

✓ Scotts Valley - 1990

SV will celebrate 29 years of cityhood

Bicyclist-only parade Wednesday will begin festivities

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SCOTTS VALLEY — A bicyclist-only parade will highlight a 29th birthday bash Wednesday as officials and residents celebrate the city's incorporation.

Participants will gather in the vacant lot on Scotts Valley Drive between Perry's Floral and the Real Properties office at 4 p.m. to decorate their bicycles with free art supplies.

The parade down Scotts Valley Drive to MacDorsa Park next to City Hall starts at 4:30 p.m. Police will escort the parade for safety.

The party will continue at City Hall at 5 p.m. with free birthday cake, ice cream and soda.

It was April 1964 when the vote to incorporate Scotts Valley as a 3½-square-mile city (it's grown to 4½ square miles) was settled by relatively few people. The vote was close, with incorporation supporters winning 327-302. Some 400 people didn't bother to cast a ballot.

A legal challenge to the election delayed incorporation for two years. Scotts Valley became a city on Aug. 2, 1966, with a \$20,000 loan from the old County Bank of Santa Cruz and a dream of controlling its own destiny.

Friend Stone was hired as the city's first

manager — and, for no extra charge, also served as city clerk, planning director and police commissioner. The fledgling town's first offices were in the old Water District office on Scotts Valley Drive.

"We just couldn't afford to fill those vacancies then with paid personnel," Stone told the Sentinel in 1969. "We literally had no clear idea of what money we could ultimately get from state subvention revenues, and we had no intention of imposing a city property tax."

At its first meeting, the City Council adopted 10 ordinances. Everything else was covered by county ordinances until the council could pass more of its own laws.

In those early days, Stone envisioned a Scotts Valley with 20,000 to 24,000 residents, many of them living in high-rise apartments on sites of 10 to 15 acres. He predicted enough commercial, industrial and professional jobs to keep these people working in Scotts Valley. And he expected the city to have a regional shopping center and an automobile center.

It hasn't quite worked out that way.

The city's population is inching toward 10,000, and officials don't expect more than 15,000 residents by the year 2015. High-rise

apartment complexes are nonexistent, and most residents work outside the city limits, many of them over the hill in Santa Clara County.

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There are five shopping centers, and possibly one more on the way at Skypark, but none has achieved regional status. The closest automobile center is in Capitola.

"Over the years, we have new general plans, new priorities, new visions," said current City Manager Chuck Comstock. "I imagine the vision anybody had in 1969 would be different today."

The city's budget has come a long way since that \$20,000 loan in 1966. The 1995-96 budget totals \$28.4 million, which includes not only the general fund, but also redevelopment, wastewater, recreation, an assessment district and other funds.

Wednesday's celebration is sponsored by Ace Hardware, Casey's Ice Cream Parlor, Chubby's Diner, Longs Drugs, Perry's Floral, Safeway and Scotts Valley Employees for Less Traffic.

The parade will celebrate the city's birthday, and also highlight the need for people to bike to work to reduce pollution and traffic.