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4-21-1978

## Come-See-Me Festival Interview

David Vipperman

Phil Pierce

Dennis Parlow

Bob Hope

Charlie McConnell

*See next page for additional authors*

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**Interviewee**

David Vipperman, Phil Pierce, Dennis Parlow, Bob Hope, Charlie McConnell, Vernon Grant, C. H. Albright, and Emmett Jerome

**LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS  
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**Come-See-Me Festival #048**

**COME-SEE-ME FESTIVAL**

Description of interviewee

*Interviewees:* David Vipperman (DV), Phil Pierce (PP), Dennis Partlow (DP), Bob Hope (BH), Charlie McConnell (CM), Vernon Grant (VG), C.W.H. Albright (CHA), Emmett Jerome (EJ)

*Interviewed:* April 21, 1978

*Interviewer:* Jim Patterson (JP) and Bob Weatherly (BW)

*Length:* 00:30:32

**Abstract:** In this April 21, 1978 interview, the origins and history of the Come-See-Me Festival are discussed. Included is an overview of the events for the 1978 event. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

**Keywords:** Come-See-Me Festival, Glen the Frog, WRHI, Rock Hill, cultural event, celebration, Glenn Cairn Gardens, Vernon Grant

**Interview Session (April 21, 1978): Digital File**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Keywords</b>
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00:00:00	<i>Begins with fanfare</i>
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Unknown Announcer: Good evening and welcome to our 1978 special Come See Me program on WRHI. Your host this evening will be Jim Patterson along with 1978 Come See Me chairman, David Vipperman.

**JP: Good evening everyone, on this beautiful Come See Me night, Friday night, as we get ready for a spectacular firework show, a new addition to our Come See Me program. We have a special program here tonight on Come See Me with yours truly, David Vipperman, our Come See Me chairman. How you doing, Dave?**

DV: Couldn't be doing better, Jim, thank you.

**JP: And it's been a beautiful kickoff day for Come See Me weekend.**

DV: I don't think we could have special-ordered it any better than we've had it.

**JP: When I got up this morning I thought, you know, that there's no way you could ask for any better weather. And it's just been, just a great day.**

DV: Well it has, I think, no clouds in the sky, the temperature's a mild and then perfect. I mean, even the recent rain has freshened things up so it's absolutely ideal for Come See Me.

**JP: You know, a lot of people don't realize how many months have gone into a Come See Me weekend. Three days of events and maybe six to eight months of planning. Um, everything seems to be running just super, a lot of great new events that we'll be talking about on this program tonight. We'll also have Bob Weatherby, our news director, along with a number of other chairmen with special interviews on some of their activities. Um, Dave, I thought it might be interesting first to talk about um, your vision of Come See Me for 1978.**

DV: Jim, my vision of Come See Me 1978 goes back to early fall in '77, when I began to think of um, ways that we could expand our activities somewhat to include even broader segments of our community. Um, trying to make an effort to design activities that would appeal to um, to a very broad group of people, to all interest levels, to all age groups, and so my view of Come See Me is a, is a family-oriented weekend full of all sorts of activities that will appeal simply to all of our people and all of our visitors, wherever they may live, wherever they may come from.

**JP: And we have a weekend here that um, I would think would appeal to all age groups, because there's something for everyone this weekend, practically for every day. You know, there's, there, there, it fills all the, there is no voids. Everyone's taken care of on this weekend.**

DV: I think so. If people would take the time to look at the program that we've printed, um, and to um, look at that very closely, they'll find that they can go just about anywhere during the weekend and find some sort of activity, and really use the program to pick and choose. We understand that not everything will appeal to everybody. But that's the purpose of having such an extensive program, is so that people can pick and choose those things that interest them the most.

**JP: You know, there is a special program been published for visitors here to town. Where can they pick one up during the weekend?**

DV: We're going to have a visitor register at the Liberty Bell in the Town Center

Mall. And we're asking all of our out of town guests to register there and posted with that visitor register is a schedule of events, and there, um, was a limited supply, a thousand or two copies, there that um, there may be some left, I hope so. They can pick up a copy there, at least find one posted and make notes of the activities.

**JP: Very good. Okay, now, well Come See Me began with the Glenn Cairn Gardens,**

DV: That is correct.

**JP: the beauty of the gardens, right? And um, we have a special interview now with Bob Weatherby and um Phil Pierce who has handled the activities for the gardens this weekend. So we'll turn it over to Bob now. Be right back.**

**BW: Phil Pierce with the, the activities at Glenn Cairn Garden. Phil, I understand that Glenn Cairn Gardens, this is what is actually is Come See Me in a lot of people's minds.**

PP: A number of years ago Bob, um, Dr. Bigger gave the gardens and his home to the city for the maintenance of them through the years. And because of the amount of effort and time that has been put into the beautiful gardens, over the years it has caused a number of people to come to Rock Hill during the blooming season, and I think it was because of the numbers of people that do come here during this particular time that Come See Me was actually created.

**BW: Now, what kind of activities do we have planned for this year?**

PP: Something new for this year, we have a band concert in the gardens on Sunday afternoon. Doug Echols and Mike Price are working with me in this area, and we have musical groups from two high schools that will be performing. This is not available on Saturday; this is strictly a Sunday afternoon activity. And as we normally do, we will have um, visiting queens from the greater area, some that are involved in school at Winthrop and whatever, serving as hostesses in the gardens, and then also we will have the hostesses from the two high schools that we normally have for the weekend.

**BW: Of course, we have the um, the contestants from the Miss Rock Hill pageant this year.**

PP: Right. We use this as an opportunity each year for our contestants to have their debut, by putting them in the gardens.

**BW: Okay, do you know what the um, hours of the gardens are for this year?**

PP: The gardens open at 9 in the morning, and according to the city they stay open til about 6 in the evening.

00:05:00 Um, I think the best time for an ushered tour through the gardens would be from 11 til about 5.

**JP: Alright, Dave, now Phil just mentioned the doctor in the Glenn Cairn Gardens. Um, I'm sure the visitors and there's probably a number of new people to Rock Hill not aware of how Glenn Cairn Gardens, the history of Glenn Cairn Gardens. Would you like to touch on that subject?**

DV: Just briefly I will. Um, Phil covered a few things there. Of course, Dr. Bigger and his wife owned the gardens and lived there for many years. And um, of course he had a great interest in the plants and all, the flowering shrubs and the Azaleas and all the types of plants. And he cultivated this himself, and about once or twice a year in the spring, he would open the garden up for those that wanted to tour through it. Um, as many of our people in Rock Hill know, Dr. Bigger's died, and soon after his death, our mayor at that time, Mr. John Harden, approached Mrs. Bigger about the city purchasing those gardens as a living memorial to Dr. Bigger. And Mrs. Bigger was very, very excited about that, as I am told, and agreed to um, sell the gardens at a certain amount to the city and um, as a result, it has been a living memorial to him, because he founded it as his private garden. Of course, since the city has come into ownership of the gardens, Jim, the garden has been expanded. There are a good many houses along Edgemont Avenue over there that have been purchased by the city and the garden is gradually growing, and someday will encompass probably a greater area than it does right now.

**JP: We um, I won't even try to begin to describe the beauty of Glenn Cairn right now, just gorgeous. It must be right at the peak. Would that be a [chuckles] fair statement?**

DV: Well it, that's an extremely fair statement and a very accurate statement; it is beautiful. I had the privilege of being by there yesterday and again today. You just simply can't describe it. For the first time in years, um, the Azaleas, the dogwoods, the tulips are all blooming at the same time. And it's really, to use sort of a trite expression, I suppose, a real fairyland of color and beauty there that you just have go and experience to appreciate. And I think if folks would take the time to go by, they'll find that they'll linger even longer because of the sights that you

will see there right now.

**JP: It's a beautiful display. For those of you who are from out of town and maybe not as familiar with town, if you use Cherry Road as a focus point and come down Charlotte Avenue, you'll run right into the gardens. Um, you'll find [laughing] all the cars that are right there.**

DV: You can't miss it; I'm sure there'll be a crowd.

**JP: Right. Okay, another new event coming up this year is the spectacular fireworks show that um, we'll be leading into coming up in about um, 25 to 20 minutes here. Um, and we have a special report on that. There's been a lot of work done on the fireworks display this year and um, with that is Bob Weatherby and Chairman Dennis Partlow.**

**BW: Dennis Parlow, working with the fireworks display Friday night to kick off, one of the events kicking off Come See Me this year. Dennis, tell us about what we'll be seeing for the fireworks display.**

DP: Well, I'm looking forward to a big show, I hope, I hope that a lot of people will come out. It will be an entirely aerial show; the bombs will be bursting at approximately 250 to 300 feet. There'll be 90 shells 12, 15, and 18 inch shells. These are not the little things that you buy at your local store; these are very large. We shoot them out of a steel mortar, um, there'll be 3 and 5 break shells in there, some 7 break shells were you'll see 7 different designs come out at one time. And you'll see a lot of other, floral, star breaks, and there'll be a lot of other loud noises come out, Bob.

**BW: Okay, now, do you um, do you make these fireworks yourselves or do you buy them?**

DP: No, they're, they're bought from um, out of Newcastle, Pennsylvania, from Vitale Fireworks Company there; they've been in business for a long time in Newcastle, Pennsylvania, and they're shipped to us prior to the shooting.

**BW: Okay, well since they're going off so high in the air, where do you advise people to um, to watch this from?**

DP: Well a lot of people like to get up close and see what's going on, but that's not the best place to see fireworks. You need to be back; we recommend that the short, we will be in the area in front of the new post office on Wilson Street, so we advise everybody to be back in the City Hall parking lot, the parking deck, and

the one behind the old Freedom Building, back in there. You're going to be able to see it from a long way's off and down Dave Lyle Boulevard, so there should be good parking and give people plenty of room to congregate to see the fireworks.

**JP: Alright, thank you, Bob and Dennis. We're um, waiting expectantly for a great show coming up here very shortly. Here in Uptown Rock Hill, if you're in the area and you hadn't planned on coming to the fireworks display, just come into downtown Rock Hill anywhere in the uptown area and come out on the parking deck here where we are right now. And bring some lounge chairs if you like, get comfortable, and watch this spectacular display. It should be about um, 25 minutes worth of fireworks, right? Be one of the biggest displays in Rock Hill ever.**

DV: Right, I think the biggest ever here.

**JP: Yeah. Great. Okay.**

**00:10:00 How do we come about having a fireworks show here? Because this is a new event.**

DV: Well that's a question that I've really looked forward to answering for this reason, Jim. Um, in the past, we've never had a kickoff for Come See Me that involved thousands of people. We have, of course, the Mayor's Tour, which is always a very successful and a very enjoyable event, but due to the fact that it's conducted in the morning when the school, um, schools are in session and people are at work, a limited number of people can be involved in that. And so the idea this year with the fireworks was this, that we could have a show that would appeal to simply everybody and that um, would be conducted at an hour when simply almost everybody could attend. And it would be our way of saying to thousands and thousands of people that Come See Me is here. The festival has started, and it is a festive sort of thing, the type of thing that folks have seen down at Disney World and it's a, it's a beautiful thing, and it's a nice thing that appeals to the young and to the old and to the everybody. So this, this is the reason it was planned this year.

**JP: I think it, I think it's a great addition to Come See Me cause it is something for everyone. Um, I know there's been some comments about Come See Me began as a cultural event.**

DV: Correct.

**JP: And I think it definitely is a cultural event but has expanded to even**



**greater bounds now.**

DV: Sure um, it involves um, culture. Arts, all the arts are involved, but now as you know, with the marathon coming up tomorrow, and we will be hearing a little about that, it involves sports. And it involves other things that are festive in nature and enjoyable for families to participate in.

**JP: As we said when we began, Come See Me is for everyone, and that's definitely true this weekend.**

DV: Exactly.

**JP: Right. A citywide event, and you were talking about the marathon race and um, we have a special report on that with Bob Hope at the YMCA and Bob Weatherby on the marathon race.**

**BW: We've got Bob Hope in charge of the mini-marathon during Come See Me this year. Bob, tell us a little bit about the um, the background, how you developed the mini-marathon for this year's Come See Me.**

BH: Well, we um, decided several years ago that um, we needed some physical aspect of Come See Me and it just dawned on me that road races were getting to be quite popular throughout the state, that we needed a road race for Come See Me. So we designed ours and called it "Come See Me Road Race."

**BW: Is this in cooperation with anybody else here in the state and in the city?**

BH: Yes. We are, we are working with the Rock Hill Parks and Recreation Department and um, the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness. The three of um, of the function agents on this road race.

**BW: Okay. Now, when it is going to be held and what is the route going to be through the city of Rock Hill?**

BH: Well, it'd be on Saturday morning um, April the 15<sup>th</sup>, and all the races will be starting at the same time, 10 o'clock. Um, there'll be a mini-marathon, 13.1 miles, a 10,000 meter, or 6.2 miles, and a 2-mile fun run. The route will um, will all start at Dinkins Student Center and go um, out by the Winthrop College Farm and back towards town towards Glenn Cairn Gardens and downtown to City Hall, where the 10,000 meter and the mini-marathon split. The mini-marathon will continue on down toward, towards North Confederate and return on Dave Lyle Boulevard and wind its way back, wind its way back to the campus. All races will end at the,

at the Dinkins Student Center also, Bob.

**BW: And about how many people are you expecting for the races?**

BH: We really don't know, this being our first event, but um, from the demand of applications for entry into the race, it looks to me to be 250, 300 people.

**JP: Okay, thank you Bob and Bob on the special report on the marathon race. That'll be a lot of fun, a lot of, that'll bring a lot of new people into town tomorrow morning, you know, Dave.**

DV: I think we've got a couple hundred registered from out of town, or close to it.

**JP: Right. And I, and I expect there will probably be some last-minute registers too and I don't know exactly how that goes, but I'm sure everybody can run if they'd like to. Um, you have some special events that we don't have interviews on tonight, Dave. Do you want to touch on some of those new events that are coming up?**

DV: Well I will very briefly. Of course um, many of our activities this year are centered around the Town Center Mall. For the very, um, simple purpose that our Town Center Mall is unique in all of the country, I understand, the first main street that's been air-conditioned and of course, with the beauty of the landscaping down here now, we wanted to show that off to our out of town visitors. In addition to that, if offered a nice sheltered area for some of the things that require protection even if it rains or not, like many of the fine arts shows that are down here, the photography shows, and this sort of thing, in addition to the static type of displays, Jim, that we will have in the Town Center Mall, and we want everybody to be a part of. We have a lot of live performances. We have classical guitarists, vocalists, um, a chorale society presenting selections from *Oklahoma!*

00:15:00 Um, we have a fashion show for um, given by the Designers Limited Organization here, we have um, some other bands and a, some gospel singing down here. So in addition to all the static things, we have many live performances to take place beginning tomorrow morning at 9:30.

**JP: Right.**

DV: And going through about 2 o'clock.

**JP: There's a number of soloists too.**

DV: Yeah. A number of soloists.

**JP: Yes.**

DV: And possibly, I should mention this. Tomorrow afternoon we have a country-western band that will be playing for 3 hours and a local young man, Jeffery Lewis, who's a ventriloquist. And everybody ought to take the time to hear him because he's a very entertaining young man.

**JP: Yeah, I've heard him; he's very good, puts on quite a show. He really does. On Sunday, you have a special new event coming up, and that's your blanket concert at Glenn Cairn.**

DV: Right. This is a nice thing that I, I think everyone will enjoy. Many people can remember days of old when um, bands used to pick up and play in a gazebo in a park someplace and there was no formal performance but just pleasant music on a Sunday afternoon. And that's the idea of this blanket band concert. We have a number of jazz ensembles, young people's ensembles from the schools in Rock Hill who are playing from about 2 Sunday afternoon til about 5. No special performance, so people can feel free to come and listen a while and stroll through the gardens and even come back if they want to.

**JP: Yeah, we have our blankets ready at home. We're planning to have a good time at the gardens Sunday.**

DV: Good, see you there.

**JP: [Laughs] Great. Alright, you have another new event that we have a short special interview with, that's with Charles McConnell with Bob Weatherby, on the *Best Friend of Charleston* that will be here tomorrow. Here's Bob.**

**BW: We're talking to Charlie McConnell, who was the coordinator of the *Best Friend of Charleston* that will be appearing in Rock Hill during Come See Me weekend. Charlie, if you could, give us a little bit of the background of the locomotive.**

CM: Bob, this is the first steam locomotive that was ever put on a track in the United States.

[Transcriber's note: This is not true; the *Tom Thumb* locomotive for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was the first steam locomotive to run in the US. The *Best Friend of Charleston* was, however, the first steam locomotive to have a boiler

explosion in the US.]

It was formed as the South Carolina Canal and Railroad Company back in 1830 right here in this state, down around Charleston. It's now part of the Southern Railway System. This um, exact replica of the steam locomotive will be here in Rock Hill Saturday, and it will pull two cars, I think, that will hold about 20 people each.

**BW: Okay, where will it be and when can you ride on it in Rock Hill?**

CM: Okay, Bob, we'll be loading from 12 noon on Saturday til 4 PM at the parking lot behind the *Rock Hill Evening Harold*. We will enter from Wide Street.

**BW: Okay, and what times can you ride on it?**

CM: Any time between 12 and 4; it's free for anyone who wants to ride. Be a relatively short ride, but it still will be enjoyable.

**JP: Alright, Dave, and now we have special guests. We were just talking about the *Best Friend of Charleston* with Charles McConnell and our news director, Bob Weatherby. In the meantime our special guests have arrived, Vernon Grant and C.H. Albright, and we're going to spend a few minutes talking about Come See Me as it was first conceived. Dave, you want to go from there? This was kind of your idea, as a matter of fact, and I think a good one.**

DV: Well I, I thought it would be interesting to clear it with the thousands of people that are obviously listing, listening tonight as something of a history and how this thing came about. And so these two gentlemen, it was their idea, their conception, and um, we want them to talk to us a little bit about it, and it dates back to 1962, about 16 years ago.

**JP: Great, okay. Who would like to start then?**

VG: I'd like to start it. 16 years ago, one Sunday afternoon, C.H. Albright, and we affectionately call him "Icky," Icky Albright and I were walking in the Glenn Cairn Gardens. And Icky says, "You know what we ought to do, Vernon?" He said, "Our town is so pretty this time of year. We ought to make a point to invite out of town friends and relatives to come see us as houseguests during the pretty season of the garden." Well it sort of passed then, and I said, "Look Icky, that's a terrific idea. And um, we can do something with that." So the next morning, Monday morning, I'd call him up, and I said, "Icky, come up," I was around the Chamber of Commerce. I said, "Icky, come up, and let's talk about that weekend, inviting out of town friends into our home so they can see our town at its best."

And I said, "Would you be interested in being the first chairman of such an event?" And, um, well, he said he was interested, and um, so he came over and we kicked it around, and we sort of thought a form and a policy, just the two of us, what kind of weekend it would be and what's the basic idea of it and so forth. So, we presented to the Board of Directors of Chamber of Commerce. And I think, Icky, you, you came to the Board of Directors meeting and presented it, didn't you?

00:20:00 CHA: I believe that's correct. At my age it's kind of hard to remember what you did.

VG: Oh yeah.

[All laughing]

VG: You haven't forgotten a thing. Well anyway. The Board of Directors listened and they kind of "Mmhm," "Yeah," "Mmhm," and of course at the end of the presentation, the usual question, "What will it cost?" And um, we hadn't figured any cost. And as far as we could tell, it wouldn't cost anything. And so they sort of gave us the nod, and we turned Icky loose. And he got the idea, and rightly so, to involve people. So Icky, you take it from there. Can, can you kind of tell us or remind us again of the organization that you had that first year? And um, how you went about it.

CHA: Well I always think, Vernon, the seed for the whole thing was planted in and around that time. I think 10 years before that, in 1952, we had the Rock Hill centennial; celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. And we had um, I believe it was 6 parades here at the time, and I believe that watching those parades and the magnitude of people we had in here for it kind of gave me, kind of the idea in my mind, and later of course we talked about it and went from there. Um, the whole idea was to get people into our homes, out of town guests, to come in and show them the beauty of the town, also the warmth of our fellowship and so forth towards other people. And it um, it turned out to be a great success, I think, and one that I'm proud of. Along and share that proud with Vernon. I kind of want to let the cat out of the bag a little bit on one thing that's been kept best secret in Rock Hill for many years. Vernon tells the story a traveling man came in here and said "we'll looking for a name." I think that's the first time it's ever been told. "Looking for a name for this extravaganza we're gonna have once a year." And he was telling him all about it and this traveling man supposedly said to Vernon when he was Chamber of Commerce, "Why don't you jus," no, he left him, and went back and got on the telephone as he was going to Charlotte and called Vernon up and said, "Vernon, you know what you said a while ago was the best name for your, for your event, which would be 'Come see me.' You mentioned

something about ‘come see me.’” He said, “That’s the best thing you can get.” So the traveling man, Vernon said, named that. But I said let the cat out of the bag, probably, Vernon, I should let Glenn the frog out of the box, maybe.

[All laugh]

CHA: I think the man that called from the telephone supposedly was in Vernon’s mind and not on the telephone. I think this is the man, sitting here, that gave Rock Hill the “Come See Me” name. He gives somebody else credit for it. That’s the first time that’s been told; he’s been telling every year about this fellow called him up, but I think that the fella that really got the idea for “Come See Me” is sitting right here next to me.

VG: It fits, Icky. We go to conventions and we go to meetings, out of town business meetings, and we say “Come see me.” And we meet people and we say, “Come see me.” But we never set a date, a specific period of the season. And um, so this, when we’re, we’ve got our best duds on, and we’re dressed up, our city’s dressed up, then now we can say “Come see me about the middle of April for the Come See Me weekend.” So I, I think that the, that the, and part of the problem is we never did officially name it. We just began to talk about Come See Me Weekend and we began to put it in the,

CHA: Had a contest to try to name it,

VG: Yeah,

CHA: All these names came in, but none that fit as well as Come See Me.

VG: A number of people called it “God’s Beauty Acre” and um, “Paradise” and all the corny names that you could think of, but somehow or other we couldn’t erase that “Come See Me” from our minds. And um, the um, radio stations picked it up, and the press picked it up, and the first thing you know, it just was named “Come See Me” and um. I think, I think it’s a good name.

CHA: Yeah, I do too. I want to pay tribute too to Dave Vipperman and um, all the chairmen that come along here since that time. Dave’s done a splendid job, all of you, just really makes you feel good.

VG: Well it’s just unbelievable, unbelievable how people respond to it. Um, in the early days, we had to kindly explain what it was all about. And Icky was a terrific first-year chairman. And I remember we met up in the hotel, up in the dining room. And we would kick it around and “I’m, I’m in charge of so-and-so, but what’s my job?” I think now, people begin to realize that when you ask them if

they'll take, um,

00:25:00 such a committee, they know pretty well what it is, and I think probably um, everybody wants to get in the act.

**JP: [Laughing] Right.**

VG: Dave, when you formed this year's committee, did you have any trouble getting chairmen and getting cooperation?

DV: None at all. Out of everybody I asked, everybody agreed wholeheartedly to take the responsibility.

**JP: And I think they've put together a super weekend for this coming weekend. Vernon, I wanted to ask, when did Glenn the Frog come along? Did he begin Come See Me or?**

VG: Well, he came to my office,

[All laugh]

VG: and he said, "I'm all carried away with this thing." He said, "I'd like a part in it." And I said, "Well, how do you qualify?" "Well," he said, "I represent spring." And he said, "I haven't got an enemy in the world, and I'm good-natured, and I sing." And I said, "Well, I'm looking for a model. And how about you taking the model stand and um, let me draw you as a symbol of Come See Me?" And he said, "Wonderful." So that's the way it came about and every year he shows up ain't long about September, and he says, "I'm ready now to pose for next year's Come See Me poster." And um, he does his job.

CHA: And you know, um, people in television have followed you on that. I saw last night, the Muppets on that,

[All laugh]

**JP: Gentlemen, we have about one more minute. Is there anything that you would add that has occurred through the years with Come See Me or any way you'd wrap up Come See Me in a minute's phrase?**

VG: Well Dave, I think maybe you, you're the wheel this year. Why don't you invite people to Come See Me?

DV: I think the best way I can end that Vernon, is just simply to say “Come see me. We do have our best duds on and we’re ready. We’re ready for you and we offer you our most hospitable weekend. Please come see us.”

**JP: That you very much, gentlemen. That’s Vernon Grand and C.H. Albright, Dave and I will be back in a moment, right now we have a special address from the mayor. Mayor’s Welcome to Rock Hill for Come See Me Weekend. So here’s Mayor Emmett Jerome.**

EJ: I am pleased to welcome you to Come See Me ’78. It is a great honor to greet all our out of town visitors and to encourage our own people to participate in as many of the planned activities as possible. These activities are presented by the people of Rock Hill. 24 committees involving almost 200 people have volunteered their time and effort to arrange these congenial and enjoyable events. I especially want to encourage you to spend time in our famous Glenn Cairn Gardens. I also suggest that you visit as many of the private gardens as possible. At Come See Me, you can see to be perfectly coordinated with the blooming of the dogwoods and azaleas this year. Your weekend wouldn’t be complete without seeing them. Come See Me is our way of saying we are proud of Rock Hill. I hope that it will be both a playable and malleable experience for you. Again, may I say, welcome to Rock Hill.

**JP: Thank you, Mayor. Mayor J. Emmett Jerome. We appreciate you being with us on the program for the welcome to Rock Hill for all the visitors and for everyone’s enjoyment for Come See Me. Now it’s David Vipperman and myself, we are getting ready to close as we get ready to go into the fireworks show. Is there anything you’d like to add now about Come See Me before we go into our song, which is the kickoff to our fireworks display?**

DV: Only this, that I hope our people enjoy themselves, I hope it is a pleasurable weekend for them, and I hope that all of our visitors will take time to see the whole city, particularly the gardens, and attend as many of the activities as possible and just enjoy yourselves and relax. It’s a beautiful weekend. And um, it should be beautiful throughout the weekend and we thank you for coming and participating.

**JP: Alright, thank you. David Vipperman, chairman of Come See Me and Dave, I’m sure I’m not the first, but I’d like to be one of those to congratulate you, and thank you for doing such a superb job and seeing to it that Come See Me’s going to be such an event that it’s going to be this year.**

DV: Thank you.



**JP: And thank you for being with us tonight on our special pre-show.**

DV: It's my pleasure.

**JP: Right, okay. Now here's our Come See Me song and fireworks will follow, and then that of course will follow with our special fireworks music.**

[Come See Me song begins at 29:23]

00:30:32 *End of interview*