

Watsonville celebrates the apple

Sunday festival set downtown

By DAVE BROCKMANN
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WATSONVILLE — Apples will take the spotlight Sunday in the Plaza downtown.

Apple dishes and an assortment of other foods, arts and crafts, entertainment, and activities for the children will be the order of the day at the Apple Harvest Festival, which runs from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The original event was held in 1910, starting as a downtown sidewalk fair, and was called the Apple Annual. It was held in Watsonville in 1911, 1912 and 1913 before shifting to San Francisco in 1914 as part of the California Apple Show on Market Street.

Local musicians and dancers will perform on two stages throughout the festival. Entertainers will include Yoruba drummers and dancers, a Spanish flamenco dancer, Japanese drummers, Mexican folk dancers, Balinese dancers, Tex-Mex, Banda and Merengue-cumbia music.

The Apple FunLand children's area will offer kids have live pony rides, a petting zoo, games, clowns and an inflatable Apple Fun House.

Prizes will be awarded during the festival to professional and non-professional cooks in the apple dessert contest. Prizes include an overnight stay for two at Ritz Carlton Hotel in Laguna Niguel in Southern California, a hot air balloon ride, and a dinner for two at the Sanderlings restaurant at Seascape Resort.

Apple dessert contest entries will be accepted Sunday at 323 Main St., between 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Judging will be held between noon and 1 p.m.

International foods such as Salvadoran pupusas, pizza by the slice, British bangers and ceviche tostadas will be on sale, along with the traditional fare of corn dogs, barbecued chicken and apple tastes. In addition, fresh fruits and vegetables will be sold in the plaza. A wide assortment of arts and crafts will be on display as well. Main Street Watsonville is sponsoring the festival.

For more information, call 724-3954.