



MUSIC WAS THE MAGNET for throngs at Woodstock Music and Art Fair. Towers near the stage hold loudspeakers. The New York Times (by Jack Manning)

300,000 at Folk-Rock Fair Camp Out in a Sea of Mud

By BARNARD L. COLLIER
Special to The New York Times

BETHEL, N. Y., Aug. 16— Despite massive traffic jams, drenching rainstorms and shortages of food, water and medical facilities, about 300,000 young people swarmed over this rural area today for the Woodstock Music and Art Fair.

Drawn by such performers as Joan Baez, Ravi Shankar, Jimi Hendrix and the Jefferson Airplane, the prospect of drugs and the excitement of "making the scene," the young people came in droves, camping in the woods, romping in the mud, talking, smoking and listening to the wailing music.

Looking out over 20 acres of youths squeezed body to body, the festival's organizers, the state police and officials of the Sullivan County Sheriff's office agreed that the crowd was over 300,000.

Participants Well-Behaved

The crowd, which camped on the 600-acre farm of Max Yasgur near here for the three-day festival, was well-behaved, according to both the sponsors and the police, even though about 75 persons in the area were arrested, mostly on charges of possessing narcotics.

Most of the hip, swinging youngsters heard the music on stage only as a distant rumble. It was almost impossible for them to tell who was performing and probably only about half the crowd could hear a note. Yet they stayed by the thousands, often standing ankle-deep in mud, sometimes paying enterprising peddlers 25 cents for a glass of water.

Roadways leading from the site were lined tonight with thousands of weary-looking youths who had had enough, and were trying to reach places where they could get food or transportation.

During the first 24 hours of the fair, festival medical officers said that a thousand people had been treated at first-aid stations for various ailments, including exposure and a few accident cases. About 300 were ill because of adverse drug reactions.

Doctors Fly to Scene

A dozen doctors, responding to a plea from the fair's sponsors, flew from New York to the scene, about 70 miles northwest of the city, near the Catskill Mountain resorts of Liberty and Monticello.

Michael Lang, the 24-year-old producer of the event, said that the medical help was summoned not because of any widespread illnesses, but because of the potential threat of a virus cold or pneumonia epidemic among such a large gathering.

Parked cars jammed roadways in all directions for up to 20 miles, and thousands of festival-goers, weary after long walks to get here, had to spend the night sleeping on the rain-soaked ground. They awoke to find food and water shortages.

But Mr. Lang said this afternoon: "It's about the quietest, most well-behaved 300,000 people in one place that can be imagined. There have been no fights or incidents of violence of any kind."

A state police official agreed. "I was dumfounded by the size of the crowd," he

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300,000 at Music Fair Find Mud Plentiful and Food Scarce

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said. "I can hardly believe that there haven't been even small incidents of misbehavior by the young people."

Dr. Donald Goldecker, the fair's medical officer, said that most of those suffering from the ill effects of drugs had experienced "bad LSD trips." The symptoms are agitation, disorientation and fear, lasting three to four hours.

The fair's sponsors brought in 100 members of a group called the Hog Farm Commune of Santa Fe, N. M., who formerly used LSD, to act as security guards. They also attempted to treat "bad trips" with soothing, understanding talk and assurances that a sufferer is not dying or going insane.

Tonight, a festival announcer warned from the stage that "badly manufactured acid" [a term for LSD] was being circulated. He said:

"You aren't taking poison acid. The acid's not poison. It's just badly manufactured acid. You are not going to die. We have treated 300 cases and it's all just badly manufactured acid. So if you think you've taken poison, you haven't. But if you're worried, just take half a tablet."

As the crowd swelled today, officials of the fair issued an urgent appeal for all those not already at the muddy site to stay away.

It was impossible, they said, to get to the site without walking for miles. Parked and stalled cars were bumper-to-bumper for 20 miles in all directions on Routes 17, 17B, 42, 55 and 97.

Bus Service Canceled

The Short Line Bus Company, which has provided the only bus service to the festival from New York, said yesterday it was canceling all buses to the festival and Bethel at the request of the police. "We're not driving into that disaster area," a company spokesman said.

Yesterday, 65 buses from New York City went to the festival. One took 12 hours to get there, with the average running more than four hours. The customary travel time is two hours 20 minutes.

Despite the distance, columns of festival-goers were trudging on the highways toward the site. Their lines stretched back three to four miles in the afternoon.

Those reaching the site found tens of thousands of tents, campers and makeshift lean-to shacks—some of them rather elaborate—made of any materials at hand, including trees, wood, ropes, sheets and blankets.

Teepee for 20

One such was constructed as a teepee around a big elm tree. It had a fire inside and a hole at the top for the smoke to pour out. About 20 persons slept inside the tent last night with their heads toward the fire, like the spokes of a wheel.

The first day's music was to have ended at 4 A.M. today, but because of the weather the performances were concluded shortly after midnight.

Joan Baez ended it for the night by leading the crowd in singing "We Shall Overcome." Afterward, she told the audience, "I hope David can hear it," referring to her husband, who is in jail for refusing to be drafted.

Today, thousands of fans, evidently discouraged by the weather and the press of the crowds, began leaving the festival site, which has turned into a giant mud puddle.

But they were quickly replaced by many more thousands seeking to get in.

Festival officials, unable to cope with the growing crowds, stopped selling tickets. "Now it's all a freebee," one said. The tickets had been sold for \$7-day or \$18 for the three-day weekend, which was scheduled to end tomorrow night.

Many of those leaving the festival today, encountering others just arriving on the roads outside the site, attempted to sell their weekend passes for money or food.

"Two tickets are worth a peach or half a sandwich," one departing youth said.

Festival officials today said they were sending representatives through the crowd seeking donations.

John Roberts, a 24-year-old officer of Woodstock Ventures,



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Inc., which sponsored the festival, said today that the organizers expected to lose money on the enterprise.

The organizers had expected 150,000 to 200,000 persons to attend, and conceded today that they were unprepared for the numbers that actually arrived.

Shortage of Food

Six water wells were dug on the site and 600 portable toilets brought in.

The festival was originally scheduled to be held at Woodstock, 50 miles northeast of here, but a suitable location there was not available. The sponsors then turned to Wallkill, about 30 miles south of Woodstock, but were rebuffed and finally decided on Mr. Yagur's farm here.

Many youths brought their own food, but there was a shortage at the concession stands set up around the festival site.

The members of one commune were passing out a free gruel of peanuts, oatmeal, raisins and sunflower seeds. Local farmers around the site complained to the police that corn and vegetables had been stripped in their fields by foragers.

Piles of garbage built up everywhere, and scores of men employed to collect it were hard pressed. Their work and other

200 in Security Force

Charged with keeping the peace was a 200-man "peace-security force," consisting of off-duty policemen from a number of communities as well as state troopers, off-duty state correction officers and Sullivan County Sheriff's deputies.

This afternoon, the festival promoters asked for more state policemen and aid from the Sullivan County Red Cross and Civil Defense organizations. The promoters said the reinforcements were being requested as a precautionary measure to help handle the large crowd and not because of any outbreaks of violence.

Additional sheriff's deputies also were brought from Dutchess, Saratoga and Rockland Counties.

In addition to a food shortage, festival officials said that a water shortage also was developing.

About 20 doctors and 50 nurses were on the site today before the arrival of the additional medical personnel. Some of the doctors said that the "bad LSD trips" had resulted from the circulation of some "flat blue acid tablets being passed around."

They also said tranquilizers were being peddled as LSD, which stands for lysergic acid diethylamide.

A state police sergeant said



GARBAGE piled up everywhere, causing a health hazard. The view here is to the stage; the towers support loudspeakers.

no one on the festival site was being arrested for the use of marijuana. "If we did [make such arrests], there isn't enough space in Sullivan or the next three counties to put them in," he said.

The music that brought the youngsters to the festival began last night with a folk orientation. Today's acts included the Who, the Jefferson Airplane and Janis Joplin. Tomorrow's billing included The Band, Jimi Hendrix, and Crosby, Stills and Nash.

The performers were at first ferried to the site by helicopter from an airport in nearby Liberty. But the promoters were forced to abandon this plan when most of the copters developed mechanical difficulties and the gasoline pumps at the airport ran dry. The theme of the festival was billed as "Peace and Music." There was plenty of music, and, according to the police, the peace was being kept.



FOOD SHORTAGE quickly became a problem. This girl's breakfast consists of an apple.



RAIN added another note of discomfort to the music festival. Performances were cut short because of bad weather.



LIVING QUARTERS were not always satisfactory. Most people stretched sleeping bags on the rain-soaked grass.