

AUMSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

For more than a year, Aumsville's 50th Corn Festival was a subject of conversation and planning. How did this annual event start? Turn back the hands of time. According to residents who were there, the volunteer firemen were going to have "a corn feed". Lorene Mathews had a beauty salon and gift shop on Main Street in the building, which is now the office of Woodward Heating and Air Conditioning. The owner of one of the nearby businesses came by and asked for a donation to support the event. Conversation followed. As the late Doris Hutchins recalled the event, one of the ladies introduced the idea of a children's pet parade as part of the festivity. The listeners thought it was a fine idea, if Doris would organize it! She spread the word. Lorene assembled ribbons, which were awarded to the participants.

A publication of that era reports that on August 23, 1969, Aumsville's fire truck led the way from the water tower to Main Street, then westward to Porter Boone Park. There were about 130 participants. Some rode decorated bicycles. Some carried their pets, but others put them into cages on their wagons like circus animals. It is also reported that about 22 people rode the parade route in the back of a pickup truck. At the park, there was free corn on the cob. The firemen set up bingo and snacks were available.

School is back in session and the yellow buses travel all the roads. When the high school opened in Aumsville, some students came from considerable distances. A few were able to come by train. The first school bus in the Aumsville area was a truck with a covering over the back. By today's standard, it was not first class travel, but it led to a better and safer mode of transportation.

The newest AHS member is Heath Merriman of Aumsville. The next AHS meeting will be held on Thursday, October 11th. The museum will be open from 11-2 pm on Saturdays through October and has extended hours when there is a city event, such as the Second Saturday Market. For more information about AHS and the museum, please contact Ted Shepard at 503-749-2744 or Karlene Santibanez at 503-749-2585.