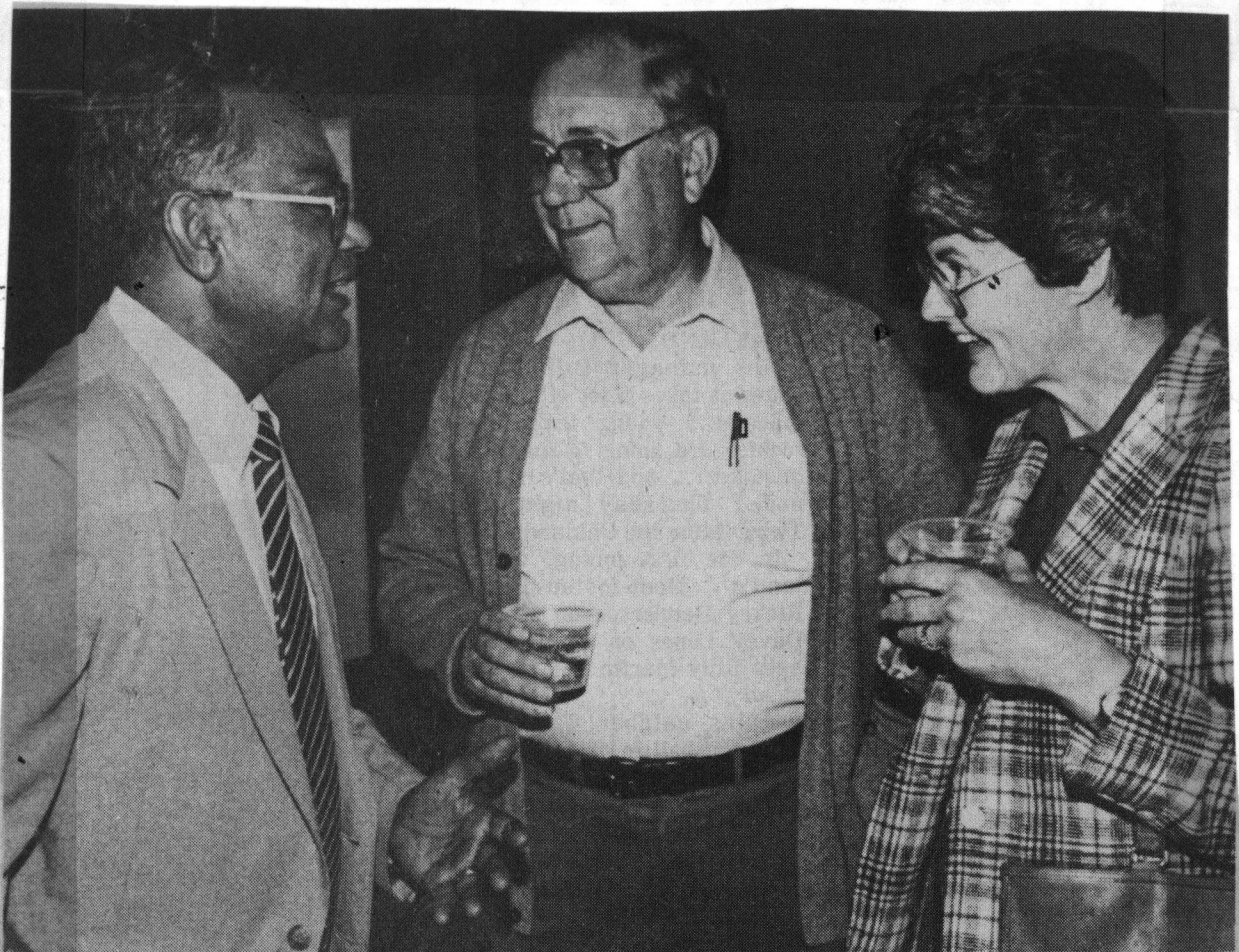


1970's - 1980's



Theater owner Mike Bhatia (left) chats with City Manager John Radin and Mrs. Radin before start of movie

Theater opening comes off

By LANE WALLACE

The grandest thing about the grand opening of the Pajaro Show Place Thursday night was that it opened when owner Mike Bhatia said it would.

Until differences with the city were settled Thursday morning, there was some question whether the three-screen theater would open on time. But everything was worked out and the theater opened Thursday for an invitation-only party. The public opening is tonight.

About 150 people attended the champagne and popcorn preview which featured a screening of the movie "E.T." Bhatia had planned to show all three movies that will be shown tonight, but technicians did not have time to complete adjustments on two of the three projectors.

"We are at the 90 percent mark," said Bhatia of the construction work. The other 10 percent is a stucco mural which must be put on the theater's outside walls by Aug. 31.

Bhatia and theater developer Roger Hoffman asked the City Council Tuesday to allow them to paint the mural on the wall, rather than paint it on stucco which will stand out from the wall.

Before they would allow power to be hooked up at the theater, the council required a \$40,000 deposit from the theater, guaranteeing that the mural will be installed. That guarantee was posted Thursday morning.

Tim Hughes, a consultant for Theater Development Corp., the agency hired by Bhatia to help

open the theater, found the problems with opening the new facility at East Lake Avenue and Union Street especially cumbersome.

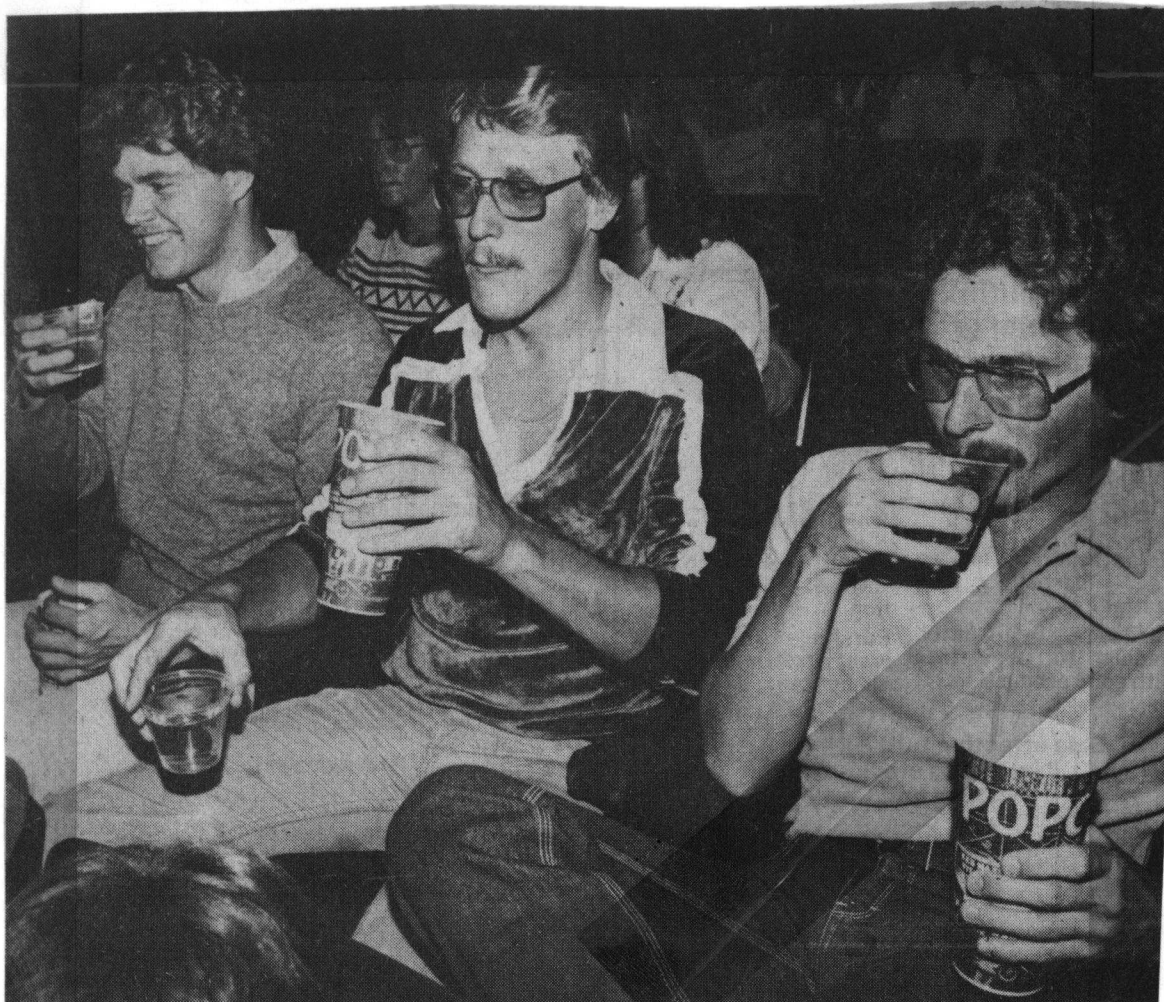
"The politics were unusual," Hughes said. "Usually the problems we see are with construction and equipment. This was unique."

"E.T.," along with "Six Pack" and "Night Shift," will begin showing at 5:10 p.m. Admission is \$2 for the first show and \$4 thereafter. Admission on Tuesdays is \$2 for all shows.

Bhatia said he hopes to make the theater a meeting place for the community, with various groups sponsoring benefit shows. The Sorooptimists had planned an event for the grand opening to raise funds for multiple sclerosis research, but have postponed it until August.

REFERENCE

WATSONVILLE
REGISTER-PAJARONIAN
July 30, 1982



It was champagne and popcorn time at new theater's grand opening.
Story on page 13.