

# Traditional homecoming

*The 1973 University of Nebraska-Lincoln homecoming queen will be announced during halftime ceremonies.*

*The finalists, all juniors: Carol Callahan, Lynelle Frankforter, Carolyn Grice, Sharon E. Johnson, Jinger Jorgensen, Nancy Lahm, Barbara Lien, Margit Royal, Jann Simpson and Teri Zabawa.*

## By Ivy Harper

Fifty years ago today, the Nebraska Cornhuskers faced the Kansas Jayhawks in a homecoming game announced as "one of the greatest events in the history of the University."

History repeating itself? Perhaps—but hopefully the 0-0 tie in 1923 will not be repeated when the Huskers meet Kansas in the 1973 homecoming game.

In 1923, homecoming already had become a tradition. But dedication of then new Memorial Stadium, a special round-trip fare for all Nebraskans coming to the game sponsored by the Burlington Railroad and first prizes for best displays by living units promised to make it the "greatest."

When prizes were offered for the best decorated fraternities, sororities and dormitories, a tradition that has lasted 50 years was established.

The display contest is one original tradition linked with

homecoming that has survived although it was scrapped for a few years.

But displays are back this year, and it will make a lot of alums happy, according to Jayne Anderson, coordinator for living units. When decorations were dropped in 1969, the office of Student Affairs and the Alumni Assn. received a lot of mail from people unhappy about the decision, she said.

Anderson, a 1950 homecoming queen, recalled homecoming week in the 50s when families would reserve Friday night before the game to judge the displays. The campus was so crowded that Lincoln newspapers provided maps for motorists to ease congestion, she said. Later, it became necessary to block off the campus from automobiles, she said.

According to Anderson, displays have been the most controversial subject of homecoming. "Rules of the contest have been changed almost every year," she said. Anderson said it was "getting entirely out of hand as far as the amount of time and money spent." She said the \$50 limit on decorations this year is reasonable and allows living units to welcome back graduates without becoming too elaborate.

In 1942, units were limited to \$5 and scraps of junk metal were solicited from the community so that when the big day rolled around the entire campus looked like a junkyard.

This idea was scrapped the next year.

In 1959, the *Lincoln Journal* took a public opinion poll on whether there should be a central theme for decorations. The reaction was mixed, and the question never was resolved.

A Saturday morning parade in downtown Lincoln is one tradition that has been dropped, Anderson said she remembers when the five finalists would ride in convertibles from one end of O St. to the other with reigning queen leading the way.

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Photo by Gail Falda

Johnny Carson, 1949 NU graduate, returned for the 1971 homecoming. Becke Wagner (cover, above) was queen.