



FESTIVAL SIGN
Reminder to visitors to Piketon.

Seventh annual Dogwood Festival Friday-Sunday at Piketon

By BARBARA R. KALFS

PIKETON—The seventh annual Piketon Dogwood Festival will open at noon Friday and continue through 9 p.m. Sunday.

Charles Cochran, Dogwood, Inc., president, said a wide range of activities and diverse craft demonstrations is planned for the event which annually attracts thousands of visitors from several state areas. The focal point of the festival is "The Old Village of Piketon," a National Register designated historic district.

The crafts in the Activity Center (former Opera House), United Methodist Church, Johnson-Croce House, Piketon-Sand Township fire house and Gun Moore House, festival headquarters, will be

complemented by on-street shelters.

Among the crafts will be wire work, acrylic and oil paintings, weaving, ice cream making, shoe mending, silver ornaments, pottery, Colonial cutlery, miniature, stained glass, oil paintings, ceramics, stone carving and quilting.

jewelry making, spinning, cloth making in an old-fashioned press, apple butter making, saw filing and soap making.

Highlight of the festival is the 1 p.m. Sunday parade through the streets of Piketon. On first Pike County seat, Harry Weaver of Waverly, a retired farmer, will be parade marshal.

Featured in the parade will be antique automobiles, area bands, drill teams, floats, walking and mounted units. Those interested in participating may contact

the Dogwood, Inc. headquarters, Piketon (entry) by mail or telephone. Walter Weathers, of House, V. Weaver, is chairman of the parade which will assemble at 12:30 in the "Old House" High School parking lot area.

At 11 a.m. Saturday, Piketon Mayor Al Williamson will present the annual symbolic dogwood sapling to the Piketon Village retirement community in Waverly. "Home" Band will accept a flag for the Village and the tree will be planted in the area around the Village Activity Center.

Music has traditionally played a major role in the festival. The Dogwood Festival Honor Band, comprising selected resident high school musicians, will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, in the Piketon High School auditorium.

Bluesgrass, country and mountain music makers have been scheduled for the two and a half day event on Market and Middle Streets Stages. The Brown Central Community Concert Band, directed by William E. Yonck of Waverly, will give a special outdoor concert at 3 p.m. Sunday on the Johnson House lawn. The group of about 40 musicians who hail primarily from Pike and Ohio counties was formed in celebration of the nation's Bicentennial and was "reborn" during the 1968 Dogwood celebration.

Also returning will be the Adepts Community Band, reportedly the oldest continuous band in Ohio. Under the direction of Raymond W. Conner of Piketon, the band is made up mainly of residents of the Adolphus-Helm-Lawrenceville-Kelley communities. They will perform in front of the Church Building, Main and Johnson Streets, at 3 p.m. Sunday.

The Pike-Elm Festival that Pike County will sponsor a competition during the parade with first, second and third place awards given from the reviewing stand following the parade. Sandy Stevens of Piketon has additional information on the contest for which judging will be done in progress on Johnson Street. The festival also will feature a Shakespearean riverboat dramatic presentation, poetry workshop, trail ride, oyster dinner, music, history rifle and card shoot, tobacco-planting contest, antique automobile show, bicycle tour, Corvette contest, woodcutting and country drive, tours and an art show.

GNP shows upturn

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's Gross National Product increased at an annual rate of 3.2 per cent in the first quarter of 1977, the largest gain in a year and a signal of an improving economy.

The government announced today that the GNP indicator, which measures the market value of the goods and services produced in the country, might have been higher still except for the severe winter weather, the Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis said.

The extremely cold weather in January and February reduced the increase in real output and final sales and

boosted prices in the first quarter. The extremely cold weather probably reduced the increase in real output by 1.5 percentage points at an annual rate...

The rate of inflation was put at 8.8 per cent, the same as in the previous quarter. The first quarter increase was the highest since a rise of 9.2 per cent registered in the first quarter of 1976.

The dollar value of the nation's goods and services rose and at slightly less than \$13 trillion at a seasonally adjusted annual rate.

inside the gazette

area weather

Considerable cloudiness tonight with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Low tonight in the 40's. Showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. High 73 today. The chance of rain 50 per cent tonight and 40 per cent Thursday.

A chance of showers daily Friday through Sunday. High in the 50's and lows in the 30's Friday and Saturday. High Sunday in the 60's. Lows in the 40's and 50's.

Local statistics—Tuesday: 81 high, 36 low; Wednesday: 81 a.m. 54; Precipitation: .01 inch of rainfall.

FIRST SECTION	
Business News	5
Finals	2
Living Today	62
News of District	2
Options Page	4
SECOND SECTION	
Abby	11
Advertisements	14
Brigs	21
Classified Ads	14
Crossword Puzzle	2
Markets	20
Sports	16-17
AD SUPPLEMENTS	
Bermain City	2
K mart	2
Sears	2

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