

Omega to be in limelight during Dogwood Festival

By BARBARA B. KALFS
Gazette staff writer

PIKETON — Omega, an Ohio Erie Canal-era boom town, will be in the limelight during the 1979 Pike County Dogwood Festival, April 27-28, in Piketon. It is Omega's turn to receive the symbolic dogwood sapling given annually for planting in a Pike County community. Pauline "Sallie" Elizer will accept the tree at 1 p.m. Friday, April 27, from Piketon Mayor Al Williamson.

At 1 p.m. Saturday near the Piketon-Seal Township Fire Station, the chain saw contest will begin. Chairman Richard

Leath reports the Lemans start will be used and first and second place trophies awarded in each class.

There will be four classes: A, to 3 cubic inch stock; B, 3-4 cubic inch stock; C, 4 and up cubic inch stock; and D, open. The first three classes are not open to dealers, distributors or sales representatives. Area loggers are being urged to join in the competition which will be three cuts in 8 by 8 square inch poplar.

The Pike County Fairgrounds will be the scene of a patch and ball rifle match at noon Saturday. Information Winners will receive food certificates, Keaton

said. Friday and Saturday there will also be trail rides, starting at 11 a.m. from the fairgrounds and returning about 5:30 p.m. Each participant is advised to take a lunch and beverage for the trail and carry food weather gear.

Dale McNelly of Piketon and Guy Jaynes of Wakefield, chairmen, report that all riders participate at their own risk. As always, the festival will concentrate on pioneer arts and crafts. There are still openings for craftsmen, said Mrs. Elaine Beekman, Dogwood Inc. president, and

Charles Osborn, festival coordinator. Artists interested in doing sketches in charcoal or pencil pastels will have street stands.

Two of the most popular events at past festivals will be repeated. The fiddlers contest will be at 3 p.m. Saturday and the banjo pickin' contest at 4 p.m. Sunday, both on the Middle Street stage. Edward Wheeler, chairman, reports the contests are open to all corners and there will be prize money for first, second and third place.

A perennial highlight is the 2:30 p.m. parade for which trophies are awarded

for best: float, horse-drawn vehicle, marching band and drill-baton group. The parade assemblies in the Piketon High School parking lot. Someone from each parade unit should check in at the information station at the high school prior to 1:30 p.m. to receive directions and a unit placement number.

Among performing groups on the Middle Street and Market Street stages during the weekend will be: Rick Salyers of Piketon, country music; Richard Stevie of Waverly, country music; Bill Odie and the Old-Timers, Portsmouth, country and hoedown dancing; Blue Grass Strangers, Wheelersburg.

String Dusters of Ewington, country and hoedown dancing; Junior Stevens of Camp Creek, country music; Jerry Salley of Chillicothe, country and folk; Ed Simpson of Middletown, old-time music.

Musical extras will be supplied by the Tri-State Honors Band in concert at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Piketon High auditorium; the Adelphi Community Band in concert 4:30-6 p.m. Sunday in front of the Connett Building followed by the Seal of Ohio Community Concert Band, 5-6 p.m. at the same site. Osborne said anyone who has questions may contact Dogwood, Inc., Box 336, Piketon, or phone the office, 365-2704.



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