

# 75,000 Miss Moon Landing; Rock In Rain to Motown 'Soul' Music

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Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001); Jul 26, 1969; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Philadelphia Tribune

pg. 22

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By ART PETERS

**NEW YORK CITY** — While the eyes of the rest of the world were on the moon landing, more than 75,000 persons in Harlem ignored the lunar spectacle Sunday afternoon and rocked and rolled in the rain to the soulful sounds of some of Motown's biggest stars.

The crowd, one of the largest audiences ever to witness an outdoor concert in Harlem, gathered in huge Mt. Morris Park to see and hear such big name entertainers as Stevie Wonder, David Ruffin, Chuck Jackson, Blinky Williams and Gladys Knight and the Pips.

When handsome David Ruffin sang his hit song, "My Whole World Ended," two dozen policemen had to put their backs to the stage and brace their feet against wooden barricades to hold back the surging crowd of shrieking teenagers.

## CROWD SHOVS BARRIERS

At one point the crowd threatened to break through the barricades crushing photographers and television cameramen

against the rim of the big stage.

The event marked the latest in a series of Sunday afternoon concerts sponsored by the Harlem Cultural Festival Committee, an organization which devotes its efforts to providing wholesome activities and entertainment for ghetto youth.

Stores of youths climbed trees to find vantage points from which to view the show. Tony Lawrence, master of ceremonies, had to halt the show on several occasions, once during which he pleaded with a boy of about 15 to climb down from his perch high atop a portable television tower erected for live coverage of the event.

## GIRLS OVERCOME

Several girls were overcome in the crush and were given first aid at the scene. Outside meanwhile, chaos ensued as police attempted to divert traffic away from the area where an impenetrable traffic jam already existed.

Despite the rain, the traffic, the jostling and the confusion, there wasn't a single incident

of violence as the happy crowd applauded, stamped and cheered for their favorites.

Little Stevie Wonder, the 19-year-old blind singer whose current record, "My Cherie Amour," is near the top of entertainment charts, smilingly distained an umbrella offered by one of his fans and performed bareheaded for more than 40 minutes.

Operating as a one-man band, Stevie played harpsichord, harmonica and drums and sang a half-dozen of his hits, but still failed to satisfy his fans who shouted for more.

## FANS RUSH

### CHUCK JACKSON

Chuck Jackson nearly caused pandemonium as he sang his latest hit, "Are You Lonely." Police, fearing his female fans might pull him bodily from the stage, cautioned him about standing too close to the edge.

Gladys Knight and the Pips, performing their hit tune of two years ago, "I Heard it Through the Grapevine," found that the song is still a favorite among Harlemites. The chant-

ing and shouting of the audience as they sang the song along with the entertainers reverberated throughout the park.

The huge turnout for the Motown concert was remarkable not only because of the rain but because the artists were receiving competition from another big show—perhaps the biggest in history. The outdoor affair, held between 2 and 6 p.m. took place at the same time that Apollo II was setting down on the moon.

New York City officials had erected a mammoth television screen in Times Square for the specific purpose of showing the moon landing and hundreds of thousands of persons descended upon midtown Manhattan to view the lunar spectacle.

Uptown in Harlem, however, the Motown acts proved they take a backseat to no one or nothing, not even the moon landing.

— "25th Anniversary" —