concerts given each day in the morning and at noon are a special element in student life. These chimes, a gift of the late Dr. E. W. Stanton, were manufactured in Loughboro, England. They were the first scientifically tuned chimes imported to the United States.

A favorite tradition holds that the woman student first becomes a coed when she is kissed beneath the tower as the bells chime midnight.

In the spring tapping ceremonies of the men and women’s honoraries, Cardinal Guild and Mortar Board, take place near the campanile. New members are sought out among the students that form a large circle about the tower. Those tapped are led into the circle through the arch.

When there is victory in the air, you’ll hear the lusty toll of the Victory Bell. The bell stands in a special house just behind Beardshear Hall. When the first administration building and dormitory, Old Main, burned, the bell was salvaged. Now a memorial to winners, tradition has it that the honor and spirit of the freshman class depends upon the dispatch with which they attend to the ringing of the bell after an Iowa State sports victory.

No freshman wants to miss Iowa State’s favorite air show, Harry and Ed. These two ducks nightly patrol the radio tower . . . first Harry, then Ed, then Harry. Harry and Ed first gained recognition in the column of a former Iowa State Daily staff member, Don Jackson.

Midnight Serenades

A rush toward the nearest window on a clear night initiates the new student to the custom of serenading. Various men’s groups compete with each other to win feminine approval with their music.

Campus spots abound with time-worn customs. Spectators enjoy the trials and tribulations of Lancelot and Elaine, the swans on Lake LaVerne. Beware when the young man takes you down to look at the swans though, for tradition has it that thrice around the lake finds a couple engaged.

The North Woods is a favorite spot in the fall and spring. Picnics abound. After a long winter, students eagerly await the time when the grass will be “a grab and a half high.”

One of the most highly treasured Iowa State traditions: A college woman officially becomes a coed when she is kissed underneath the campanile arch as the carillon bells chime the midnight hour.