Bucket and Dipper, the junior men's honorary of Ohio State University, has as its guest today the Illinois junior honorary Sachem. At the half these two societies will meet in the center of the field to exchange greetings. Sachem will be clad in their traditional Indian blankets and both groups will smoke the Sachem pipe of peace.

Last fall a thirteen year tradition established by Bucket and Dipper men came to a dramatic close as Ohio

First row—Left to right: Jimmy Kidd, Dick Taylor, Keith Bliss, John Sisson, Ralph Shaefer.

won permanent possession of the wooden turtle, Illibuck, which goes to the winner of the Illinois-Ohio State game each year. The name of the winning team is engraved on the turtle, and as Illibuck was completely covered, it was agreed that the winners of last year's game were to keep the turtle.

Bucket and Dipper will place the original Illibuck on exhibition at Ohio State and is having a new one made.
THE history of the Illibuck—the wooden turtle trophy for which Illinois and Ohio State football teams compete each year—began back in 1925, when the Illini and Buckeye junior men’s honorary societies decided that it would be a good idea to inaugurate a trophy to commemorate their historic but friendly rivalry in the annual game.

A live turtle—dubbed “Illibuck” to combine both the Illini and Buckeye names—was first chosen as a suitable trophy, partly because it was supposed that the marine reptile would display suitable longevity. The trophy’s originators envisioned the same turtle fifty years hence, hoary but hearty, with the scores of fifty historic Illini-Buckeye games carved on his back.

After the 1925 game, Illibuck’s first, the trophy went right back to Illinois along with the famous “Red” Grange, who had played his last game at Columbus that year. Illinois had won 14-9.

However, after the wear and tear of a few years traveling back and forth between games in a suitcase and spending the rest of the year in the basement of some fraternity house, Illibuck quietly expired. He was replaced, more pessimistically, with a wooden replica—a faithful reproduction of its live predecessor in his prime. Since the untimely end of Illibuck I, the teams have competed for a succession of wooden replicas, of which the present is the third.

Although Illibuck has gone back and forth between Champaign and Columbus many times through the years, he has spent 20 of these years at Ohio State and nine at Illinois.

The ceremony of transferring Illibuck to his new owner traditionally occurs during the half-time of the game. Members of Bucket and Dipper, the Ohio State junior men’s honorary, and Sachem, the Illinois honorary (the latter draped in their Indian blankets), parade out on the field and solemnly pass the peace pipe around to participants. Illibuck is then given over to the winner of the previous year’s game, which, today, will be Ohio State, on the strength of last year’s 40-7 victory.
THE HISTORY of the Illibuck—the wooden turtle trophy for which University of Illinois and Ohio State University football teams compete each year—began back in 1925, when the Illini and Buckeye junior men’s honorary societies decided that it would be a good idea to inaugurate a trophy to commemorate their historic but friendly rivalry in the annual game.

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Although Illibuck has gone back and forth between Champaign and Columbus many times through the years, he has spent 22 of these years at Ohio State and only 10 at Illinois. In fact, there was one period when the Bucks retained the trophy for 11 years straight, winning all games between 1935 and 1945 inclusive.

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In case of a tie, as occurred in 1951 (0-0), Illibuck remains in possession of the previous year’s winner. Ohio State has won the last three games from Illinois.
Old Rivals
Play for Illibuck

The history of the Illibuck — the wooden turtle trophy for which University of Illinois and Ohio State University football teams compete each year — began back in 1925, when the Illini and Buckeye junior men's honorary societies decided that it would be a good idea to inaugurate a trophy to commemorate their historic but friendly rivalry in the annual game.

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Although Illibuck has gone back and forth between Champaign and Columbus many times through the years, he has spent 30 of these years at Ohio State and only 12 at Illinois. In fact, there was one period when the Bucks retained the trophy for 11 years straight, winning all games between 1935 and 1945 inclusive.

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In case of a tie, as last occurred in 1963 (20-20), Illibuck remains in possession of the previous year's winner. Illinois won last year, 10 to 9 for the first time since 1959.
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Although Illibuck has gone back and forth between Champaign and Columbus many times through the years, he has spent 31 of these years at Ohio State and only 13 at Illinois. In fact, there was one period when the Bucks retained the trophy for 11 years straight, winning all games between 1935 and 1945 inclusive.

The ceremony of transferring Illibuck to his new owner traditionally occurs during the half-time of the annual game. Members of Bucket and Dipper, the Ohio State junior men’s honorary, and Sachem, the Illinois honorary (the latter draped in their Indian blankets), parade out on the field and solemnly pass the peace pipe around to participants. Illibuck is then given over to the winner of the previous year’s game, or retained, if the team has won twice in a row.

In case of a tie, as last occurred in 1963 (20-20), Illibuck remains in possession of the previous year’s winner. Ohio State won last year, 31 to 24, following Illinois victories in 1966 and 1967. It was the first time since 1946-47 that the Illini had won two in a row from the Bucks.
Old Rivals
Play for Illibuck

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Although Illibuck has gone between Champaign and Columbus many times through the years, he has spent 34 of these years at Ohio State and only 18 at Illinois. In fact, there was one period when the Bucks retained the trophy for 11 years straight, winning all games between 1935 and 1945 inclusive.

The ceremony of transferring Illibuck to his new owner traditionally occurs during the halftime of the annual game. Members of Bucket and Dipper, the Ohio State junior men's honorary, and Sachem, the Illinois honorary (the latter draped in their Indian blankets), parade out on the field and solemnly pass the peace pipe around to participants. Illibuck is then given over to the winner of the previous year's game, or retained, if the team has won twice in a row.

In case of a tie, as last occurred in 1963 (20-20), Illibuck remains in possession of the previous year's winner. Ohio State won last year, 24 to 10. It was the fourth straight victory for the Buckeyes.
Biting ‘Illibuck’, Vivid Symbol Of Ohio State, Illinois Rivalry

By Page Lewis
Of The Dispatch Staff

MARION, Ohio — Robert Miley admits he doesn’t receive many requests for hand-carved “Illibucks” these days.

But then, asked the 63-year-old master craftsman who lives here, who does?

The Illibuck — a wooden turtle carrying the score of every Ohio State University “Buckeye” and University of Illinois “Illini” football clash — has been traded annually between the schools’ junior class honoraries since 1924.

Saturdays during halftime activities in Ohio Stadium, members of OSU’s “Bucket and Dipper” will accept the trophy from Illinois’ “Sachem” for last season’s OSU victory.

The last time Illinois won was in 1967 when they scored a 17 to 13 victory at Illinois. But while the shell may have grown familiar to OSU fans after 42 wins and two ties, the turtle is not the same.

Not by a hare.

Miley was commissioned by recommendation of honorary members to create the sixth of such beasts because the turtle’s shell can only carry 10 years’ worth of scores.

And so, like the legendary Phoenix which rose from its own ashes every century, so too the “Illibuck” must rise Every decade from the woodshavings.

Miley, a retired engineer for General Telephone Co., said he worked three days to fashion the 25-pound trophy from mahogany and white pine woods. The work, he said, was a little out of his line.

According to OSU archives, the original Illibuck was a 50-year-old live snapping turtle picked from a Columbus pet shop basement to symbolize the biting, but friendly rivalry between the two Big 10 schools.
Members of OSU's junior honorary, Bucket and Dipper, and the University of Illinois honorary, Sachem, exchange Illibuck in 1929 halftime ceremonies. Illibuck, a wooden turtle, has been exchanged as a symbol of friendship for the two schools since 1925.

Turtle trade is half-time tradition

By Paula Moorehead
The Lantern
11-7-80
A symbol of long-lived friendship between Ohio State and the University of Illinois—a turtle—will be exchanged at Saturday's game.

Illibuck, a wooden turtle, is given to the winner of the previous year's game, said Chris Patterson, a junior from Caledonia, and vice president of Bucket and Dipper, an OSU junior honorary.

Bucket and Dipper and a University of Illinois honorary, Sachem, have exchanged the award since 1925.

Because the Buckeyes beat the Fighting Illini last year, Bucket and Dipper will receive Illibuck at halftime ceremonies on Saturday.

The turtle was chosen as the symbol for the award by members of Bucket and Dipper 55 years ago because turtles have a long lifespan, Patterson said.

A live turtle was used as the first award, but died after only two years. Wooden turtles of mahogany have been used since then.

Scores are engraved on the turtle, and when the space for scores is full, a new turtle is exchanged.

This year the clubs are exchanging the sixth Illibuck since the tradition was initiated.

Since the award began, OSU has beaten Illinois 41 times, leaving Sachem to take the award 13 times.

There have been two ties for the award.
1925 tradition trades turtle

A symbol of a friendly rivalry between Ohio State and the University of Illinois will be exchanged at halftime during Saturday's game.

"Illibuck," a wooden turtle, is given to the winner of the game from the previous year. This year the turtle will be presented to the Illini at a halftime ceremony.

"The tradition began in 1925, when the members of Sachem, (the Illinois junior men's honorary) and Bucket and Dipper (an OSU junior honorary) decided to establish a friendly rivalry between the two schools," said Susan Pieper, current president of Bucket and Dipper.

The clubs originally chose to use live turtles because they had long lifespans and could be passed on for many years, but the original "Illibuck" survived only two years.

The live turtle was then replaced with a wooden replica and the scores are engraved on its back. The present turtle is the sixth "Illibuck".

During the ceremony the members of Bucket and Dipper and Sachem meet on the field and pass a peace pipe around to the participants, said Mark Herder, a member of Bucket and Dipper.

"This is a great tradition between the two chapters...it is a great rivalry and despite the outcome of the game everyone has a lot of fun," he added.

Illibuck has traveled between Champaign, Ill., and Columbus 61 times. It has spent 46 of those years at Ohio State and only 15 at Illinois.
Illini rivalry symbolized by passing of the turtle

By EILEEN MALONE
Lantern Staff Writer

The phrase “passing the buck” takes on a new meaning every year at the Illinois-Ohio State football game. For this game, the “buck” being passed is the Illibuck, a wooden turtle that symbolizes a tradition of friendly rivalry between a student honorary at each school.

The Illibuck tradition was started in 1925 by members of OSU’s Bucket and Dipper Junior Honorary and Sachem, a University of Illinois honorary.

Each year, the Illibuck goes to the winner of the previous year’s game. The Buckeyes’ 14-0 victory over the Illini in 1986 entitles members of Bucket and Dipper to travel to Illinois this year to bring the Illibuck back to Ohio State, where it will stay until the Buckeyes lose to Illinois, said Don Warsing, Bucket and Dipper president.

The original “trophy” was a live turtle, chosen because of its reputed longevity. However, constant travel and handling took its toll on the turtle, which died two years after the first exchange, Warsing said.

Since then, mahogany replicas of the turtle have been used for the exchange.

After the Illinois Marching Band pre-game show, members of both honoraries share a peace pipe to express their friendship. The Illibuck is then exchanged.

“The whole purpose of the tradition is to exchange friendship between the universities,” Warsing said.

James Knight, associate professor of agricultural education and also an adviser to Bucket and Dipper, said although Ohio State has not been able to bring home the Illibuck every year, it still stands for harmony in the rivalry of the game.
Honoring the winner

Members of two junior honorary societies, Bucket and Dipper from Ohio State and Sachem of University of Illinois, get pumped up before the OSU-Illinois game Saturday on the University of Illinois campus. The two honoraries participated in the exchanging of the 'Illibuck' a trophy that has gone to the winner of the football game since 1925.
Turtle exchange

Turtles and football are not usually thought of together. But for nearly 70 years, a snapper named Illibuck has found its way to the football field during the Ohio State vs Illinois game.

Illibuck is a symbol of friendship between Illinois' Sachem and Ohio States' Bucket and Dipper junior honoraries, said Susanna Rourke, president of Bucket and Dipper.

The officers of the two groups have exchanged the wooden turtle since 1927, following the death of its 2-year-old live predecessor.

Scott Eggener, president of Sachem, said that during the exchange, the winner of the previous year's football game receives the turtle.

"We've held the Illibuck for the past four years and hopefully after today, it will be five," he said before the exchange.

Sunil Doshi, special events chair for Bucket and Dipper, said the turtle was chosen because they typically have a long lifespan.

"It was thought this longevity would be a perfect symbol of the friendship we wanted. Ironically, though, our turtle died after only two years," he said.

Doshi said Ohio State and Illinois were rival schools during the 1920s. He said the two groups thought of the idea to commemorate the historical rivalry they shared.

Wendy Smith, vice president of Bucket and Dipper, said the president and vice president of both honoraries were invited to OSU President E. Gordon Gee's luncheon before the game where he recognized the Illibuck tradition during his speech.
OSU and Illinois honoraries to exchange trophy

By Alana Beltzer
Latern staff writer

During the Buckeye's game this Saturday against the Fighting Illini of Illinois, 10 Ohio State honor students will be presented with a wooden turtle.

This is not any wooden turtle. It is the Illibuck and it has been part of OSU football history for over 70 years.

The Illibuck is the trophy that has been given to the winner of the OSU-Illinois football game since 1926, said Colin O'Brien, president of the Bucket and Dipper Junior honorary.

The trophy is traded between OSU and the Sachev's honorary junior honorary at Illinois during halftime of the OSU-Illinois game, he said.

O'Brien said the members of the Bucket and Dipper junior honor society will go to Champaign to receive the trophy after last year's 41-3 win over Illinois.

The Bucket and Dipper honorary is made up of 40 juniors who are selected during winter quarter through an application process that is based on scholarship, leadership and service, O'Brien said.

The halftime ritual includes the smoking of a peace pipe and the presentation of the Illibuck to the winner of last year's football game, O'Brien said.

“During the very first exchange, they used a live turtle,” he said. “It was essentially a bit of a prank.”

The turtle, which was named Illibuck to incorporate both schools mascots, was supposed to live 50 years but fell short of that mark, O'Brien said.

“The idea was that the turtle was long-lived, but the turtle only lived two years,” he said.

Bad living conditions were to blame for the live-Illibuck's early demise, O'Brien said.

“It was living in the basements of the fraternity houses of the honorary members,” he said.

The trophy is now carved out of mahogany. The most recent of these trophies was carved by the father of last year's Bucket and Dipper president, said Dr. David Hothersall, adviser to Bucket and Dipper.

“The score of each game is inscribed on the turtle’s shell. After the last score is inscribed, the winner of that game gets to keep the trophy,” he said.

There are five full Illibucks in OSU's Kuhn Honors House, Hothersall said.

“I believe that Illinois has three or four of them,” he said.

According to the Big 10 Fan Guide, the record between the two teams since 1902 has been 53 wins for OSU, 27 wins for Illinois and four ties.
Joe Blundo commentary: Illibuck No. 11 ready for duty

By Joe Blundo

Ted Scherer has once again carved central Ohio's most important wooden turtle.

And, this time, he had more creative freedom.

"They directed me on how they wanted the last one done," he said. "I wasn't really all that happy with the way it came out."

We are speaking, of course, about the Illibuck, a trophy awarded to the winner of the Ohio State-Illinois games since 1925, when a live snapping turtle was used.

At halftime on Saturday, members of honorary societies from both schools will line up on the field at Ohio Stadium and pass a wooden turtle backward over their heads in a tradition only marginally wackier than, say, the Carleton College-St. Olaf wooden goat game.

Wacky or not, the Illibuck is not something that Scherer takes lightly. Using a chainsaw, he created a carefully detailed turtle out of a block of catalpa wood.

We chatted about the Illibuck and other chain-saw creations in his backyard man cave, an outbuilding full of tools, car posters and other guy stuff.

"Took 17 months to build," he said. "It's been a blessing." (His wife no longer complains about sawdust wafting up from the basement.)

Scherer, who worked in a factory and then as a prison guard, now pays the bills through chain-saw carving. He turned a tree stump at a house in Muirfield Village into Chief Leatherlips, for example.

In the summer, he goes to fairs and festivals with a trailer load of figurines.

"Women like owls and turtles and frogs and mushrooms. Men like eagles and bears... I get tired of carving mushrooms, but it'll always pay for your gas and your motel and stuff."
Scherer's latest turtle is Illibuck No. 11 (not counting the live one that started the string, I'm told). The turtles are retired when their shells fill up with the scores of OSU-Illinois games.

Saturday's game will be the last ceremony for No. 10 — also made by Scherer — before retirement. Members of the Atius-Sachem honorary at Illinois will pass the turtle to members of Bucket & Dipper, their OSU counterpart, because the Buckeyes won the last game.

No. 11 won't actually take the field until the next OSU-Illinois game in 2017. But it might make public appearances in the meantime, said Julie Domicone of the Bucket & Dipper honorary society at OSU.

So there will be plenty of opportunity to admire its fine grain, its glass eyes (an Illibuck upgrade, Scherer notes) and its shell containing an understated nod to the artist's loyalties: two subtle Block O's.

@joelundo