

On the Town

On the Town

PHOTO: JACQUELINE CAPRA



QUEEN FOR A DAY. Fiesta Queen Karleen Quick presides over a day of parades, music and ceremony arrayed in vintage finery from Gloria Sharp's collection.

Little did Father Fermin Francisco Lasuen realize when he founded the Mission Santa Cruz in 1771 that an exuberant festival would be enacted 211 years later to help preserve the last remaining relic of the once-bustling Mission. The Neary-Rodriguez Adobe, vigilant reminder of our early history, isn't going to slip into dust if people like Edna Kimbro, head of the Adobe Coalition, have anything to say about it.

And those interested in sup-

porting the Adobe and having a bit of merriment to boot are invited to join the ambitious Santa Cruz Mission Fiesta and Parade this Saturday.

The Fiesta begins with a Huevos Rancheros Breakfast in Holy Cross Parish Hall from 7:30 am-11 am, followed immediately by a grand parade down the Pacific Garden Mall up to the Mission Plaza Park, where you'll be able to cheer this year's Fiesta Queen, Karleen Quick, a Shoshone Indian who'll be decked out in finery from Gloria Sharp's

Fiesta Day Madness

awesome Twentieth Century Frocks collection. Neal Connerty and Doni Tunheim will parade smartly accompanied by the irrepressible historical do-gooders from E Clampus Vitus.

At the Plaza and in the Parish Hall, non-stop entertainment and food booths should keep your toes tapping and juices flowing. Don't forget to stop by and sample the apricot turnovers from Tri-T and the Carey Association's farm-fresh roast corn on the cob. The Fiesta will be highlighted by the 2 pm dedication ceremony and unveiling of the Santa Cruz Mission landmark plaque, with historical mastering of ceremonies by town crier Bruce Bratton. Being an election year, you'll hear a few pertinent remarks from guest dignitaries including Henry Mello, Leon Panetta, Sam Farr and Gary Patton. Don't forget to save room and time for the Clamper's fiery Bar-B-Q concession, all proceeds of which go toward the Adobe restoration.

The Fiesta is one of those "only in Santa Cruz" events designed for everyone's enjoyment. You can enjoy the classical Spanish stylings of Dorados, the bluegrass sounds of side saddles, dress up in fancy threads and gobble up the "gutsy

gaspacho" provided by the Chamber of Commerce. The Fourth of July has nothing on Fiesta Day. This one's dedicated to Santa Cruz and it all happens Saturday on and around Mission Plaza Park.

— CW



Side Saddle provides bluegrass country music on the Mission Plaza main stage starting at noon.