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Peter Noone and Herman's Hermits wow audience

By **JIM CLARK**

jclark@citizen.com

LACONIA — Peter Noone of Herman's Hermits had the audience in the palm of his hand on Friday night at the Laconia Middle School gymnasium. The performance was truly a trip down memory lane and enjoyed by everyone who attended.

On Thursday, Sept. 15, over two thousand supporters packed the Laconia Middle School gymnasium to hear a speech by Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. Eight nights later only a somewhat fewer number turned out at the gym to witness a performance by Noone, a beloved 1960s pop idol.

It's hard to say whether Trump or

HERMITS

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Noone has the most devoted followers.

Noone showed a sharp sense of humor and consummate showmanship in his Laconia performance, exchanging good-natured banter and jokes with the audience throughout the evening.

In the heyday of the Herman's Hermit's popularity in the mid-1960s, many if not most of the group's fans were teenage girls, roughly between the ages of 13 and 18. Those girl fans of more than 50 years ago are now in their mid to late 60s. The overwhelming number of fans who turned out for Friday night's performance were women in this age group, many of them accompanied by their husbands. All of them have their favorite Herman's Hermits song.

Noone began the show with Herman's Hermit's biggest hit, "I'm Into Something Good," and fol-

lowed it up with all of the group's hits of the 1960s, as well as old pop and rock chestnuts including "What a Wonderful World," "Love Potion #9," "Daydream Believer" by The Monkees; Frankie Ford's "Sea Cruise," and "I'm Telling You Now" by Freddie and the Dreamers.

Noone told the audience in mock seriousness, "When we were very young boys in Manchester (England), we always dreamed...of one day coming... to the middle school in Laconia!" The remark produced a huge burst of laughter. Noone also referred to Dunkin Donuts and Starbucks in Gilford, the Tanger Outlet Mall in Tilton, and he mangled the pronunciation of Lake Winnepesaukee. He also spoke humorously of the difficulty of getting from Boston to Laconia. His fans ate it up.

At one point he went out into the audience. One fan provided him with a Herman's Hermits album cover from the 1960's. Noone told the younger members in the audience "this was what CDs used to

look like." He also mentioned in jest that cassette tapes and eight-track tapes of Herman's Hermits recordings would be for sale in the middle school lobby. Actually, CDs and T-shirts were available for sale in the lobby.

While in the audience Noone suddenly broke out into a rendition of Johnny Cash's "Ring of Fire" to great laughter.

The performance by Noone and Herman's Hermits was made possible by the Putnam Fund, bequeathed by the Putnam Family in order to fund lectures and entertainment in Laconia. The trust contains over \$1 million for this purpose.

For a couple of hours, Herman's Hermits fans were transported to their youth of 50 years ago, and indulged in a nostalgic reverie made possible by an engaging entertainer who is fondly remembered. For those who attended the concert and saw Peter Noone in person, the evening will be remembered for a long time to come.



JIM CLARK/CITIZEN

PETER NOONE AND HERMAN'S HERMITS entertained a full house of devoted fans at the Laconia Middle School on Friday night.

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