

No Mariposa like this one: Dylan, Lightfoot, Young, Mitchell

By PETER GODDARD

Bob Dylan, rarely seen in the past five years, hugged Gordon Lightfoot before escaping fans running after him. Neil Young led 4,000 in a sing-a-long as Joni Mitchell looked on.

It all happened as the 12th annual Mariposa Folk Festival, on Toronto Island, ended last night.

What had started Friday in typical low-key Mariposa fashion almost ended Saturday amid sudden, driving rain squalls that forced the promoters to turn off the performers' electrical systems. It finally finished yesterday, however, with the unexpected and virtually unnoticed appearance of what one fan described as "more folk superstars than have ever been together at one place at one time for any one reason."

CHIEF FIGURE

Central to this was the slight figure of Bob Dylan who, in jeans, white shirt and wearing a red bandana and rimless spectacles, wandered unrecognized with his wife, Sarah, through the crowd of 14,000.

In the still-wet fields away from the six performing areas, Dylan was given a bottle of beer by a passerby. Then, circling, he stood briefly in a crowd watching some fiddlers before moving to another area to listen to old blues pianist Roosevelt Sykes and blues guitarist Bukka White.

"We were vacationing in the area, and decided to drop in," he said, looking much less than his 30 years, and more like the brilliant, hungry kid folk singer whose past decade of songs had inspired Mariposa to set aside an entire workshop Saturday afternoon called "the influences of, and on Bob Dylan."

"We've been here for Mariposa's three days," he said. "We even got rained out like everyone else on Saturday."

"But this looks like a really nice festival. I've been to Mariposa several times in the past; but this year it reminds me of the way it was 10 years ago."

"I won't be playing, though. I've been doing other things."

NO MAJOR CONCERT

So were most of the 33,000 who attended the three-day presentation of 151 different concerts and craft displays by more than 200 singers, dancers, musicians and craftsmen, and who had been lulled by Mariposa's starless starsystem and quiet meandering pace.

The attendance was about 8,000 higher than last year, when the festival lost \$7,000. According to festival spokesman Dick Flohili, a profit can be expected this year, though he couldn't say how much.

Organized to both protect performers' anonymity and to disseminate as much "authentic" folk music as possible, Mariposa stopped its practice of ending each day with a major concert after gate-crashing took place in 1970.

It started Saturday when singer Murray McLauchlan cut short his otherwise engrossing concert to introduce Joni Mitchell who immediately started singing.

Her sure and steadily rhythmic guitar work, and her high-pitched, keening voice for songs like Both Sides Now, and Woodstock, soon drew fans from other performing areas.

This process was repeated yesterday when singer Bruce Cockburn, after providing the best concert of his career, introduced Neil Young.

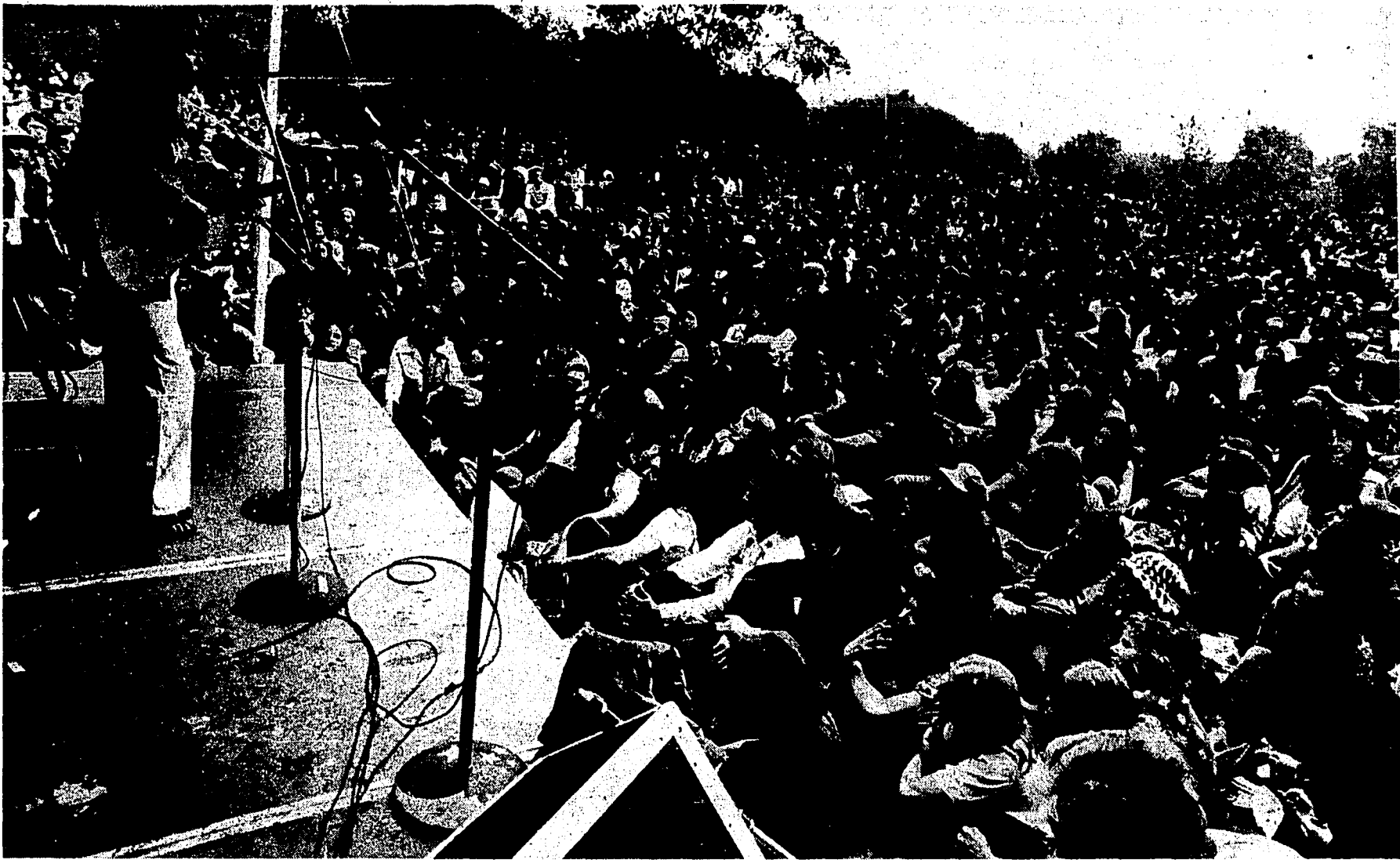
LIGHTFOOT SANG, TOO

Shortly afterwards, Gordon Lightfoot sat down on a picnic bench and started singing without a microphone, accompanied by several guitarists in the audience of 150.

"The whole thing was accidental," Lightfoot explained. "I was just sitting there when someone handed me a guitar." Lightfoot, who was suffering from a disease called Bell's palsy which partially paralyzed his mouth when he was in Toronto three months ago, said that he is now almost completely cured.

What the festival organizers had feared started to happen when two dozen fans all but chased Young into the performers compound, and then another dozen or so recognized Dylan, and started to follow him.

Dylan, too, retreated to the fenced-off performers' area, and started talking to Lightfoot when it appeared that a crowd might jump the fence. Within 15 minutes he was hustled off the island in a Harbor Police boat, leaving at least one young fan crying.



—Star photo by Mario Geo

THE KEENING VOICE of Joni Mitchell draws listeners from other performing areas at the Mariposa Folk Festival on the Islands. The low-key, three-day series of 151 concerts and

craft displays drew 33,000 fans and ended yesterday with what one said was "more folk stars than have ever been together" before. It was all very casual: On Saturday afternoon singer

Murray McLauchlan stopped short and introduced Miss Mitchell, who started singing immediately. Two years ago Mariposa ended its practice of closing each day's program with a major concert.



—Star photo by Mario Geo

TAKING SHELTER from sudden, driving rain squalls Saturday at the Mariposa Folk Festival Mary Nemeth, Mr. and Mrs. David

Ritchie and 16-month-old Melissa Ritchie go right on listening. Electric amplifying systems had to be turned off during the heavy rain.



—Star photo by Keith Beatty

FOLK STAR Bob Dylan (white shirt) and his wife, Sarah, wanted simply to listen to the New Lost City Ramblers yesterday. The Dylans

were vacationing in the area and dropped in, circling Olympic Island to hear a variety of performers, like blues pianist Roosevelt Sykes.



—Star photo by Mario Geo

SPECTATORS brought their own guitars and turned performers in the casual, meandering festival. Sandy MacDonald, up a tree in top hat, entertains a friend.



Photo by Walter Psolki

ELUDING SECURITY GUARDS, young gatecrashers get to Olympic Island by swimming or rowing across from other of Toronto Islands for the Mariposa Festival. Ticket-takers were

at the bridges connecting Olympic Island with Centre Island, so when would-be festival-goers found tickets sold out they found other means of getting in. During the three days, 33,000 saw

and heard the work of more than 200 craftsmen, musicians, singers and dancers. Not even lashing rain squalls every day of the 12th annual folk festival dampened spectators' spirits.