

Field Day crowd down

By BOB DREITZLER
staff writer

CLARKSBURG— The addition of new displays and events to the annual Clarksburg Field Day program Thursday failed to stop a decline in attendance at the event.

The 61st annual field day, sponsored by the Clarksburg United Methodist Church, drew an estimated 3,300 people to the oak grove near the village where the event is traditionally staged.

Paid admissions were up slightly this year from 1975—by 42 more persons. But paid admissions usually account for only about half the attendance— children, band members and entertainers are admitted free. Last year's total crowd was estimated at 3,500.

And the 1975 attendance was a decline from previous years. Last year, hot weather and an earlier-than-usual date for the event were cited as reasons for the decline.

This year, the event was returned to its traditional date, the Thursday preceding the county fair, and the temperatures were bearable.

But a rain early in the day and a breezy afternoon with partly cloudy skies which carried a threat of rain may have contributed to the decline this year.

This year's field day included several new attractions, including a display of antiques and Civil War artifacts, a display of old buggies and a private collection of more than 1,000 knives, and craft demonstrations of chair caning and pottery making.

It also included sky diving, hot air balloon and magic performances by Dallas Wittgenfield, who appeared as "ThunderChicken, the Sky Diving Clown."

New contests included men's log-sawing and beard and mustache competitions, and a Paul Bunyan Marathon for women, which included potato peeling, corn shelling, needle threading and nail driving.

There were also the traditional contests for children, and music programs by the Adelphi Band, the Carter Family gospel singers of Washington Court House and the Ward Family of Gallia County. The horseshoe pitching and trap shooting events, two of the traditional favorites, also drew good turnouts.

Only two minor injuries were reported. A girl was struck in the arm by a dart at a booth where darts were used to break balloons, and one boy was stung on the tongue when a bee landed on his lollipop.

Horseshoe pitching

Ken Dawes, Good Hope, won the field day Class A horseshoe pitching contest for the third consecutive year. Ted Harris, London, placed second and Ted Pierce, West Jefferson, placed third.

Winners of the other classes, in order of first, second and third: Class B— Gilbert Palmer, Bainbridge; Joe Grigsby, Frankfort; Fred Wright, Frankfort. Class C— Lawrence Miller, Chillicothe; James Butcher, Route 2, Kingston; Lowell Butcher, Route 6. Class D— Herschel McColister, Frankfort; Frank Ater, Clarksburg; Glenn Anderson, Clarksburg.

Beard and mustache contest

Winners chosen in the beard and mustache contests were Dave Hice, Route 5, longest; Tim Wagner, Washington Court House, thickest; Dane Patterson, Route 1, thinnest; Ralph Goff, Clarksburg, most handsome; Ronald Lucas, Clarksburg, most unusual; and Donald Fetrow, Route 4, mustache.

Log sawing

Winners of the two-man cross-cut log sawing contest, in order, were Kevin (Continued on Page 2)

Teaching background helps fair volunteer

By BARBARA B. KALFS
staff writer

PIKETON — This week, Mrs. Marie Willson is known as "the secretary's secretary."

This ambiguous title simply means she's the recording and corresponding counterpart to Pike County Fair Secretary Floyd Ballis. For several years, the genial Piketon resident has fulfilled this position for the Pike County Agricultural Society.

Mrs. Willson brings skill to her post as she just rounded out 42 years as a high school business education teacher. She has certainly not been "a lady of leisure" since her June retirement because she is an involved person.

For starters, she serves as a fair board director and its second secretary, spends one volunteer day a week at Good Shepherd Manor, Wakefield, enjoys gardening, sewing, crocheting, collecting bowls and pitchers, salts and peppers and commemorative plates, canes chairs and likes to refinish old furniture.

In the secretarial line, she has served the Pike County Crippled Children's Society, March of Dimes Foundation, Pike County Education Association and Western Local Education Association in Pike County. She also keeps mighty busy

School in Delaware County. Two years later, she accepted the business education post at Piketon High School and took on coaching girl's basketball and teaching physical education.

In 1930, she went to Batavia where she taught five years during which she took time out to marry Piketon druggist Roy B. Willson who died Dec. 19, 1958. She suspended full time teaching until the outbreak of World War II. From 1941 until consolidation with Central District (Piketon) in 1956, Mrs. Willson doubled as business education and girl's physical education teacher at Scioto Township High School, Wakefield. She transferred in 1958 to Western Local High School, Latham, where she ended her career, June 1.

The mechanization and diversification through the years made definite changes in her field, she remarked.

"There have been other changes and perhaps a shift in teacher dedication. I never had an aide although there were some available. And, some of my favorite pastimes were coaching class plays and being yearbook adviser," the energetic woman said.

"I was yearbook adviser for 26 years and was only remunerated the last three. I guess I always considered a part of my

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