



The Gaylord Alpine Band performing on the Alpenstrasse.

## ***Music fills Alpine air***

**I**n the early years, much of the music of Alpenfest was provided by drum and bugle corps teams.

Ed Calkins, parade chairman during the early Alpenfest years, said the first festival had no parade, and in discussion after the event it was decided a parade was needed to help draw people downtown.

"The next year I found myself the parade chairman," Calkins said.

He said he had connections with various drum and bugle corps throughout the state and elsewhere, and contacted some of the them regarding the possibility

of playing during Alpenfest.

Many of the drum corps had competitions in Bay City, Lansing and other Michigan cities on the Saturday of Alpenfest.

The bands would come to Gaylord on Friday night, he said, and play at the Gaylord High School football field for Community Night.

The Alpenfest Committee put the band members up in the high school gymnasium and arranged for them to eat supper and breakfast at local restaurants, Calkins said.

"The restaurants usually gave us a special rate," he added.

On Saturday, he said, the bands

went to their competitions, and if the location was close enough, they returned in the afternoon to march in the grand parade.

Some of the drum and bugle corps appearing at Alpenfest were the Lionettes from Sarnia, Ontario; the Bandettes from Sioux Ste. Marie, Ontario; the Blue Knights from Ironwood; the Blue Notes from Ishpeming; the Midshipmen from Charlevoix; the Majestics from Marquette and the Northernaires from Menominee among others.

On Community Night, an exhibition was held at the football field, Calkins said, and a winner

This Page Courtesy Of

**Gaylord/Otsego Chamber of Commerce**

125 South Otsego Gaylord 732-4000