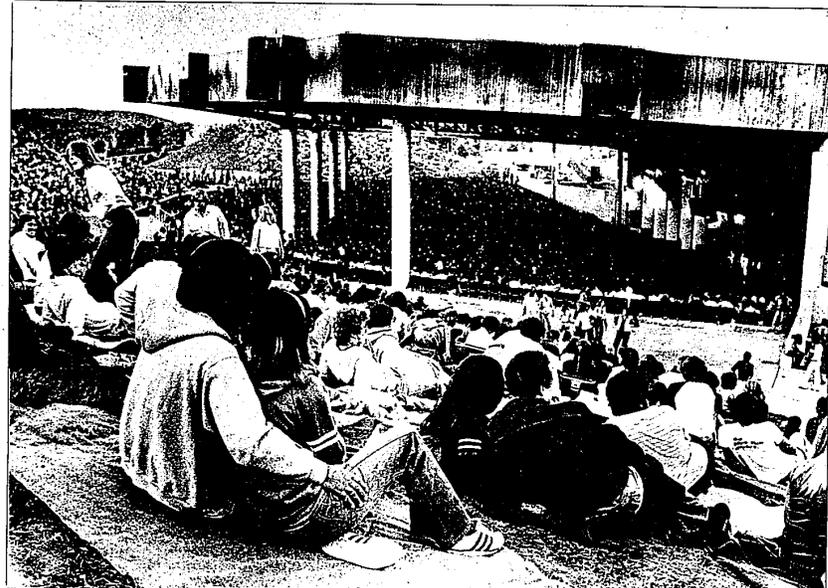




Crosby, Stills and Nash make music at Pine Knob. (Staff photos by Stephen Cantrell)

# Pine Knob rocks with Crosby, Stills and Nash



View from the lawn is of a mighty fine show.

By ERIC MOBEY

It was one year ago that David Crosby, Stephen Stills and Graham Nash kicked off their celebrated reunion tour and everyone questioned how long it would last.

After seeing their opening night concert at Pine Knob on Tuesday, I feel the question is as valid as it was a year ago.

The concert was strikingly similar to last year's performance with the exception of the enthusiasm that surrounded last year's tour.

One notable change from last year was the 1978 model Stephen Stills. His exuberance was running over compared to the laid-back Stills I saw last summer.

Crosby and Nash, who are used to Stills' occasional outbursts, smiled and let him ramble on. They did nothing to sanction his antics but they made no attempt to inhibit Stills' "rock star" acrobatics either.

THE FIRST HALF of the show was the best. They opened with "Pre Road Downs" and followed up with the '60s classic "For What It's Worth." They congratulated each other as they often do and explained that this was their first performance of this song as a group.

The remainder of the first set was dominated by songs from the CSN album. These selections included excellent renditions of "Just a Song Before I Go," "Shadow Captain" and Nash's haunting "Cathedral."

Their timing was near perfect. The vocals were sharp and the harmonies matched well. It seemed to be the per-

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fect foundation on which to build the second half of the show.

Unfortunately, the second set never really materialized. Technical problems forced them to abandon the order of the songs and the momentum of the first set was lost.

They recovered briefly with a version of "Our House" that included audience participation but soon lost it when Stills performed a solo rendition of "Crossroads" and "Black Queen." The audience appeared restless and many found it an ideal time to go to the restroom.

THEY DID manage to pick up the momentum once again with higher energy selections of "Deja Vu" and "Long Time Gone" but it was far too late in the show. Stills' stage theatrics began to wear a little thin at this point as well.

The audience did seem to enjoy the bulk of the show and gave several standing ovations but this was not the Crosby, Stills and Nash of old (or even last year).

I hope CSN will return to the excellence in live music that has earned them the reputation as one of the best rock bands of all time.

They proved themselves last year with the CSN reunion album and a successful tour but people still ask how long it will last.



Fans (above and below) relax in their favorite ways.



From one good bottle to another.

