
Max Yasgur Dies; Woodstock Festival Was on His Farm

MARATHON, Fla., Feb. 9 (AP)—Max Yasgur, whose Sullivan County dairy farm was the scene of the tumultuous 1969 Woodstock rock festival, died today at Fishermen's Hospital. He was 53 years old.

Mr. Yasgur put his 600-acre farm up for sale in 1971, including its three houses, two barns, a natural pond, and a man-made pond and stream. He asked about \$1,000 an acre.

Surviving are his widow, Mimi; a son, Samuel, and a daughter, Mrs. Loi Herring.

Undaunted by Threats

Up to the time some 400,000 rock fans descended upon his farm from across the country, Max Yasgur was just another dairy farmer in Sullivan County. Local restrictions had forced the removal of the festival from Woodstock, and Mr. Yasgur rented his spread in Bethel, about 55 miles away, to the promoters for a fee he never exactly revealed.

Mr. Yasgur began to receive phone calls, some threatening to burn him out, others praising him and offering help. In fact, he quickly established rapport with the crowds of youngsters gathered for the festival by helping to provide food for them, sometimes at cost and often free.

"I never expected this festival to be this big," he said at the time. "But if the generation gap is to be closed, we older people have to do more than we have done."

When some residents were reported selling water to the increasingly weary youngsters, he put up a big sign at his red barn on Route 17B, reading, "Free Water." And he angrily demanded: "How can anyone ask for money for water?"

Still, when it was all over, Mr. Yasgur declared that he had "no thoughts" of renting his property out for a rerun of the festival if one were to be held the following year. "As far as I know," he said then, "I'm going back to running a dairy farm."

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