

# Begonia Festival's Parade Draws 10,000

Delicate, richly hued begonias, blended into multi-colored water floats, attracted upwards of 10,000 persons to Capitola yesterday to witness the start of the fifth annual National Begonia festival.

The slow-moving, but uniquely presented parade moved down Soquel creek into the beach lagoon before camera-laden crowds clustered along the banks, on bridges, rooftops and the beach. Twenty-four motor-boat-towed entries in civic, fraternal, religious, commercial and miscellaneous divisions were judged.

Festivities continue today with water ski and sail boat races, a kiddies' parade at 2:30 p.m. and fishing derbies.

Parade division winners are as follows: commercial — Capitola Coffee cabaret, a spectacular float portraying a Japanese garden shelter in yellow, red and orange begonias. Hanging strips of blooms made up the walls.

Fraternal: Santa Cruz Lodge 460, Eagles, with its rainbow colored float using a theme, "Welcome to Eagledome."

Civic: Capitola volunteer fire department, a fire engine shaped float in red and white blooms with two youngsters in the front seat.

Miscellaneous: Guys and Dolls square dance group—one of the largest floats in red, white, yellow flowers, displaying two large butterflies.

Religious: Episcopal church of St. John The Baptist in Capitola, which featured a miniature church in flowers.

There were many other outstanding entries

Among them were the County Bank branch of Soquel, featuring a savings book in dark red begonias; a cool appearing garden shelter in pastel-colored begonias, with a "Good Old Summer Time" theme, entered by the Capitola pharmacy; Christine Frandson and Penny Nqvak, two 13-year-olds, having tea under a beach umbrella covered with blooms; three begonia-white sea-horses affixed to a merry-go-round was highly effective, and entered by Andy Antonetti; a brilliantly blossomed angel on a white, red, and pink float, sponsored by the Live Oak Community church.

Lewis Sorensen's House of Wax in Scotts Valley, sponsored a cleverly designed display. A little "handmade" lady rode in a begonia-blanketed canoe garnished fore and aft with long fern leaves.

The Capitola Baptist church had some young tykes simulating a church service, preacher and all, on a colorful raft. One of the prettiest entries in the parade was "Moosehaven", with an elderly couple sitting serenely among a multi-hued garden of blooms. It was sponsored by the Women of the Moose.

Leading the parade was Mayor Ruth Gabrielsen and Bill Tripp, president of the Capitola chamber of commerce, on a float claiming

Capitola to be the begonia capital of the world.

Queen Pat Conrad and her attendants Marla Weed, Sherri DeLorzier, Pat Darland, Anna Volpini, Sharon Bruce, Rose Maher and Linda Rush, had separate floats. Three girls ate fried chicken aboard the Benias restaurant float, and there were more girls on the Rhythm Rollers club's colorful entry.

Another entry featuring the butterfly was by the Soquel merchants. It was boxed in white begonias with "Soquel" in red. A pretty maiden rode atop the float.

Another Santa Cruz Moose lodge entry featured "Mooseheart" a special home for children. And the float was covered with youngsters.

"Banana Boat" was the theme of Loretta's restaurant entry, a begonia-bedecked dory, with banana leaves protruding and occupied by friendly natives. More gals helped the begonias on the Beauty Spot float and the Happy Valley Violet farm featured a youngster, a red heart and a miniature tree. The Capitola bowl added a touch of humor with its ten-pins and bowling ball setup on a rather cramped, teetery raft.

Today's program is as follows: junior fishing derby off the Capitola wharf and senior derby off party boats or private boats, both from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.; water ski races from 10 a.m. to noon; sail races from noon to 2 p.m.; children's parade at 2:30 p.m.

Edna Messini is general chairman.

## Youth Is Cleared In Knife Deaths Of Couple

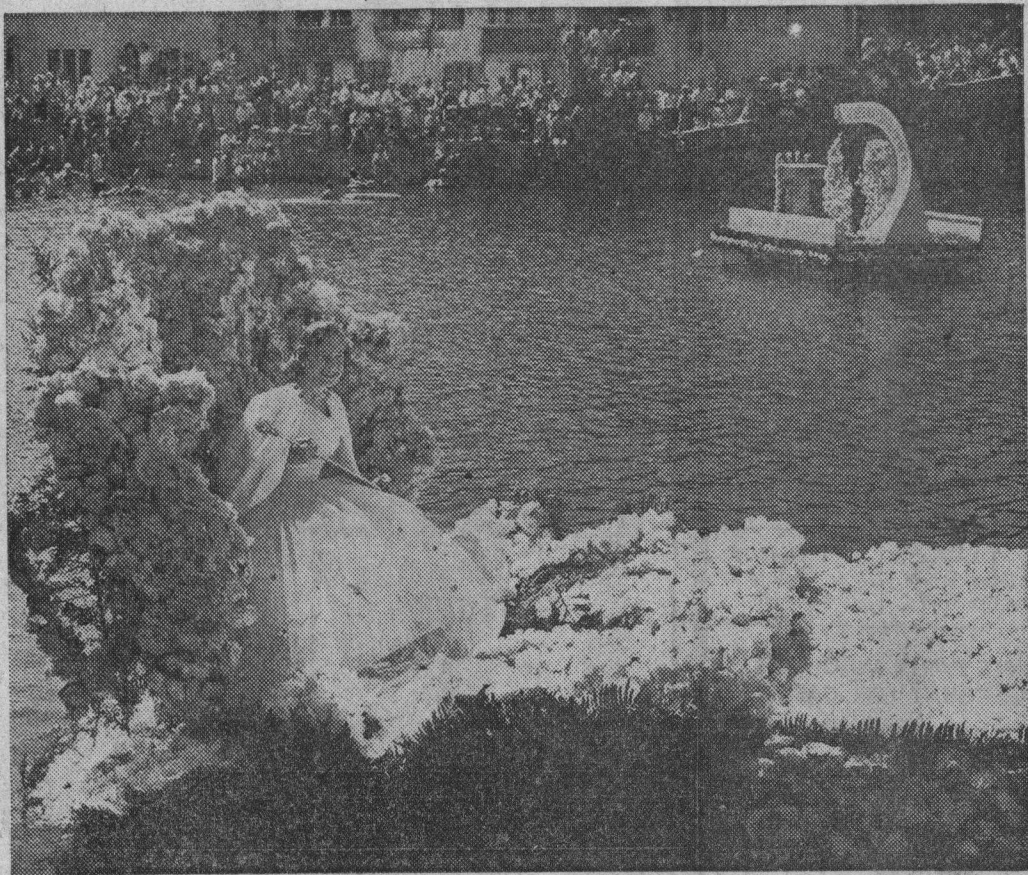
New York (AP).—An 18-year-old youth apparently was cleared Saturday of any suspicion in the Staten Island knife slayings of Dr. and Mrs. Melvin Nimer, but was charged with stealing two suitcases in Brooklyn.

The youth, William Fletcher Jr., a Negro and onetime mental patient, had gone from New York to Virginia three days ago and made statements which relatives interpreted as hints he had some connection with the case.

However, after extensive questioning and a tour of Staten Island, which he was said to have visited with friends several hours before the Nimers were found dead at their home early the morning of September 2, he was released to Brooklyn authorities.

This action returned the spotlight to 8-year-old Melvin Nimer Jr., who, after first telling police he asked intruder slew his parents, claimed he did it with a kitchen knife. The boy now is undergoing mental tests.

## Queen Sails In Royal Float



Pat Conrad, queen of the 1958 National Begonia Flower festival in Capitola rode in the nau-



tical parade yesterday surrounded by white, yellow and orange begonias. The festival will continue today with water ski and

sail boat racing and a kiddies' parade down the Esplanade at 2:30 p.m.

