

# FAIR'S FINANCIER CALLS IT 'SUCCESS'

But He Estimates Losses as  
High as \$2-Million

By RICHARD REEVES

Special to The New York Times

BETHEL, N. Y., Aug. 17—The young men who created the Woodstock Music and Art Fair were left today with the memory of a "beautiful thing" and, according to their figures, deeply in debt.

Creditors demanding cash or certified checks from Woodstock Ventures, Inc., descended last night on the festival's headquarters, a small trailer full of young men with a single promise: Everyone will be paid.

"I've heard that before—we want cash," said John Wolff, road manager of The Who, a rock group that went on stage to wild cheers only after Mr. Wolff got \$11,200.

The four young men who organized the festival—Michael Lang, 24 years old, Arthur Kornfeld, 26, John Roberts, 24, and Joel Rosenman, 26—said that they estimated their loss at \$1-million to \$2-million. But they talked about the three days here with deep pleasure—they said that they created a great event in the development of a new American "youth culture."

"I'm not thinking about the money yet," said Mr. Lang, a college dropout who was wearing leather Indian clothing. "There's time to do that next week."

"Today," he said, "is a time to think about what happened here—the youth culture came out of the alleys and the streets. This generation was brought together and showed it was beautiful.

"The peace they were screaming about is what they really want—they're living it. They value each other more than material things."

## Loss Put at \$2-Million

But Mr. Lang, the man most responsible for bringing more than 300,000 young people together on a farm here, has had little peace for 24 hours because of material things. He is being dunned in person and by telephone by musical groups, motel owners, food suppliers and helicopter services.

The big crowd was Mr. Lang's big problem. He had planned a profit-making "Music and Peace" weekend for an average daily crowd of 50,000. But six times as many people were here each day and the huge crowd walked through and over fences and admission gates. He said that more than half the audience got in free.

The size of the crowd, the traffic jams, health problems and shortages caused emergency expenses of at least \$600,000, according to the fair's sponsors.

In the trailer cluttered with barefoot young people and bits of food, the fair's organizers said the finances broke down this way:

About \$1.3-million in assets from ticket sales that have not been completely tabulated; at least \$2.4-million in expenses, including the \$50,000 rental for the farm.

Mr. Roberts, Woodstock's principal financial backer, estimated that the total loss would be \$2-million.

"The only thing we're doing is writing checks for emergencies and for room and board for performers and staff. But everyone will be," he said.

The festival does, however, have assets that have not been accounted for. The sound and lighting equipment it owns is valued at over \$200,000 and a documentary movie it is making here for about \$150,000 seems to have the potential to become sort of a cinematic Bible for young people.

The receipts of the festival include the sale of tickets to people who could not reach the festival because of traffic jams. No refunds are contemplated because the tickets specified that refunds would only be granted if the show were canceled.