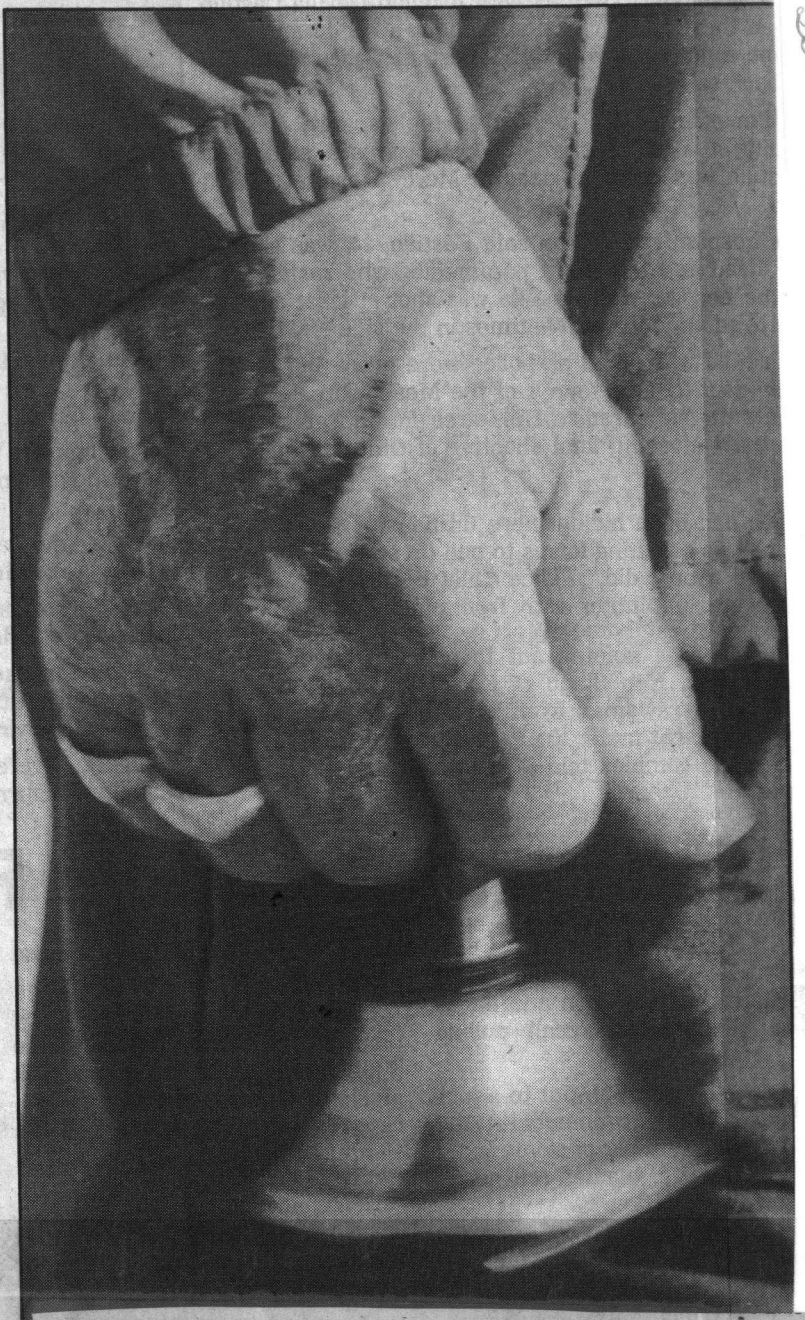


Watsonville Salvation Army celebrates centennial

WATSONVILLE
1990
Doris



The holiday bell-ringer is familiar today.

An early photo of the Salvation Army staff members with children who received teaching and services

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WATSONVILLE
REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

Open house, music Saturday

IN AN 1891 ISSUE of the Salvation Army publication "War Cry," Capt. Rosina Pauli wrote, "Seven souls (saved) this week. Our prayer to God for Watsonville is that people would wake up to the fact that they are dead in trespasses and sin, (and) accept pardon through the precious blood of Jesus, and be made new creatures. We have opened Corralitos as an out-post, and many of the dear Christian people, God bless them, come to our help."

Pauli, a former dress designer from Europe, had received her calling to religious work a few years before, and had joined the Salvation Army. She was the founding officer for the Watsonville Salvation Army, which opened its doors in July 1891.

The agency, now at 214 Union St., will celebrate its centennial with a celebration Saturday beginning with an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. and a concert, featuring the Salvation Army's San Francisco Bay Area Band, from 3 to 4 p.m. in the City Plaza.

In the evening, the band will give a concert at 6:30 p.m. at the Watsonville Senior Center, 114 E. Fifth St. An awards ceremony will also take place.

Majors Gary and Joan Souders have headed the agency for the past year. They are one of 55 leaders who have served the poor of Watsonville for the last century. Because commanding officers have changed so frequently, Maj. Gary Sounders said historical records are sketchy.

What is clear is that the agency has helped thousands of people with food, clothing, shelter, and in a number of cases, with a new way of life.

Problems described in an account of a Watsonville Salvation Army public meeting are strikingly similar to those people face today: "The meeting was turned into a Drunkard's Demonstration ... Mrs. McAbee thrilled the people as she told her sad story of a drunken father and the misery entailed by his vice on a patient Christian mother and six helpless chil-

dren. Many people were noticed wiping a suspicious moisture from their eyes as they listened to what is, alas, becoming a too common story in our land."

The Salvation Army is probably best known for its collection kettles during the Christmas season. Those kettles are relatively new — collections were originally taken in tambourines borrowed from the Army's band. Later, plastic collectors were used and were eventually replaced with the soup kettles.

Watsonville Salvation Army continues to provide necessities for the poor, and the Sounders' take their mission even further, offering people everything from budgeting to discussion groups that can help them get back on secure emotional, spiritual and even financial ground.

The group has also concentrated its efforts through the years on young people, offering summer camp, sports teams and other events to children who might not otherwise have an opportunity for supervised activities.



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This 1951 photo shows Capt. William Mollet and his winning team.

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