

The Alerts, a team of volunteer firemen from Santa Cruz, became the champion hose team of the world in the 1880s.

SC's Bicentennial Parade Is Tonight

A reenactment of the fire hose cart races that were popular among volunteer fire departments over 100 years ago will lead off the Bicentennial Parade in downtown Santa Cruz at 7 o'clock tonight.

As part of the celebration, the Santa Cruz City Bicentennial Committee has requested that all bells in the city, including church bells, school bells, town bells, hand bells and presumably cow bells, ring together today for four minutes beginning at 11 a.m.

The time selected is exactly 200 years from the precise moment that the Liberty Bell proclaimed the nation's independence. Bells were rung every July 4 after that until the Civil

War when fireworks were introduced.

Teams of five men each from the Santa Cruz City Fire Department, the Live Oak Fire Department and the Santa Cruz High School Alumni Assn. will run with old-fashioned hose carts from the J.C. Penney's parking lot on Cedar Street to the corner of Cedar and Union streets.

It's unlikely, however, that these modern day firefighters will beat the record the "Alerts" of the Santa Cruz City Volunteer Fire Department set about 100 years ago when 12 firefighters, 10 runners and two brakemen, became the champion hose team of the world

by running 400 yards in just 1:09 and two-fifths seconds.

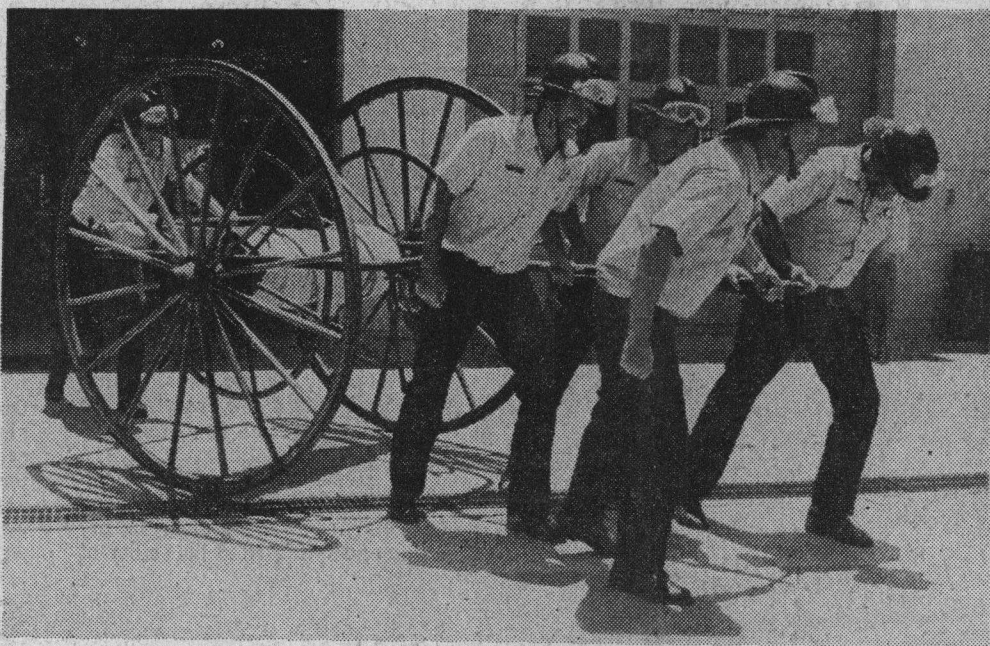
The big parade comes after the fire hose cart race. The over 50 entries in the parade, including floats, bands, antique vehicles and veterans organizations will start off from the parking lots of J.C. Penney's and the Calvary Episcopal Church. The parade will then proceed north on Cedar Street to Mission Street, through the Plaza to Front Street to Albertson's parking lot.

Trophies and awards will be presented to parade participants at the speakers platform at the Town Clock site at the end of the Pacific

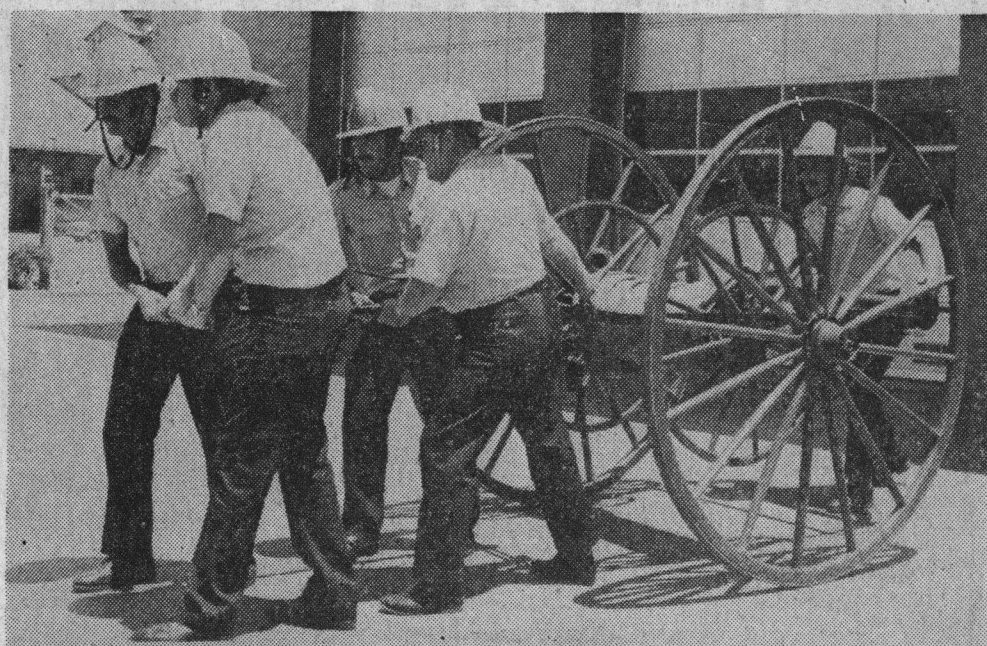
Garden Mall after the parade.

Following the awards presentation, the restored Town Clock will be dedicated in a special ceremony with the New Hastings' Symphonic Band presenting for the first time an original composition by Dr. Vera Preobrajensky of Santa Cruz, entitled "The Spirit of '76." The lights in the clock will be turned on at 9 p.m.

First aid stations and lost child booths will be manned by the Red Cross in front of the Plaza Bakery on the Pacific Garden Mall and at the J.C. Penney's parking lot on Cedar Street during the parade.



They may not be world champions, but modern day fire hose teams from the Santa



Cruz City Fire Department, at left, and the Live Oak Fire Department, at right, get ready for tonight's hose cart race which will

lead off the downtown Bicentennial parade at 7 o'clock.