

Ben Lomond

# Ben Lomond marks 100 years

By PAUL BEATTY

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**BEN LOMOND** — The town that almost forgot its centennial remembered in time to hold a kickoff Thursday morning.

Gathered at the post office, more than 50 residents heard County Supervisor Joe Cucchiara read a county proclamation honoring the town's birthday.

Maybe that should be "name day," because the 100-year clock began ticking March 26, 1887, the day the local post office opened, after the federal government told the town to change its name.

The name given the general area was Pacific Mills, the name of the sawmill at the bend in the San Lorenzo River that now sweeps around Ben Lomond.

The federal government agreed the town should take the name of the local mountain — Ben Lomond.

Local people nearly forgot the town had a centen-

nial this year, and it wasn't until nearly two weeks into January that the town's unofficial historian, Faye Ellis, remembered.

"If I hadn't come up with it then, I don't think anyone else would have," Ellis said.

Now that the birthday is in mind, the town plans a bigger annual Ben Lomond Fling for the July 4 weekend, said Paul Connerton, president of the Town Association.

Also, the post office issued a special stamp cancellation for Thursday to commemorate the day.

Cucchiara also noted that Thor Therp was on hand for the celebration.

Therp, 89, has been coming to the post office for 20 years.

"If we can keep the post office open for another 11 years, I can guarantee that Mr. Therp will be coming here," Cucchiara said. "Of course by then, regular stamps will be \$2.98."