

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

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# Verona Lake Ranch

from

*County and Western Jamboree*

August, 1957

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# Verona Lake Ranch

## 'Makes Music' Headlines

Verona Lake Ranch, five miles west of Walton, Ky.—but “your park” to everyone living in the Greater Cincinnati territory—has launched its second season with a varied program designed to make it America’s “No. 1 Folk Music Park,” says Thurston Moore, owner and veteran promoter of Country Music.

“We had 5,000 people for our formal opening May 5 despite cool weather and we expect big turnouts all season for the special Sunday music shows—as well as weekday fishing and picnic guests,” added the amiable Thurston.

“Our biggest drawing card is Country Music by some of the greatest artists in the land,” he says. For instance, the schedule through July 7 has included:

Jimmie Skinner celebrating his 5th year on WNOP, Cincinnati, and also Thurston’s birthday, with a show also headlining Ray Lunsford; Don Reno and Red Smiley; the Stanley Brothers; Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs with their Foggy Mountain Boys; Ferlin Husky and his Hushpuppies; Lonzo and Oscar; Porter Wagoner; Jim Reeves and his Wagonmasters; Martha Carson; Hank Snow and his Rainbow Ranch Boys. Six of the acts starred during that period were from the *Grand Ole Opry* at Nashville.

Thurston’s beautiful wife, Georgie, emcees the shows and does a hilarious dance routine—including an Hawaiian skirt dance that throws the crowds into a duck-fit.

Schedules call for three shows, rain or shine, on Sunday at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and about 6:30 p.m. A large pavilion has been completed, seating 1,000 under roof in case of rain. Show admission is 75 cents, children under 10 free. Tickets are sold at an office with a buggy on the roof.

Thurston and Georgie send to 10,000 friends the monthly paper, *Verona Lake Ranch News*, written just like a letter to homefolks. It relates the news of the day, carries some advertising, and highlights events to come of interest to folks who visit the park—many coming week-after-week. They come from distant



Jimmie Skinner and Ray Lunsford open the park each year with a special show.

cities, and tourists enroute to the South, the East, the West or North, pause for a grand time.

Many bring picnic lunches—but it’s not necessary. The Moores have spacious refreshment facilities. They also are mighty proud of a new souvenir house, just completed, where a whole host of unusual trinkets and souvenirs are available to the visitors. A pony riding ring awaits the kids.

Fishing’s mighty good in three lakes. Thurston has divided one big lake into two for this season, and built a crossway to save walking around.

He gives away prizes each month to ticket purchasers, often runs a talent contest for local amateurs in most phases of entertainment and has great turnouts.

Georgie has some special help this season with her little sister, Mimi, joining the act as a lovely singer. In the

Ranch Gang are Billy Thomas, star on the banjo and fiddle; Joe Elliott, lead guitar; Inez Hellman; and often Jimmie Skinner and Ray Lunsford from Skinner’s wondrous Music Center in Cincinnati.

Verona Lake Ranch is the scene for many company picnics, and on Aug. 16-17 it will have Kentucky’s first annual fair for the Kentucky Pioneers and Engineers Club. Featured will be old-time steam engines, threshing machines, automobiles and other contraptions of bygone days. Church services will be held Sunday morning for that fair-laden weekend.

Added to all the other attractions at Verona Lake Ranch is a machine that will pop \$75 worth of popcorn in an hour. Mix that with the world’s greatest Country Music and you will have a popping good time.