

Smithsonian Institution Announces July 1 Through 5 Folklife Festival

The Smithsonian Institution announces that its fourth Festival of American Folklife will be held this year from July 1 through 5 on the National Mall in Washington, D. C.

This free celebration drew more than 600,000 people last summer.

As in past years, craftsmen, musicians and dancers representing states from around the nation will demonstrate the living ethnic cultures existing in America.

Performances and exhibits will be put on from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily during the Festival. Concerts will be held nightly on the Mall, except for July 4 when the traditional fireworks display on the Washington Monument grounds will be followed by an Indian powwow on the Festival's main stage.

Arkansas will be the featured state this year. A quarter of the exhibition area will be devoted to craft demonstrators and performers from that state. There will be a mule-drawn sorghum mill, cornshuck and apple-head doll makers, wine-making by Arkansans of Swiss origin, and other interesting activities.

Another quarter of the exhibition area will be devoted to a presentation of the Southern Plains Indian's culture, including craft demonstrations, food preparations, traditional games and athletic events, dancing, singing, drumming, and a nightly powwow.

Among the foods to be sold at the Festival will be barbecued buffalo meat, Indian fried bread,

Arkansas barbecued chicken, and blackberry cobbler prepared Ozark style.

Plans for the celebration were announced by James R. Morris, head of the Smithsonian's Division of Performing Arts, and Ralph Rinzler, Festival Director.

The Folklife Festival has evoked such widespread interest since its inception that Senators J. William Fulbright of Arkansas and Ralph W. Yarborough of Texas have joined to sponsor a Bill (S. 1591) now before the Senate to establish at the Smithsonian a foundation for American folklife research and presentations.

The Festival drew 431,000 as a four-day event in 1968, and 615,000 as a six-day program in 1969. More than 714 people representing most of the 50 states have participated over the three years as exhibitors or performers.