



Above: One of the highlights of this year's parade was the float with the past Pioneer Queens (above), including the very first Queen from 1962, Aggie (Erhart) Kreinbrink (to the right). In 1962, the names of the queen candidates were put on jars at local businesses, and the person whose jar had the most money was crowned the Pioneer Queen.

Below: Another highlight was seeing people dress up in their "Pioneer Days" attire. Several people handed down their outfits worn at the 100th Pioneer Days, from 1972. Still others decided to wear the same outfits they wore 50 years ago. It was impressive to see the number of people who got into the spirit!



Fr. Nathan's Pioneer Days Reflection: "Let My People Parade"

A special thank you to all those people who helped make this year's 150th Pioneer an awesome success! I heard nothing but great feedback, and that was my experience, as well. People kept asking me for the past 5 weeks, "Are you ready for the Pioneer?" Not knowing what they were talking about, I smiled and said, "Sure." Well, I get it now. Everything from all the smiling faces, entertainment, delicious Holy Name cheeseburgers, cold "beverages," to the impressive fireworks display; it made a great impression. Heck, the Pioneer even afforded me the opportunity to impersonate Moses by parting the rainy clouds with the ringing of the church bells ... "Let my people parade," I said. Looking forward to next year!

Fr. Nathan



Your Social Burger Statistics

The Holy Name Society Burger Stand sold 11,780 social burgers this past weekend. That's 2,945 lbs. of hamburger or 1 1/2 tons of beef. Thank you, everyone, for all your hard work and support!

Above: The Holy Name Society was recognized by the Pioneer Committee as one of the long-standing vendor partners for their decades of service to helping ensure the success of our festival!



St. Michael's Bingo Tent was overflowing with players several times this past weekend.

Thanks to all who volunteered at our parish Bingo Tent!



Left: The CL of C Cake Booth is always a popular attraction for all ages. Thanks to all those who supply the booth with delicious baked goods and to those who support by buying a chance on winning the goodies!

From Former KHS Band Director Mr. Chas Myers

Now that the dust has settled and most of the borrowed equipment has been returned, I'll try to put my thoughts into words about the 150th Pioneer Days and the Alumni Band. Fair warning – this will be long! Beth and I are still basking in a warm glow of happiness and pride.

I mentioned Sunday before the parade that Ottawa-Glandorf's Louie Breece told me in 1976 as I was applying for the Kalida Band Director job that if he had to build a program again, he would choose Kalida. This weekend certainly confirmed that insight. The amazing community support over the years and the tremendous participation in the Alumni Band is proof of the pride and commitment of the Kalida community. I've said for years "I am very grateful for the career I had when I had it and where I had it." Kalida was and continues to be a wonderful community.

I must thank Joe Vacarro for coming and the foundation he and some of my predecessors laid for the band program at KHS. He had a great time last weekend visiting with so many of his former students.

Lori Klausung deserves a lot of credit for this successful weekend as she had the task of getting all the extra horns. Once she had the horns, she cleaned them, pulled and greased all the slides and made sure all the valves were oiled and working. That was a ton of work. Additionally, I will always value her friendship. We had a great time working together for 14 years when she was the assistant director and during the ten years she was the head band director. She kept the standard of excellence going strong.

Also, thanks for the third period band helpers who were a tremendous help with the preparations for the Alumni Band. Thanks to Kate Foppe, Raegan Kerner, Kara Lammers and Ethan Langhals. We couldn't have pulled this off without their help.

Likewise, thanks to my brother Rob for coming and taking so many great pictures. The large group picture in the gym will be enlarged, printed, and framed to hang in the band room. (By the way, that picture is currently the cover picture on the Kalida Local Schools website. How cool is that!) Also, thanks to Leslie Stechschulte for all her great pictures and to Larry Streets for the video he posted on YouTube.

Great job, Paige Painter, Beth Myers, Wendy Stechschulte and Lori Erhart on creating simple, effective and fun guard routines. One person commented to me that they didn't notice that all the flags weren't the same. It seems that a combination of red, white, silver and blue works no matter what the design.

A few statistics: Over 178 alumni joined the current KHS Band, totaling 238. Members of the alumni band traveled from as far away as Atlanta, Georgia; Denver, Colorado; and Anchorage, Alaska; and represent seven decades of graduates dating back to 1962. Members of the color guard in front of the band were carrying the flags of the countries and states where the band has performed including the United States, Canada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Kentucky, and Florida.

Thanks to the following schools for the loan on instruments and equipment: Columbus Grove, Continental, Cory Rawson, Fort Jennings, Leipsic, Miller City, Ottawa-Glandorf and Lima Shawnee. Also, thanks to Boy Scout Troops 221, 224 and 229 for their assistance. Thanks as well to Chad and Liz Clum of CLDesign for printing and donating the alumni lead banner

I am so pleased with the work Jacob Litwiller is doing. He is bringing a fresh approach to the band with some cutting-edge technology. He works so well with the kids and they love band because of his attitude. My hope is that he will be at Kalida for a very long time. It warmed my heart to see his son, Oliver carrying the lead banner with his great grandmother.

Wrapping this up, the biggest regret that Beth and I had is that we didn't get to visit with a lot of you. It was an honor to watch what great adults and leaders you have all become. (You are all still "kids" to us and will be forever 18 since that's how we remember you!) To be more serious, we will treasure the conversations that we did manage to have and appreciate that trust those spoken words implied. Amid the laughter and the joy of seeing one another, there were moments of shared heartbreaks, losses overcome, medical events, parenting responsibilities, and more. Please know that we will carry those shared moments in our hearts and prayers, as well.

During your years with us, you repeatedly heard that the definition of leaders and leadership is "leaders do what needs to be done, when it needs to be done, whether they want to do it or not and they don't expect special recognition for doing it." We saw that throughout the weekend. Anybody that saw a little problem or detail just took care of it.

Judging by the smiles on all the pictures and videos, I think everyone had a great time. Seeing a lot of families marching together was just plain awesome. Thank you all for participating and making a lifetime of memories. *Mr. Chas Myers*



KHS High School & Alumni Band - 150th Pioneer Days Celebration 2022

