

Colorful Debut For Tanforan Park

In a festival atmosphere, the long awaited Tanforan Park Shopping Center held formal ground breaking

ceremonies Wednesday.

A bouncing, thundering race of three earthmovers, a miniature horse and plow,

the traditional gold shovel, and yellow plastic jockey hats were among the colorful features of the ceremonies held on the site at Sneath Lane and El Camino Real.

"The last race at Tanforan" saw the giant earth haulers circle the boundaries of the 48-acre 750,000 square foot regional shopping center. Mrs. Fred Nicholas, wife of the Hap Smith Co. executive, was aboard the winning vehicle.

Central figure in the ceremonies was Maurice O. "Hap" Smith, developer of the center. In his remarks at a civic luncheon, Smith noted, "This community needs a development like this. It deserves a development like this. And we are going to bring it to you."

Smith envisioned his two-story enclosed center as a "meeting place; a social gathering place as well as a fine place to shop. This is as much your center as it is mine. We truly want to be-

come part of the community."

San Bruno Mayor Neil Christal expressed a bit of municipal impatience when he said, "We hope this center will be in existence sooner than projected. We have been waiting for so many years."

Tanforan Park is expected to have its first phase opened next Fall. This will include the initial segment of a 70-store, two story enclosed mall and a giant Sears-Roebuck store. The proposed big J. C. Penney store will open "about six months later."

Philip Lyons Company is presently leasing space in the center. Lyons was described by Smith as the "finest in the business." The developer added to his

"team" Victor Gruen & Associates as the architects and Ernest Hahn as the contractor. Union Bank is the financial member of the "team."

Smith attempted to calm the fears of surrounding merchants when he said, "If the merchants think we're going to hurt them they are 100 percent wrong in their fears. If they are good merchants, they'll successfully compete against anyone."

The J. C. Penney Company was represented at the groundbreaking by Robert Van Kleek, Western Regional vice president, and Boyd Drennan, manager of the South San Francisco store. Sears-Roebuck was represented by George Gaugler, general manager of Sears Mid-California Retail division.

Nicholas, junior partner

in the Hap Smith Co., reflected about the old Tanforan when he walked guard duty around the Japanese retention camp some 25 years ago.

Don Frate, promotion manager for the Fremont Hub, another Hap Smith shopping center, was master of ceremonies. He noted that the groundbreaking took place five years to the day when the historic race track was razed by fire.



A victory kiss is received by "jockey" Mike Regan after winning the last Tanforan Derby. Mrs. Frederick Nicholas, wife of Hap Smith executive, was the rider on the earthhauler in the race.