

Peoria High School Traditions

Peoria High School has always tried to involve students in activities, whether in athletics, clubs, or traditions. Their philosophy has been that when involved you learn things like responsibility, organizational skills, and a sense of loyalty to your club, organization, and school. Remember when some of the following traditions existed.

FFA Sweetheart The FFA sweetheart had to milk a goat as part of the selection process in this tradition.



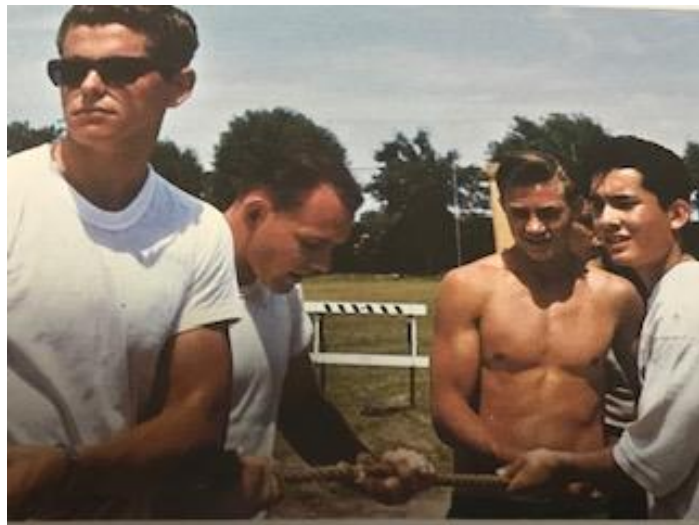
Field Day

Field Day has changed over the years as a Peoria High School tradition. In 1950 the sophomores won the competition with 78 ½ points over the junior 56 points. The competition was based on track events, which lasted for years. The events were 100-yard dash, high jump, pole vault, mile relay, hop-step-jump, shot put, etc. As the competition got into the 1960s the

events changed to events that everyone could succeed in such as the pie-eating contest, egg toss, Izzy Dizzy races, cotton bale rolling contest, tug of war, etc. Field Day promoted class spirit and allowed everyone some time to enjoy a fun day out on the football field. When PHS was small it was easy to organize and control. When the school grew so much in the 70s and 80s it was discontinued because there were just too many students to keep track of and their interest waivered.



Izzy Dizzy Race



**Students getting ready for
Tug of War**

Homecoming

When people think of Homecoming, they think mostly about people who graduated coming back for a football game. At Peoria, it is much more of a week-long experience. Over the years the week began with the construction of floats at people's homes, hot chocolate, fun, and a few students putting the float together for the class.

On Thursday of Homecoming Week, it was time for a pep assembly with the band and cheerleaders at a nighttime bonfire.



Friday of Homecoming Week included a parade downtown and to elementary schools.



Floats during Homecoming Parade

Friday of Homecoming Week included the football game with fireworks and hope you chose a weak opponent that the team could destroy. The king and queen were crowned at halftime but in some years they were crowned at the Homecoming Dance on Saturday.

Freshmen Initiation

When the school was small from the 20s to the 60s it was a time to initiate the freshmen into high school. Activities included dressing up in crazy costumes such as wearing your clothes inside out, wearing crazy hats, and having crazy hair arrangements. The freshmen had to do favors for upper-classmen and participate in a school-wide assembly. Again this ended in the 80s when the word hazing became prevalent in court cases across the country. Small schools allow for more school activities and school spirit.



Freshman dressed up for initiation



Freshmen learn to eat pies