

# News Digest

By The Associated Press

## Fans mark Lennon death

NEW YORK — They could not be in Strawberry Fields forever, but many at least spent the day there — singing, talking and remembering John Lennon on the fifth anniversary of his murder.

Dozens of fans of the former Beatle came together Sunday at a teardrop-shaped section of Central Park that was dedicated in Lennon's memory Oct. 9, shortly after what would have been his 45th birthday.

Strawberry Fields is on the edge of the park, and through barren trees Lennon's admirers could see the spot in front of the Dakota apartments where he was shot by Mark David Chapman the night of Dec. 8, 1980.

Chapman is serving a term of 20 years to life at Attica Correctional Facility in upstate New York.

No formal ceremonies were scheduled. Elliot Mintz, a family spokesman, said Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono, and their 10-year-old son, Sean, would be in the city Sunday, but declined to say if they would be in their apartment at the Dakota.

Mintz said Ono would use the day for "quiet reflection."

Some of those who gathered Sunday at Strawberry Fields sat on benches and stared. Others gathered near a portable stereo to hear the Beatles' album, "Revolver" and sing along as one person strummed a guitar.

Most were too young to remember the British rock invasion that brought the Beatles and their music to the United States in 1964.

But their emotion was evident, as young women dropped flowers in the center of a 10-foot, black-and-white starburst mosaic featuring the word "Imagine," the title of Lennon's biggest post-Beatles hit. Someone had placed an envelope in the mosaic's center, inscribed "John Lennon . . . 1985."

In London, Paul McCartney said he still is mourning the death of his former Beatles songwriting partner.

"I still cannot believe he is dead," McCartney said in a rare television interview.

"I think I would include myself in a kind of top-10 list of people who loved John most," McCartney said, on Independent Television's "Good Morning Britain."

"I was probably more shattered than most people when John died. I had plenty of sort of personal grief but I am not very good about public grief," said McCartney, 43.

McCartney said he missed Lennon musically. The two were responsible for writing nearly all of the Beatles' tunes from albums such as "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," "Revolver," "Magical Mystery Tour" and "Abbey

Road."

"He was definitely the best collaborator I have ever worked with . . . He was great, he was smart, and we started off together."

New controversy about the two Beatles' relationship arose after an interview with McCartney was published Nov. 5.

The telephone interview with author Hunter Davis was published in Britain's Woman Magazine four years after the interview was conducted. It quoted McCartney as describing Lennon as jealous, insecure with women, and a "maneuvering swine" who took credit for songs he did not write.

After the interview was published, McCartney issued a statement saying: "I'd like to make it clear that John Lennon was no angel, but I, like millions of others, loved him dearly."

In Moscow's Lenin Hills, meanwhile, a popular tourist and weekend skiing site, Soviet police arrested four people Sunday in breaking up a gathering of about 25 young people marking the anniversary of Lennon's death.

Western reporters at the scene said the young people were listening to Beatles tunes on a portable tape recorder. They said that as the song "Back In The U.S.S.R." was playing, six policemen stopped the music and ordered the group to scatter.

## In Brief

### Guatemalans elect civilian president

GUATEMALA CITY — Guatemalans voted Sunday for a civilian president after more than 30 years of virtually uninterrupted and often brutal military rule in this Central American country.

The runoff election was between Vinicio Cerezo, 42, a lawyer who is the slightly left-of-center candidate from the Christian Democratic Party, and Jorge Carpio, 53, a newspaper publisher viewed as a somewhat right-of-center candidate from the Nation Center Union.

They were the top vote-getters in the first election Nov. 3 in which eight candidates ran, but in which no candidate received a clear majority as required by law.

The new president will succeed Gen. Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, the last of five successive military rulers. He came to power in a coup in 1983, deposing Gen. Efraim Jose Rios Montt, who, in turn, gained power in a 1982 coup.

### 7 S. Asian nations to pool efforts

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Seven South Asian nations representing a fifth of the world's population pledged Sunday to pool their efforts to aid their poor and work toward ending the distrust that divides several of the countries.

The leaders of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives signed a charter forming the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, to the applause of hundreds of delegates and officials.

The regional group represents 1 billion people, including many of the poorest on Earth, and was formed to solve common problems of hunger, poverty and illiteracy.

But the association leaders also said they would help the member nations overcome disagreements that have led to wars and decades of bitter relations.

The leaders agreed to hold annual summit meetings, with the next in November 1986 in New Delhi.

### Officials search for escaped prisoner

OKLAHOMA CITY — Police used dogs and a helicopter Sunday as they searched an airport and surrounding counties for a prisoner who jumped wearing leg irons and handcuffs from a speeding airplane moments after it landed.

Reginald D. Still, 41, leaped from the plane's emergency exit onto the wing and then onto the runway Saturday while the craft, with eight guards aboard, was moving at nearly 50 mph at Will Rogers World Airport.

Still was being taken from a federal hospital in Springfield, Mo., to Sacramento, Calif., where he was to go on trial on a charge of interstate transportation of a stolen motor vehicle, said U.S. Marshal Stuart Earnest.

Asked how Still managed to get by the eight guards aboard the plane, Earnest said: "No comment. That's under investigation."

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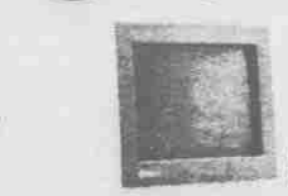
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