

DPS camp. . . good times in the country

By T. C. GALLUCCI
On the afternoon of the 5th, a compadre and myself were headed north on Highway 6 (well under the speed limit) when my friend made the comment, "I wish that DPS

would get off my tail." Realizing that her inspection sticker had expired, we guessed that this might have a bearing on why we were being cornered. Being the polite people that we are, my friend

pulled off the side to let the nice men pass. Only they didn't pass. They merely pulled us farther over with the aid of red flashing lights.

THE OFFICERS (one sans hat) asked my friend for her license—

Time will tell who has fell and who's been left behind, when you go your way and I'll go mine—

Bob Dylan

The Battalion

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Three days: A Chronicle for College Station on Willie Nelson's celebration

By T. C. GALLUCCI
Some folks predicted that Willie Nelson's Picnic would be another Woodstock. But Woodstock was a northeastern rock festival. Willie's was a southern country picnic. Characterized by cowboy hats, Lone Star beer, and the finest in country western music.

Texas World Speedway housed about 50,000 people over the 4th of July weekend for Nelson's encore of Dripping Springs. When asked what plans, if any, were being made for a third annual picnic, Nelson said, "I have no plans past tonight. We'll keep having it as long as people want it."

If constant foot-stomping and hand-clapping from thousands of tired, hungry people meant anything, Nelson should be assured that the ones at the picnic wanted it.

NELSON APPEARED promptly at high noon on the 4th to welcome the gathering crowd to his picnic. Whooping and hollering, they welcomed him to their picnic. Thousands joined in as Nelson sang "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" which along with "Up Against the Wall Redneck Mother", "Truck Driver Man", "Desperado" and "Stay All Night, Stall a Little Longer" soon became crowd favorites.

A sliding door on a double-length stage allowed one group to set up equipment during another group's performance, providing constant music throughout the afternoon. By nightfall, the crowds size had doubled, despite 96° temperatures.

Although the use of dope was not limited, more were seen with a Lone Star beer can or a Tequila bottle in their hand rather than a joint. Aside from the expected problems of DWI the picnic was unmarred by major troubles.

THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND sanitary conditions

Holiday hustlers breeze backstage For a festival frolic

By KATHY YOUNG
Hot was the word that most described the Willie Nelson 4th of July Picnic.

The infield area was an oven which daily baked the scantily clad festival-goers until sunset.

People were blanket to blanket toward the front of the stage in the center of the infield. Traveling through the sea of blankets meant stepping over sleeping people, dodging beer cans and ducking under tent wires.

A dusty ten foot strip in front of the stage was used as a kind of dance floor where the rising dust mingled with heavy marijuana smoke.

Beer and water faucet showers were used to beat the 97 degree temperature.

While the masses sat and rolled their own and listened to the music, performers and members of the jet set lounged in the relative luxury of air-conditioned Winnabago's backstage.

The shag carpeted, \$12,000 vans were equipped with restrooms, kitchenettes and couch-like seating in the rear. While mostly performers were allowed backstage, others did manage to get in with their vans.

One such gate-crasher picked up this reporter enroute to the press gate and breezed through security waving his hand and smiling—neither of us had a pass. When one guard looked questioning at me,

held up and there was plenty of food and water for those who came un-supplied. The majority, however, came fully equipped with blankets, umbrellas, major beer.

The only major setback of opening day was a fire in the parking area which gutted 14 cars. Windows on other cars were broken to move them from the fire. No one was seriously injured.

The crowd cheered as a light sprinkle of rain fell at sunset. When the cheering died down, Jimmy Buffett, a young blond cowboy approached the microphone. Buffet, a former underground singer, soon had the crowd singing.

SHORTLY BEFORE Buffet's appearance Stoney Edwards, Capitol recording artist, said, "There are only a few real country singers left. George Jones, Merle Haggard, Charlie Pride, Waylon Jennings and Ernest Tubbs to name a few."

Rudy Gray, drummer for Edwards and Charlie Pride, continued, "There have been many divisions in country music . . . such as progressive country." When Gray was asked to classify Doug Kershaw, who was to perform the following night, he said, "Kershaw? He's in a class all by himself, cajun country completely."

From Edwards' and Gray's description, Buffet is one of the progressive country performers.

DESPITE THE TIGHT schedule set for the artists, time ran out and several performers appeared a day late and some not at all. A relatively unknown group from Austin, Freida and the Firedogs, appeared the first afternoon. The group was the darling of the crowd. Freida, at vocals and piano, reappeared throughout the festival beside well-known artists.

John Hartford and the Milton Carroll Band followed Freida and soon had the crowd groovin' with another talented lady. Sammi Smith, with

her renditions of "Desperado" and "Up Against the Wall Redneck Mother", was clearly having a good time.

Stoney Edwards remarked, "Sammi loves what she does. Every performer does—he has to endure the frustrations and hard times."

RAY WYLIE HUBBARD, author of "Up Against the Wall Redneck Mother", performed that night, as did Lefty Frizzell and Bobby Bare. Waylon Jennings, the man who some consider to be the King of Country Music, made his first of three performances on the 4th. At this point, few in the crowd remained sitting; most were dancing and drinking, although many of the less hardy had passed out.

Jerry Jeff Walker, the one performer many had waited for all day, turned out to be rather anticlimactic. Walker and his Lost Gonzo Band appeared on stage in top (and surprisingly sober) form. At the start he was warmly welcomed, but his performance was soon interrupted by an urgent message that a young diabetic was dying in the audience from lack of insulin.

Walker and the band approached the situation with patience and concern and begged the crowd to assist Middle Earth in finding the girl. After several minutes of confusion, it was evident that the crowd would be uncooperative.

AS A LAST RESORT, Walker asked the crowd for complete silence and for the people around the girl to yell so they could locate the area in which she was. The response was a scream from every section of the audience and a series of exploding firecrackers.

Obviously disgusted, Walker said, "Ya'll are so f---d up you can't even talk to each other."

Despite threats to end the show if the girl wasn't found, Walker continued singing.

—nothing unusual. My friend and I, being the red-blooded females that we are, assumed that a polite smile and a few "yes sirs" would get us off with a warning. I suppose they had heard alot of "yes sirs" that day, for they soon informed us that we were going to see the judge. Naturally the first reaction we passed through was "Jail!"

Politely—a little too politely—we were told to follow them to find the judge. Rather than heading into town, however, we followed them to a gate that led down an old country trail. By this point we had lost our nonchalance and began to wonder if maybe we shouldn't have asked them for identification.

Half a mile down the trail, we came upon what could be called a DPS break-time party. Over 50 officers standing around drinking beer, laughing and listening to the country picnic music through the trees. Behind the jovial officers stood

a small, green house with more jovial officers. Behind which was a helicopter taking off. All the time wondering what we had gotten ourselves into, we were politely—always! politely—escorted into the little, green house. After being offered chairs and ashtrays and smiles, we began feeling like queen bees rather than law violators.

AFTER PLEADING GUILTY and paying \$17.50 for our notorious crime and wondering who the quiet cowboy dressed in black was, we bid farewell.

Hopping into "Dorothy" we wondered if this was standard procedure for every traffic violator, and somehow figured that it was not.

Yes, the DPS was in full strength at Willie's Picnic, but technically they weren't at the picnic, but rather at a house in the woods conducting official business with young traffic violators.

But at this point both Walker and the crowd had lost the spirit of the picnic, and few even noticed when he and the band left the stage. A member of the band suggested, "Let's get the hell out of here" and only a smattering of applause followed them out.

IRONICALLY, MIDDLE EARTH volunteers never did find the girl and Sue Doty said, "It appears as though it was all a prank and there never even was a dying girl."

Girl or no girl, Walker never returned.

Day two

Despite the heat of the preceding day, sunburned people returned early Friday with memories of fine country music still fresh in their minds.

Thirty minutes late, Alvin Crow and the Neon Angels had the hungover crowd stomping, screaming and singing to down-home country music. After "Truck Driver Man" and "A Six-Pack To Go", Crow was begging the crowd to "Stay All Night, Stay a Little Longer." Whether it was this request or not, the crowd did stay all night to listen to some of the most talented performers in the music world. Despite a mandatory order to close each day at 11 p.m., (Nelson lacked a mass gathering permit) Friday's show lasted well past 1 a.m. It was allowed mainly because Friday's and Saturday's performances were being filmed for the Midnight Special, to be aired August 2.

Crow and the Neon Angels returned for a well-deserved encore of "Jambalaya" and the crowd nearly drowned him out singing "crawfish pie from Louisiana."

THE MAIN PART of the afternoon was dominated by lesser known

but equally appreciated groups.

NBC Midnight Special could not cover both stages and stage two was abandoned to press and stage hands.

Augie Meyers' appearance definitely brought back the atmosphere that was alive during Crow's performance. Nelson's close friend and much publicized master of ceremonies, Leon Russell alias Hank Wilson, introduced Meyers and band. Nelson and Russell side by side at the microphone brought enthusiasm from the crowd.

Russell was to be present through the festival, but to the disappointment of the crowd, he never actually performed, except during jam sessions.

RUSTY WEIR followed Meyers' (See COUNTRY, Page 8)

Chamber stands unanimous Negative moral influence cited in picnic censure

By GERALD OLIVIER

A resolution calling the Willie Nelson Picnic "a negative influence on the moral and economic well being of our community" was unanimously adopted yesterday by the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

The resolution went on to say, "We also commit our influence to prevent such an activity of this nature in our community in the future."

The resolution was introduced by R. L. Peacock, a vice-president of the chamber. Peacock said that he did not attend the picnic but that

TAMU president tells Chamber of Commerce: Universities' independence eroding

By GERALD OLIVIER

Encroachment of the federal government is resulting in steady erosion of the independence of higher education, said TAMU president Jack Williams in a speech before the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday.

Williams said that universities have been the target for every type of control. He said that the question of which professors will receive tenure may soon be decided at the federal level. The federal government is also imposing quotas on minority groups employed by the university. Williams said no potential employe may be required to have qualifications greater than the least qualified person holding an equivalent position.

In the past the university was audited by the Defense Department. This job has been taken over by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Williams said that HEW auditing "is something akin to harassment."

WILLIAMS SAID that due to 18-year-old rights and recent court cases, the university is losing control over student discipline.

"Bureaucracy is moving steadily to control us in a way Orwell never envisioned in '1984.' My fears are very real and I express them very seriously," said Williams.

The expected enrollment at TAMU in the fall of 1977 is 25,000 said Williams. As a result, the university has placed the building of a new library as its number one priority. Williams said most money for the project will come from the Permanent University Fund but this will be supplemented by an increase in the building use fees paid by students.

"The only way the university can

grow is across Welborn Road," said Williams. He said that the university is planning a west campus with the finest facilities in the nation. The campus will consist of eight new agriculture buildings, a new coliseum, baseball field and intramural facilities. Williams said the railroad which runs between the present campus and the new development is the major obstacle involved. He urged the community to support the university in its efforts to move the railroad.

THE CURRENT ADDITIONS to the Krueger-Dunn complex will probably be the last dorms built at TAMU, Williams said. He said the university is relying on the private community to build housing in the future.

Williams cited traffic problems on Jersey Street and the expansion of Easterwood as problems with which the university will need community help. The chamber expressed its support for TAMU and the programs Williams outlined.

In response to a question about on-campus parking Williams said, "There are three problems always facing a university president: football for the alumni, sex for the students, and parking for the faculty."

Weather

Continued partly cloudy and hot Wednesday and Thursday. Southwesterly winds 8-14 mph. Both days 96°. Low tonight mid 70's.

Green flags and pink patches Health problems curbed

By T. C. GALLUCCI

"What's that green flag for?" "How come those people all have pink patches on their pants?"

"Why is he passing out all those salt tablets?"

Early Thursday, these were all questions being asked about the 90 volunteers from Middle Earth, a drug crisis center in Austin which staffed the medical team for Willie Nelson's 4th of July Picnic. Soon the flags, patches and faces of ME volunteers became familiar and welcomed.

Giving away over five cases of salt tablets in the first day alone, ME volunteers greatly decreased the number of expected heat stroke victims.

Sue Doty, who manned the hospital unit backstage, said only nine persons were sent to St. Joseph Hospital on the 4th. Although they expected things to get worse as the days went by, she said the main problems were cuts and bruises, diabetes who forgot their insulin, and cases of people taking "garbage drugs." Garbage drugs at the picnic amounted to bad THC, psilocybin and rat poison being passed of as numerous different drugs.

IN THE THREE UNITS set up, 368 cases were treated the first day. The volunteers did not administer anything stronger than aspirin and salt tablets, but sent all the major cases straight to St. Joseph.

At night, volunteers traveled through the crowds and checked all

the sleeping people to make sure they were only sleeping.

One young lady, who passed out near the stage, was just such an example of the volunteers' work. After drinking a pint of Tequila, she decided to catch a little shut-eye during Michael Murphy. Her eyes stayed shut through Murphy, Doug Kershaw and Willie Nelson.

M.E. VOLUNTEERS spied her and headed her way to see if she was all right. Despite her insistence that she was all right, they made her wake up fully, stand up and tell them any and everything she had eaten that day. They were concerned that she may have taken some drugs that could have a lethal effect when combined with alcohol. Satisfied that she was only drunk, they continued on.

Such was their concern and dedication to the thousands of people who had come to hear three days of music, but didn't quite know how to handle the alcohol, sun and drugs.

It was Middle Earth who interrupted Jerry Jeff Walker to look for a young girl with diabetes, who had forgotten to take her insulin. The girl was never found. Volunteers suspected it to be a prank. They did not become angry but merely considered it as "one of those things."

IN ADDITION to over 1,000 people treated at the three units, rovers for ME treated another 2,000 in the crowd. Such treatment involved minor sunburn, minor heat exhaustion, and calming down per-

"The Eagle" pictures were self-explanatory." The resolution was passed without discussion.

Three College Station leaders voiced similar opinions with regard to the picnic.

"The only result of this activity is inconvenience to the community. The community didn't derive any benefit from the picnic," Councilman Jim Dozier said.

College Station City Manager North Bardell said the citizens of College Station payed for increased fire and police protection. The entire police and fire force (including reserves) were employed in alternating

twelve hour shifts.

Bardell said fire protection at the site was the responsibility of College Station. He said no water was available for fire fighting on the grounds. All water was carried in by fire trucks. Bardell said a brush fire in the camping area could have been a major disaster.

"The College Station Police Department processed over 100 people, including 35 DWI's. This is a danger to our citizens," said Bardell.

Councilman Larry Bravanec said, "If it's going to be held, I would just as soon it were held somewhere else."

nated the medical aspects, they were assisted by several other organizations such as Inlet from Houston.

Doty mentioned one of the biggest problems as being the clean-up crew who on Thursday night bulldozed the infield of the speedway, leaving a maze of broken crushed glass.

"FRIDAY AND SATURDAY we had an enormous amount of people in for treatment of badly cut hands and feet. One guy came in so cut up he had to be rushed to St. Joseph. I don't know who the clown was who decided to smash all the glass out there, but it would have been better if they had just left it alone," said Doty.

Concerning the availability of medical supplies, Middle Earth had no major problems, aside from the fact that they would have liked to have seen more water closer up and additional shade for the crowd.

"I suppose Dripping Springs kind of balanced out with this concert. At Dripping Springs there was absolutely no water, but there was plenty of shade. Here at least we had water, even if there wasn't any shade," said Doty.

"If it is held again next year, we'll be happy to staff it. Especially now that we have some experience. Now we have people that know that mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and heart massage really works. We're just there to keep people alive—that's our job."

sons on drugs.

Fifteen were sent to St. Joseph Hospital over the three day weekend for heat exhaustion, diabetes, and bad drugs. Doty said, "People were taking what they thought to be THC, a form of marijuana, but it turned out to be PCP, a horse tranquilizer."

"The drug is being analyzed, so we aren't positive what it was exactly, but we know that it wasn't the THC everyone thought it was. The diabetics that were sent to the hospital, should have known what they were doing. Their bodies were not used to the high temperatures. The heat completely fouled up their systems."

SHERILL AMBULANCE Service was responsible for transporting overdosers, diabetics and one appendicitis victim to St. Joseph Hospital. Ed Sherrill, manager of the service and an ambulance driver for 21 years, said two ambulances and 10 drivers were available 24 hours a day.

"One major problem was diabetics who had taken their insulin but instead of eating a good meal afterwards, were drinking alcohol and eating improperly. We had to take one guy down who had overdosed and was already a mental patient. Security police accompanied him and he had to be strapped down and handcuffed. When he got to St. Joseph, he was placed in Intensive Care," said Danny Davis, who has been a driver for Sherrill for 10 years.

Although Middle Earth coordi-