

Rock Audience Moves to Dusk-to-Dawn Rhythms

By MIKE JAHN
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BETHEL, N. Y., Monday, Aug. 18—The Band, the country-rock group that once was Bob Dylan's backup band, left the stage just before midnight last night as the Woodstock Music and Art Fair braced for another dusk-to-dawn session.

The group plays a taut fusion of country music and rock with vocals direct from the classic nasal hillbilly style.

It followed a raucous display of California "psychedelic" rock by Country Joe and the Fish and a low-key concert of blues rock by Ten Years After, a British band.



Mainly because of the weather, the performers arrived on stage about eight hours behind schedule, playing to a greatly reduced audience, most of it a hard-core group of rock 'n' roll devotees.

Yesterday's program began with Sly and The Family Stone, the innovative rock band from San Francisco, which completely captured the audience's imagination.

The group appeared early in the morning, and by the end of its hour-and-a-half stint had almost everybody within earshot dancing or clapping. Spotlights made great swoops across the crowd and people threw sparklers into the air every time the group shouted "Higher!" as part of one of their songs.

When Sly and the Family Stone went onstage at about 3 A.M., the audience had been sitting or lying for a long time and was ripe for some exercise.

The group, which is led by a former San Francisco disk jockey, Sylvester ("Sly") Stone, has artfully risen above the mass of soul bands by using melody styles vastly different from what is usual in soul music.

The best example of the group's sound fusion is "Everyday People," its song about brotherhood, which became one of the most popular records released this year. Sly and the Family Stone has managed to combine a happy-sounding melody line with an infectious and very danceable soul beat

The crowd here responded many times more warmly than to any of the groups or individuals that appeared earlier.

One of those groups was Creedence Clearwater Revival, a band from San Francisco. It gave a good concert of its blues-rock and traditional rock songs. Led by the gritty voice and spunky guitar of the group's leader, John Fogerty, the group played beautiful versions of its familiar songs, "Proud Mary," "Born on the Bayou" and "I Put a Spell on You."

Unlike many other West Coast groups, Creedence Clearwater Revival plays simple, unsophisticated and rollicking music. The group formed in 1959 when the members were in junior high school and has been together ever since. This is no small achievement considering that most rock groups fall apart after about a year.

Janis Joplin, the Texas singer, who became so popular as a member of the now disbanded San Francisco group Big Brother and The Holding Company, sang on Saturday night with her own band, as yet unnamed.

The special meaning of this

concert for Miss Joplin is that her career was given its biggest push by the 1967 Monterey Pop Festival in California, the first of these large rock gatherings.

Her appearance here was less spectacular. She sang hard and loud and was well received but there were problems. Miss Joplin is a very emotional singer given to great outbursts of energy. Big Brother and The Holding Company was similarly inclined. Precision was dropped in favor of spontaneity and excitement, and it was a happy bargain. Her new band is 10 times more precise and technically correct than Big Brother, but much less exciting.



Miss Joplin sang some of her well-known songs, like "Piece of My Heart" and the Bee Gees's "To Love Somebody." One of her best new songs, "Work Me, Lord," was written by Nick Gravenites, singer for another defunct band, The Electric Flag.

Saturday also saw performances by Canned Heat, The Grateful Dead and The Who. Jefferson Airplane, the San Francisco band, played a long set that ushered in the dawn.