

# Thousands flock to midcounty for fun, fireworks and parade

By CANDACE ATKINS

Empty firecracker barrels and scorched frgements of paper are all that remain from the Third of July celebration in Capitola.

The annual event attracted some 30,000 people, according to Blanche Stephens, secretary for Capitola Chamber of Commerce. "There were no problems," said Mrs. Stephens, "It was a good, orderly crowd."

According to all sources, the show was a success. Capitola Mayor Jerry Clarke agreed with Mrs. Stephens, saying "all went well" with the crowd. "It always gets crazy with people drinking beer and throwing firecrackers — we had to evacuate our children from the beach — but there were no major problems," he confirmed.

"I talked with a couple of (Capitola) cops on Saturday and they said it went ok," Clarke added.

Mrs. Stephens credited Capitola Police Department with an outstanding job on traffic and crowd control. "The police did such a good job. There were police all over the town, but you have to have with so many people — the police should be commended," she said.

People from all parts of the Monterey and San Francisco Bay areas travel to Capitola on the Third to view the 45-minute fireworks show. "People were here from all over — from everywhere," said Mrs. Stephens, "I asked them, 'don't you have fireworks where you live?' and they said they do but they like Capitola's the best."

"Everyone enjoyed it, I heard nothing but praise," Mrs. Stephens continued, "And, oh yes, they just oooh'ed and ahhh'ed over them all."

Mrs. Stephens also added the chamber was able to collect the entire \$3,600 needed to cover the display expenses.

Another person pleased with the celebration was Capt. Al Parrish of Capitola Fire Department. "To my knowledge there were no calls where fireworks were a contributing factor," he said. "We had lots of activity there this weekend, but nothing was directly attributed to fireworks."

In Aptos, it was a similar story. Acting Captain Brian Cummings said the department received one complaint regarding fireworks on June 30, and there was one grass fire over the weekend, but no cause was listed. Cummings explained sales of fireworks are restricted to June 28 through July 4 and "The second of July is about when it (fireworks

problems) starts." This year, however, Cummings said, "There were very few incidents."

Captain Chuck Illidge of Live Oak Fire Department, like Capitola and Aptos, said there were only a few problems related to fireworks.

A couple of grass fires occurred and there were two false alarms, which could have been attributed to fireworks. On Saturday, Illidge said there was a grass fire "definitely related to fireworks."

Illidge said a young man took his own life in Live Oak in the early hours of July 4, and does not discount the holiday excitement as a possible factor. "Those tend to happen more on the holidays," he explained, referring to both the suicide and reports of malicious mischief.

Emergency hospital wards at both Community and Dominican, while busy, had few firework-caused injuries. One person burned his hand while using a smoke bomb and was treated at Dominican's emergency unit, according to a report from nursing superintendent Sue Hansen.

In Aptos Jack Pounds and



Lucile Aldrich was grand marshal for the Aptos parade.

his 1933 Buick convertible, complete with Uncle Sam as a backseat passenger, took the "overall best" award in the Fourth of July parade held Friday in the village.

Costume awards were given to John Barnthouse, first place for his clown suit, second prize was awarded to Terri Kensinger who was also a clown, and third place was given to two Indians, Amy and Becky Clendenen.

Paul Elerick and his 1954 Mercury convertible captured first place in the vehicle division, followed by George Bridge in his 1962 Lincoln convertible and Steve Cerruti in a 1956 Chevy Bel Air, for second and third place, respectively.

Bobby Kensinger's red, white and blue rocket float was first in that division, Dana Berk came in second and a float entered by Cabrillo Republican women placed third.

Animals and their masters also competed for prizes in the pet division. Results were Deanna Andriola and Pika, first, Kelley Montes and Jeremiah, second (both entrants were canine) and a bunny owned by Janine Sahl, "Bunnykins" came in third.

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