

VCF Events RP [JUL 5 1994] p. 10  
**Annual Fourth festivities are history**



Spectators in front of the Miramar Grill waved to Watsonville parade participants yesterday. The Pleasure Point Brass Band entertained at Aptos parade. Band members are, from left, Michael Crain, Dan Young, Anthony Cawley and Tommy Neu. More parade coverage on page 2.

Kurt Ellison

## Parade-goers brave cool weather

By LANE WALLACE  
STAFF WRITER

The weather didn't cooperate, but everything else ran smoothly for the Watsonville Fourth of July Parade yesterday.

"This was smaller than last year. It was more fun," said Don Spence, chairman of the event for the last three years.

Seventy-two entrants participated this year, less than half of the 157 last year. Neither Spence nor others who helped organize the parade could figure out why the turnout was substantially lower; some guessed that would-be entrants might have stayed home to watch the World Cup soccer match, which started shortly after the parade.

It wasn't that this year's entry list was especially short — it was that last year's was so long.

The sun usually breaks out around 11 a.m., which was when the parade was scheduled to start, but it remained overcast, cool and windy throughout yesterday's event.

Despite the weather, a good crowd turned out, about the same as last year. People were three-deep along the parade



route, which stretched along Main Street from Freedom Boulevard to Second Street.

The entries ran the traditional array for Watsonville: floats, a

few animals, kids on go-carts, politicians, hot rods and representatives from the ethnic groups that live here. State Sen. Henry Mello, D-Watsonville,

rode in the parade, then caught a plane to Sacramento to finish work on the state budget in the afternoon.

See PARADE / back of section ▶

VCF EVENTS RP p. 10  
**PARADE**

▶ From Page 1 JUL 5 1994

Several vintage fire trucks were in the parade, including one carrying Grand Marshal Gene Friend, a longtime reserve firefighter.

In addition, there were little kids on bikes, and big kids on big bikes — a group of 13 Harley-Davidson motorcycle riders.

The Watsonville Band was the main musical attraction, with a 58-piece contingent.

The parade started with policeman Derek Boler buzzing down Main Street on his motorcycle, with one hand in a salute and the other clutching an American flag. It ended with a less exciting city vehicle — a street sweeper.

First prize for parade entries was a bicycle group of counselors (and residents of the Si Si Puede drug-rehabilitation program and the Watsonville Girls' Softball program).

The Watsonville Band and Watsonville Twirl Club tied for third, and Together in Pajaro was fifth.

In the Looney Parade Sunday night, the Articulated Beach Chair Drill Team was first, followed by the Twirl Club Mothers and the Watsonville Food Bank.

Gilbert Munoz won the pre-parade 2,000 kilometer run on