



(Photo by Bill Lovejoy)

Part of Saturday's large crowd enjoys the Fly-In.



(Photo by Bill Lovejoy)

Jimmy Simpson, atop his dad, Bob, has his own aircraft.

Large Fly-In Crowd

Maybe they did it by pouring Geritol in the gas tanks. Some way or another, about 400 pilots have succeeded in coaxing their geriatric airplanes into the air for the trip to Watsonville for the 12th annual Antique Fly-In.

Gil Mello, manager of the sponsoring Watsonville Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, said about 5,000 onlookers had showed up to view the aged aircraft on Friday's opening day, and 10,000 more had come out Saturday.

One of the things they saw was a show by nine aerobatic pilots which will be repeated today.

The San Marcos High School band, chosen to appear at the Disneyland Bicentennial observance, also will be at the airport at 11 a.m. The band will travel to Santa Cruz to appear at the Boardwalk bandstand at 2 p.m.

Among the most popular planes on display, Mello said, is a "beautiful old Jenny," a 1918 WW I army training plane. Another crowd pleaser is a Ford tri-motor from San Jose which was built in the late 1920s.

The Watsonville event is the largest antique fly-in on the West Coast. The show is the second largest in the nation, ranking behind an Oshkosh, Wis., event which features homemade airplanes, rather than antique ones.