

PRESS RELEASE

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Despite all indications to the contrary, the Woodstock revival festival took place at Bethal in Sullivan County, last weekend.

It may not have had the trappings nor the professional organisation of a grand affair, yet what took place there had historic significance.

The history of Woodstock is self evident, and it's legacy is one of 'love, peace and harmony'. With the revival, however, one has to question the American 'small town' interpretation of this.

The South African group of musicians - David Marks & The Hidden Years Band, had been invited and came to USA specifically for the Woodstock/Bethal revival, and had no prior knowledge of the local political 'log-jam' that was taking place. They were stunned when told that the festival may not happen. After a 10,000 mile journey of 17 hours flying time, this was not what they wanted to hear and they just refused to accept it.

So within the next 24 hours, they set up a meeting with the Zone Commander of the New York State Police, Captain Alan G. Martin, and spoke with the South African Consul General in New York, Sheila Sisulu who in turn enlisted the help and co-operation of the County Attorney Ira Cohen - who then (almost immediately) was arrested for a traffic(?) offence in the town.

What happened after that, no-one is prepared to say, but the show went on.... And 'after saving the day' the South Africans proved their musical worth by a display of ability that blew everyone away.

A well-known local musician was heard to say that - "they sound as good as an American Band" - the response they got from the South Africans is unprintable!!!

Folk star MELANIE was so impressed that she immediately invited David Marks & The Hidden Years Band on stage to join her for a performance of her classic hit "Candles in the Rain", and now there is talk of them joining her for a summer tour, next year.

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