

Variety of bands, musical groups, teams entertain on Alpenstrasse, in Grand Parade

was announced. The winner became the lead band in the grand parade, he said.

"The drum corps competition got a lot of interest for the parade the next day," he added.

Calkins said the drum and bugle corps were high school age musicians, and with the upswing in high school bands the corps largely disappeared.

"Some, such as the Lionettes, were 15 or 20 years old," he said.

Calkins said it is difficult to get high school bands to attend Alpenfest because they are not active in the summer.

The Scottville Clown Band was a part of the early Alpenfest

celebrations, and continues to take part, Calkins said.

The clown band has participated continuously in Alpenfest for 21 years.

Another mainstay of the festival is the Gaylord High School Marching Band, which appears regularly in the Grand Parade.

Shirley Bates, a Gaylord musician and teacher active in Alpenfest, said the Sorgenbrecher Band, which plays at the Bavarian Tent at Schlang's Bavarian Inn, has performed there nearly every year since the first Alpenfest.

For a few years, Bates said, a polka band played in front of Audrain's Hardware on the Alpenstrasse, and the Gaylord Community Band performed con-

certs in the street between Audrain's and Country Casuals.

She said she remembers professional music groups being brought in for entertainment during Community Night, including the Lou Prohut family from Wisconsin. They appeared in 1970, she added.

For a period of time, many of the musical acts took place on a grandstand located near the intersection of Court and Main Streets.

More recently, the grandstand has been set up on South Court, allowing outdoor seating to flow onto the east lawn of the County-City Building, as well as providing separation from the main flow of Alpenstrasse crowds.

Larry Reichert performs a tropical number with the queen candidates at an Alpenfest Pageant held at the Gaylord High School gymnasium. In recent years, the pageant has been held downtown on the outdoors Alpenstage.



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