



Photo by Nancy Johnson

Wildgrass grows at 6901 W. Adams St., the proposed site for future outdoor concerts.

Local promoter plans 2 outdoor concerts; officials expect another Woodstock fiasco

BY BILL CONRADT

Lincoln music fans will be rocking under the sun later this summer if Sherm Bixby, a local promoter, has anything to do about it.

Bixby, owner of Applause Attractions, said he plans to promote two outdoor concerts featuring nationally known acts on July 31 and Aug. 28, on an acreage at 6901 West Adams St. The problem, he said, is that the Lancaster County Board is asking him to double his parking, security and sanitation facilities to meet the needs of 5000-6,000 people. His original budget, he said, was based on only 2,000 people.

He said he is prepared to provide what the board asks as long as it is within his budget. Bixby said he wants the show to come away without a hitch to protect his sponsors, but he is not willing to do a show that can not make a profit. He already has raised the budget for the show \$4,000, from

\$14,000 to \$18,000, since his first hearing with the board, he said.

"The county board is asking me to do more than my budget can handle," Bixby said.

County Commissioner Leo Scherer said he will vote against an amusement license for Bixby because he has received negative reports on the use of that property for a concert from the State Patrol, County Health Department, county engineer and county sheriff. Scherer said the board received complaints concerning the lack of sanitation facilities, parking and concern on the amount of traffic on the county roads.

Neb. State Patrol Capt. Raymond Syslo said the patrol is against the outdoor concerts because experiences at concerts in Sedalia, Mo., and Woodstock have indicated considerable amounts of drug usage, drinking and traffic. He said the patrol already has responsibilities at other established celebrations, the Czech Festival in Wilbur, the Old-Time Fiddlers festival in Brownville and the state recreation areas. The patrols manpower is also depleted at this time because of staff vacations, he said.

Capt. Syslo said other facilities are geared for large concert crowds, such as the State Fairgrounds. But Henry Brandt, manager of the fairgrounds, said the fairgrounds have a policy forbidding outdoor concerts because of security reasons.

Bixby said drug usage and drinking can be expected at musical events, but they will crack down only if the crowd gets out of hand. He plans to hire off-duty sheriffs to provide security, he said. A first-aid tent will be provided and bottles and alcohol will be prohibited, he said. He has been interviewing and polling people at bars, swimming pools and game galleries, Bixby said, to get a better idea on how many people would

come to an outdoor concert. Participants in the poll were asked to indicate which of four possible places, Pershing Auditorium, Bob Devaney Sports Center, Midwest Speedway or private land, they would like to see a musical concert at this summer. Bixby plans to have results of the survey ready by this weekend.

Bixby said he expects his poll will indicate the approximate number of people coming to the show. He said the show will be advertised only in Lincoln.

The idea behind the outdoor concerts on private land, Bixby said, is to provide an outdoor location where Bixby can charge admission. In prior years Bixby has coordinated concerts at Pinewood Bowl in Pioneers Park for KFMQ radio. Bixby said the city allows them an admission, but his organization cannot stop other people from using the park. He said there is nothing promoters can do to stop people, who say they've come to the park for other reasons, from seeing the concert once they are inside the park. For example, last year only 2,500 of the estimated 8,000 people attending paid, he said.

Scherer said a decision on the concert is pending until Bixby returns to the board to inform it on what he has done to solve the problems.

Sun can penetrate clouds

Ultraviolet light from the sun can easily penetrate thin layers of clouds and cause sunburn, said a University of Nebraska Medical Center dermatologist.

Dr. Ramon Fusaro, chief dermatologist, said people should take the same precautions against sunburn on a lightly cloudy day as they would on a sunny day.

IRANIAN

Continued from Page 1

student who changed his majors at UN-L, but that doesn't mean there wasn't any."

The directive says that funds would not be transferred from Iran to any student who criticized the Islamic revolution or was involved publicly in political activities against the regime, he said.

Majid, an Iranian mathematics senior who is president of the Iranian Student Association, said his family could no longer send him money because he has been politically involved against the Khomeini regime.

Majid has held a variety of jobs this past year. He said he has been a dishwasher, a construction worker and now drives cars from Texas to Nebraska.

"I'll survive somehow," he said.

Several of his friends were having severe financial problems because they were trying to hold down jobs and go to school full time, Majid said. Others found that they couldn't support themselves that way and were facing deportation because they were no longer in school and their student visas were no longer valid.

Levitov said that many Iranians face the same problems.

"The University cannot admit students who have inadequate finances for the duration of their studies," he said, "and we don't have the resources for non-immigrant foreign students. There are very limited scholarship and loan assistance programs for them."

As a result, many Iranian students must leave school, Levitov said. Since many have been politically active against the Khomeini regime, the students think they cannot return to their home country.

Often the ex-students face deportation or they may try to remain in America without lawful status, he said. Some are trying to gain political asylum, but that is difficult.

Unless the Khomeini government's policy changes, Levitov said, the number of Iranian students in American universities will continue to dwindle.

Elkhorn boy, 7, dies from charged bedspring

ELKHORN (AP) — A 7-year-old Elkhorn boy died at an Omaha hospital Tuesday night after he came in contact with an electrically charged bedspring in a trailer park.

Authorities said the boy was John Santora, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rhoades.

Dan Longwell, Douglas County deputy sheriff, said John and a 5-year-old friend were playing about 4 p.m. in the Hi Land Mobile Home Park Inc. John lived with his parents at the trailer park.

Longwell said the boys were playing near a metal tool and storage shed behind a trailer not far from John's home.

He said an open electrical junction box was on the rear of the toolshed, and an old, rusty metal bedspring was on the ground.

The deputy said part of the bedspring was stuck in the corner of the open junction box. "It had just rained, and the other end of the bedspring was apparently resting in a puddle of water and mud. The spring was evidently energized by the junction box," Longwell said.

SUMMER NEBRASKAN

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