

Corn Huskin': Born in '45, Celebrates Birthday

By PENNY PITTARD

Last night students took part in another one of Meredith's traditions — Corn Huskin', which is eagerly anticipated each fall.

Miss Peterson's Idea

This event was first suggested in May of 1945 by Miss Doris Peterson, who was then head of the physical education department. (One of the students who helped plan that first Corn Huskin' is someone who is very familiar to the campus today — Miss Betty Jean Yeager, who is now secretary to the Dean of Students.)

Event First Held In 1945

On October 30, 1945, plans became reality and, the first Corn Huskin' was held in front of the dining hall immediately after dinner.

Students went to the event country-style wearing overalls, print dresses, aprons, and pigtails.

Varied Contests

The contests of the evening included chicken calling, hog calling, and corn shucking. The winners of each contest were rewarded with an egg basket, filled with candy-coated almonds, a piggy-bank, and a corn-cob pipe, respectively. Square dancing by the faculty and a "sing-song" contest, which was judged on the basis of "pure corn" and "hill billy-ness" by Mr. Harry Cooper and Miss Mary Yarbrough were held.

In 1949 the tall tale contest was added to the program and later apple bobbing.

Event Becomes Tradition

According to old Athletic Association records, Miss Peterson had in mind for Corn Huskin' to be an annual party in honor of the incoming freshmen. This original idea has been lost, for now Corn Huskin' is more a celebration of the coming of fall with Halloween overtones.

Miss Peterson wanted her Corn Huskin' idea to become a tradition, and it has — one of the best-loved and most fun-filled.



Scenes from 1961 Corn Huskin'