

On September 2, 1977, on this very spot,

THE BEACH BOYS

performed for the largest concert audience EVER assembled in the history of Rhode Island, a record that has never been broken. Over 40,000 fans gathered to watch their performance at the Narragansett Park Race Track here in Pawtucket, RI, essentially increasing the population of the city by 50% for one day.

The band included founding members Brian Wilson, Carl Wilson, Dennis Wilson, Mike Love and Al Jardine, along with their backing musicians Charles Lloyd, Ed Carter, Billy Hinsche, Bobby Figueroa, Carli Munoz, Elmo Peeler, and their horn section, Tornado. British hit-maker Leo Sayer served as opening act for the show. The concert also had the distinction of being the largest payday for The Beach Boys in their career up until that point.

The band played selections in support of their new album, 'The Beach Boys Love You,' and the concert took place two weeks before the release of Dennis Wilson's acclaimed album, 'Pacific Ocean Blue.'

In addition to being the location of the biggest musical audience in the state's history, this spot is also notable for having hosted the largest gathering ever for a sporting event in Rhode Island, on Labor Day 1934. This continued the tradition of many historical moments on this site, including the launch of the legendary champion Seabiscuit's career.

Amazing how this one mile-long oval race track, which held over 40,000 music fans in its center, being surrounded by years and years of sheer power of some of the world's fastest championship thoroughbred horses of a by-gone era, racing, circling what would become the concert site, absolutely contributed to the incredible energy of the The Beach Boys' fans on that historic summer day.

The record-breaking concert that took place on September 2, 1977 was a truly crowning moment in Rhode Island Musical History, especially since it happened with "America's Band" in the birthplace of our nation.

Commemoration Chairs:

Al Gomes

Connie Watrous

Mayor Donald R. Grebien

