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Much ado about Woodstock

The 20th anniversary brings a lot of hype - but of what?

By Ellen J. Bartlett
Globe Staff

Twenty years ago today (in case you have not been keeping up with current events), the Woodstock Music and Art Fair was getting under way in Bethel, N.Y.

Tomorrow (the 20th anniversary of the second day of the festival) there is going to be a total eclipse of the moon.

This may not mean much to you. So it is with Woodstock. Some people aren't interested in Woodstock, but they've been kind of quiet lately. This is the summer for revisiting the rock festival that "defined" a generation, for reexamining the three days of "peace and music" that marked the culmination, the summation, the transfiguration of the 1960s - and it much.

It's the summer to make a little hay while the sun shines, too.

Weeks ago letters started arriving. They were typed, usually on company letterhead, and timely.

Saul Garlick (of Garlick & Freedberg, Certified Public Accountants in Brookline) wrote to say, "I have a complete scrapbook of newspaper articles, the original program book and other Woodstock related memorabilia. My family also has very interesting and unique insights and stories regarding those days events. . . ."

"Should you be interested," he wrote, "please do not hesitate to call."

Harold and Judi Cohen sent press

releases, offering eyewitness accounts of the event and a complete rundown of the things they repair at their audio-video business in Burlington.

"The Cohens remember spending three-and-a-half days and nights with no sleep in constant attendance on the stage and at the sound mixing console to insure that the history that was unfolding could be heard by all in attendance," the press release WOODSTOCK, Page 58

The melodies linger on

By Andrew Dabillis
Globe Staff

I was at Woodstock.

These are the last days those words, dim echoes that they are, will except that generation of hippies, yuppies, activists and '60s leftovers whose days of rage in that decade stopped for a few peaceful moments in a farmer's field in Bethel, N.Y., in 1969. It was the rock concert that became The Event That Would Never End - or so most of the 500,000 who sat in brutal heat, biblical rains and sucking mud thought at the time.

We thought it was a beginning because it was too big to be ignored. The young of America, who'd been leading the charge for an end to war in Vietnam and too many causes to recall, were sitting instead of screaming, listening to music instead of rebelling. It was, instead, the end of MEMORIES, Page 58



Shelly Rusten/Black Star



Dan McCoy/Black Star



Dan McCoy/Black Star



Dan McCoy/Black Star

The party that would never end:

With almost no promotion, Woodstock drew half a million of America's youth.



Shelly Rusten/Black Star