

Happy Birthday, Santa Cruz!



Riders on the Boardwalk's Skyglider had the best seat in the house for Santa Cruz's fireworks celebration. Dan Coyro/Sentinel

City marks 213th year

SENTINEL STAFF REPORT

SANTA CRUZ — Oohs, ahs and ohs corresponded with each crackle, pop and boom from Sunday's Fireworks Spectacular, a birthday bash for the city, which turned 213.

The fireworks were launched from Main Beach, giving thousands some front row seats to the action.

But not everyone watching the light show went to the beach. Some, like Sue and Dick Dumller, headed to higher ground.

"We usually go to Miramar Hill," said Sue Dumller, sitting on the pedestrian overcrossing on West Cliff Drive at Beach Street. But this year, they drove by and thought that would be a perfect perch.

Others, like the Chirco family, simply sat in their living rooms or front lawns to watch the fireworks.

Don Chirco built his West Cliff Drive home in the 1950s. He and his family have been watching city-spon-

sored pyrotechnic celebrations — whether the now-defunct July Fourth event or the annual birthday bash — ever since, said son Ben Chirco of Bonny Doon.

"It's a pretty good view," he said. A good view indeed, as standing along West Cliff Drive boasted a brightly lit Boardwalk with a bit of fog hovering below the dark, star-pocked sky.

This year, the cash-strapped city turned to the Locally Owned Business Alliance and the Beach Area Business Association to foot the \$27,000 bill for the light show.