

Generation Gap Bridged as Monticello Residents Aid Courteous Festival Patrons

CLINIC IS SET UP IN TOWN'S SCHOOL

Park Thrown Open for Use
as a Sleeping Place

By MICHAEL T. KAUFMAN
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MONTICELLO, N. Y., Aug. 17 — "Like wow, these people are really beautiful, the cops, the storekeepers, the Army, everybody."

Laura Glazer, the bandannaed and bangled 18-year-old from Fort Lee, N. J., who made the comment had just tasted the hospitality of this town on her way back from the Woodstock Music and Art Fair.

There was surprise in her voice, the same that was apparent when Lou Yank, the head of Monticello's 25-man constabulary, described the 20,000 youngsters who drifted into his jurisdiction from the festival 14 miles away.

"Notwithstanding their personality, their dress and their ideas, they were and they are the most courteous, considerate and well-behaved group of kids I have ever been in contact with in my 24 years of police work," he said.

Volunteers Attracted

What has happened in Monticello in the last two days resembles a family reunion in which crisis has brought estranged parents and children together. Ever since the trouble of the mud-spattered youngsters became known here, volunteer bands have been bringing aid to the sick, the hungry and the marooned.

Medical clinics were set up, hundreds were fed by townspeople and a park was thrown open to youngsters with no other place to sleep.

Monticello, the largest town in the area, became the focus of the assistance efforts because of its facilities and because most of the principal roads from the fair pass through here.

"When we heard about what was going on, we all had this sinking, helpless feeling," said Mrs. Minnie Refson, a grandmotherly woman working at the admissions desk of an emergency facility set up in the Rutherford School.

Air Force Copters

The improvised clinic was set up yesterday morning and by today was working efficiently as two helicopters contributed by the Stewart Air Force Base near Newburgh shuttled in the ill and injured.

A medical observation team from the Air Force base flew the youths to the emergency clinic. Some of the cases included pneumonia, a broken neck and a diabetic coma.

The two helicopters, HU-1D assault craft, had been bound for summer maneuvers at the United States Military Academy at West Point and were temporarily diverted to the rescue mission at the request of Sullivan County Sheriff Louis Ratner.

The helicopters also flew two cargo missions, ferrying in 1,300 pounds of canned goods, sandwiches and fruit.

A spokesman for the Air Force, which with the Army had approved the diversion of the two helicopters, said he could not estimate the cost of the rescue and supply mission.

A. F. Cacchillo, the administrator of the Community General Hospital of Sullivan County, explained that the infirmary was being used to sort cases, keeping the regular hospital free to handle emergencies.

Seven young persons rested on cots in the school auditorium, some of them being fed intravenously. Oxygen equipment was on hand. This, said Mr. Cacchillo, was where the more acute cases were being handled.

From there, they were airlifted or driven in ambulances to hospitals in the Catskills and elsewhere in the Mid-Hudson region.

30,000 Sandwiches

In the gym, another ward was occupied by the tired and less seriously ill. Some of the 30,000 sandwiches made in the last two days by the women's group of the Jewish Community Center were passed around by sisters of the Convent of St. Thomas.

About 200 doctors, nurses, technicians, drivers and clerical helpers are contributing their time to the facility, and 70 patients had been cared for by this evening.

Steve Wolf, a 17-year-old from Spring Valley, N.Y., was drinking a soda and eating a roast beef sandwich. Except for a hot dog and a hamburger, this was his first meal since he hitchhiked to the festival on Thursday. Early this morning he fainted.

"The next thing I knew I was here," the youth said as he prepared to leave for the bus terminal. "They took me out by helicopter. This place is fantastic. They told me I had a slight case of pneumonia and asked me if they could get me home."

The police operation is being headed by Sheriff Ratner, whose 100-man force has been augmented by several hundred state troopers and deputies of 12 other counties. Mr. Ratner agreed that the majority were well-behaved and that despite hundreds of arrests, mostly for the possession of drugs, law enforcement was not a serious problem.