

**For this portion of the history of your Aumsville Corn Festival will focus on the 1980's. More information on Aumsville's history can be seen at the Aumsville Historical Society located on Main Street in front of city hall, open on Saturday's from 11 AM to 2 PM.**

**August 29<sup>th</sup>, 1981** – Despite the rain an estimated 7,000 plus people attended the festival and consumed 10 tons of corn, 3 more than in 1980. Mayor Elmer Duncan cut the ribbon to open the new tennis courts at Porter-Boone Park. He thanked Darlene Loyd and former Mayor Joel Mathias for the support and work on this project.

The youngest person in attendance was Malea Han of West Linn, 8 weeks old; the oldest was David Weltmer at 92 years of Stayton.

A new contest – tobacco spitting was won by Jim Clark at 18' 9", followed by Aubrey Simon at 17' 3", and third place was Bob Adams at 14" 11". Also for the first time was arm wrestling; Chris Kergil won the woman's division. Jerry Boss, Bill Kergil, Ric Gerlman, Jamie Ward, Don Davidson, John Davidson, Terry Van Dyke, Rusty Summers and Aubrey Simon as winners in the men's divisions, (seven Classes). A third new contest was the keg toss, which is still active today. DeLetta Chytka won the woman's division at 15' 2", Aubrey Simon won the men's with a toss of 33' 5". A skillet toss was tried by the pans broke on impact but Ann Craig tossed hers to 70' 9".

KATU filmed the festival and parade this year but to date we have not been able to find that footage.

Freeman Fulton was the festival chairman along with Parks and Recreation Committee.

**August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1982** – This year drew the largest crowd to date estimated at 9 thousand with 11 tons of corn purchased. Several activities were dropped this year but a new one is the first baking contest with two categories; bread and chocolate

cake with chocolate frosting. Dale Wonderly won the bread and Edna Hortsch won the cake contest. Also new is the 10 Kilometer race won by Jim Gries in 38:16 and Gretchen Allen in 49:58. The 2 mile race was won by Isaiah Clark in 9:51 and Kris Villaneva won the woman's division at 16:24 minutes.

Aubry Simon attempted to break the world record of eating 1,000 ears of corn in five hours but fell woefully short only eating 15 ears – he said he was feeling ill. He did break his corn eating contest record of 13 ears eating in two minutes.

The country-rock band Whitehorse played from 8 to 11 PM.

The Grand Marshall was Grace Richards a 66 year resident of Aumsville – the theme was "Aumsville Corn Follies".

**August 27, 1983:** A Friday night event, a beer garden sponsored by the Cougar Foundation will opened at 6PM to 1AM with the Amarillo Band providing entertainment.

A much smaller crowd was in attendance due to early rains. 11 tons of corn was still ordered. In the Corn shucking contest, Ray Stanerson won the junior division with 16 ears shucked in 1.5 minutes; in the senior division Aubry Simon won with 38 ears shucked – time unknown.

**August 25, 1984:** A Parents Club Benefit breakfast was held at the Aumsville grade school. It served 130 folks from 7:30 to 10:00 AM. Cost was \$1.50 for seniors; \$2.50 for adults; and \$1.00 for children.

Corn Shucking contest had John Kirsch and Steve Colvin tied at 38 ears each in 5 minutes, but in a 2 minute tie breaker John won by with 22 ears over 20 ears for Steve, Kevin Kergil was third with 36 ears. In the 15 and older group Edna Erskine husked 64 ears in 5 minutes followed by Don Bartholomew at 61 ears and Ted Patterson with 58 ears.

Oldest in attendance was Etna Krauger at 87 years, Youngest at 9 days was Jimmy Nollen, Son of Rita Nollen. Longest married was Edwin and Ruth Doughty of Sublimity at 59 years, and shortest were David and Lynn Moore at 1 ½ months. Furthers traveled was Yoshi Yamade from Okinawa, Japan.

**August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1985:** Vendors booths and attendance were down this year and a lot of corn remained in the afternoon but a bargain of \$.50 a bag quickly sold the rest by 5 PM.

A street dance was held at Atkins Thriftway from 8-11 PM.

Parade theme was "L'll Abner & Daisy Maize Days with Yvetter as Grand Marshall. Organized groups in the parade were won by the Clover Street Clan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Boy Scout Troop 476, 3<sup>rd</sup> by the Del Mar Gang. First place in 4-Wheel vehicles went to Allen Dozler of Stayton Canning, 2<sup>nd</sup> to Lonnie Elder of Moduline Industries, 3<sup>rd</sup> to Kelly Bradley Auto Sales.

Chester Bridges received special thanks for his oversight of the corn husking staying on station from early morning to closing. Corn eating winner was Greg Willnow ate 4 ¾ ears in two minutes with junior winners Wilce Womack 11 years eating 2 ears, and John Kuenzi 15 years ate 3 3/4. Steve Toney 6 years found \$1.50 in the haystack and added another \$1.00 as winner of the 3-legged race.

**August 29<sup>th</sup>, 1987:** Best float (Theme) was Larry Kreman & the Corny kids; a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place was with Cub Scouts Pack 50 of Aumsville and Atkins Thriftway of Stayton.

Pauline Reynolds was the oldest in attendance at 98 years, born on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1889, and the youngest was Rita May Santibanez at 8 days old. The longest married was George and Lillian Bockman of Stayton, married on 8 August 1928 – 59 years. The shortest married, were Jeff and Lisa, who were on their honeymoon from 11 AM the morning of the festival.

"How Corny can You Get" was the theme, and Grand Marshall was Mayor Harold White.

**August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1988:** The 20<sup>th</sup> Corn Festival had 6,500 in attendance with 8 tons of corn purchased.

The festival committee chose Arnie Atkins (Owner of Atkins Thriftway) as Grand Marshall. Aumsville Cub Scout Pack 405 was the Grand prize winner in the parade depicting of the theme of "Way Back When".

Youngest at 3 days was Kathryn Jones; Oldest at 80 years was Myrtle Roe, shortest married were Clifford and Terry Thomas at 3 weeks, and the oldest married were George and Lillian Bockman at 60 years.

Park cleanup winners were Dustin McGrath, followed by Jamie Tapley, then Billy Talbert.

**August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1989:** Golda Bales at 79 years was the Grand Marshall. The theme was "Coming of Age".

Don Larson was the corn cooker for a day. Don has volunteered for 20 years at the festival and still enjoys to work. 8 tons of corn was purchased to feed and sale to festival goers.

Oldest person at the festival was Stella Price at 86 years; youngest was Jared Harris, 1 month & 15 days; longest married was Mike & Helen Rogow at 44.5 years; youngest married was Jim and Dawn at 14 days; the longest traveled was Margaret Knorr from Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Erica DeBellis, 5 years old said it was difficult to eat much corn as she was missing two front teeth. Greg Austin, 7 years was also hampered with loose teeth so helped with the shucking.

Note: As always, it takes a lot of volunteers to come out on Saturday of the festival and support the shucking, bagging, and serving of corn to all the local citizens and out of town guests. If it were not for your volunteerism the Corn Festival and Parade would have died long ago. Thanks to all the volunteers of the past 50 years. Corn Festival Board and General Members. We meet the first Monday of each month at the Aumsville Community Center at 6:30 PM.