VCF BEACH STREET REVIVAL RP 9/21/87

Car buffs crowd Santa Cruz

Beach Street revival draws thousands

By NANCY BARR
STAFF WRITER

The annual Beach Street Revival attracted hundreds of classic cars and thousands of people to the Santa Cruz beach area this weekend.

The cars clogged the streets and the crowds kept the police busy, Deputy Police Chief Steve Belcher said today.

Traffic was bumper-to-bumper down at the beach and was backed up through the downtown along Front and Ocean streets, Belcher said. He said he didn't know how many people came to the festival and car show, but said there was a larger crowd than last year.

Rick Petersen, founder of the Beach Street Revival, said he thought there were between 4,000 and 5,000 people at the festival.

Petersen said 400 cars from 1969 or before were registered for the car show, and another 1,000 old cars were parked in the area.

There were no serious incidents, Belcher said, and most arrests were for violations of alcohol laws and for fighting. Both Belcher and Petersen said the problems were not caused by the people

involved in the Beach Street Revival, but by others who came down to the beach to see what was going on.
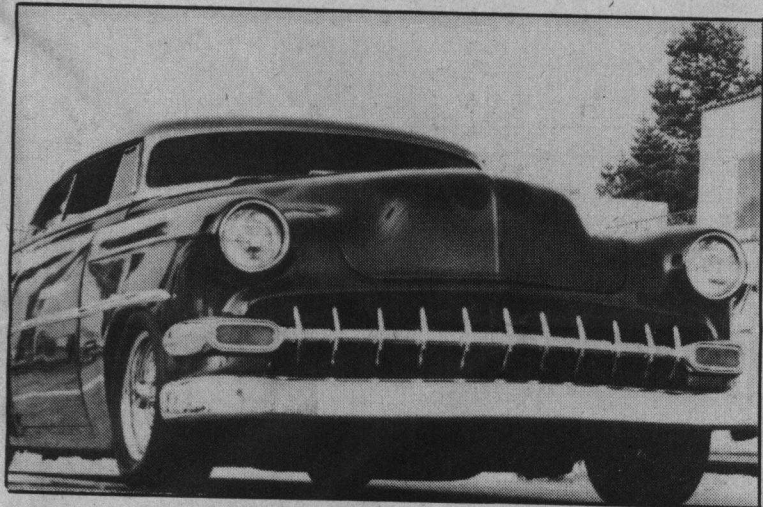
Beach Street Revival organizers asked participants to refrain from drinking, in accordance with new city laws prohibiting drinking on city property.

"The people who are involved in the Beach Street Revival are real good," Belcher said. "They police themselves. It's the other people who come. It attracts a young crowd to the beach."

When those young people get to drinking, their "exuberance" sometimes gets

away from them, Belcher said, and they end up in fights, throwing bottles or otherwise creating mischief.

Petersen said the two 1950s dances held at the Cocoanut Grove as part of the Beach Street Revival were both sell-outs and highly successful.

Thousands of classic and vintage car buffs jammed San Lorenzo Park (top) to inspect machinery kept in showroom-condition by proud owners. Jenny Katkowsky and a carload of friends cruised Beach Street (above) in a 1950 Studebaker convertible — one of the most uniquely-styled automobiles ever manufactured. Other Beach Street entrants are reflected (left) in the mirror-like finish of a customized car from the fifties.

Photos by Chip Scheuer