Woodstock is just one of 1969’s amazing events

As the 40th anniversary of the Woodstock rock festival occurs this week, two observations are appropriate. A twenty-year-old, bespectacled I love skimmed through all the events that took place that year and asked, “Dad: How did you ever keep up?”

In addition, Woodstock, 1969 really was history-making. Here are a few events from that year – January: Led Zeppelin releases their first LP. The Beatles give their last public performance (on the roof of Apple Records, where cops stopped the traffic). February: The last issue of the weekly Saturday Evening Post comes out. March: Sirhan Sirhan pleads guilty to killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in a hotel room; later, James Earl Ray pleads guilty to killing Martin Luther King. Apollo 9 – the first of four Apollo missions in 1969 – takes off and returns in a 10-day trip. John Lennon and Yoko Ono marry and five days later have their first “bed-in” for peace. April: CBS cancels Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour; its last show airs in June. Massive anti-war protests are held throughout the United States on the 4th. The Internet is born, with the publication of Steve Crocker’s Reques and Comment #1 about his hosting software. The Chicago 8 plead not guilty on federal charges of conspiring to incite a riot at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago; the trial starts in the fall. Jazz giant Duke Ellington receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom from Richard Nixon. May: The Vietnam War battle known as hamburger Hill lasts from the 11th to the 15th. The Who release their rock opera Tommy. June: Hee Haw debuts on CBS a week after the final Smothers Brothers show. Warren Burger replaces Earl Warren as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. New York City Stonewall riots mark the start of the gay rights movement. July: The Band releases Music from Big Pink. Rolling Stone guitarist Brian Jones drowns in a swimming pool. Human beings land on the Moon. August: Henry Kissinger and North Vietnamese representatives begin secret peace talks, which fail. Charles Manson and his “family” murder seven people on the 9th and two more on the 10th.


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