

*'Wonderful, great'*

# Owendale celebrates 75th anniversary

"Wonderful, great," was Walt Howard's summation of the Owendale 75th Anniversary celebration that took place over the weekend.

Howard, as chairman, and the members of the celebration committee labored for a year and a half to put on the event.

Much of the effort was spent in putting on various fund raising events to pay for the basically free celebration. Included were bake sales, magic and variety shows and selling of pins.

Although some bills remain to be paid, Howard said, it appears the com-

mittee broke even financially. "By the skin of our teeth."

The fire department with its beer tent and Lions Club with its pancake and sausage breakfast Friday and chicken barbecue Saturday did substantially better financially. About 800 chicken dinners were sold Saturday afternoon.

The festival committee's hot dog, baked beans, cake and pop or coffee for 75 cents Sunday "went over with a big bang," with about 650 meals sold.

About the only event that didn't go over well, Howard said, was the Friday night teen dance, possibly because

it started too early.

Crowned Friday night to preside over the festival were senior citizen king and queen, Edmund and Bernadine Good, selected for the honor by the Owendale Senior Citizens, and Kristine Erickson as queen.

She was selected from a field of five candidates by a committee of judges at a luncheon June 26 sponsored by the Owendale Women's Club.

The other candidates were Becky Howard, Tracy Mitchell, Debra Nowaczyk and Dawn Wissner. Each was interviewed by the judges, with the winner being announced and

crowned Friday evening.

The queen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Erickson.

The Saturday morning parade, which started under threat of rain and ended under bright sunshine, lasted about 55 minutes.

Winning floats were: Best overall, Gettel's Implement, Pigeon; most humorous, Kelly's Bar, Kilmanagh and Huron Chevrolet, Bad Axe (joint sponsorship); best musical, Unionville-Sebewaing Area Senior Citizens Band; and best children's, Owendale United Methodist Church.

In the Saturday afternoon water ball contest, the Kinde

Fire Department was tops in the men's division, followed by Harbor Beach and Owendale.

The two women's teams from Owendale, the firemen's wives, and anniversary committee, finished first and second respectively in their division.

In the Blue Water Pony Pullers Association sanctioned event Sunday afternoon, Rick DeWitt of Oxford won the 44-inch lightweight class, with Bob Davidson, Owendale, second; and Vic Kramer, Lake Orion, third. There were six teams entered.

Of the seven teams in the 48-inch heavyweight class, Charlie Kline, North Branch, was first; Gale Schwalm, Caseville, second; and Lloyd Mahaffy, Marlette, third.

The final competitive event Sunday afternoon was the tug of war, with the two winning teams repeating their Friday victories at the Cass City 4th of July celebration.

Miller Thrillers of Unionville-Sebewaing took top spot of the 10 men's teams entered, with Ridge Runners of Sebewaing second (also second at Cass City) and Howard Heating of Cass City, third.

Craig's Queens-Cole Carbide, Cass City, was the best of the five women's teams, with Blaney's Chicks and Blaney's Seedlings, both of Sebewaing, second and third respectively.



**BEARD CONTEST WINNERS** at the Owendale 75th Anniversary were, from left, Russell French, Clifford, longest beard; Alex Kovach, Owendale, funniest; Elwood (Bud) McDonald, Owendale, longest mustache; Walt Howard, Owendale, best shaped, and Lloyd Fritz, Pigeon, most dignified. Howard was chairman of the anniversary committee.

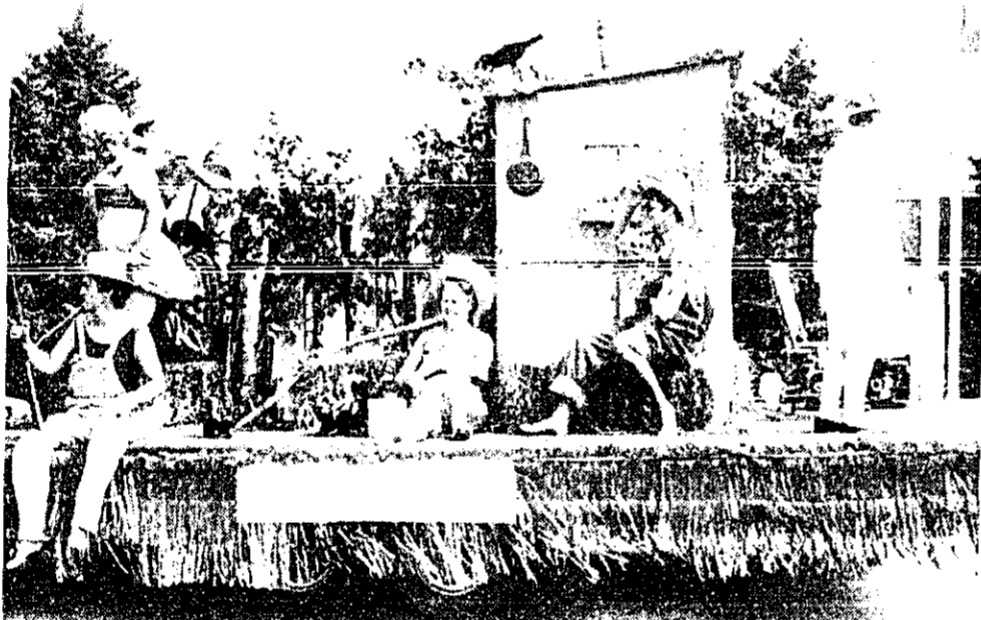
The average size of a U.S. farm increased from 427 acres in 1975 to 450 acres in 1979. The Agriculture Department expects another three acres will be added to the average in 1980.



**FIRE FIGHT**—The Elmwood Township - Gagetown Fire Department had the misfortune of drawing the Kinde department in the first round of Saturday's water ball contest at Owendale. Gagetown lost and Kinde went on to win the championship. At the nozzle end for Gagetown was Fire Chief Chuck Wright.



**KRIS ERICKSON** reigned as queen of the Owendale 75th Anniversary. She will be a senior at Owen-Gage High School this fall.



**MOST HUMOROUS**—The float sponsored by Kelly's Bar of Kilmanagh and Huron Chevrolet of Bad Axe won the trophy for the most humorous float in the Owendale 75th Anniversary parade Saturday morning.



**STRIKE UP THE BAND**—The Owendale-Gagetown High School band performed a concert in front of the high school at noon Saturday as part of the Owendale celebration.

**David Opal 'outstanding young man'**

David R. Opal of 4141 Koepfen Road has been chosen as one of the Outstanding Young Men of America by the United States Jaycees.

The award is in recognition of the achievements of young men age 21-36.

It honors their outstanding civic and professional contributions to their community.

Opal serves as administrator for the Huron County Medical Care Facility in Bad Axe. He has also served on various civic and professional organizations.

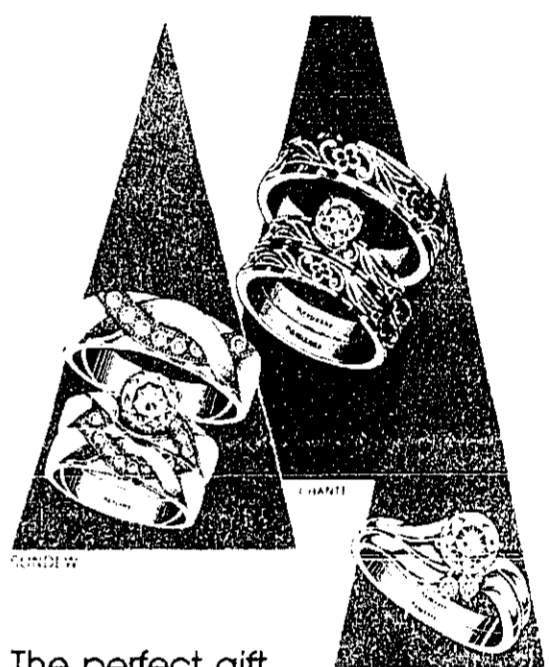
Although not directly related with the Jaycees, Opal has done work for the Lions Club in Bad Axe. He has also served such professional groups as the Michigan Counties Medical Care Facility Council, the American College of Nursing Home Administrators and the National Association of Health Facility Administrators.

Opal is also involved with the Deford Community Church, of which he is a member.

Opal expressed pleasure upon receiving the award. "It really is a nice recognition and it did come as somewhat of a surprise."

Along with a certificate of recognition, Opal's name and biography will be published in an annual volume that lists other honorees.

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**OWENDALE ROYALTY** — Edmund and Bernadine Good presided over the Owendale 75th Anniversary as senior citizen king and queen.