

2-Chillicothe O. Gazette Saturday, April 26, 1980

# Pike Dogwood Festival attracts woodcarver

By BARBARA B. KALFS  
Gazette staff writer

PIKETON — Bright sunshine took the chill off Piketon streets by noon Friday when the Pike County Dogwood Festival marked its 10th annual opening.

Among artisans on hand this weekend is Robert Gragg, a Bristol Village newcomer who has a fascinating diversity of wood carvings on display in the Piketon mayor's office in the Opera House.

The 83-year-old started logging in the Minnesota forests and eventually advanced in the woodcarving craft to build sets for Laurel and Hardy movies. Gragg, who worked for the Hal Roach Studios in Culver City, Calif., even carved a "standby

carpenter" figure for his model Laurel and Hardy movie set. In addition to the association with Stan Laurel and Oliver "Babe" Hardy, Gragg worked on "Our Gang" (later "Little Rascals") movie sets.

After retiring from residential construction in 1962, he had time to concentrate on his wood-carving hobby. He has taught school youngsters the fine art, has appeared on TV and won an array of hobby show blue ribbons.

Gragg and his second wife Vola keep a steady line of entertaining chatter with festival visitors and hope some fellow Graggs will be in the crowd this weekend. Maybe it's working with wood that has drawn Gragg to spend time looking up his family tree.



Jason Foster, the son of the Fred Fosters of Piketon, is fascinated by the old-time toys of Robert Gragg, a Bristol Village woodcarver who is participating in this weekend's Piketon Dogwood Festival. (Gazette photo)

## TODAY

10 a.m.-9 p.m. — Exhibits open.  
8 a.m. — Start Cyclist Dogwood Tour at Old Piketon Elementary School.  
10-30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Scioto Saga Symphony Seven in Concert, Opera House.

11 a.m. — Presentation of symbolic dogwood trees, Opera House. Trail ride, starts and ends at Pike County Fairgrounds.

Noon — Muzzle loaders rifle shoot, Pike County Fairgrounds.

Noon-2 p.m. — Music with Mark Lewis, Middle Street.

1-1:45 p.m. — Children's square dance, front of Gen. Moore House.

1-2 p.m. — Old-fashioned style show, Opera House.

1:30-2:30 p.m. — Tobacco spitting contest, front of Gen. Moore House, and chain saw competition, near fire station.

2-2 p.m. — Children's games, corner of Market and Main Streets.

2:30-4:30 p.m. — Bainbridge Coffee Drinkers in concert, Opera House.

2:30-4:30 p.m. — Dogwood Fiddlers' Contest, Middle Street stage.

5-6 p.m. — Old-time basketball free throw, front of Moore House.

5-7 p.m. — Bingo, Opera House.

5:30 p.m. — Old-time hymns by Piketon-Jasper United Methodist Church Choir, Piketon United Methodist Church.

7-9 p.m. — Pike Promenaders, Western style square dance, Opera House.

8 p.m. — Honors Band Concert, with Gary Tiry of Otterbein College as guest conductor, Piketon High School.

## SUNDAY

10 a.m.-6 p.m. — Exhibits open.

9 a.m. — Antique car show, Piketon High School athletic field.

11 a.m. — Drill team competition, corner Main and Market Streets.

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. — Country Knights music, Opera House.

Noon-2:30 p.m. — Seal of Ohio Concert Band concert, Gen. Moore House lawn.

12:30-2:30 p.m. — Bill Odie music, Middle Street stage.

1 p.m. — Old-time hymns by Piketon-Jasper United Methodist Church Choir, Piketon United Methodist Church.

2:30 p.m. — Grand parade.

4 p.m. — Dogwood quilt winner announced, Middle Street, and Adelphi Community Band Concert, front of Connett Building, Main Street.

4-6 p.m. — Dogwood Banjo Pickin' Contest, Opera House, and Dick Steele music, Middle Street stage.

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