



Rafts race at Otsego Lake County Park.

1976

Community picnic at county park, water skiing stunts, raft races

Alpenfest had a week-long run this year in celebration of the nation's bicentennial.

The drum and bugle corps exhibition returned to Alpenfest, featuring the Ishpeming Blue Notes, the Petoskey Midshipmen, the Sault Ste. Marie Bandettes and the Flint Guardsmen.

A community picnic was held at Otsego Lake County Park in conjunction with a water show featuring water skiing and stunts.

Schlang's Bavarian Inn raised its tent for the 12th year in a row, with music and festivities from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. nightly.

Julie Bowers, daughter of Larry and Joyce Bowers, was crowned the Alpenfest Queen, with Renee Lompra named first runner-up and Miss Congeniality.

The first annual Alpenfest Great Raft Race was held on Otsego Lake. "Black Maria" entered by

the Gaylord post of the Michigan State Police won first place in the Class A division.

Protests were loud that the cops' entry, a pontoon-type craft, was illegal under the rules.

Higgins Industries of Vanderbilt pulled down the prize for best overall float at the Grand Parade.

A suit was filed in Circuit Court by two local residents seeking a temporary restraining order to halt Alpenfest festivities. The suit, filed by residents living near the Alpenfest amusement park area, alleged "loud and offensive noises" continuing after midnight.

Judge William A. Porter granted the restraining order, restricting amusement park activities to between 8 p.m. and 11 p.m.

A request to permanently ban the amusement park from the Alpenstrasse was denied.



Julie Bowers



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