



# OZARK MUSIC FESTIVAL

**Envie Johnson**

# WHAT WAS IT?

Sex, Drugs, And Rock & Roll... that is pretty much the event summed up. It was a 3 day long rock festival that featured super popular artists at the time such as: Aerosmith, The Eagles, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and The Marshall Tucker Band. The festival goers were made up of mostly young adults and teens.



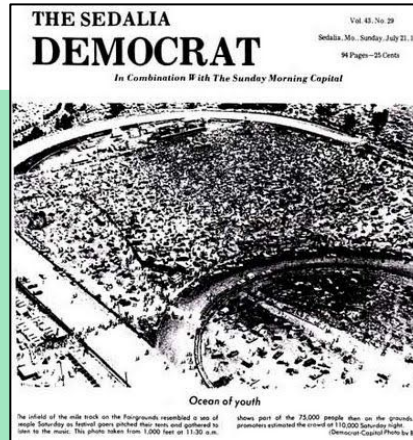
# WHERE AND WHEN?

It took place right here in Sedalia on the Missouri State Fairgrounds in July of 1974. It was 3 days long, and some say it was the 3 hottest days of the whole summer.



# HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE THERE?

They expected about 50,000 people to show up at the festival... there ended up being 300,000 people. That is how many people come to the MO State Fair today. The difference is that the fairgrounds was about half the size that it is now and they were all condensed into the same area. Imagine that... IN JULY.



# WHAT HAPPENED TO THE COMMUNITY?

The community of Sedalia was very conservative at the time, so when 300,000 hippies unexpectedly came to town, it was a mess... and lets not forget to mention that most of them were naked.

- Stores shut down
- People bathed in peoples sprinklers
- People camped in front yards
- Traffic was horrendous
- Crime became normal (specifically stealing)

# WHAT HAPPENED AT THE FESTIVAL?

There were many unspeakable things that happened in those 3 days. People did not know that these things took place until news reports came out AFTER the event.

- Drugs.
  - LSD, Weed, and Alcohol... it was the 70's.
- Disease.
  - There were tons of disease and sickness because of the large amounts of people in a small, unsanitary place.
- Death.
  - 2 people died.

## One dead at festival

### BULLETIN

An estimated 120,000 persons gathered Saturday night at the Fairgrounds on the second day of the Chuck Wagon Festival drew to a close. Though many of the festivalgoers remained at their campsites Saturday night, others moved in front of the stage, parking the grandstand and the infield.

Officials say this is the largest crowd ever to converge on the Fairgrounds at one time. Normally, about 80,000 persons filter through the area during the Missouri State Fair.

By MARY LOU VOISMEYER  
and STEPHEN A. BEECHER  
Democrat-Capitol Staff Writers

The Chuck Wagon Festival reached its way into a second day of performances with death in a festival gear and another severe casualty.

The Fairgrounds medical ward had treated, as of 6:30 p.m. Saturday, more than 400 persons for sickness, cuts, heat prostration and drug overdose. Reports of "bad dope" circulated with strychnine and kinch filtered through the quickly mobilized crowd of 120,000. Later, announcements from the grandstand planned the atmosphere to warn festivalgoers of the "bad dope."

Allen Richard Cingenti, 25, Blue Island, Ill., was dead on arrival at 1 p.m. Saturday at the medical ward on the Fairgrounds.

Police County Sheriff Kenneth Fairfax said Saturday night that Cingenti's death "does appear to be drug related."

The body was taken to the Southwest hospital morgue Saturday afternoon for an autopsy. However, Fairfax said it would be "a few days" before the county coroner would have laboratory results from the autopsy.

Fairfax also said, "There have been other reports and rumors that they have had other deaths reported, but that is not true."

"This is the first death related to the festival," he added.

The usually reported to Fairfax on Saturday involved a local man who (Please see FESTIVAL, Page 4A)

See Page 4B for photos and additional stories

# WHAT WERE THE RESULTS

The city of Sedalia actually voted to ban the town of hosting any future rock festivals. The event left the fairgrounds with about \$100,000 dollars worth of damage, caused tons of break-ins, and wreaked havoc on most of the people of Sedalia.





# WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

This part of Sedalia History is so unique because it was a huge event in the U.S. that happened right here in our town, but most of us knew nothing about it. There is movie made about it, there was an ad in the Rolling Stones Magazine about it, and people walked, drove, and hitchhiked from all around America to see it.

