

Marching and music end festival

By BARBARA B. KALFS
Gazette staff writer

PIKETON — Music and marching highlighted the closing hours of another successful Pike County Dogwood Festival which drew an estimated 15,000 from at least seven states during the weekend.

The Middle Street Stage was the scene of Sunday banjo duelling, the likes of which have rarely been seen at the festival. Ten contestants vied for top prizes and Leroy Haskins of Route 3, Chillicothe, successfully defended his 1978 title.

In a play-off were: Tony Ellis of Chillicothe who also played back-up earlier for his 14-year-old daughter, Josie, who started playing just six months ago; Greg Romanello of Minford, Dick Roach of Coal Grove; Haskins and Allen Daugherty of Jackson. The judges chose Romanello, a past champion, for second and Daugherty third.

Other banjoists were Mike Diehl, Sanford Vaughn and Barry Barnes of Chillicothe and Don Jesse of Piketon. First prize money of \$100 for the fiddler's and banjo competitions was donated by the Pike County Jaycees with \$50 for second and \$20 for third from Dogwood Inc.

When fiddlers were center stage, Saturday, Ross County's Lomie Seymour dethroned perennial champion Don Boots, Attica Police Chief who placed third. Roger Cooper of Vanceburg, Ky., was second among the seven contestants. Gordon Williams was contest announcer with Tim Thompson as organizer.

Completing the list were Sanford Vaughn and Tony Ellis, both of Chillicothe area. Alan Stack of Vinton County (Route 1, Radcliffe), Jim Tordiff of Ironton.

One of Saturday's highlights was the fast-paced chainsaw contest in which Mrs. Richard (Dorothy) Leeth of Latham won the premier powder puff event with a time of 7.25 seconds. Next were: Jackie Shell (8.56), and Carolyn Leist (9.47), both of Beaver, and Nancy Rogers (13.54) of Waverly.

Other winners were: 4.1 cubic inches and up — John Knauff, Cynthia (9.58); 3.1-4 cubic inches — Dr. Jerry Keibe of Jamestown (13.01); 0-3 cubic inches — Dr. Keibe (16.65); open class — Richard Leeth (5.06).

Tobacco spitting honors went to Steve Ford of Morgantown with Jerry Leeth of Latham, second.

Dr. Sam Smith, Scioto Valley (Piketon) Superintendent of Schools, was master of ceremonies for the grand parade, Pike County's largest parade.

Cheers were heard along the line of march for octogenarian Raymond E. Consett, director of the Adelphi Community Band, as he stepped out in front of his musicians.

Special recognition was given Portsmouth American Legion Post 443, the largest in Ohio, which provided a drum corps, drill unit and color guard. The parade boasted what may well be the largest contingents of drill teams and antique autos in any southern Ohio parade.

Among the bands: Portsmouth West High School placed first; Eastern High School, second; and Western High School, third. Taking the trophy and ribbons for drill team were: Jacksonettes of Jackson, first; American Cadets of Chillicothe and Circleville, second; and Pantherettes of Londonderry, third.

Float winners were: Pike County Joint Vocational School VICA, first; T-model Hillbillies, second; Elm Grove Cub Scout Pack 78, third.

Dan Burkitt, Route 2, Piketon, was winner of the annual dogwood quill. Rita Howard of Canal Winchester received a dogwood pillow made by Mrs. Edna Halterman of Beaver, the artisan who each year sets up the quill for the group of women who spent the winter completing it.



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