

Community events mark quake anniversary

Promoter Bill Graham returns to Watsonville for today's celebration

By KEITH MURAOKA

Sentinel staff writer

WATSONVILLE — Rock promoter Bill Graham has remembered Watsonville — again.

Graham will participate in Watsonville's downtown celebration this afternoon on the second anniversary of the 1989 earthquake.

Billed "Reflections and Futures," the event, which begins at 2:15 p.m., will showcase how far Watsonville has come. It features no fewer than six dedication ceremonies, including the re-opening of Fords department store and an ecumenical ceremony at Watsonville Town Plaza.

Graham was responsible for \$300,000 in donations to Watsonville after the earthquake. He sponsored three concerts that brought \$200,000 to the city. Later, Graham personally donated \$100,000 to help rebuild St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

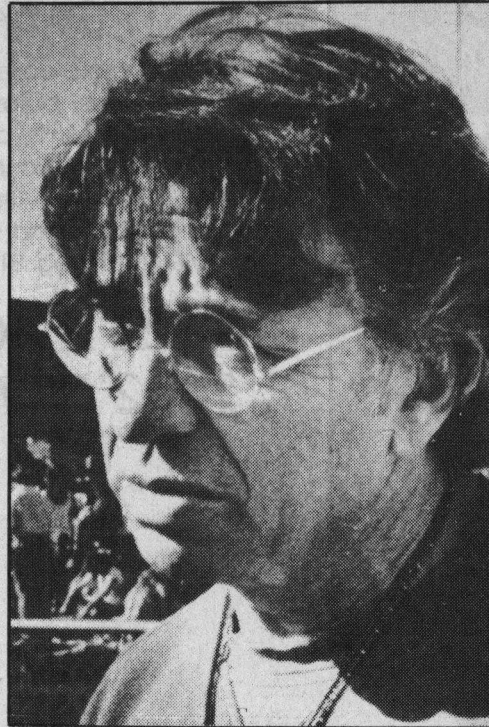
Watsonville City Councilwoman Betty Murphy will be grand marshal of today's parade that will travel from site to site. She said, "I told Bill Graham that all those years I yelled at my kids to keep the volume down from his music, and here he is helping us again. He just laughed."

Today's schedule includes:

- **2:15 p.m.** Dedication ceremonies of the almost-complete 22,000-square-foot Watsonville Post Office, 225 Main St.

- **2:45 p.m.** Unveiling of the earthquake monument in front of City Hall, 250 Main St.

- **3:15 p.m.** The newly built Herrera building at 310-316 Main St., and the reno-



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Bill Graham at the 1989 Watsonville quake concert.

vated Fox Theatre next door will be opened.

- **3:45 p.m.** Groundbreaking ceremonies of Watsonville's \$3.8-million, 208-space, three-story parking garage at West Beach and Rodriguez streets.

- **4:20 p.m.** El Pajaro Community Development Corp., Beach and Union streets, will open its street fair.

- **4:30 p.m.** Ecumenical ceremony at Watsonville Town Plaza on Main Street.

- **5:04 p.m.** Ringing of the bells.

- **5:10 p.m.** Grand re-opening of Fords department store, 407 Main St.

Observances set for Pacific Avenue

SANTA CRUZ — Two years later, people still want to take time to remember the shattering Loma Prieta earthquake, and the awakening of a community's will to recover.

Today, Pacific Avenue will be the scene of a variety of observances:

- **11 a.m.** — Ground-breaking for the rebuilding of the historic St. George Hotel will take place on the site. In addition, officials will bury a time capsule.

- **11:30 a.m.** — Assemblyman Sam Farr, D-Monterey, will conduct a walking tour of downtown with city officials after the St. George ground-breaking.

He will talk with business and property owners who have been affected by the quake and rebuilding efforts.

Farr was instrumental in getting state legislation passed in the weeks after the earthquake that helped business owners get interim financing.

He also helped establish the California Disaster Housing Rehabilitation Fund for rental housing.

The St. George Hotel, which will offer 124 single-occupancy rooms, took advantage of this deferred-payment low-interest loan program, according to Farr's office.

- **5 p.m.** — A gathering at the Town Clock will include comments from officials and a tolling of the bell at 5:04 p.m., the time the Oct. 17, 1989, earthquake struck.

Bells from churches around town will toll at the same time.

- **5:15 p.m.** — Vision Santa Cruz, 1543 Pacific Ave., will open its doors to the community. Officials will discuss rebuilding plans.

There will be live music, and free pumpkins to the first 100 youngsters who attend.