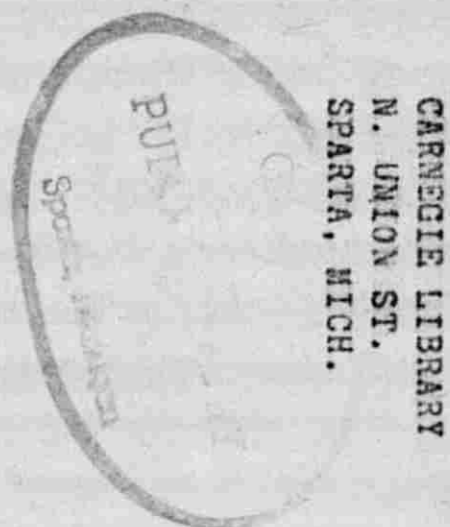


# The Sentinel Leader



and Comstock Park Courier-News

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SPARTA, MICHIGAN • WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1969

NUMBER 28



## Chet Parker and His Dulcimer To Entertain Saturday in Sparta

Chet Parker of Edgerton has become quite a celebrity in his time! His ability to charm young and old alike with renditions from his home-made 65-year-old dulcimer could have brought him fame and fortune. Instead he chose to remain in this north Kent area to perform for his friends and neighbors.

Commencing at one o'clock on Saturday afternoon, Mr. Parker will perform for persons attending Sparta's Town and Country Days. He will be entertaining in front of the Ben Franklin and Wahlstrom's Dept. Stores on E. Division Street and is being brought here by merchants, Bob Zimbar and Carl Wahlstrom.

Mr. Parker, who at 78 plays the most beautiful "folk music found anywhere" just returned on Tuesday from a trip to the east where he took part in a folk music demonstration July 1 to 6 near the White House and was sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute of Washington, D.C. He also appeared in a folk program on Monday in Philadelphia.

While the general public is not familiar with the sound of a dulcimer played by a master, many people in this area have heard Mr. Parker at his best. A life-long resident of Kent County, he has been an entertainer in demand at dances and local Grange and township halls for more than half a century. In 1964, he performed at a Hootenany, sponsored by the Band Boosters at the Sparta High School.

He is also known as the man who turned his back on "The Big Time". When he played an engagement at the former Silver Jack Wanigan near Edgerton,

he met the well-known New World Singers. His fine old tunes fitted naturally into the then growing trend to folk music and he traveled around Michigan with the trio.

Chet was invited to go to Chicago with the group for engagements and recording dates and then on to New York. But he refused preferring to "play music for enjoyment without having to travel around". He also turned down an invitation to play in Mexico but did appear in a folk music festival at Newport, Rhode Island, in 1965.

His dulcimer, itself, has quite a history. He made the instrument which has served him well throughout the years in 1904 when he was 13 years old, because his father and brother objected to him using their dulcimer. Built at a cost of about \$8.00, it is equipped with a screen door handle on one end for ease in carrying.

Music has always been a part-time thing with him while he made his living as a blacksmith, railroad section gang worker, threshing crew hand or at any other job which presented itself when he needed work. He used to play just about any instrument but concentrated on the dulcimer after he cut his hand in a buzz saw.

A master of between 400 and 500 tunes, Mr. Parker will perform such melodies as "Irish Washer Woman", "Red Wing", "Casey Jones", and many others Saturday afternoon in downtown Sparta.

JULY 9, 10, 11 & 12:

## SPARTA TOWN & COUNTRY DAYS—FUN FOR EVERYONE!

Sparta Town and Country Days - the biggest celebration ever planned for this community - commenced Wednesday evening and will continue through Saturday, July 12.

Sponsored by the Sparta Chamber of Commerce, the festivities include fun for the entire family. To name a few - old-fashioned sidewalk sales with bargains for area shoppers, two exciting junior baseball games, an apple queen contest, firemen water battle, a carnival, refreshment stands and booths by local organizations, a variety show, a softball game, chicken barbeque, an art and hobby show, two big parades, a tractor rodeo, a cattle judging and show, fireworks, and many more.

Thursday's events commenced with cattle judging and showmanship by local youths in the morning at Balyeat Field followed by a tractor rodeo in the afternoon.

Highlight of the day will be the Kiddie Parade, complete with prizes for all participants and grand prizes for most original costumes and best decorated bikes. The Pee Wee baseball team will play at 6 p.m. in Balyeat Field while the Little Leaguers will clash at 7 p.m. Of course, a carnival will be in full swing in the village parking lot during these four days and local organizations will maintain booths in that area.

Friday is Sidewalk Sale Day and all downtown merchants will move their wares outside to tempt area shoppers with special bargains. The Art and Hobby Show will be held both Friday and Saturday in the basement of the Sparta State Bank for judging by area patrons.

A variety show is scheduled from 7:30 to 9:30 in the bank parking lot.

A big parade with marching units and floats from Sparta and neighboring communities is scheduled for one o'clock on Saturday afternoon with cash prizes being offered for the best marching units and the best floats or other parade units.

Chet Parker of Edgerton will entertain with selections on his

dulcimer during the afternoon in front of the stores across from the bank.

Firemen's water battle is set for 4 o'clock at the east end of Division Street and the Sparta Rotarians will serve their annual Chicken Barbeque from 4 to 7 p.m. in the bank parking lot.

The farmers and merchants will provide entertainment with a game of softball at 6:30 in Balyeat Field.

Highlight of the evening will be the Kent-Ottawa Apple Queen Contest held annually to determine this area's entry in the annual state show to be held in Grand Rapids in December.

Fireworks at 10 o'clock will provide a spectacular conclusion to the gala festivities.

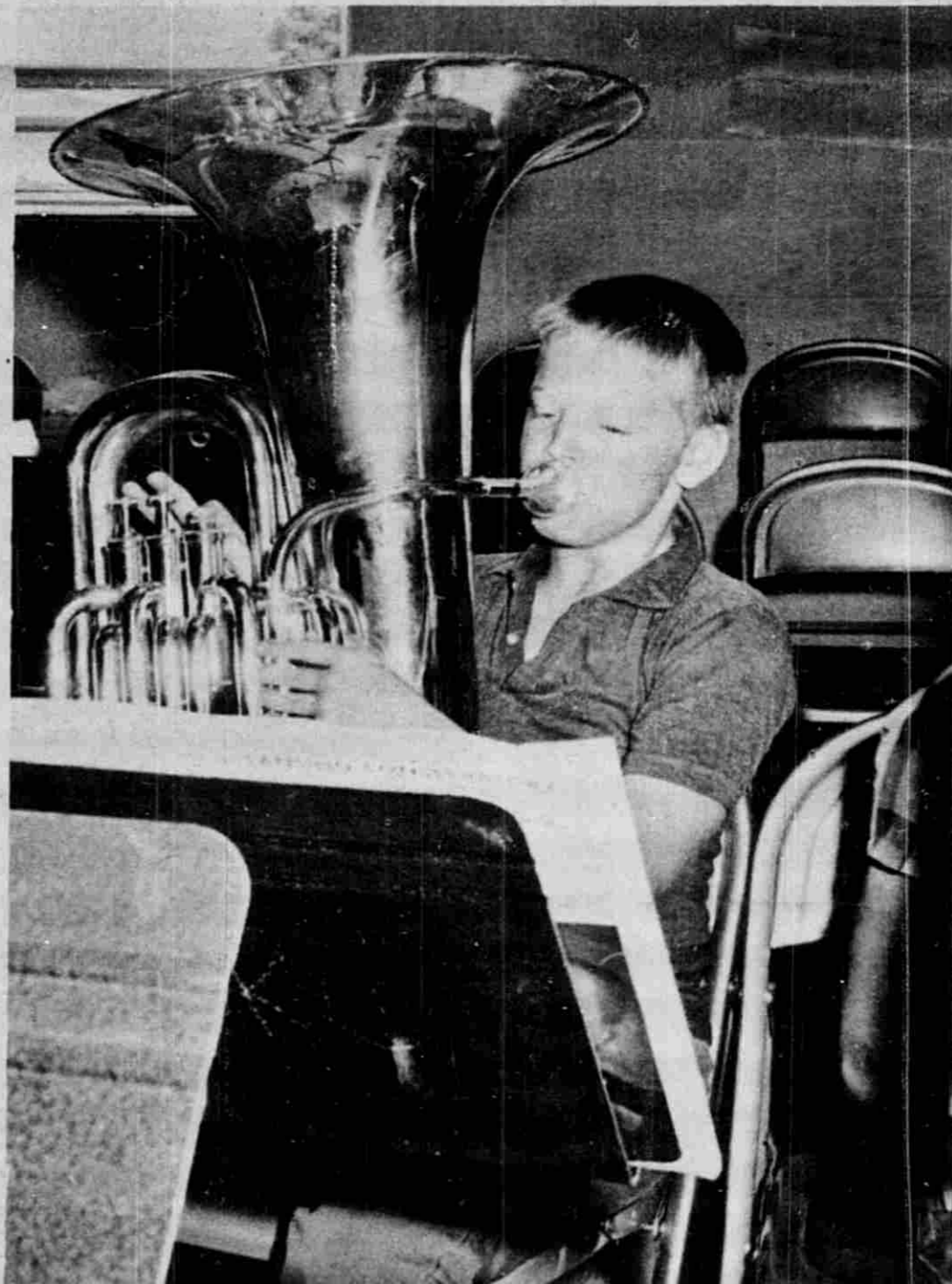
## To Host K.C. Garden Breakfast

Kent City Garden Club will hold their annual Garden Breakfast at 9 o'clock on Wednesday morning, July 16, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clare Reyburn at 31 North Second Street in Kent City.

## Sparta Football Meeting Set For Monday July 14

All boys in grades 9 through 12 who are interested in playing football next fall at Sparta High School are asked to report at 7 o'clock on Monday evening, July 14, in the high school cafeteria for an organizational meeting.

Dates and times for physical examinations will be set up at this time, announces Tom Christopher, varsity football coach at Sparta.



Dean Hawley, baritone player, is shown intently following the score during a rehearsal of the Kent City-Casnovia Junior High Band. He is the son of Mrs. Muriel Hawley of Peach Ridge Avenue, Kent City.

(photo by Gerald Woltanski)

## Applications Open For Girl Scout Camp at Long Lake August 11-15

Applications for the Long Lake Girl Scout Camp to be held August 11 to 15 will be accepted until July 25, according to Mrs. William Morgan, Sparta Neighborhood Chairman.

Health forms may be obtained by mailing a self-addressed envelope to:

Mrs. William Morgan  
964 11-Mile Road NE  
Comstock Park, Michigan  
49321

## 'And the Music Goes Round and Round'

The Kent City Summer Band Program is under way!

The 5th, 6th, and junior high bands meet on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday as follows: 5th - Grade - 9 a.m.; 6th-grade - 10 a.m.; Junior High - 2 p.m.

The Senior Band meets at 7 o'clock on Tuesday and Th-

ursday evenings and are preparing music for the football season that is approaching fast. Some of the music is from the latest Broadway musicals and songs from the rock music that is popular with students. The program is under the direction of Mr. Michael Lorenz.

SIDEWALK SALE • Friday, July 11 • 9:00 to 6:00 P.M.

# The Sentinel Leader

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 SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SPARTA, MICHIGAN  
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 Ottawa, Muskegon and Newaygo Counties. Elsewhere \$4.00

## Two Parades Scheuled for Sparta During Town & Country Days

Sparta's Town and Country Days are here!  
 As no celebration would be complete without a parade, the members of the Sparta Chamber of Commerce have scheduled, not one, but two parades to delight the entire family.  
 The first - a Kiddie Parade, is set for 5:30 on Thursday afternoon, July 10. The second - a big affair with prizes up to \$500.00, will be at one o'clock on Saturday afternoon, July 12.  
 All children in the Sparta area who wish to participate in the Kiddie Parade are invited to meet at 5 o'clock in the Sparta United Methodist parking lot. The parade route will be along E.

Division Street where the children will be judged for the best costume or best decorated bicycle. A grand prize will be given to one boy and one girl plus many other prizes will be offered. Each child taking part will receive a free ticket for one of the rides on the midway. These children are also invited to march in Saturday's parade.  
 Top prizes of \$100.00 each will be offered in each of two categories marching in Saturday's parade. It will be given for the best marching unit and for the best float or other unit. A prize of \$75.00 is offered for second, \$50.00 for third, and \$25.00 for fourth.  
 Persons or units planning to take part in the parade are to meet at 12:30 at the Kent County Road Commission garage on W. Division Street. The parade route will be from there to the east end of E. Division Street.  
 General chairman of the parades is Allen Cumings.

## Town & Country Days Art and Hobby Show

One of the highlights of the Sparta Town and Country Days events scheduled for July 9 to 12 will be the Art and Hobby Show to be held in the basement of the Sparta State Bank.  
 The show is open to everyone in the area and no entry fee will be charged. Unusual crafts, paintings and hobbies will be displayed; no painting by numbers will be accepted. Paintings are limited to three per artist. The works will be judged by popular vote cast by the viewing public and prizes will be awarded.  
 This year some work of hobby and craft shops in the area will also be exhibited.

Mrs. Sherry Olin and Mrs. George McMullen are in charge of the displays. Entries are to be brought to the bank basement between one and five o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, July 9. For further information, call Mrs. Olin at 887-9777.



TWO WALT DISNEY FEATURES

"SMITH"

starring GLENN FORD

-and-

"THE INCREDIBLE JOURNEY"

THURSDAY THRU SUNDAY

"SMITH"—7 P.M. - 10 P.M.  
 "JOURNEY" at 9:00 P.M.

**SPARTA THEATER**

203 E. Division, Sparta  
 Phone 887-9860

## DON'T FORGET SPARTA TOWN AND COUNTRY DAYS

—CATTLE JUDGING  
Thurs., 9:30 A.M. - 4 P.M.

—TRACTOR RODEO  
Thurs., 1:00 P.M.

—BICYCLE PARADE  
Thurs., 5:00 P.M.

—KIDDIES PARADE  
Thurs., 5:30 P.M.

—SIDEWALK SALE  
Friday, July 11  
9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

—ART & HOBBY SHOW  
Friday, 10 A.M.

—BALL GAMES  
Businessmen - Farmers  
Little League All-Stars

**9,**  
**10,**  
**11,**  
**12**

—FREE MOVIE  
Saturday, 10 A.M.

—GENERAL PARADE  
Saturday, 1:00 P.M.

—CHICKEN BARBECUE  
Sat., 4:00 to 7:00 P.M.

—WATER BATTLE  
Saturday, 4:00 P.M.

—APPLE QUEEN CONTEST  
Saturday, 8:30 P.M.

—FIREWORKS  
Saturday, 10:00 P.M.

Sponsored by  
**SPARTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

- AMUSEMENTS
- RIDES
- BOOTHES

## SIDEWALK SPECIALS

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>California Potatoes</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 lbs. "A" Size    10 lbs. "B" Size</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>79c                      69c</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COUNTRY FRESH</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Buttermilk</b>                      qt. <b>19c</b></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">STYROFOAM                      Reg. 99c value - ONLY</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cooler Chests</b>                      <b>77c</b></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">WEST BEND ELECTRIC 'AVOCADO' ONLY</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Percolators</b>                      <b>\$5.95</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">REGULAR \$12.95 VALUE                      While They Last!</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">TOASTY TREAT FROZEN                      5-OZ.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WAFFLES</b>                      5-OZ. <b>10c</b></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">TIP-TOP                      6-OZ.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FROZEN DRINKS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lemonade - Black Cherry - Orange or Grape</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>10 for \$1.00</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">OVENFRESH FAMILY                      1-LB. LOAF</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Raisin Bread</b>                      <b>29c</b></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">HOT HOUSE</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOMATOES</b>                      lb. <b>39c</b></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">SPARTAN FROZEN</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>STRAWBERRIES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1-lb. carton <b>3 for \$1.00</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>STORE HOURS</b></p> <p>Monday, Tuesday ..... 8 to 6</p> <p>Wednesday ..... 8 to 8</p> <p>Thursday ..... 8 to 8</p> <p>Friday ..... 8 to 9</p> <p>Saturday ..... 8 to 9</p>

EMMONS

SUPER MARKET

"Your Downtown Locally Owned Spartan Store"