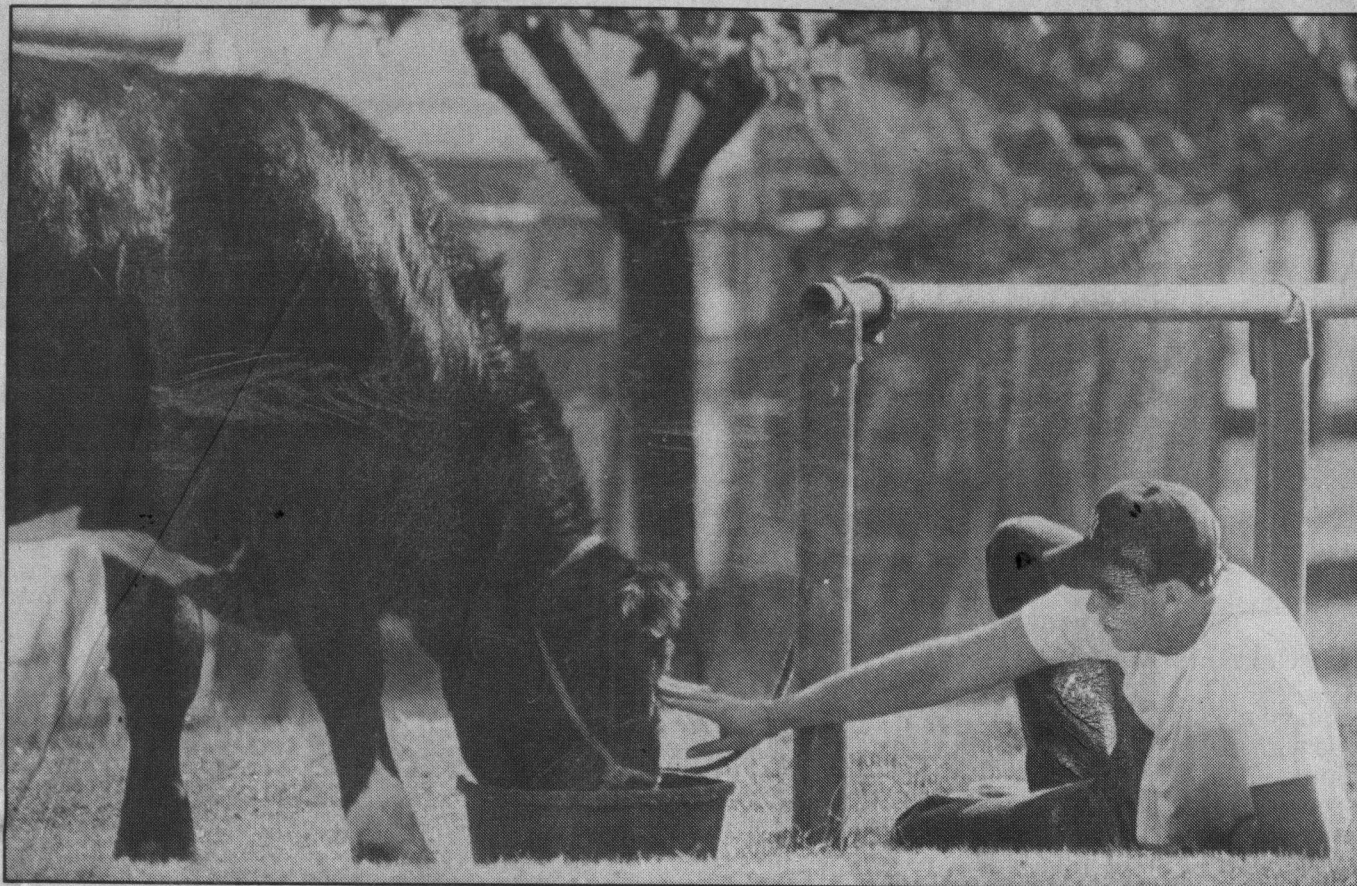


# County Fair opens

FAIRS



Joe Mattingly of Watsonville has his steer ready for auction at the County Fair.

Dan Coyro/Sentinel

## Mixed bag on display

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WATSONVILLE — Carousels, apple pies, oil paintings and cows are among the items that will be on hand today as the 48th annual Santa Cruz County Fair opens its gates at noon.

Following a long tradition, opening day is also Senior Citizens' Day, with anyone over the age of 65 getting in for \$1. Regular admission for seniors is \$2.75.

Highlighting the ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11:45 a.m. at the west gate will be the release of more than 200 homing pigeons belonging to members of the Santa Cruz Racing Pigeon Association. Pigeons will be released again at 5:30 p.m. at the amphitheater during the official opening-day ceremony.

This year's theme is "Carousel of Plenty," with an antique merry-go-

round holding center court between the J.J. Crosetti, Arts and Harvest buildings.

The annual apple-pie contest will get under way at the revamped Paddy Smith Park, which has a new bandstand.

Throughout the day, there will be all sorts of entertainment. The All-Alaskan Pig Racers will be running the track at Porker Downes, Wacky Willie the Clown will be seen throughout the fairgrounds, and nightly there will be shows by hypnotist Terry Stokes at the Pepsi Amphitheater and Lloyd Mabrey and Guitar at the Beer Garden.

The 4-H building will have a guide-dog demonstration at 3 p.m., and cooking demonstrations on the half hour through 7:30 p.m.

Opening night entertainment begins at 7:30 p.m. at the grandstand, with the 30th Anniversary of rock 'n' roll revue.

Entertainers include Tiny Tim, Herman's Hermits and the Surfaris.

There are many ways to get to the fair, including taking the bus. Bus rides to the fairgrounds are just 60 cents, compared with the \$1 parking fee.

The bus leaves every hour from the plaza in Watsonville. You can also take bus 71 every 15 minutes from the Metro Station in downtown Santa Cruz. Bus 71 also stops every half hour at the Metro Lot near Dominican Hospital on Sequel Drive.

For people who want to drive, the fairgrounds are located on Highway 152, East Lake Avenue. From Highway, 1 take Airport Boulevard exit to Holohan Road, and left on Highway 152 to the fairgrounds.

A less crowded route is the back entrance, from Airport Boulevard to Green Valley Road, right on Paulsen Road, another right at Casserly Road, and right again on Highway 152.