

Christmas Dinner

Grey Bears

A Feast For 3,000

"It's the greatest thing I've ever done in my life," says Bob Baker, program director of the California Grey Bears, which served Christmas Eve dinner to some 3,000 senior citizens at the Civic Auditorium.

"When you have an elderly lady come up to you in a walker and say 'this is my only Christ-

mas,' it's a wonderful feeling," Baker added.

Some 1,000 individuals and members of area churches, service clubs and schools donated their time to honor the elderly with the "community party."

Merchants donated some of the food, which included turkey, dressing, mashed

potatoes, gravy, vegetables and dessert, served at the civic or delivered to the homes of shut-ins.

Thelma Dalman directed a cooking staff at the county health building, which roasted 100, 18-to-20-pound turkeys for the event. The meals were put together in a mobile field kitchen, donated by the state Department of Forestry, in the auditorium parking lot. In addition to the hot meal, the seniors each received a wrapped gift and were treated to an afternoon of entertainment, including the music of Dan Lucans and the Gold and Silver Jazz Band, pianist Kevin Young, clown Hocus Pocus and several one-act plays by the Santa Cruz Theatre Guild. Don Mungai was master of ceremonies.