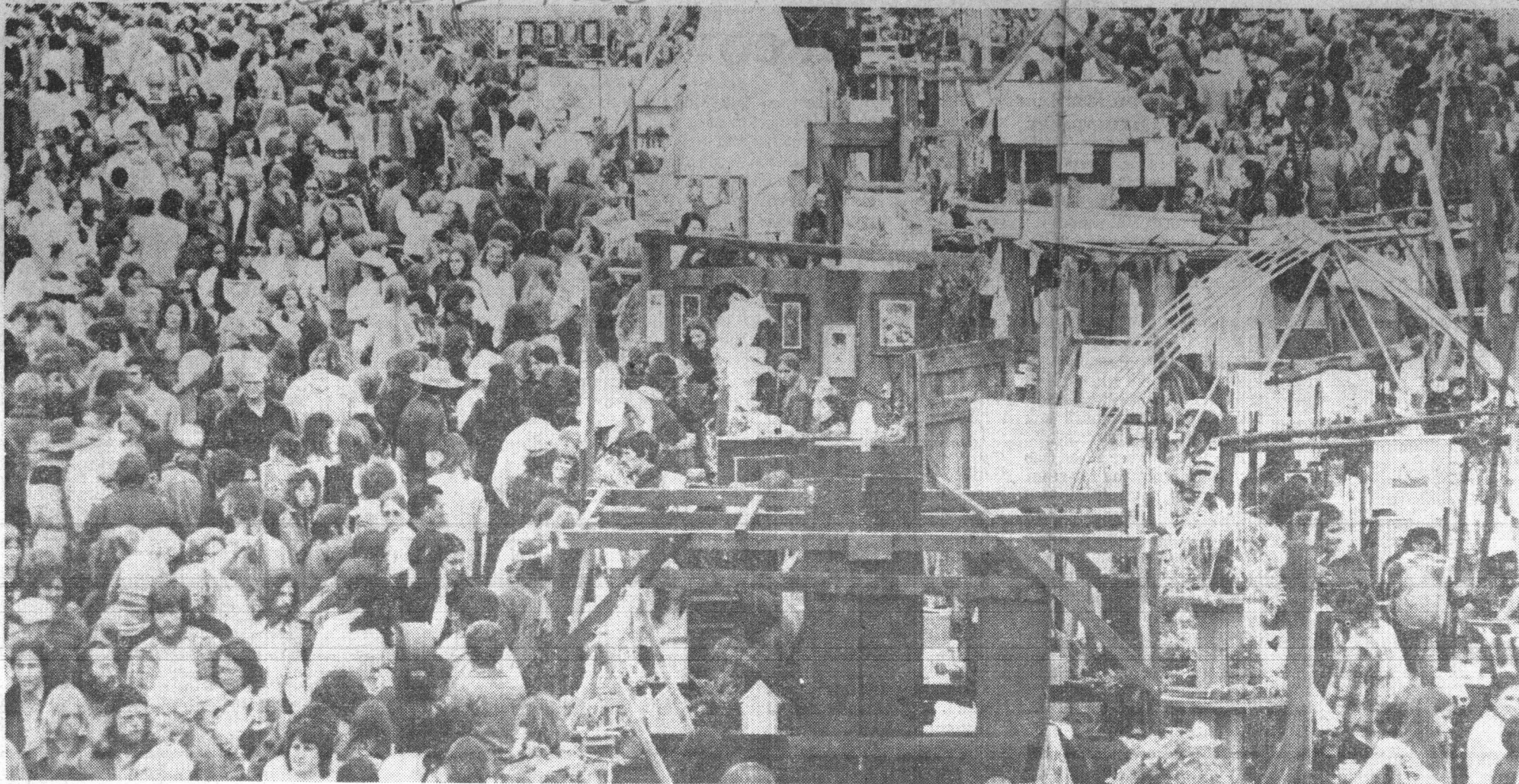


Spring Fair



What sportswriters would term a "sellout crowd" gathered among the rows of booths set up on the San Lorenzo River benchland behind the county center Saturday as Spring Fair 1974 began its two-day run. Exhibits of all types were set up

both at San Lorenzo Park and Pacific Avenue Garden mall, although most of the fairgoers spent their time at the park. Attendance will probably be the same today at the fair, which begins about 9 a.m. The event is sponsored by Santa Cruz

Jaycees. This photo, taken from the footbridge across the San Lorenzo River, was taken by Sentinel Photographer Bill Lovejoy. More of his pictures of the fair appear on Page 6.

Spring Fair Brings Out Huge Crowd

BY TOM HONIG
Sentinel Staff Writer

Although it decided to veil itself in mournful gray clouds, Planet Earth received a joyous salute Saturday as the Santa Cruz Spring Fair 1974 played host to thousands of local residents and visitors alike.

Festivities continue today, with booths and exhibits opening along the San Lorenzo River benchland near San Lorenzo Park as well as on Pacific Avenue Garden Mall.

Many booths will close about 6 p.m. tonight, but others may stay open longer.

Musical presentations — mostly informal and ranging from hillbilly to Eastern — rang out from the river benchland and the Duck Island Theater Saturday, and the promise is for more to come today.

Although the salute to Earth's joys is the main theme of the fair, the concerns of the thousands of fairgoers are as varied as their appearance.

Many, with money on their mind, remained in their booths hoping to peddle off some art objects, gadgets, crafts, jewelry and other items. Information on how to obtain your own divorce is even available at the fair.

For some, politics reign supreme. Booths opened on behalf of politicians or issues dot both the river benchland and the mall. A sheriff candidate roamed among the throng, as did at least one congressional candidate.

Most of the people, though, attended the fair on behalf of pleasure.

True, not everybody had as much fun as the little kids playing with dry ice in back of the refreshment stand, but craft - collectors and people watchers weren't far behind.

Happily, despite the huge crowd in the park, no major incidents were reported by police. "Just a lot of people," commented one policeman.

At times, especially during the afternoon, the crowds were packed elbow to elbow in the park. The footbridge across the river was often packed solid with humanity. One man, looking at the crowd, commented, "If anybody passed out, it would take him 10 minutes to hit the ground."

Through the Santa Cruz Jaycees, sponsors of the fair, \$500 in cash prizes will be awarded exhibitors in two categories: ecology and science, and arts and crafts.

Prizes will be \$125 for first, \$75 for second and \$50 for third in each category.

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64 Pages

Weather

MONTEREY BAY AREA — Fair through Monday. Little temperature change. Lows Sunday night in upper 40s to mid 50s. Highs Sunday and Monday in the 60s west to northwest wind 10 to 20 mph afternoons. Temperatures for the Santa Cruz area for the 24 hour period ending at 5 p.m. Saturday: High 57, Low 39; for the 24 - hour period ending at 8 a.m. Saturday: High 58, Low 39.