

# Pop Rock Festival Finds New Home

BY RICHARD F. SHEPARD

An ambitious pop rock festival is going west 30 miles in the hope of finding a warmer reception than the one received in Orange County's Wallkill, where the climate of opposition led to the search for another site in the state.

The new home of the festival, the Woodstock Art and Music Fair, is to be Bethel, 10 miles west of Monticello, in Sullivan County. The dates remain Aug. 15 through 17.

Among the performers expected to lure as many as 200,000 people over the three days are Joan Baez, Janis Joplin, Ravi Shankar, the Jefferson Airplane and Blood, Sweat and Tears. A group of people in the Bethel area approached Woodstock Ventures, the sponsor of the event, seeking to bring the fair there.

With 60,000 tickets already sold, Woodstock Ventures was busy yesterday publicizing the change of address and informing buyers whose names were known because they had bought tickets by mail.

The quest for a new location began a week ago when the Town of Wallkill, which is near Middletown, rejected the fair's application to stage its event on private property there. Many people in Wallkill were reluctant to welcome a festival that they believed threatened to over-

tax the town's ability to deal with security, sanitation and traffic.

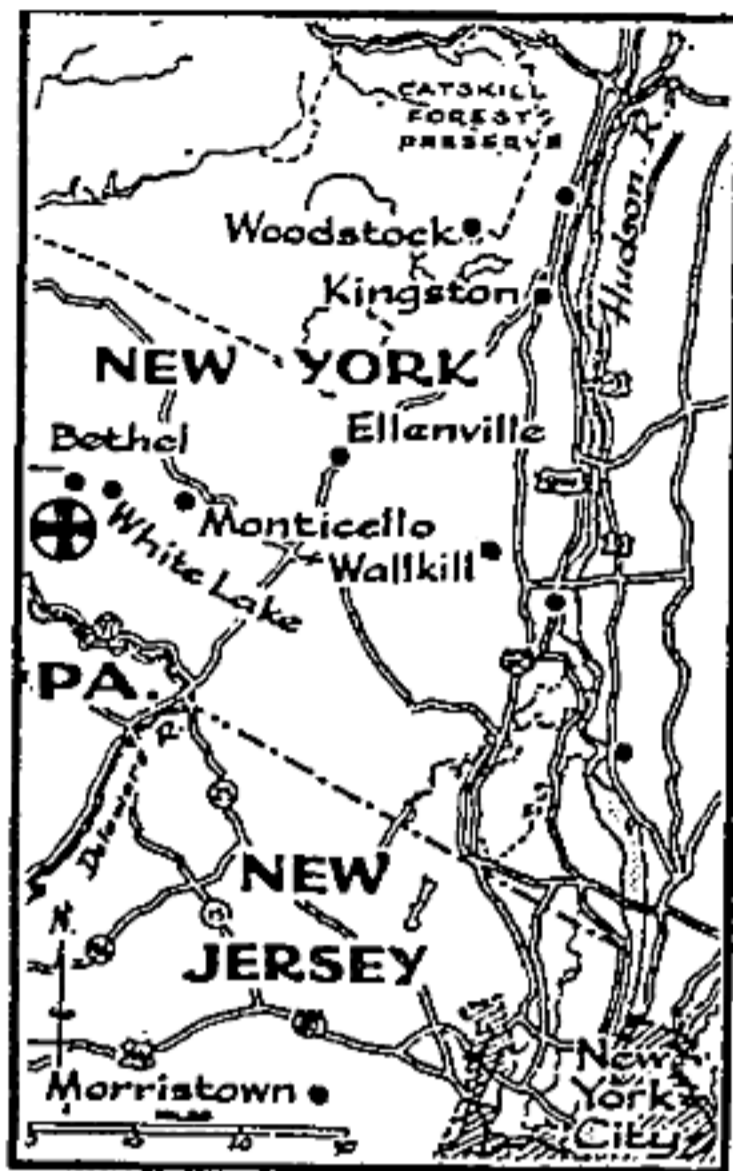
A citizens' group in Wallkill has applied for an injunction to keep the fair out, but no decision has yet been handed down by the court. Woodstock Ventures said last week that it did not recognize the town's authority to approve or disapprove the fair and that it would go ahead as scheduled in Wallkill. However, at the same time, it began looking for a place in the area that would be more receptive.

The sponsor also said that it would file suit against "town agencies and individuals" in Wallkill. Joel Rosenman, first vice president and director of Woodstock, said yesterday that the damage suit had not yet been filed but that he anticipated that it would be for "millions of dollars" to cover the costs of the move.

Woodstock Ventures and the fair itself derive their names from the Town of Woodstock, N. Y., where the sponsor makes its headquarters. The village is 45 miles from Bethel.

The first estimate of the cost of producing the festival was \$750,000. Of this, \$450,000 was said to have been committed in the form of contracts with the guest artists.

Mr. Rosenman said that all equipment and temporary facilities that can be moved



The New York Times July 23, 1969  
Woodstock fete moves from Wallkill to Bethel (cross).

will be moved from the 200-acre Wallkill site to the 500-acre farm in Bethel that has been leased for the festival.

He did not say what the status of the Wallkill lease was as a result of the change.

The Woodstock group made its presentation to the Bethel Town Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Board on Monday night. Mr. Rosenman said that while "there was concern expressed" by residents, "this was taken care of by our

presentation."

Fred Obermeyer, town clerk of Bethel, which has a population only of 2,366 as against Wallkill's 10,000, said that the event was "not fully cleared yet," but that it would take a day or so until Woodstock had presented all of its material.

He said that the town wanted to see the \$3-million insurance policy that Woodstock said it had taken out as a precaution against developments that might lead to town expenditures.

Woodstock Ventures has stressed the measures it is taking to insure in policing and in handling, health and traffic problems. It is seeking 300 off-duty New York City policemen to staff the festival.

The fair, to be held on the property of Max B. Yagur, a prominent dairy farmer, does have some detractors in Bethel. The opposition has not coalesced into a formal group, but a 2½-by-4-foot sign has appeared in the town. It reads:

"Stop Max's Hippie Music Festival. No 150,000 hippies here. Buy no milk."

In Wallkill, the feeling against the festival culminated in the formation of the Wallkill Concerned Citizens Committee, which had hundreds of residents sign petitions asking the local government to ban the festival. Spokesmen for the committee emphasized that they were not against music or festivals, but that they were worried about an event that threatened to bring 60,000 or more people a day into an area that they said was ill-equipped to receive them.