

THE PLAIN DEALER, THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1986

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Rock anniversary ballooning on Public Square

Traffic in front of the Terminal Tower around the southwest quadrant of Public Square will be blocked off tomorrow noon as Cleveland kicks off its celebration of the 34th anniversary of the world's first rock concert, the Growth Association announced yesterday. No major thoroughfare will be blocked.

Rep. Mary Rose Oakar, D-20 of Cleveland, will join Gov. Richard Celeste, and other state and city officials in unveiling a plaque to commemorate the birth of rock here at the Arena and Hall of Fame inductee Alan Freed's contributions to the event. The Growth Association hopes to place the plaque on Playhouse Square.

"We also will bring out a very large cake, release balloons and have some live music and more than 10,000 rock 'n' roll stickers to give out," said K. Michael Benz, executive vice president of the Growth Association, at a news conference yesterday.

The balloons, sponsored by WQAL-FM/104.1, will be nothing like the great balloon ascension on Public Square on July 4, 1875. That one wound up in Ravenna. But folks then didn't have 2,500 balloons accompan-

ied by the Wild Horses rock group playing Elvis Presley's "Hound Dog" song.

Fifteen clubs have been added to the celebration roster, bringing to 31 the known parties planned, Benz said. The new entries range from "A Salute to Cleveland" trivia contest at Charade's in Berea to a sock hop at Spanky's in Painesville, sponsored by Pierre's French Ice Cream.

"In most cases these celebrations

are rock 'n' roll birthday parties, not concerts," Benz said.

The headliners at the Palace Theater — Chubby Checker and Robert Tepper — will be spinning records, *not* performing, co-sponsor WEWS Channel 5 has said. Checker *will* perform at 10 p.m. and midnight at Maxwell's, 733 St. Clair Ave.

No news on the site decision for the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, Benz added. "I understand that the foundation committee will review Chicago's proposal this week, but I'm not ruling out other cites."

Funds given to the Growth Association's drive for the Hall of Fame are being audited, Benz said. "If there are any remaining monies, I will ask each donor what he wishes to have done with the money and return it him if he wishes," Benz said.

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Due to a scheduling problem, Michael Stanley will not appear at the Palace Theater tomorrow night, as previously reported, as part of the city-wide celebration of the 34th anniversary of Alan Freed's Moon Dog Coronation Ball II.