



# Catering to stars is a challenging job

By Cathie Breidenbach  
special writer

**F**OR THE PAST 12 summers, Mary Bonnell has worked as artist relations manager to the entertainers who perform at the Meadow Brook Music Festival.

The job title means Bonnell is the person in charge of making guest artists feel comfortable and fulfilling requests written into their contracts.

She stocks the dressing rooms with the stars' favorite pop or brand of champagne, lines up baby sitters,

searches for earrings, sushi or homemade chicken soup at odd hours, and arranges meals for the 20 to 50 people who travel with each headline entertainer.

After 12 years dealing with the biggest names in show business, she has some dynamite stories to tell about the quirks, charms, and foibles of the stars.

So does Jim Spittle who worked four years as production manager for the Meadow Brook Music Festival and before that as head driver for the artists. As production manager, he oversaw

sound, lighting and staging. Spittle and Bonnell will tell you that Bill Cosby's a warm, homey guy who hung out with his crew watching a boxing match in his dressing room before the show, that Cleo Laine is a lovely lady who not only doesn't put on airs but does all her own ironing and that when Pat Boone goes jogging, his chauffeur drives alongside.

Bonnell says, "There's a story for every one who comes to Meadow Brook. We're at their mercy and they're at ours."

**OVER THE YEARS THE** music festival has suffered its share of missed planes, wrong flights and nail-

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## Credits

**T**HIS SPECIAL section appearing in all 12 Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, commemorating Meadow

Brook Music Festival's 25th anniversary, was coordinated by Marie McGee, special sections editor.

Advertising coordinator was Marsha Stamps. The cover was designed by Ginny Merillat, creative services director.

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Photographer for the section was John Stormzand. Special writers were Cathie Breidenbach and Joan Boram.

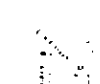
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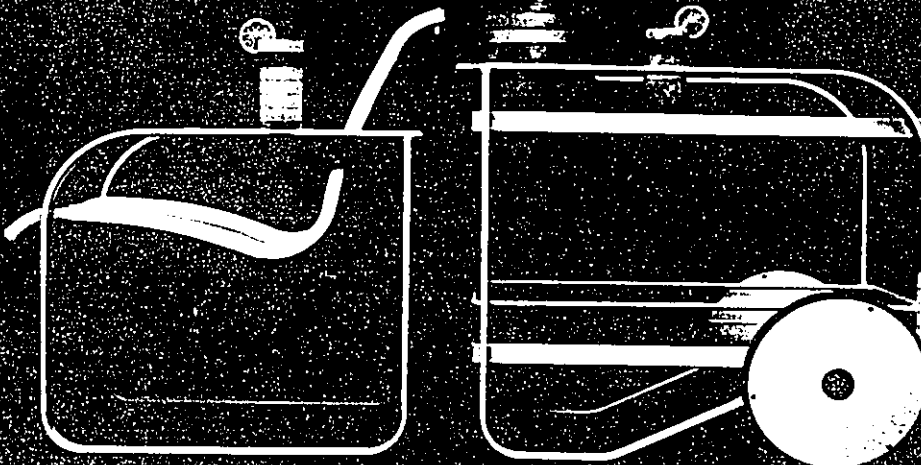


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