

Suit looms on Nelson festival

By **JERRY DEAL**
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GONZALES — The show will go on despite the fact Gonzales County Commissioners Court refused Wednesday to give Willie Nelson permits to hold a music festival, his lawyers said.

County commissioners voted 4-0 against granting the Country & Western singer two permits to hold his annual Fourth of July picnic and music festival near here.

The court action followed an all-day hearing in which a group called CLODS, meaning Citizens for Law, Order and Decency, presented arguments against the show.

72 hours

Nelson has leased several hundred acres in which to hold a show that is to feature some 72 hours of entertainment.

Estimates of attendance have ranged from 150,000 to 300,000 for the three-day show.

Nelson's picnic last year attracted 105,000 people for a one-day show at Liberty Hill, north of Austin.

"We will appeal the decision to district court," said one of Nelson's lawyers following the hearing.

"There was a lot of pressure on the commissioners, although we are disappointed some said they would not buckle under, but



WILLIE NELSON
show to go on

tatives testified before the commissioners promoters of the event had said all health statutes would be obeyed.

"We are worried about morals and nudity," said the Rev. Mr. Darnall.

"We'll take every step to see this event does not occur."

Earlier, another minister had objected to the festival on the grounds there might be marijuana there.

However, when he was told he could preach before the crowd on a Sunday morning (July 4), he said he would drop his objections.

Stars

Promoters told him his choir would be Nelson, Johnny Cash and June Carter, Kris Kristofferson and Rita Coolidge and many other stars.

Nelson reported from Austin despite the court's decision he would hold another benefit in Gonzales County June 4.

He is scheduled to perform to gain money for a hospital at Moulton near here.

Nelson had no further comment.

Other stars slated to perform include Waylon Jennings, Jessi Colter, Bob Dylan, George Jones and Leon Russell.

did," said Nelson lawyer Richard Mithoff.

Crowd

"We're not going to be critical and we know the Willie Nelson people had been advised to operate within the law.

"We want this thing to be operated within the law." Some 150 people packed the small courtroom for the six-hour hearing.

The Rev. Jimmy Darnall said members of CLODS might seek an injunction to prevent the festival even if permits are secured through appeal.

Nudity

Several county represen-