

Town Clock dedicated to city of Santa Cruz

by Maxine A. Cohen

Celebration of the 4th of July in this Bicentennial year was something special for the City of Santa Cruz, something that will last for years to come.

After the street sweeper finished his work following the parade, and all the banners and red-white- and-blue and folding chairs were taken down, the Town Clock remains standing -- and, following its dedication Sunday evening -- will remain to reign over one of the city's busiest inter-

sections.

Located at the top of the Pacific Garden Mall, opposite the main Santa Cruz Post Office, the Town Clock is visible from quite a distance, and is a handsome landmark-in-the-making that will remain to commemorate the community's observance of July 4, 1976.

Not yet completed, the clock stood "topless" -- without its dome and bell -- since work has not yet been completed on the project. And while the four clock faces

were in place, the inner works of the clock are yet to be finished in the restoration effort; the hands of the clocks pointed to 3 o'clock and didn't move.

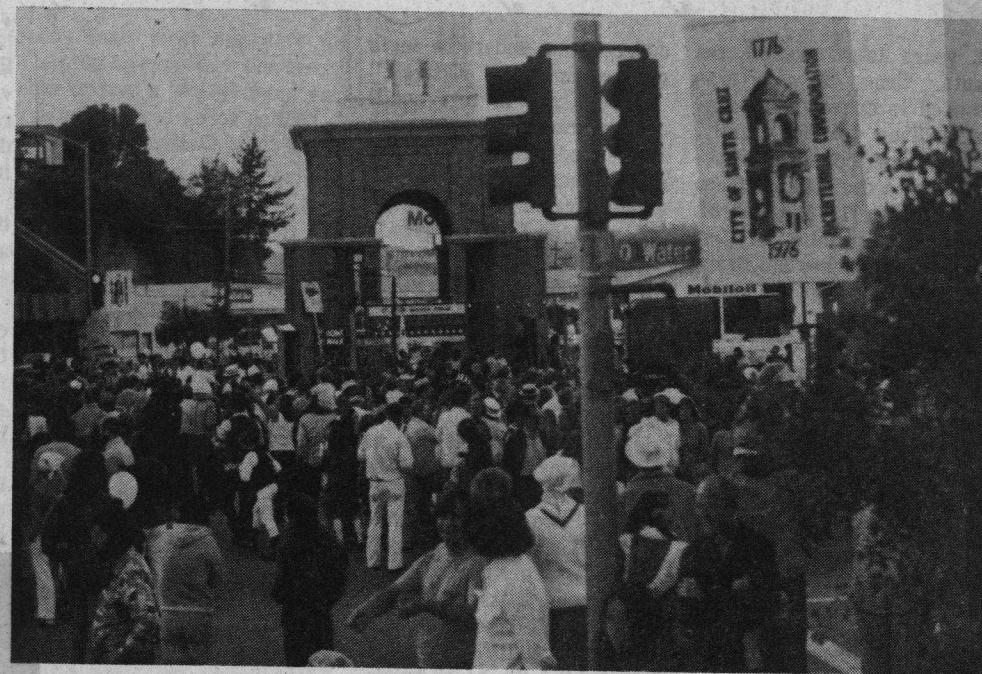
But that didn't deter the crowd of dignitaries and townspeople who gathered for the occasion, and the clock, on its base of brick columns over the existing Fred Morris Memorial Fountain, was an impressive sight indeed. A flag pole had been placed atop the clock, and the U.S. flag waved softly overhead.

Lights with red, white and blue bulbs had been strung on the tower, clock and flagpole,

with some outlining the base during the ceremonies and -- at just the right moment -- the lights on the top of the structure went on to commemorate the first use of electricity in Santa Cruz.

During the evening event, which was unfortunately delayed in starting while officials awaited the results of the parade judging, the streets at the intersection were closed off and people who had gathered for the parade filled the area.

On the podium specially constructed for the occasion, Louis Facelli served as Master of Ceremonies and first



PEOPLE ASSEMBLED FOR DEDICATION

called on the Monterey Bay Classic Jazz Band for a performance of "Grandfather's Clock" to start the ceremonies.

Santa Cruz Mayor John Mahaney welcomed everyone,

and spoke in his introductory remarks about the clock; "Symbolically neither the clock nor the city is complete." He later quoted a 1790 report about the area, which described the banks of the

San Lorenzo River as a fine site for a city -- which it has become. Mahaney pointed out that 100 years ago the city's population was 3,100; today it's 38,000. Looking to the future, he called on all residents to continue building the city to fulfill its promise.

I.O.O.F. Grand Chaplain Lyle Wescoatt offered the Invocation, then I.O.O.F. Grand Master Marshall Hanson explained the Odd Fellow's association with the clock,

The original Town Clock, which burned with the I.O.O.F. Building just before the turn of the century, had been built in 1873. The second, four-sided town clock -- actually the present one -- was built in 1900. The clock had become the property of the City in 1964, after it was taken down from the Odd Fellows' building.

Musical tributes by a barbershop quartet, made up of members of the national organization of barbershop quartets, included "This is My Country," "My Home Town," and "Where the Southern Roses Grow." The quartet was obviously prepared with more numbers, but Mayor Mahaney felt the program should go on because of the lateness of the hour.

Congressman Burt Talcott spoke on "Our nation's past glory and future hopes," saying the Town Clock "reminds us of our most precious asset; time." He went on to discuss America's freedoms, including freedom to assemble, the democratic process as embodied in representative government, and free enterprise.

Robert Darrow, who serves as chairman of the Citizens Committee on Community Improvement -- the group largely responsible for beginning the Town Clock Restoration project -- spoke of "a dream come true," and referred to the project as the creation of a symbol of community activity. His committee's work does not end with the dedication of the clock, but continues through its completion and beyond, onto other community improvement projects.

A highlight of the dedication ceremonies was another dedication--that of a quilt created by 30 Santa Cruz wo-

Continued on page 8

Town Clock dedication

Continued from page 4

men as a Bicentennial gift to the City of Santa Cruz. Mrs. Edith Briggs made the presentation to Charles Prentiss, curator of the city's museum. Scenes embroidered on the elegant patchwork quilt depict aspects of Santa Cruz' history. The quilt is now on display at the Santa Cruz Public Library before it will go to its permanent home in the museum.

seum.

Dignitaries and onlookers alike were stirred by the evening's finale -- "The Star Spangled Banner" sung by Dorothy McPherson, a lovely vocalist with a lovely voice.

She was accompanied by the Hastings Band, directed by Dr. Lewis Keizer. The band had provided music throughout the evening, including several classic symphonic band works: "Rhapsody in Blue," "Overture to the Can-Can", "Prelude to Die Meistersinger," and a real crowd-pleaser, "Hold That Tiger," which featured Keizer on trumpet.

Even though the ceremonies were delayed, sometimes the PA systems didn't make all the words audible over restless spectators' noise, and there were a few other minor problems, the City of Santa Cruz should congratulate itself on its orderly, "safe and sane" celebration of the nation's birthday and the contributions that were made by many citizens toward making this celebration a memorable one.