Texas International Pop Festival,
Lewisville, Labor Day Weekend, 1969

"Let's go to the lake, watch the nude hippies."

That's what a fellow worker said to me.
I asked him what he was talking about,
and he responded with his own question.
He wanted to know if I had heard of
music festivals like Woodstock. When I
told him I had, he said one had started
in Lewisville and the hippies were there,
swimming and bathing in Lewisville Lake.

I was working in Richardson, living
in Garland, didn't know where Lewisville
was. I'm a native West Texan, and I
was not yet familiar with the Metroplex,
but it was becoming clear I wanted
to learn more of nearby towns and cities.

Angus G. Wynne III had the idea
for the festival; he made it happen.
It drew as many attendees each night
as the town's population times nineteen.

The Dallas International Motor
Speedway on the east side of Interstate
35E had recently opened—
the gala transpired in an undeveloped
field just south and west of there.

A site on Lewisville Lake and north
of the festival became the place for
hippies in attendance to skinny dip
and bathe. A second stage, the free stage,
was also located on the campground
and provided a performance space for
bands to play after their main-stage performance
and for bands not playing on the main stage.

Well-known musicians swarmed the area.
Despite the bizarre nature of the guests,
the event saw very little trouble.
Heatstroke killed one person; one birth occurred.
Peace and love truly came to the event,
just what the hippies were talking about.

J. Paul Holcomb