

On The Isle

What do Woodstock, Watkins Glen and Willowbrook have in common? Rock music gatherings.

Such a gathering took place on the grounds of the Willowbrook State School in Staten Island, and though it didn't have the number of bands (only 1) or the size of the audience that the other Ws drew, the home-grown gathering didn't lack in enthusiasm. Far from it! More than 1,000 residents turned up for the outdoor festivities, which included a cook-out, complete with franks and watermelon, and a rock group called the Tundra that performed continuously from 11 a.m. to about 2 p.m.

Under sunny skies, congenial residents rocked and rolled to the music. The group was both good and loud, thanks to a pair of amplifiers that resounded across quite a bit of Willowbrook's landscape.

According to William Galloway, who heads the recreation department for the various units at the school, an outdoor picnic is organized for the residents at least once a month during the summer.

Source of the Band

"What makes this different is the band," said Galloway, explaining arrangements for getting the musicians. He said he got on the phone to Mrs. Ann Barksy, entertainment chairman and also trip coordinator for The Benevolent Society.

Mrs. Barksy in turn got on the phone to Mrs. Jo Ann Bricks, manager of "Tundra," to see if the Staten Island group could entertain the residents at Willowbrook.

"I was only sorry it was short notice," said Mrs. Bricks, who couldn't get all the band to appear because of other commitments.

Her son, Bob, who usually plays bass, had taken over the drums for the occasion and a mighty fine job he was doing.

Galloway said the next big social event will be on Aug. 18, when they're planning on holding a carnival and barbecue for the residents.