Festival draws record crowd

Sunday Dogwood celebration draws 30,000

By BARBARA B. KALFS
Gazette staff writer

PIKETON — If sheer numbers are a gauge, the 1982 Pike County Dogwood Festival outweighed any of the previous 11 festivals.

During the weekend, the Village of Piketon figuratively burst its seams and parking places were scarcer than yesteryear's silver dimes.

Piketon police estimated that the crowd on Sunday was at least 30,000, which amounts to about the total attendance last year.

Friday, normally a fairly "slow" day when senior citizens are welcomed to take a leisurely stroll through exhibits usually confined to the village's historic district, was a banner day and visitors came in even greater numbers Saturday. Craftsmen from several states were on hand. The increase in concessions, crafts and flea market stalls necessitated taking in another village block for accommodations.

Sunny skies and shirtsleeve temperatures were a magnet for visitors from Ohio, Kentucky, Wisconsin, North Carolina, West Virginia, Indiana and Michigan.

The community of Stockdale received the symbolic dogwood tree from Scioto Valley Superintendent Dr. Sam S. Smith, who also is vice president of Historic Dogwood Inc. J.C. Bevins, a lifelong Stockdale resident, Marion Township clerk and member of the county and joint vocational boards of education, accepted on behalf of his community.

THROUGHOUT the weekend there was the mix of bluegrass and country music, joining the twang of dulcimers and whine of chain saws renting the air as saw sculpters and chain saw contest participants vied for attention.

The Sunday grand parade, with marshals Ruth and Thornton Hayes of 304 Main St., Piketon, was 14 minutes longer than ever before. The 44-minute procession met itself as advance units passed end entries at the high school assembly point. There were about 200 entries, including about 80 vintage vehicles from among 116 in the antique car show. The Adelphi Community Band, Piketon, Western, Portsmouth West high schools and Mt. Logan Middle School musicians, as well as drill team drum corps, provided the parade beat.

The second annual Dogwood Five-Mile Run set new records. From the 160 entrants, Mark Shoemaker, 25, of Lancaster, bested last year's record by one minute with his winning 24:37. Kim Willbanks, 17, of Lynchburg set a new course record for women at 33:17. Also placing for the men were Joy Hillyer of Athens, 27:37, and Mark Fox of Wellston. Second and third for women went to Linda Dillow of Columbus and Tricia Little of Lynchburg. Another 20-25 participated in the fun race.

THE TOP Pike County resident finishers were: Ron Dalton of Latham and Marsha Fisher of Waverly.

Raymond Wilson of Dayton won the crocheted dogwood bedspread donated to the festival by Mrs. Arla Jones of London, and a Mrs. Bates of Beaver Creek won th coveted dogwood quilt made annually by women involved in the festival.

Contest winners reported, to date, include:

Banjo Pickin' — 1, Debbie Thornberry, 12, Beaver; 2, Darrell Roar, Boswell Run Road, Waverly; 3, Larry Kempton, Waverly; and 4, Robert Stamper, Portsmouth.

Fiddlin' — 1, Steve Parson, South Shore, Ky.; 2, Gordon Payne, Mount Sterling; 3, Charles R. Jones, Humboldt; 4, George Bon, Norfolk, Va.

Tobacco spitting — 1, Kevin Linley, Lancaster, 21 feet 10½ inches; 2, Dean Mustard, Waverly, 18 feet 7 inches; 3, Roy Jenkins, Ohio 335, Waverly, 18 feet 6½ inches; 4, Claude Kerns, Peebles, 14 feet 10 inches.

Parade horse entries — Travel class, Glen Day, West Alexandria; best horse hitch, Dennie Green, London; best mule hitch, Frank Donaldson, Groveport; best pony hitch, Ray Fout, Ray; oldest driver, Guy Jayne, 75, Wakefield; best frontier, Junior Day, West Alexandria; best dressed, Dean Accord, Wakefield.

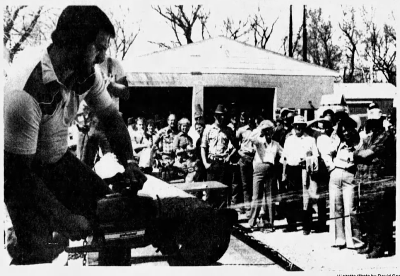
Muzzleloaders' shoot — Overall winner, J.F. Smith, Cincinnati.

Basketball free throw — Boys (up to 12 years of age): 1, Tracy Davis, Route 1, Waverly, and 2, Tim Hill, Tipton Lane, Waverly; girls (up to 12): 1, Susie Hattle, Owl Creek Road, Lucasville, and 2, Judy Davis, Schuster Road, Piketon; boys (13-15): 1, Scott Burton, no address, and 2, Don Holton; girls (13-15): 1, Michelle Reaster, Dawn Lane, Waverly, and 2, Crystal Rucker, 1021 Rozelle Creek Road, Chillicothe; boys (16 and older): 1, Bob Laws, 501 Rose Drive, Waverly, and 2, Scott Scaggs, 23 Maple St., Omega; girls (16 and older): 1, Deneen Tomlison, 2039 Germany Road, Beaver, and 2, Jill Henke, 253 E. Fifth St., Chillicothe.

Kiddy Tractor Pull — 0-40 pounds: 1, Angie Woodruff, 2, Lori Remy, and 3, Amy Holton; and 1, Jeremy Cutler, 2, Ryan Dobbins, and 3, Josh Acord; 41-50 pounds: (boys and girls): 1, Becky Brooks and Mark Pate, 2, Pamela Meadows and Jason Roberts, 3, Chrissy Lang and John Jackson; 51-60 pounds 1, Kim Moore and John Osborn, 2, Brandy Weatherhead and Scott Wisnewski, 3, Autumn Mathews and Teddy Lamerson; 61-70 pounds: 1, Shaye Jackson and Seth Douthitt, 2, Tammy Mathews and Jeff Sheets, 3, Vicki Patrick and Clarence Gillman.

Shoe Runs — 1-3 year old: 1, Joshua Hannah, 2, Cris Legg, and 3, Josh Acord; 4-6 years: 1, Bruce Turner, 2, Leve Medlock, and 3, Tommy Johnson, 7-10 years: 1, Mike Richardson, 2, Brandy Weatherhead, and 3, Shannon Blair.

Children's games — Bubble gum: Joshua Hannah, Jodi Remy, Becky Holton and Cathy Penwell.



(Gazette Photo by David Graves)

(Gazette photo)

There was wood cuttin', banjo pickin' and a lot of fun in Piketon during the weekend. Mike Barker, above, was one of the contestants in the chainsaw contest held Saturday during the 11th Annual Pike County Dogwood Festival. At left, Debbie Thornsberry, 12, of Beaver, won first place Sunday for her skills on the banjo. She is accompanied by her instructor, Greg Romanello, of New Boston, who has registered a few wins of his own in former contests at the Piketon festival. Officials estimated Sunday's crowd at 30,000.

Accidents injure four

Four people were taken to Medical Center Hospital during the weekend following two accidents, one in Chillicothe involving a boy on a bicycle, and one near the edge of town involving an overturned car.

Patrick D. Beard Jr., 7, of 315 Western Ave., was taken to the hospital by the Chillicothe emergency squad after he pulled into an alley intersection in the path of an oncoming car. He was treated for multiple cuts and abrasions and then released.

According to Chillicothe police, Beard was riding a bicycle east in an alley behind 446 Chestnut St. at about 4:40 p.m. Friday when the bicycle was struck at the intersection of another alley by a car driven north by Viola M. Fincher, 57, 188 Elm St.

The car and bike traveled about 20 feet before stopping. No charges were made.

At 4:45 a.m. Sunday, an accident on the U.S. 35-U.S. 50 exit ramp to Eastern Avenue sent three people, two with serious injuries, to the hospital.

The driver, Henry L. Brake II, of 621 Arch St. was listed in fair condition this morning at Medical Center Hospital. A passenger, Lori A. Serrott, address not given, was listed in fair condition this morning at St. Anthony Hospital in Columbus where she was taken Sunday.

Another passenger, David A. Butcher, 18, of 630 Linn St., was not treated. All were taken to Medical Center by the Scioto Township emergency squad.

Brake, according to Randy Bliss of the Ross County Sheriff's Department, was driving west on the ramp and failed to negotiate a left turn. The car struck a road sign and guard rail and posts, then traveled over an embankment approximately 200 feet, overturning several times before coming to a stop.

Free bus rides are no more

Remember to bring your change or buy your bus tokens because there's no such thing as a free ride on the Chillicothe Transit System any more.

Beginning this morning, officials began charging 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children, handicapped and the elderly.

Originally, passengers would have received free rides for another two weeks, but Mayor Clark Alexander and Transit Director Monty Sayers said so many passengers rode during the first two weeks that the fares had to be implemented.

The 30 days also was said to be needed so bus drivers could learn their routes. The mayor said drivers did so well there was no further need for orientation and for that reason authorized charging fares before scheduled.

Detailed schedules and maps are being planned by bus officials.

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