

McLean County Museum of History

Corn Bowl Collection

Processed by
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1947-2007
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	Sporting event spanning from 1947-1955

Brief History

A true “Middle West” tradition: college football on Thanksgiving Day. The Corn Bowl was sponsored by the Louis E. Davis Post No. 56 of the American Legion and the Hybrid Seed Growers Association. The Corn Bowl had hopes of becoming popular enough to build a stadium for the football game and other local events. In addition, there was a large parade that ran through downtown Bloomington prior to the bowl game. Some of the college football teams that played throughout the years included: North Central College (Naperville, IL), Southern Illinois University (Carbondale, IL), Illinois Wesleyan College (Bloomington, IL), Eastern Illinois State College (Charleston, IL), Western Illinois State College (Macomb, IL), Wheaton College (Wheaton, IL), Missouri School of Mines (Rolla, MO), Illinois State Normal University (Normal, IL), Lewis College (Lockport, IL), William Jewell College (Liberty, MO), Iowa

Wesleyan University (Mount Pleasant, IA), and Luther College (Decorah, IA). The Corn Bowl was played annually from 1947-1955. IN the final year, it was held in Macomb, IL.

Scope

The collection includes newspaper articles primarily from the first Corn Bowl, and the programs that were developed for the first five bowl games, with advertisers, committee members, legion activities, last year's game outcome, and team information for that year's game.

Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Newspaper Articles (*Pantagraph* unless noted)

- 1.1 "Corn Bowl Game," November 23, 1947.
- 1.2 "Statistics Favor North Central," November 23, 1947.
- 1.3 "Corn Bowl Game" advertisement, November 24, 1947.
- 1.4 "Float Rivalry Running High," November 25, 1947.
- 1.5 "Corn Bowl Parade," November 26, 1947.
- 1.6 "Corn Bowl Parade and Football Game" advertisement, November 26, 1947, 2 pages.
- 1.7 Advertisements, November 27, 1947.
- 1.8 "Jack Brickhouse to Broadcast Play by Play" advertisement, November 27, 1947.
- 1.9 "Clears Field for Action" and "Snow Won't Stop Corn Bowl Parade," November 27, 1947.
- 1.10 "30,000 Line Streets Despite Snow and Ice to Watch Colorful Floats, Cheer Bands, Comedians," November 28, 1947.
- 1.11 "Southern Clips North Central in Corn Bowl," and "5,500 Watch Maroons Win 21-0 Verdict," November 28, 1947.
- 1.12 "Martin Praises Southern Line," November 28, 1947.
- 1.13 "Twin Cities no Match for Warmer Climes," November 19, 2000.
- 1.14 "Corn Bowl was Short-lived Thanksgiving Gridiron Tradition," November 18, 2007.

Folder 2: First Annual

- 2.1 "First Annual Corn Bowl Game," souvenir program; game was between North Central College, Naperville, and Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, November 27, 1947, 28pp. (6 copies; 3 in fragile condition).

Folder 3: Second Annual

- 3.1 "Second Annual Corn Bowl Football Game," official program; game was between Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, and Eastern Illinois State College, Charleston, November 25, 1948, 52 pp. (3 copies).

Folder 4: Third Annual

- 4.1 “Third Annual Corn Bowl Football Game,” official program; game was between Western Illinois State College, Macomb, and Wheaton College, Wheaton, November 24, 1949, 48pp. (2 copies).

Folder 5: Fourth Annual

- 5.1 “Fourth Annual Corn Bowl Football Game,” official program; game was between Illinois State Normal University, Normal, and Missouri School of Mines, Rolla, MO, November 23, 1950, 48pp.

Folder 6: Fifth Annual

- 6.1 “Fifth Annual Corn Bowl Football Game,” official program; game was between Lewis College, Lockport, and William Jewell College, Liberty, MO, November 22, 1951, 48pp.