

Bibliography for Bill Hanley / Woodstock June 2022 PNW AES Meeting

revised 8/1/2022, rev c2.

Books

Comments here are from Dan Mortensen.

"The Road to Woodstock" Michael Lang with Holly George-Warren, ecco -an imprint of Harper Collins Publishers, 2009.

First person, doesn't get any more "horse's mouth"

"Barefoot in Babylon" Bob Spitz, Plume -an imprint of Penguin Random House 1979.

Very good technical descriptions, best of all the books that I and John Chester have read (he told me about it).

"Young Men with Unlimited Capital" Joel Rosenman, John Roberts, Robert Pilpel, Harcourt Brace Jovanovitch 1974.

The guys who financed the whole thing despite clearly getting ripped off at many points in the process and who made good on all debts from a festival with no ticket takers or gates. They were gems.

"Rock Concert" Marc Myers, Grove Press 2021.

Similar format to Joel Makover's book and uses quotes from it, but lots of original research and interviews and has a nice Woodstock section.

"Back to the Garden" Pete Fornatale, Touchstone, a division of Simon and Schuster 2009.

I don't remember much of this one but I enjoyed reading it and found things not in other places. True of every book.

"The Last Seat in the House - The Story of Hanley Sound" John Kane, University Press of Mississippi 2020.

Comprehensive, well-researched, shows Bill's career and highlights many of his innovations which are used daily all over the world. Big Woodstock section.

"Aquarius Rising -The Rock Festival Years" Robert Santelli, Delta Publishing 1980.

Modestly detailed look at early rock festivals, includes Sky River but completely leaves out Seattle Pops, which I was at and worked on ahead of time, so this book sucks despite being the first one to examine the phenomenon. Has a Woodstock section, of course.

"Woodstock -The Oral History" Joel Makover, Doubleday 1989.

Really a great book, oral histories in their own words of people from all categories who were there, who put it on in some way, and who were affected by it. Everybody has indelible memories that they treasure.

"Woodstock Back to Yasgur's Farm" Mike Greenblatt, Krause Publications 2019.

Another I don't remember much of this one but I enjoyed reading it and found things not in other places. True of every book in this list (and more).

"Woodstock -50 Years of Peace and Music" Daniel Bukszpan, Hourglass Press 2019.

Many photos by Amalie Rothschild, good ones, too.

"Pilgrims of Woodstock" John Kane, Red Lightning Books 2019.

Photos by a guy (not John Kane) who was there and took pictures but died before anything happened with the pics. All away from the stage. Interesting view of that part of the monster gathering, not much interesting to someone with a stage-related focus.

“Woodstock -The 1969 Rock & Roll Revolution” Ernesto Assante, becker&mayer! books 2018. Originally published as “Woodstock ’69: The Rock & Roll Revolution” by Whitestar Publishers. Another I don’t remember much of this one but I enjoyed reading it and found things not in other places. True of every book.

“Live at the Fillmore East” Amalie Rothschild with Ruth Ellen Gruber, Thunder’s Mouth Press. Published 1999-2000. Great shots of the Fillmore East shows and a complete list of shows and dates. Has a Woodstock section.

“Woodstock - an inside look at the movie that shook the world and defined a generation” by Dale Bell, with an introduction by Martin Scorsese, photographs by Henry Diltz and Barry Z. Levine. A Genuine Barnacle book, an imprint of Rare Bird Books. 2019. Allegedly 176 pages (the page numbering is sketchy)

A thin but action-packed look behind the scenes of the entire process of the making, editing, and distribution of the movie, which started about 2 weeks before the start of the festival and went through various permutations afterward, with first hand descriptions of who what when where and why. Details and photos not to be found elsewhere, with first-person accounts of what they did. John Chester was the first of our group to read and recommend it, accurately. There is a LOT of detail left out, including who people are in pictures and why the last 20 pages or so seems to be lifted from another source and color shifted and cropped to be more edgy without adding anything to the story, as near as I could tell. But despite the minor flaws, it tells a very believable story on an important aspect of the festival with focus and content that is not found anywhere else.

From Chris Myring

“Small Town Talk” by Barney Hoskyns, Da Capo Press 2016.

Mostly about the music scene in the town of Woodstock, it has a chapter about the festival and describes the effect on the local community of the influx of 'hippies' and, subsequently, of tourists trying to find the festival site.

Videos:

Comments by Dan Mortensen

“Taking Woodstock” Ang Lee, Focus Features 2009.

DM: This is a controversial pick but it’s one of my favorite movies. It’s the whole festival from the (fictional on some levels and probably real on others) viewpoint of Elliot Tiber, who everyone seems to agree called Woodstock Ventures to suggest they have their festival in White Lake and use the permit he already had to play records outdoors for an annual community gathering.

When Michael sees Tiber’s family property is a swamp, he drives around and finds Yasgur’s farm. The last phrase is subject to argument about who actually found the site, but the phone call is widely accepted as fact and is the direct reason WV found the site. The rest of the story is about the growing up of a gay man, and while I like Demetri Martin as an actor in the couple things I’ve seen with him, he seems like he might be a lot more empathetic than the real Elliott. I have the book of the same title but haven’t read it yet. Ang Lee is an incredible director (“Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon”, “The Life of Pi”, and many others) and the movie is painstakingly true to reality with many visuals taken from photos at the time, while at the same time somewhat exaggerating reality for dramatic effect.

It vividly shows how it must have been to be in White Lake (on the road to Bethel) and have the people-flood come to town. It shows the positive and negative sides of humanity. Like I said, it’s one of my favorite films.

“Creating Woodstock” Mick Richards, Cinema Libre, 2019.

The most informative of all possible videos about the people who put the festival together, with extensive interviews with all the producers, many production people, a few fans, some artists. The only way it could have

been better is if it were longer than its 111 minutes. Lots of the footage seems to be amateur and the color grading could use some help, but it looks directly at length at the parts that we could only get glimpses in the background in the other videos. Highly recommended.

<https://cinemalibrestudio.com/creating-woodstock/>

From Chris Myring

“Woodstock Diary 1969 Friday Saturday Sunday” Pennebaker/Hegedus 1994 [single DVD]

“Woodstock - 3 Days of Peace and Music, Director's Cut, Ultimate Collector's Edition” Maurice/Wadleigh 1994 [4-DVD set]

“Once Were Brothers” Scorsese/Grazer/Howard 2019

CM: [presumably has Woodstock references - I can't remember!]