

# Big turnout for museum opening

A celebration of the Chinese community in the Pajaro Valley drew a large crowd Saturday to a new museum located in the same area as the original Watsonville Chinatown.

The crowd came to enjoy the opening of the "Chinese in the Monterey Bay Region" exhibit at the new Pajaro Gallery in the renovated Porter Building at Main and Maple streets, just a stone's throw from the first Watsonville Chinatown at Maple and Union streets.

Although it had been raining off and on all morning, the skies cleared in time for the opening festivities in the

afternoon. A Chinese Lion Dance was performed by the Tien Loong Gung Fu organization of San Francisco, and was followed by a Chinese feast, sponsored by the Chinese Association. The association maintains a fund which it draws on for the benefit of the Chinese community.

The Chinese Association's feast included roast pig, chicken wings, shrimp and other delicacies.

"We're very pleased that this particular exhibit was first (in the new gallery)," association member Evelyn Goon said. "The Chinese have been very important in the history of this

valley, though most people don't know it."

The exhibit, prepared by historian Sandy Lydon and the Santa Cruz City Museum, has been touring the area for several months. It includes photographs, letters and personal documents that chronicle the Chinese in this area since 1850. It also included a replica of a Chinese general store and many Chinese artifacts.

It was presented here under direction of the Pajaro Valley Arts Council.

The Chinese exhibit will be at the Pajaro Gallery until May 16. Museum hours are noon to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays.



Surrounded by a throng of onlookers, a troupe from San Francisco does the Lion Dance on Main Street. Chip Scheuer

REFERENCE

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