

a

window

to our

past

Editor's Note: Since the pandemic put a damper on the last two Fourth of July celebrations in Cayucos, we decided to reprint one past Fourth of July article, pictures, and information from the July 2 and July 9 editions of the 1952 newspaper, *The Comet*.

Visitors Are Offered Varied Attractions

FIREWORKS, BIG DANCE, 7-DAY FISH DERBY, BEACH SPORTS, AND PLAYGROUNDS FOR THE CHILDREN

"Fun for everybody" seems to be the slogan of the Chamber of Commerce in plans being made for the entertainment of the crowds expected over the coming week, especially on Friday, the Fourth.

The first item - first because it starts first - is the Big Fish Derby, which runs from Monday, June 30 til Sunday night, July 6th.

The man in charge is Virgil Borges, and he has been busy for many days securing attractive prizes to be awarded each day during the six-day event.

Handsome prizes will be awarded each day to the person catching the biggest fish from the pier, and to the biggest fish caught from a boat. Then first and second grand prizes will be awarded, at the end of the contest to winner in each class.

Pier Grand Prizes will be - First: rod, reel, and line. Second: reel and line.

The children's big attraction will be the beach playground equipment, swings, merry go round, teeter-totter - and lots of beach and sand for games, wading and fun. Some children will want to compete for the prizes in the fish derby too.

Beach sports are also being planned for the older young people. Bill Boyle is in charge of this part of the program, and the schedule of events will be announced next week.

Fireworks have arrived, and the pyrotechnic display will be the biggest and most spectacular we have ever had.

Over \$400 worth of brilliancy with "Ahs" and "Ohs" will be seen and heard beginning as soon as it's dark enough, beginning around 8:30.

Then the Big Dance in the Beach Hall beginning around 9:30, with the best of music and a good time planned for all comers.....

Other Interesting Information:

Daily first place prizes for the Fish Derby included 5 gallons of gas, 4 quarts of oil, a case of beer, a pint of Seagram's 7, or \$2.50 worth of merchandise from local businesses like the Union, Chevron, or Texaco Stations, Paul's Place, or Boyle's Lumber.

Samples of second place prizes included \$1.50 worth of merchandise from stores like Hilton's or McKay's or dinners from local diners like Wings or Russell's Coffee Shop.

The Beach Sports included foot races, sack races, and three-legged races.

There was also mention of a swimming race. It seems that a raft was placed offshore with ropes and anchors.

Swimmers dove in, swam to the raft and back.

For the fireworks the Chamber of Commerce collected funds totaling \$537.60 plus \$18.80 from jars in businesses.

You'll notice that in the program there is no parade listed on the Fourth of July. It appears that the next Fourth of July Parade was held in 1954.



FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION, 1952

- From top to bottom -

1) Crowds on the beach at noon, and cars were parked like this on most every available spot in town. Many had left the beach to go to eating places. 2) Cars parking on lots between highway and beach. 3) Crowds on the pier, the town, and the beach in the distance. Hundreds more people were behind the photographer. 4) Bill Boyle (center holding box) and his committee who conducted the races on the beach.



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Since the Vets Hall was recently determined to be unsafe for occupancy, we have vacated our space. We wish to thank the Cayucos Lions Club for letting that be our home for the last few years. We have begun looking for a new space.

If you have or know somebody that has space available for low or no rent, please let us know.

In the meantime, we will try to maintain our education programs in some other way. We thank you for your continued support.



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