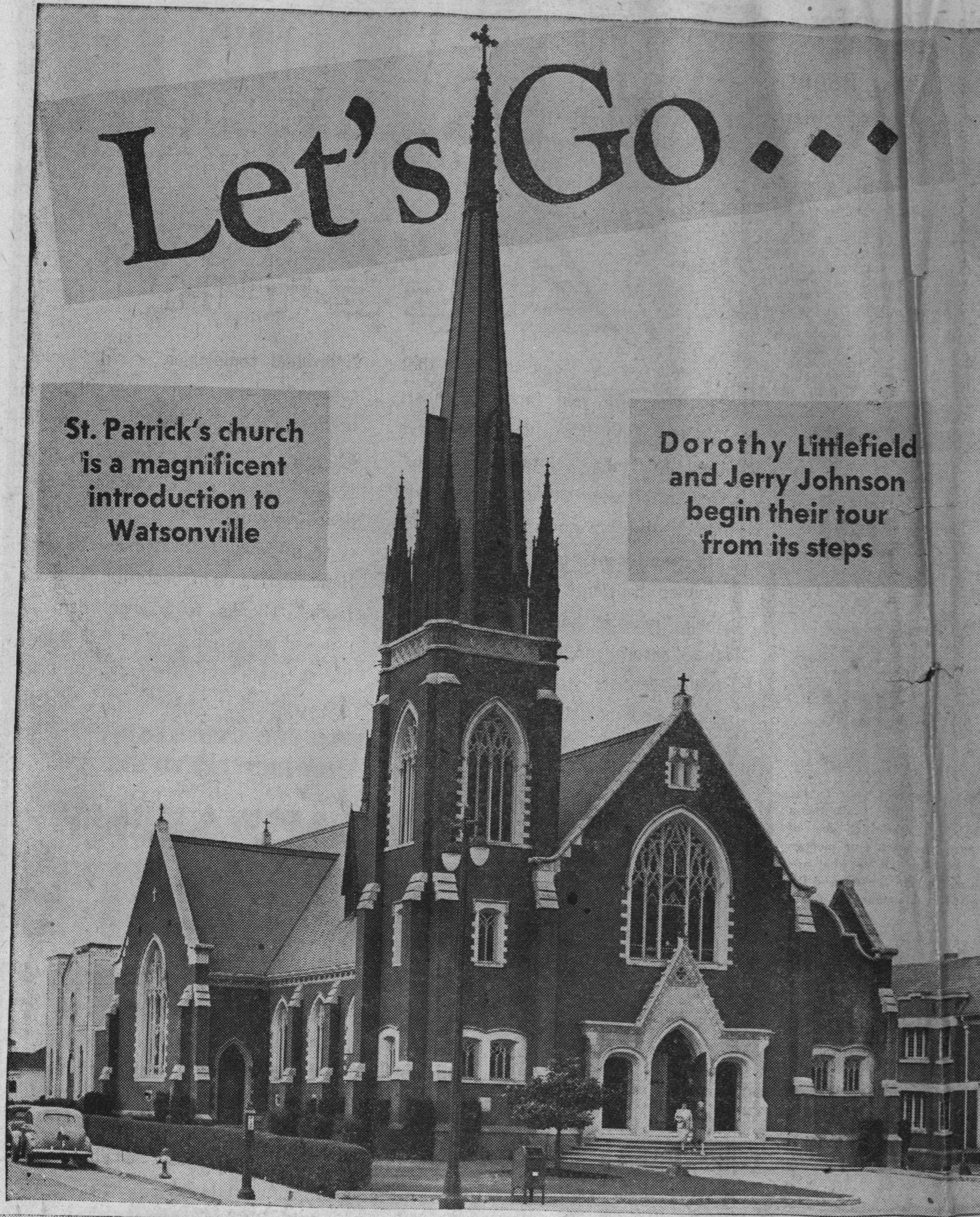


Let's GO...

St. Patrick's church is a magnificent introduction to Watsonville

Dorothy Littlefield and Jerry Johnson begin their tour from its steps



To the Home of the County Fair

Sunday, September 17, 1950 Santa Cruz Sentinel-News 9



Mrs. Littlefield selects Pajaro Valley apples while Miss Johnson buys lettuce from Elmer Cloud

Watsonville, In Apple And Lettuce Bowl, Is Thriving Little City

Watsonville, the home of the Santa Cruz County Fair, is a thriving little city in the heart of the main apple and lettuce producing area of the county.

Now boasting a population of 11,516, Watsonville and the Pajaro valley in which it is sit-

uated have a long and colorful history.

The valley was discovered by Don Gaspar de Portola in the fall of 1769 during his historic journey from San Diego to San Francisco. Legend has it that Portola and his men found a giant stuffed bird left by the Indians on the bank of the river and named the valley Pajaro, which is Spanish for bird.

In 1837 Don Sebastian Rodriguez obtained the fertile valley as a grant from Spain. In 1851 Watsonville came into being, with two log houses and a tent erected beside a cowpath which served as a street.

The new community was named Watsonville for Judge John H.

dergoing improvement, with a four-lane roadbed being laid and the picturesque but inadequate Pajaro River bridge being replaced by a large new span.

The beautiful Catholic church at the intersection of Main street and Highway 1 is only one of the 18 churches which represent all denominations.

Watsonville has one high school and five elementary schools in the public school system, as well as three private schools. The new MacQuiddy elementary school at the north end of Washington street is an attractive building. The new additions to the high school at East Third and Lincoln streets are spectacular structures,

ed in 1893 by the Women's Christian Temperance Union and a cannon which first was fired on October 18, 1850, to celebrate the receipt of news that California had been admitted to the Union.

There are a modern hospital, theaters, hotels and other business places, attractive residential districts, new subdivisions with dwellings featuring individuality in design, an airport two and one-half miles north of the city, and a wide range of recreation sites in the surrounding area.

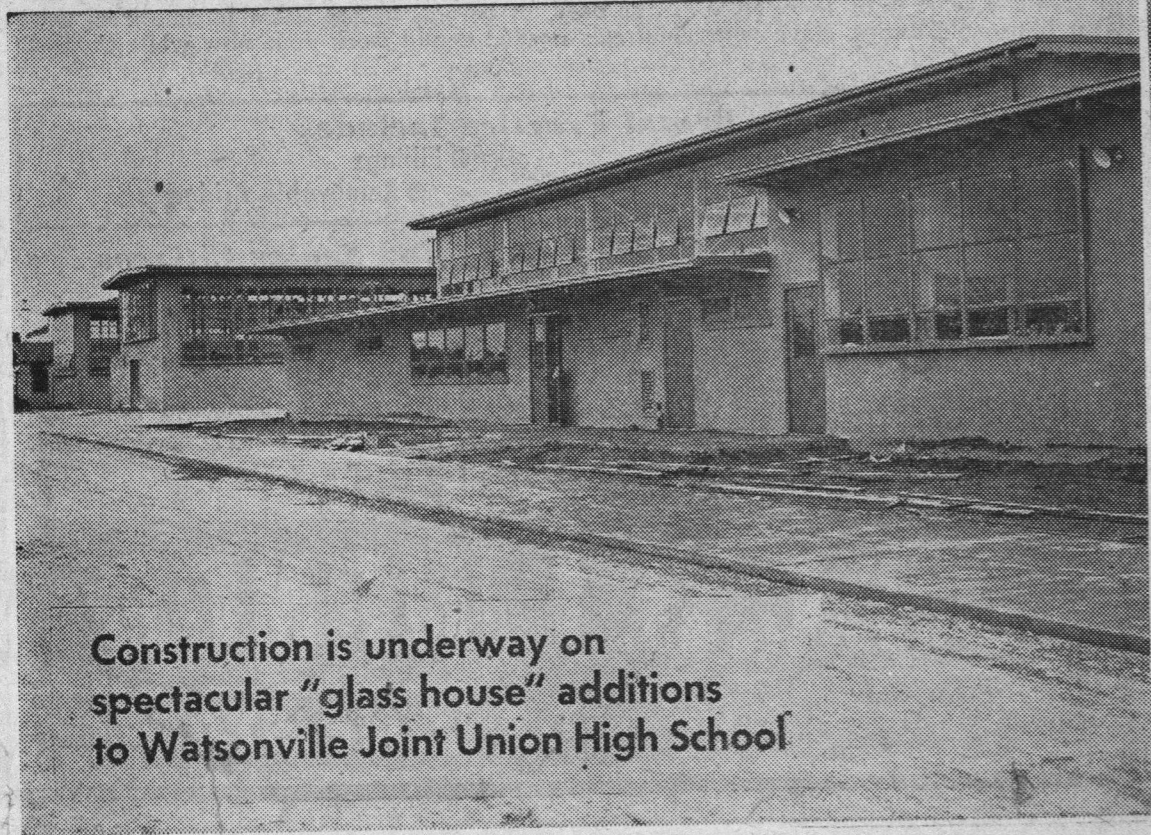
Palm Beach and Sunset Beach Park on Monterey bay are nearby. Mt. Madonna State Park is for those who prefer timbered hills. Fresh water fishing and boating



At the Santa Cruz county fair grounds preparations are in full swing. Carl Neal hauls up canvas for an exhibit tent. The fair opens Wednesday night.



Joan Jamison (left) shows Santa Cruzans Mrs. Littlefield, 320 Spruce street, and Miss Johnson, 113 1/2 Green street, the historical relics in Watsonville's pretty City Plaza



Construction is underway on spectacular "glass house" additions to Watsonville Joint Union High School



Miss Johnson admires Tony, being given a workout on the fair's track by trainer Walter Taylor

and settled in the Pajaro Valley. In 1857 the town boasted seven substantial business buildings. The first brick structure was erected in 1874.

It always has been the center of a farming community, the main crops in the early days being grain and potatoes. These were shipped from Palm Beach, which once served as a port. Then came a narrow gauge railroad between Watsonville and Moss Landing, a wagon road between Watsonville and Santa Cruz, stage connection between San Jose and San Juan Bautista and then the advent of the Southern Pacific railroad in 1872.

The valley first became known for its apples in the 1860s. Sugar beet growing thrived in the '90s. Lettuce, which is the green gold of today, dates from the second decade of this century.

Watsonville, 16 miles southeast of Santa Cruz by way of Highway 1 (Santa Cruz-Watsonville freeway), is the home of the Santa Cruz County Fair, which will open Wednesday night and be in progress through next Sunday.

The fair grounds, three miles east of the city on the Hecker pass road, contain a tanbark arena for horse shows in a natural amphitheater which will seat 4000 persons, a half mile race track, a floriculture building, exhibit buildings and tents and horse barns. There also is ample parking space.

Highway 1, from Santa Cruz, enters Watsonville at the Main street Y. Towering St. Patrick's church provides a magnificent introduction to the principal business thoroughfare. The approach from the opposite direction is un-

There are 34 food processing, quick freezing and packing concerns, 30 cold storage plants, 10 ice manufacturing plants and the Southern Pacific railroad yards, forming a fascinating, busy industrial area.

Public buildings include the city hall, civic auditorium, fire department, post office, public library, veterans memorial hall, county agricultural commissioner's office and chamber of commerce.

Pretty Plaza Park, located in the heart of the city at Main and East Third streets, is a memorial to Don Sebastian Rodriguez, the sturdy pioneer of Pajaro Valley. Among the historical items it contains is a drinking fountain erected

grounds. And all around the busy little city are the cool, green expanses of the lettuce fields, the orchards beautiful with blossoms in the spring and with crisp ripe apples in the fall—tumbling from a cornucopia of green mountains toward the distant blue of Monterey bay.

ESTATE IS SETTLED

A report on final distribution of the estate of Albert Mundhenk shows the residue, household furnishings at 457A Main street in Watsonville, received by Albert H. Mundhenk, Pearl A. Mundhenk and Harold O. Mundhenk.



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