



1968-2018 CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Beginnings of the Aumsville Corn Festival

First in a series of articles with information provided to the Aumsville Historical Society

The Aumsville Corn Festival in cooperation with the Aumsville Historical Society will be producing a seven (7) part series on the history of the Corn Festival and the parade. Any historical photos and/or articles from participants will be gladly accepted and used in this series. We would appreciate names and dates of anyone in a photo. All materials can be either left at city hall or emailed to ltcsonny@gmail.com.

All subject matter in series #1 & 2 was transcribed from documents prepared by Lorene Mathews on August 23, 1969.

In 1968, a group of Aumsville citizens got together and organized a corn feed at Porter-Boone Park among them were Leo Wheadon, Jim & Sharon Lewis and Lawrence Killinger. A suggestion was put forth to have an Aumsville Corn Festival the following year.

Leo Wheadon contacted Lorene Mathews about a corn festival donation and she asked about a kid's parade and he said if she thought they needed one to go ahead and organize one, so along with Doris Anderson (Lucas) they decided it was a good idea to have a parade for small kids and off it went. They did not have much money so Doris and Lorene made ribbons and asked for donations from some local businesses. The first parade in 1969 started at 5:30 pm in the evening and changed to 11:00 AM the following year. The Aumsville fire department was instrumental in the first parade and corn festival with Dwight Bass & Jim Dougherty driving a fire truck to lead off the parade.

Cris Grimes' Wardrobe	(\$4)
Creason's Grocery (J&M Market)	(\$20)
Louie's Barber Shop	(\$2)
Mickey's Sales and Service	(\$10)
Clarence Applegate's Coffee Shop	(\$10)
Valley Telephone Company	(\$5)
Lorene Mathews Gift & Hobby	(?)
Lorene's Beauty Shop (Sharon Gross)	(\$2)
	\$53.00



As for the corn festival, Doris Anderson organized some sack races and some other games. Lorene brought some of her own toys and small items and set up a table to sell the items and the proceeds were donated to the festival. The fire department had a bingo stand; there were also two stands selling popcorn, ice cream, soft drinks, homemade pies and cakes, but no one had coffee that first year, so the next year Dorothy Nixon offered coffee. Melvin Mathews, who worked for Cal Gas in Salem, donated the gas and tanks and did so for many years. Melvin and Ted Nichol did the cooking for the first few years. In the second year, the fire department got a dunk tank from Jefferson.

If anyone has family pictures from those early years, we would love to showcase them.