

**FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS:**

**RE: WOODSTOCK MARKER**

BECAUSE I'M TIRED OF BEING ACCUSED OF NOT CARING AND OF SOMETHING WE DIDN'T DO.

IN 1969 FOLLOWING THE ORIGINAL "WOODSTOCK" THE IMMEDIATE THOUGHT WAS TO PUT UP A HISTORICAL MARKER ALTHOUGH, IN MOST INSTANCES, HISTORICAL MARKERS ARE NOT PUT AT A SITE FOR MANY YEARS AFTER IT IS ESTABLISHED.

HOWEVER, CONSIDERING THE MANY AND VARIED EMOTIONS AND REACTIONS OF TOWNSPEOPLE AND CELEBRANTS, IT WAS DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO WAIT UNTIL SOME OF THE FUROR HAD DIED DOWN. WE FELT THAT A MARKER WOULD NOT BE LEFT FOR VERY LONG. EITHER IT WOULD BE STOLEN BY SOUVENIR HUNTERS OR REMOVED AND HIDDEN OR DESTROYED BY THE ANGRY AND RESENTFUL.

IN 1984 IT WAS DETERMINED THAT ENOUGH TIME HAD ELAPSED TO SAFELY INSTALL THE MARKER; WHICH WAS DONE. IT WAS THE 15th. ANNIVERSARY OF WOODSTOCK AND THE 175th. ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE TOWN OF BETHEL.

WELL, OUR FEARS WERE REALIZED WHEN THE MARKER WAS STOLEN WITHIN JUST A FEW WEEKS.

BEATRICE R. SCHOCH  
TOWN HISTORIAN 1972-84

# Spot marker for Woodstock may be history

10/17/87

By DOUGLAS CUNNINGHAM  
Staff Writer

**BETHEL** — A historical marker at the site of the 1969 Woodstock music festival — an event some Bethel residents want to forget — is missing.

The purloined marker may yet turn up, but until then its absence rekindles a perennial debate in the town of Bethel: Should the Woodstock festival be commemorated or should it be forgotten?

Eighteen years ago, the three-day festival drew 450,000 people, who inundated the rural, vacation-home area west of Monticello. The roadside marker was placed at the festival site, at the edge of a meadow along Hurd Road in the town of Bethel.

A constable reported it missing earlier this week, Supervisor George Neuhaus said yesterday. Presumably, it was stolen.

"It's been quite a few years now," Neuhaus said. "It's an event that happened. Wounds take time to heal. . . . There's no question the Woodstock festival was an event."

Beatrice Schoch was town historian in Bethel when the Town Board decided in late 1984 to mark the site. The marker itself wasn't installed until last year.

"I really didn't feel it should be (put in place), for this reason: I think it was too soon," she said yesterday.

The new-missing plaque was one of two markers at the site. A much-heavier, concrete marker, built privately, remains in a corner of the pasture.

Mrs. Schoch said the missing marker cost \$125 to \$150. William G. Smith, Sullivan County historian, said the price for such plaques has now increased to \$295.

Smith noticed the roadside plaque when he drove

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