

SHOWCASE

ANTELOPE VALLEY PRESS, Aug. 28, 1987

- Space exhibit 7
- L.A. Festival line up 14

Arts • Entertainment • Travel • Dining

Antelope Valley Press, Friday, August 28, 1987

ROCK

Diddley saw no green for Chess blues

be able to relate to, black, white or green or whatever color you are.

"Everybody tries to say that blues music is downer music. It's not downer music," said Diddley in a phone interview from his home in Florida. "It's when something has happened to you. 'It's like looking in your Frig-

idaire and there ain't nothing in there to eat. That can give you the blues. Some snatch man snatch your car. That could give you the blues. It's reality."

Diddley will be one of the performers in Wolfman Jack's "Legends of Rock'n'Roll" show, set for Monday night at the Antelope Valley Fair's grandstand. Other performers include the Coasters,

Freddie Cannon, the Shirelles and the Drifters.

The guitarist, whose career spans more than 30 years, has originated a sound "borrowed" by rock musicians who followed him. Groups such as the Animals, the Rolling Stones, the Yardbirds and the Doors have covered songs such as "Bo Diddley," "Mona" and "I'm a Man." And because he's one of the fathers of rock, he's sometimes asked to appear in movies, as he does in "La Bamba," in which he performs his song, "Who Do You Love?"

Yet Diddley (ne Ellas Bates) maintains he's never seen the money from many of his early Chess recordings.

"I haven't seen any money for anything" before selling his songs to Art Music, said Diddley. "There's a check for sales that I haven't seen in 17 years.

"And I'm still crying that hard-luck story that is a true story."

Currently, Diddley is putting together an album on his own Bad Dad Records. But it's not a rehash of past successes. "I'm working on new material that's in the direction of what's going on today."

At his fair performance, Diddley will play songs in a variety of styles. And it doesn't matter to him who else is on the bill.

"It doesn't make any difference to me. They could be church singers, I wouldn't care," he said. "I play some church music, too."

Even today, however, Americans don't appreciate the blues as much as the Europeans, he said. "(Europeans) don't really have that much to listen to, but we have a variety," he said. "And we listen to everything."

Yet roots music is becoming popular again, "because (the popular musicians) ran out. It go so electronic, it got ridiculous," said Diddley.

"They had to come back to reality."

By KARLA TIPTON

Assistant Showcase Editor

Everybody's got the blues.

According to veteran blues guitarist Bo Diddley, "Blues is the music that everybody should