

## Korn Carnival

The Korn Karnival was the predecessor to River Days. The first Korn Karnival was held the second week of October in 1913. An idea developed by the Retail Merchants Association, this fall festival lasted from the years 1913 to 1917.

Original promotions used the “Kum Korn Karnival” but it was dropped to just “Korn Karnival” due its initials.

Scioto County was a major corn producing area, and to promote the city as a trade center, the festival would bring merchants and farmers together to display their merchandise. Prizes were to be given to farmers with the best produce, whether it would be corn, wheat, oats or pumpkins. However, the farmers were required to live within a 25 mile radius of Portsmouth.

The exhibits were located from Gallia Street west to Findlay, 6th to Chillicothe Street, south to 2nd Street and west to Market Street.

During the years of the festival, it was highly advertised weeks ahead and local businesses held ‘special’ sales in their stores. The slogan was “Korn is King, long live the King”.

The attractions included a parade every evening, booths along Chillicothe Street and entertainment such as acrobats and aerial artists. In 1914, a baby parade was a highlight. A masked parade ended each festival. Attractions were added with the years.

In 1913, the newspaper noted that donations for prizes had been received including: Ben Harris, photographer, promised a dozen photos to the man chosen most handsome; Dr. O. E. Jackson, dentist, provided a set of false teeth and \$10 dental work and Roy Lynn, funeral director— a casket!

It was suspended in 1917 due to WWI. Although there were festivals held in 1934 and 1936, the many efforts to revive it in the 1930's and 1970's failed.