

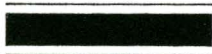
# PEACE, LOVE AND MUSIC

SUMMER OF LOVE



EXAMINER/DARRYL BUSH

**Wavy Gravy leads tricksters at the Summer of Love anniversary celebration in Golden Gate Park Sunday.**



**ROB MORSE**



## Vietnam vets, draft resisters come together 30 years later

**I**T DIDN'T MATTER who was playing. People went to see each other and sit on blankets in mud in the sun. In that way, the 30th anniversary celebration of the Summer of Love was just like the hippie '60s in another part of Golden Gate Park — messy and mellow, with a little help from natural chemical additives.

In all other ways, it showed how far we've come on the long, strange road from 1967. This was an event for Vietnam veterans, as well as flower power vets, because of the presence of a half-size replica of the Vietnam War Memorial wall.

The world changes. In Berlin, the wall came down. In Golden Gate Park, the wall went up.

Nowadays the former troopers and former hippies seem pretty much the same. Even back then they listened to the same music. Some are now close friends.

Vicki Pollack was a Digger in the Haight in the Summer of Love. Diggers used to feed young hippies for free. Howard Slater was in the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam the following year. Now they're neighbors in Bernal Heights with teenage daughters who are pals and go to school together.

Pollack went backstage to work. Slater talked about the wall.

"I know a lot of people on that wall. I was in a bunker with nine of them," he said. His voice broke a little. "It's hard to breathe every so often."

Hippies and vets mingled in the meadow all  
[ See MORSE, A-16 ]

**Anniversary concert offers something for all [ B-1 ]**

HAIGHT ASHBOURY VI

S. F. EXAMINER 10-13-97 P. A1

◆ MORSE from A-1

## 2 worlds converge 30 years after

through the day. The question "Were you there?" was asked many times, and "there" meant both the Summer of Love and Vietnam.

For two very eerie minutes, sitar music from the stage mingled with the sound of taps being played by someone in the woods behind the wall.

**Thirty years ago**, kids with long hair and kids with military buzz cuts despised each other.

"They were on different sides of a very steep peak," former draft resister David Harris said after he gave a speech about how we shouldn't forget what the American government did in Vietnam.

Dean Echenberg was a doctor in Vietnam who came home just in time to catch the tail end of hippiedom in the Bay Area, the deadly rock concert at Altamont.

Echenberg remembers many bad things about the war, including what the Vietnamese communists did in Hue. On orders from the top, they systematically executed thousands of people.

As a doctor, he saw the reports. He knew the North Vietnamese were not the heroes some American radicals thought they were.

"But everybody at that time had a banner," he said. "Nobody could deal with ambiguities."

Echenberg, who used to be head of disease control in San Francisco said, "There are a lot of dead people I know here." He wasn't just talking about the names on the wall.

The war and the '60s taught him life is to be lived. Last year he was director of Project Hope in the Balkans.

**Country Joe McDonald** and the veterans group Swords to Plowshares brought the wall from Waukegan, Ill. Starting Monday it'll be in Justin Herman Plaza for a week.

At sunrise Sunday, people were already arriving to lay flowers, candy and other mementos at the wall. Vets and old hippies were reading the names of the 2,687 Americans who died in Vietnam during the Summer of Love.

On the other side of the meadow, musicians were tuning up.



**Moment of reflection** Sunday in Golden Gate Park as a young woman looks at a half-size replica of the Vietnam War Memorial wall.

"Concerts in the '60s were safe zones," McDonald said. "Inside this wall is another safe zone. If we can get the two together, they'll meet in the middle."

Actually, they met all over.

There were a lot of new things at this concert, besides the wall. Flower seniors stood in line with flower child re-enactors at the marijuana cookie booth.

A graying guy wore a baseball shirt for a team called the Users. He found it in a junk store in 1967. "What does 'user' mean?" asked his young son. "Never mind," said the boy's mother.

But the biggest thing for me was that this was the first time the cops ever escorted me *into* a rock concert.

**Early in the morning** I asked Sgt. Bob Del Torre and Officer Lance Bosshard where the Vietnam wall was. They told me to get in the squad car and we drove right up to it. Then we helped each other find friends' names on the wall.

Bosshard was born in the Sum-

mer of Love. He wanted to find a friend of his father. I wanted to find a friend from high school. If you see this wall, replica or not, you have to start looking for names.

There we were, two cops and I, remembering.

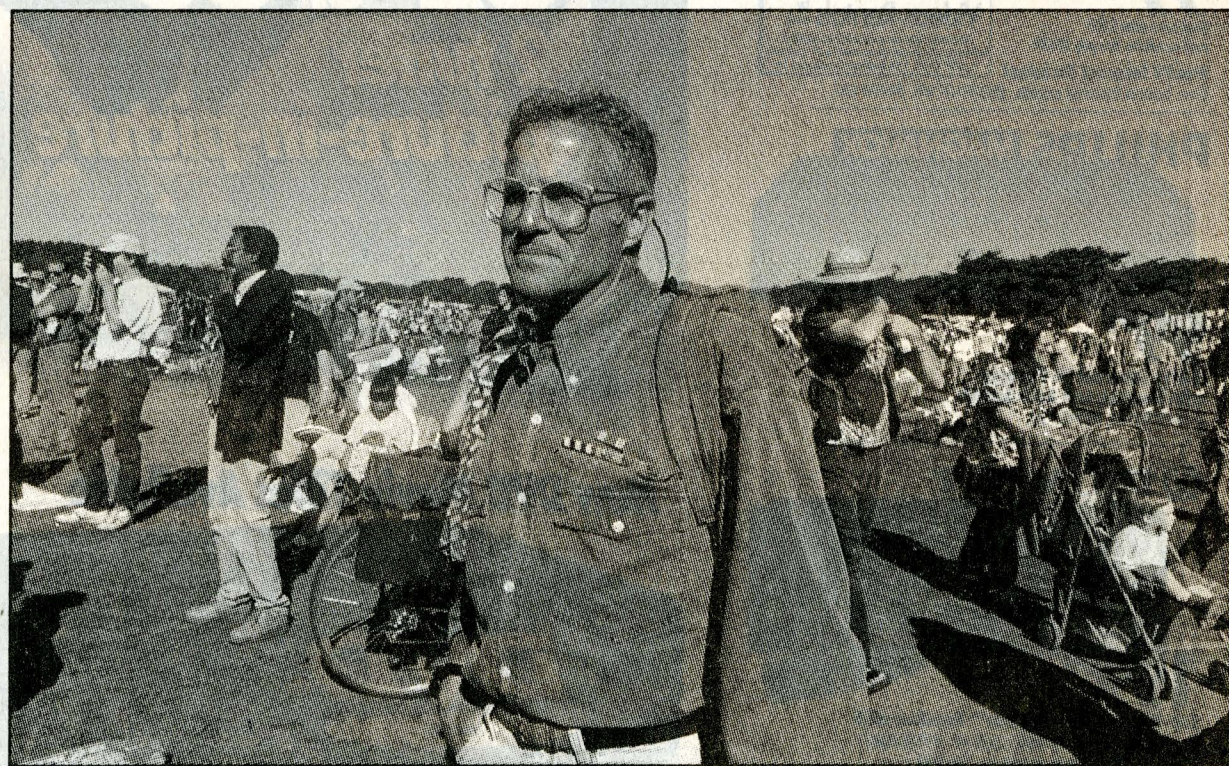
Robbie Robinson, a Vietnam vets leader, suddenly had a terrible memory. Perhaps as many as 90 of the names of people who died during the Summer of Love belonged to men from Bravo Company of the 1st Battalion of the 9th Regiment of the Marines.

The company had been overrun, and only two Marines survived. Robinson arrived in Vietnam just in time to see the bloated bodies of Bravo Company at Graves Registration.

"After that it was called 'the ghost company,'" he said.

Someone quoted a line by a vet named Steve Hasnna: "We are your mothers and fathers, uncles and aunts, and we haven't forgotten a goddamn thing."

Contrary to the tired joke, old hippies haven't forgotten anything



**Vietnam veteran Howard Slater** located names of buddies on the replica of the Vietnam War Memorial wall.

either. It was too intense a time. They shared that time and that

music with those who wore govern- ment green, even if they

EXAMINER PHOTOS BY BOB MCLEOD

66VC