

DAILY ARGUS, MOUNT VERNON, N.Y., MONDAY, JULY 14, 1969



Concert Held On Sunday After Rain

By JOEL FISHMAN

"Un-nice" weather over the weekend threatened to undo the UnCola Festival, but more than 5,000 undaunted persons sprawled on the grass of Memorial Field last night to hear folk singers Joni Mitchell and Tim Hardin and the James Cotton Blues Band.

Rain forced the postponement of the scheduled Saturday performance and intermittent showers last night sent the audience scurrying to the sidelines where free plastic strips were provided.

However, the rain seemed to add to the festive atmosphere of the concert series first Lawn Night as couples huddled under umbrellas until the rain stopped at about 9 p.m.

The Cotton Blues Band opened the show and performed a one hour set featuring Mr. Cotton's harmonica and singing. Unlike many other blues bands Mr. Cotton's outfit performs numbers made popular by other artists but his specialty is creating fresh arrangements that make the songs "his."

Following an intermission, Tim Hardin sang folk ballads self-accompanied on guitar or piano.

Most famous for "If I Were a Carpenter," later recorded by Bobby Darin and Joan Baez, Mr. Hardin offered primarily gentle ballads in sharp contrast to Mr. Cotton's hard driving rhythms.

Featured artist Joni Mitchell, who also performs her own compositions, delivered the blend of imagery and lyricism that have led critics to describe her as the female Bob Dylan.

The Canadian star sang several numbers from her two albums including "Night in the City" but the concert closed as she and Mr. Hardin led a sing along version of "Get Together."

Pre-show entertainment was provided by singer Don Cooper who also gave a "bonus" performance Saturday for those who showed up in hopes the concert would be presented.

Performers scheduled for this week include the Ohio Express, 1910 Fruitgum Company and the Crazy Elephant. The evening is billed as "Christmas in July." Children donating suitable toys will be given a discount on tickets. The toys will be presented to service organizations for use at Christmas.

NEITHER RAIN nor drizzle ... kept audiences away from UnCola Music Festival Concert, featuring Tim Hardin, Joni Mitchell, and Don Cooper and the James Cotton Blues Band. The concert, third of the summer series, had to be pushed up to Sunday, when rain on Saturday night forced its cancellation. Audiences Sunday were not discouraged by the evening's drizzle. —Photo by Paul Caramuto.



BACKSTAGE EXCHANGE between performers. Tim Hardin listens as Joni Mitchell sings, prior to the UnCola Music Festival concert which featured both of them. The concert was held last night at Mount Vernon's Memorial Stadium. — Photo by Paul Caramuto.

HOURLONG performance of the James Cotton Blues band was the longest single performance at last night's concert, the third of the season, at Memorial Stadium. —Photo by Paul Caramuto.

