

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY  
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Woodstock, 1969

Personal Experience

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SANDOR IVES

Interviewed

by

Chris Helm

on

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## SANDOR IVES

A post-war baby boomer of 1948, Sandor Ives grew up a typical kid in Youngstown, Ohio. Similar to the vast majority of late 1960's youth, Mr. Ives prided himself on avoiding work at all costs. Looking to "find" himself, Sandor Ives welcomed the social phenomena of the mid to late 1960's with open arms of immense gratitude.

As with many people of his generation, music played a very significant role in his life. "Tunes" became a constant companion, particularly when spending time with friends. Sandor read all he could about current bands and musical trends. Himself a member of several bands over the years, Sandor Ives perfectly coincided with the musical explosion of the late 1960's America.

Sandor a few of his friends spotted a Woodstock flyer on a telephone pole at the corner of Elm and Madison in Youngstown. As a result, he quickly decided to attend the concert on a whim. Not unlike the majority of individuals who traveled to rural New York that summer, Sandor expected nothing more than an above average sized concert. Particularly fond of electric guitar, he naturally looked forward to several of the attractions of the concert.

Sandor's story epitomizes the unassuming, spontaneous, free spirit that characterizes many of the attendees of Woodstock in 1969. He readily admits to the over abundance of drugs at the concert, but also clearly states that drugs were neither necessary for a good time nor forced on anyone. As with the other interviews so far on this topic, Sandor Ives emphasized the sense of sharing, community, friendliness, and harmony that prevailed all aspects of the festival. Although he admits to a change in musical preferences as he grows older, Sandor Ives does not regret attending

Woodstock for one minute

H This is an interview with Sandor Ives for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on Woodstock, 1969, by Chris Helm, on March 6, 1995, at 40 Florest Avenue, at 1 15 p m.

Why do you not tell me your name, your parents, where you were born and how old you are

I: My name is Sandor Ives. I am 47 [years old] My father is deceased. My mother lives out in Boardman. I have been here all my life, pretty much.

H. Tell me Sandor, just a general description What was the late 1960's like for you?

I: Neat They were neat I did not really know. I walked into the 1960's blind I was just your average graduate from high school, out to go to college and do whatever. The 1960's was different and I got into it

H· What was a typical day like say in 1969?

I· In 1969?

H· Yes

I· For me or for anybody?

H· For you

I Oh my gosh, 1969 It would be depending on what I was doing, when I was playing in bands I did a lot of things I tried not to work, if at all possible. I do work. I have always had some money I played a lot of rock and roll back then I do not know, it was pretty much carefree I think that is one thing I liked about it I do not know how much of that had to do with my youth or the times. I have to think of it as the times There was something going on, even though I really did not know what it was It was kind of underlying. I did not have any idea what it was I went with it It seemed kind of neat

H I do not blame you If you can recall, how did you hear of Woodstock?

I. I remember it was word of mouth. I remember seeing a poster. I remember where I saw it Of all places, it was the corner of Elm and Madison. There was a shop there I saw the poster I did not think anything of it Nobody went past Cleveland or Pittsburgh to go see anybody in concert That was as far as we went The rumor was that Bob Dylan was going to be there and that is what did it Me and my friends said, "Let's go up there and see Bob Dylan " We had the money and we had the time So we did That is why we went, just because the

rumor that he was going to be there

H: What roll did music play in your life prior to Woodstock? How important was music to you?

I: For the times, it was my living. It was very important. I listened to it all the time, read about people who were involved with it. I bought the music magazines, I do not mean Teen Beat, buy like Hipherador I would buy for the words and stuff like that. When I was just starting to play professionally, I taught myself to play the guitar and started getting into bands. It was real important. It was like everything I could get my hands on, I was reading about it, reading the back of the album covers to find out, "Oh, this guy came from this band." I knew all that stuff. You mentioned a name, "Oh, he was with this band, this band, and this band." I do not know why I was into that. I could not tell you one now. Back then when you were into it you do it. Music was always on no matter what we were doing. If there was a gathering of people there was music on. Even just two people. Somebody would walk in the door, "Hey, how are you doing. Let's put some tunes on."

H: Why do you think that was?

I: I do not know. Music was always part of my life. At home there was always music on. It was not the kind of music I would particularly put on. I always listened to the radio. Every teenager does. The music sort of changed and got neat. It got a little more, I hate to say political. It dealt with more serious things that a lot of the A M did. It got into some politics, it got into some philosophy. It seemed like it meant a little bit more. I do not know whether it was because I was eighteen or nineteen at the time. I do not know.

H: It is the summer of 1969. How did you get there?

I: Six of us got into a Pontiac Firebird and drove.

H: What was the trip like?

I: It was real nice. We just started out. The weather was nice. We got to see everything that we drove through. We drove a little bit at night, but not that much. It was kind of pretty.

H: What day did you leave?

I: I have no idea.

H: Did you get there on Friday or Saturday?

I We got there on Friday for the very first days stuff We were there for that

H What were your first impressions? You were pulling up and getting close What were your anticipations and your first impressions?

I None, I had no anticipations As far as we knew, we were going to a concert I do not mean like a concert like it was one or two people We knew there was going to be a lot of people there We just figured it was just going to be an extra big concert That is all we knew. We did not even know how to get there. We got close and as we got closer, we started seeing more people I remember we decided, "My god, we cannot go through this We have to find a quicker way to get out of this car and get ourselves situated and get to the stuff." We pulled into a gas station in Monacella, New York We had rolled a million joints That is what we did on the way up there was pre-roll "Let's not waste time while we are there " We did not have anything else to do in the car

We had grabbed a handful and grabbed this gas station attendant and said, "Listen, we want a different way into this place." We went, "Here." He went, "Okay, here is what you do " He gave us the directions He took us in the back way Whatever the front entrance was, we never saw it. In fact, I got the feeling later on that nobody ever saw anything that had been on paper by the organizers Do you know what I mean? They thought, "We will have them all come in this road and do this " I do not think any of that ever happened.

H. Do you think maybe they wanted to?

I No

H. Do you think that was all part of it?

I No, I firmly believe that they just did not have any idea that this was going to happen. They knew a lot of people were going to show up. I do not think they ever imagined in their wildest dreams that many people were going to show up.

H What do you think that said? Did it signify anything larger in your opinion?

I. Ultimately it did. As the weekend wore on it certainly did I do not know because I do not know what anybody else's reason for going was. I do not know whether they went to see Bob Dylan I am sure that, with half a million people, there were thousands of different reasons why each one was there I do not know why they all went there Maybe some other people knew more about what was going on I suppose if you lived closer to that area, especially closer to New York City where you could hear about it on the radio We could not. There was not anybody on Youngstown radio going, "By the way, the big Woodstock concert is this weekend." Nobody was saying that Very few people new about it around here I think everybody sort of went there because they wanted to go there It

just turned out that half a million people wanted to go there and went. I do not think any of it was planned. If it was, it was rotten planning [laughter]. Those people have said as much as everything I have seen or read about it. They went, "Oh my god, what are we going to do?" So a few thousand extra people show up. You can deal with that. When it is a half a million people, you have got a problem.

H: That is a small city. That is a city of people in one place.

I: Exactly.

H: You arrive, you pull in, you go the back way. What was the first thing you did?

I: We looked at where we were and we were at the top of a slight graded field. It went down at a slight angle. It was an open field with a few bails of hay hanging around. We did not even know where the concert was going to be in relation to where we were. We knew the direction, but we did not know how far. We looked around and thought, "Let us stop the car and find a place. Let us grab some of these bails of hay." We made a little hut, sort of stacking up these rectangular bails of hay. We put our sleeping bag and blankets down on the ground. At least we could get in out of the rain if it rained. From that point we got all that stuff situated and we just started walking towards where everybody else was.

H: When you were walking up and you saw the people there, what were you thinking?

I: When we first walked up there we got there early enough. We went up there without tickets, fully expecting to pay for tickets. By the time we got there, of course, the tickets were history. You just did not need them. We got there on the first day. Everybody was not there, yet. We got pretty good seats on the ground. We were close enough to the stage that it was kind of neat. Actually, you did not really think about it a whole lot. The whole crowd was not there yet, either. They were still constantly filing in. At the beginning it sort of just seemed like, "Well, this is the biggest concert I have ever been to." There were probably only 200,000 or 300,000 people there at the time. Once in a while you would look back and go, "Wow! Where are all these people coming from and where are they going to go?" The music kept on going, so we just turned around and watched it.

H: Any artists you remember particularly?

I: I only remember them because I saw them. I only saw one really good day of shows because the rest of it was too difficult to get to. It happened to be the folk stuff, which I was not in to. I was in to the electric stuff, the bands and that. I

remember I saw Joan Baez, Robby Shancar, Richie Havens. It was mainly folk people. It was nice Not my cup of tea, but it was nice. I figured, "Hey, there are two more days. Sooner or later I will see something I want "

H A lot of them at that point were not as nearly well known as they were after that

I If you were in to folk music, you knew who these people were Just like if you were in to polka music you would know who Myron Floren was If you were not in to it you would say, "Myron Floren, I do not know " If you were in to it they were name people, all of them Every once in a while we would be, "Who is this guy?" Very rarely When it came to the bands, the next couple days there were some bands there that nobody really knew. You sort of heard about them Then, of course, they became bigger as a result of that exposure. It was inscribed in everybody's mind, "Wow, I remember this band from Woodstock " Now it is in your memory forever It does not say anything about how good or bad they were, but you remembered that. Sam Tanner was basically not much before that Joe Cocker was basically not much before that The Mountain was not much before that

H Nor was the Grateful Dead, really, in 1969 It started in 1965 In 1969 they were still playing small venues in Filmore East and Filmore West

I That was all anybody was playing.

H In light of what happened in the 1970's, I guess

I You mean concert-wise? Yes. Like I said, before nobody had ever been to anything like that. We were used to driving to Cleveland or Pittsburgh to see, "Hey, the Doors are in town " You went to an indoor place that held maybe 5,000 people That was it. They did not have the World Series of Rock up at Cleveland Stadium before Woodstock Nobody ever did any of that. On the west coast, I suppose, it was the Golden Gate parties, the three concerts at Golden Gate that drew thousands of people. We did not know anything about that. Once Woodstock started I went to another one that was just as big, but more organized In Atlantic City they had a half a million people That started what seemed to be this whole thing They had in Atlanta, they had one here That sort of wore off

The thing of large-scale concerts stayed From that point on is when rock bands started to appear in baseball and football fields instead of the largest indoor building in the town "Let us not be satisfied with that. Let us go to Shae Stadium " The Beatles were before that They did Shae Stadium That was because they were the Beatles Not even the Rolling Stones did the big stadiums then It just sort of started a trend of large scale everything When you are eighteen or nineteen years old everything is neat Not everything, but something like that is like, "Wow!" It was a lot easier to do. I would not go near



one of those things now just because I am older and do not want the hassle I would rather go to a small place

H: You were there for, say, a day. It is now Saturday during the day. You are walking. Try to recall in your mind as best as you can what you saw, the details of it. How were people dressed, how did they act, was there a definable attitude?

I: I did not notice if there was. There was all hippy types, for lack of a better term. A lot of hair. We thought we had some hair. We did not have any hair. These people from larger communities that were used to that had the hair down to their knees. Tie-die everywhere, all the hippy stuff. The feeling was real nice. Where our car was in relation to the concert area was quite some way, probably about a mile. We had that walk every day if we wanted to go to the concert. Every time you were walking along, it did not matter who was around you, you just start talking to people. Everybody was friendly. Everybody smiled easily, "Hey, how are you doing?" "Real good, how are you?" Not, "Who wants to know?" You did not find any attitudes like that. Everybody was there for fun. It sort of spilled out into their particular personalities. I do not know whether it was out of the drugs. I have no idea.

H: What roll do you think drugs played?

I: Big. It did not take us long. Of course, we went with our own. Everybody else did, too. It played a big roll because the hippy movement did a lot of drugs. Not serious harmful drugs, but they did a lot. It was a way of that part of lifestyle, I guess.

H: Why do you think it became that way?

I: I do not know. I never figured it out. I just sort of went with it and liked it. If I had not liked it I would not have gone with it, but I liked it so I went with it. Not to do it constantly day and night, but to realize, "Hey, this is a nice thing." It does not really bother a lot of people. We were all experimenting, too. We did not know anything about them. That open mind and enthusiasm when you are young, it is like, "Okay, let us try this."

H: What do you think the whole scene, dress, style of the 1960's said to the parents of the people that were at Woodstock?

I: I never thought about that one. Basically, I suppose it said what any youth movement says to the older generation. "We are going to do it our way. We have our own ideas about this. We found something over here that we think is a little better than you guys have and we are going to try this." I do not think it was so much defiant. It was, "Hey, I like this and I am going to do this." Of course, it

caused a lot of problems between the generations. It was quite a drastic change. Nobody for a million years was walking around with long hair. In fact, long hair is so relative. What we consider long now, I remember what was considered long then. It would be like about yours what would be considered long when I was in high school. I would go, "Wow!" You would look at pictures and, stuff like that, you will see that was true. I look at it as what any generation does. Things come along in every generation. Back in the 1930's and 1940's, I am sure younger people always had to take a path away from the older generation to show whatever it is, independence, desire to do it your way or at least try your way. This was just a little more drastic from things up until then.

H Is it just because it was more drastic? Why do you think, because if that happens in almost all generation transitions, why is it that people find it worth studying even today? What made it unique?

I I am not sure. Are you talking about just the 1960's? I look at it mainly as the 1960's more than Woodstock. Woodstock was just like the outward showing of what was going on. For many of the older people, I am sure, it was the first glimpse of what that counter culture was like. They did not know anything about those kind of people. In all the little home towns across the mid-west, "Oh, there were three or four of them in our town." Now the three or four are part of 500,000 and they are going, "Look at all those people." Woodstock was the vehicle. It was the fact that we all go together for other reasons, and now we were all one. I look at it as the 1960's, I think, probably because there was a lot going on.

Aside from that movement, there were a lot of political things during the war. The war being big on civil rights was still in its young days. You put that together, and I do not know why. It seemed more young people were politically involved. I do not mean involved in running for office and trying to do it in government. They were more involved in, "We do not like what is going on and we are going to say so." They did not do a whole lot about it, but they forced opinions against it. That, in turn, caused sparks to fly between our generation and the generations before us. They could not understand why we could not be happy with this, the greatest country in the world, as they said. Well, how can you not be happy with this, and nobody really questioned it. There was not a whole lot of that stuff going on in the 1950's. There was a younger generation coming up, but I do not know, it was a strange time.

H How do you think that this 1960's Woodstock, as a vehicle, was a transition to maybe how it related to the 1950's? What was it in terms of an opposite? Was it a natural progression? What was it?

I I do not know. At the time that I went there I had just been in to that sort of stuff for a year or so. It just seemed like the natural thing to do. I do not know the answer to that question. I just seemed like that was what we were doing, that

was all I do not think anybody really gave it a whole lot of thought at the time

H: Can you put a finger on, or is it even possible to put a finger on, for example, you know my dad and my dad's older brother You met my uncle John before?

I: Yes, I met him once

H: And they are polar opposites in many ways

I: I do not know

H: My uncle John very much reminds me of the 1950's.

I: How much older is he?

H: I think he is about ten years older

I: Than your dad?

H: Yes

I: That is enough.

H: He is the oldest I believe Doanne is second oldest. I believe my aunt Doanne, then my father being the youngest

I: I met all of them at your grandfather's calling hours. You know what meeting somebody like that there It is, "Hi, how are you doing?" Those people have seen so many people they do not remember me. I was just, "Hi, how are you doing?" I did notice there was a little bit of a difference in age

H: I do remember that by the way. I remember talking to you there

I: Really?

H: That was 1979

I: That is right. That was the same year Kim died I forgot the question

H: My uncle and my father

I: I do not know. I will tell you, I remember when I was in high school It is kind of strange I never thought about it while it was happening A lot of times when people ask me about back then, now, my answer actually comes more from having looked back on it from all these years If you ask those people, "What

were you thinking at the time?," most of them will say, "Well, I am not really sure " They just knew, "I like this lifestyle, I believe in a lot of these beliefs, I like this way I am going to try this way " I do not think there was any kind of conscious effort It just turned out to be real big for all those reasons I mentioned, that people got together because of racial inequality and because of the war It brought a lot of people together to do a lot of positive things Something like that had never happened before.

I remember in the middle 1960's, when I was still in high school and my first year in college, everything was just level It just went nowhere. I will not say it did not go anywhere, but it was, "You are going to get out of high school and go to college. You will finish your four years and you will get a job and probably get married." Everything seemed to be like that is what you were supposed to do. It was not etched in stone or anything Then something else came along and those people took that other path I do not know if the other paths ever came along before that I looked at those people in the 1960's and I know a lot of people that I graduated with went right down that straight line Only a handful of my class wound up like me.

- I' My father went to his 30 year reunion and half the people there worked 30 years, right out of high school.
- H' Yes, I remember him coming down to the bar and tell me that same thing. I went to a couple of my reunions and, my god, these people all got married out of high school. They have been living an adult life since the day they got out of high school. I was not, none of my friends were We were adults, but we were not living the life that our parents thought we should have been. You cannot say, "Well, this was the year," or, "This was the month that anything changed." It just sort of changed whenever you got into it I noticed that a lot of people in my class and before never even got close to it Yet, two years later you have a third of the people into that movement I do not know how it happened, I do not know where it happened. I am sure for the younger people, the people who were in high school at the time all that started, it might have been, "This is the cool thing to do " I do not know. I did not do it because it was cool I did it because I liked it
- H Can it ever be repeated?
- I. I am sure, but it will not be the same. When you say, repeat I would assume somewhere down the line you are going to get something that is based on what is going on in the world, politically and socially I am sure that it will happen again where younger people just go, "Hey, screw this We do not like this We are going to try something else " I do not know when, but I am sure it will happen again Certainly what happened in the 1960's was not the first time it ever happened on earth I do not know enough about history to know that I am sure it is not. It could happen again, although I am not so sure.

H What makes it worth studying? What makes it unique? What makes it unable to be repeated? What makes it worth studying for us to sit down and talk about it?

I I do not know

H Were there any characteristics specifically that can be attributed to that time period that you do not see? People today are trying to bring back the 1960's. You see that. It is kind of a fusion of the 1960's and 1970's, the whole attitude. What made that unique?

I There was an awful lot of optimism. From here on out I will say the hippy movement, for lack of a better term. People did not get into the hippy movement so much to rebel, I believe. That was part of it, natural rebellion by youth. I do not think they did it for that so much as they did it because they realize there is another way to do things and they only way to find out whether they like it or not is to try it. They did, but there seemed to be a different optimism like, "Wow, we may have really found something here." There was like an exuberance. People were just like, "Yes, let us do it." A much more positive attitude, and I do not know how to say this, I guess the optimism was there. I do not talk to a whole lot of younger people, but there does not seem to be a particular exuberance to do something like that as much today.

H Some people describe it as a sense of community. Some come up with a sense of optimism, and a sense of openness and acceptance and community. Do you have any thought on that?

I Yes. That was another thing. You would get your arguments from the older people at that time. While you are trying to be different, you all look the same. We did not look exactly the same, but yes, writing our own counter culture, most of us had longer hair. Most of us wore clothes of that time, that movement. I forgot the question again.

H. Types of community and openness

I Yes, the openness was nice. In other words, before that it seemed to be so important for everybody to be accepted. To be accepted you must do things in a certain way. You have to look a certain way. You have to act and respond in certain ways. For some strange reason people that you met, it did not matter how different you were as long as you had certain basics together. Be a nice person. Do not be getting goofy on people for no reason, just because you do not like him. Maybe I do not like the way this guy looks, but forget what I think. Let us talk to him and find out. I liked the openness part of it. Even within that counter culture there were a lot of different looks. There were people that were really wild. There were people that had hair a little longer, but they would dress

in pretty much straight clothes as there were. It did not really matter. You were not really judged so much by your appearance.

H: Were all those different levels. Were they representing Woodstock?

I: I do not really know. You mean as far as the way they looked and everything?

H: Yes

I: Most of them looked like hippies, the longer hair, whatever the style of clothes, the bell bottoms, the boots, peace symbols. It was pretty much the same, but if somebody walked in with a button down collar shirt the worst thing that would happen was somebody would say, "Who is that? What is he doing here? Well, who cares." It was that kind of attitude. We noticed if they were different, but we didn't really care. There weren't too many of those people there.

H: Woodstock is over, you are heading home in the Firebird. What were you thinking? What was going through your mind, anything?

I: Well, by that time we did not want to play our car radio while we were at Woodstock every time we were at the car, because we did not want to run the battery down. Besides, we just heard all that music, what do we need more for? We did not have any idea other than seeing over the next two days how many people wound up being there and experiencing being around that many people in one small area. As each hour went on, we went, "Wow, this is really big. You remember how big it was an hour ago? It is bigger, now." It just seemed to be slowly growing. By the time we got in the car to leave, we saw the lines of traffic and then we had the car radio on. We were hearing all these things. My god, they shut down all the major highways to this place. We did not have any idea that was going on. We were there for three days, how did we know? No contact, except for what the people on stage were telling us. If we saw helicopters and stuff, we thought it was going to be a long way out of there.

We left early. We left before it was over because we tried to cut down being in a line for half a day. In a line of none moving cars with six people in a car really sucks. We decided whatever we could do to minimize it, that is what we will do. We left early. We tried to pick different roads, except the roads we tried to go in, on which were all clogged. Basically, all we really wanted to do was get home, get into some clean clothes, take a good hot shower, then reflect on it. Of course, we bull-shitted all the way back. Whoever you came with you did not spend the entire three days with. It was impossible. We all went off on our own little journeys. There was a lot of stuff going on.

The first day and the second we all got our stuff together, "Let us head to the stage." Well, we would come upon another stage. The people had realized, "There is more people here that can see the show," so they set up this stage erected from wood and everything. They had their own band there. We stopped

for a while and listened to them. There was just so many people and so many things going on that you got delayed getting to the concert because you would stop and talk to these people. "What is going on over here?" You would do this "Oh, there is a lake over here. Let us go swimming." It was strange. We all talked about it on the way home, "When I did not see you for four hours, where were you?" We were all just telling each other what we had individually done for those two or three days.

H Can you recall anything?

I Yes, I recall walking into the Saturday afternoon show. It was a real hot day. We had eaten some acid. We got to I guess what was the back row of all these people. Everybody was sitting on the ground. We started going, "Excuse me, excuse me." I remember doing that for a half an hour. The acid started kicking in and, "Oh, I feel pretty good." After a half an hour I looked up at the stage. It was still way, way over there. The people were still this big, like ants. I am going, "Wait a minute here. We have been doing this for a half an hour." I look behind me and we had not gotten very far because the people were there, nothing but people. I turned to the back and cannot remember which one of the people was with me. I said, "I am not doing this. I do not want to be caught in the middle of this and have to go to the bathroom and have it take me 45 minutes to an hour to get to a bathroom. Let us think about something else." We finally found a spot right about where we were and we sat there for a while. We said we were not going to go any closer to the stage. We could have if we had desired it. We just did not feel like doing it. We thought it was too many people. We sat there and spent half the afternoon listening to a few bands. That is when we saw the Mountain. Then after a while we got tired. It was hot. We decided, "Let us go do something else." We just started walking around. We past the medical tent, past the food, past these various groups, stand and watch to see what they were doing, talk to them. Then we wound up back in our little lot.

H I bet you were glad to have the hut when the rain came.

I Not really. It was a real good idea at first, but we were on the side of a hill. Being young and stupid, what do we know about erecting a place to live in, regards to a hill? We just slapped these things together. When the water started coming down the hill we got wet from the bottom up. All the bedding and stuff we had laid down on top of the straw got wet before the top of us did. It was kind of uncomfortable. It was not cold so much, but it was uncomfortable.

H I could imagine. How about a couple years later. It is the early 1970's. Do you remember talking about it at all, what had happened? Did it ever come up?

I Not much.

H: Did you ever think about the significance?

I: No. What month was it, do you know? Was it August? No, it was in the summer.

H: I thought it was the late summer of 1969.

I: Somewhere before that summer was over, and I mean it was still summer.

H: I saw a ticket.

I: You saw a ticket?

H: Yes.

I: Where did you see a ticket?

H: Marlene Aaron has a ticket.

I: Marlene Aaron, I know Marlene.

H: Yes, she has a ticket. I just looked at her ticket and I cannot believe I cannot remember.

I: Where did she get a ticket?

H: She had bought tickets. She and her friends got the tickets.

I: Marlene always knew people in New York.

H: Yes, she had a friend that lived in the flats in New York. It was an artist that had a flat in New York, a studio apartment. They got tickets.

I: Before that, somewhere in the next month, some entrepreneur people got another big one together in Atlantic City. It was called the Atlantic City Pop Festival. We had a good friend of ours who lived in our building that was from Atlantic City. He said, "Look, if we got there we have a place to stay. My parents have a condominium right on the beach." A condo on the beach, that means we do not have to stay in squalor conditions. Whenever we were done with the rock n' roll we will get in the car and drive down to this nice, air conditioned penthouse, which is what we did.

We went to another one, half a million people again. There was one in Atlanta that we did not go to. There were several smaller ones. I think they had one at the Poconos with 200,000 or 300,000 people. We did not go. Still, the



first couple of years it might come up in conversation just like at Woodstock "Oh, you were there, cool " That was about the end of the conversation The significance I do not think had really set in in the first couple of years when it happened It slowly mounted I know every time after that I would think, "That really was something different." It was a fleeting thought I do not look at it that way now. Now it is almost monumental to me I look back on it and say, "Wow, that really was something " There still has not been anything quite like it Not exactly like it Even the other ones that came after it were much more organized, not that there is anything wrong with that.

Atlantic City we had to have tickets You had to go in a certain way. You could not do this here, you could not do that there "Okay, I can live with rules," although that particular movement did not pay a whole lot of attention to rules There was no organization at Woodstock When we got there we went, "Where do we go to get tickets?" We did not have any. Then we realized, "We do not need them " Of course, the guy on the stage said, "If you do not have a ticket do not worry about it because nobody does It is a free concert." That did not even sink in Like I said, the other ones after it were not free concerts. We paid for those concerts and you could not get in very easily without the tickets That itself, 500,000 people show up unexpectedly for something that in the first few hours shattered all the planning that those people have done You can throw that out the window Now you just have to deal with what you have and go from there None of the other ones were like that That makes it even more different, that fact that it went so smoothly considering there was very little organization

H Twenty-five and a half years later, are you glad you went?

I Very

H That is the general response I get

I I am proud.

H I would be, too

I I am very proud to have been there I would not want to do it again I think that sticks out as probably the main big thing that that movement did It was all put together in that one weekend. Anything that happened after that was not quite the same. That said it all, 500,000 of us getting to live here without having anybody killed, without having people beating each other up We can get along, strangers.

H That was saying something

I It was, at that time it was

H What were your thoughts on how it related to things going on, civil rights movement in the war? Particularly, I am interested in the war.

I. How Woodstock affected it?

H Yes, what is the correlation?

I I do not see a whole lot of correlation. Obviously, most of the people that went there, if not all, felt pretty much politically the same way. Most of those people were against the war. A lot of them were actively involved, but most of them felt strongly toward racial equality. I think maybe what it did was, when you stop and think, there was this car load from Youngstown which was one of many car loads from Youngstown. Go across the country. You had little groups, five, six people together that were in their home town. Maybe they were one of 25 or 30 people that liked them. Now they are not a minority anymore.

I think it sort of pointed out, more so than reading about it happening somewhere else or seeing it on television. You were there. I think it kind of struck home, "Wow, there are a lot of us that think this way." Nobody ever put that many people together before. I think it was sort of like, "This is not just a fluke thing. There is something to this." I think it kind of solidified people or gave them the confidence. They were not, like I said, this tiny minority anymore. "There are a lot of us here and we can make this work," whatever it is. This different road is going to be okay. It may not be the total answer for everybody, but at least the path is good. I think that is what it did because I am sure if you went around and grabbed as many people, I have seen a few interviews on television of people that were there who are now basically back in the straight world. They are not your average bear, but they are back in the straight world. They went through that and they changed their life. I think it told them, "It is okay to be different." We all knew that we were different when we were here in town. You got there with all the rest of them. You just felt better about yourself like, "I am not alone. I am not just this little minority. There is a bunch of us around this country that feel like this." I think that brought a lot of people together, in that respect.

H Well Sandor, I thank you for your time.

I: You are very welcome.

End of Interview