

# Capitola Is Ready To Honor Its Begonias

Texas may have its yellow rose and Georgia is known for the delicate peach blossom, but no area honors the colorful begonia blossom like Capitola.

For the 23rd year, the city will come alive with the bright blossoms plucked from the greenhouses of Antonelli Brothers Begonia Farm for the annual begonia festival beginning this weekend. The activities continued through Sept. 15.

The highlight of the yearly event will be the nautical parade of begonia-bedecked floats on Soquel Creek on Sept. 12, beginning at 2 p.m. from the Shawdowbrook and heading down the lagoon and back again.

The best vantage points to

view the floats are at the beach near the lagoon, on the bridge over the creek and from the banks of the creek, Dianne Graves, festival worker, said. Many people who own homes along the creek open their yards to spectators, she added.

The more sports-minded will be interested in the action taking place this weekend to begin the festival.

A repeat performance of last year's skateboard contest will take place down Monterey Avenue hill at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Interested contestants can call Gary Tracey at 475-4466.

For those who worked up an appetite during the skateboard contest, a spaghetti dinner is scheduled Saturday night from 5:30 to 7:30 at Capitola City

Hall. Proceeds go toward the Begonia Festival.

Michelangelos of the beach will gather for the sand sculpturing contest on Sunday at 9 a.m. on the city beach. Graves said that everything from the traditional castle to lizards and telephones have been designed in the past. For more information on the contest, call Jerry Clarke at 476-3789.

The younger set will join in a diaper derby on The Esplanade lawn across from the city beach at 11 a.m. on Sunday. Prizes will be awarded to the fastest crawling babies. For more information, call Nancy Evans at 475-4502.

At high noon on Sunday the Begonia Regatta will set sail from the Capitola wharf in the form of dinghy races. For more

information, call Bob Larson at 475-7107.

Rowboat contests also will be held at noon on Sunday from the wharf. The races will be in two divisions with juniors ages 16 and under competing and male/female teams ages 17 and older competing in the adult division. For more information on entering these races, call Dianne Graves at 475-8404.

The nautical parade is not the only event the next weekend. The festivities continue with a volleyball tournament on the

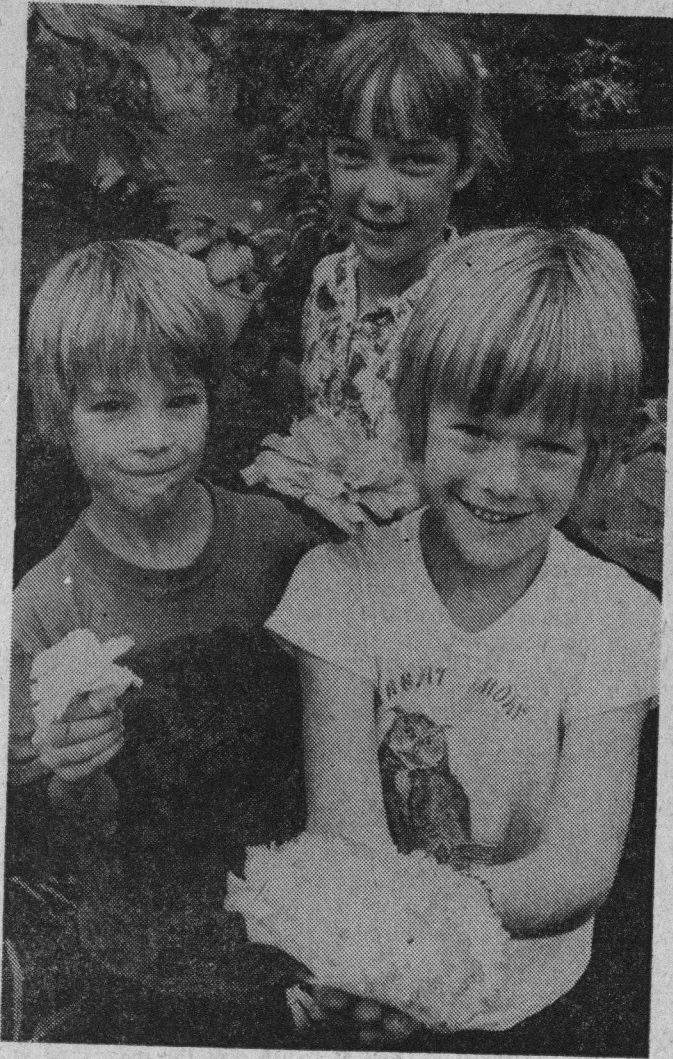
city beach starting Sept. 11 at 10 a.m. and continuing through Sunday. For more information, call Dale Cooksey at 688-1344.

Homes and businesses decorated with begonias will be judged on Sept. 12. For information on entering the competition, call Alida Stevens at 475-2844.

The festival ends with the Begonia Open Golf Tournament on Sept. 15 at DeLaveaga Golf Course. Information on this event can be obtained by calling Fred Marchucci at the Portola House Restaurant at 476-2733.

## Seniors Day To Open Fair

Senior Citizens' Day is opening day this year at the Santa Cruz County Fair.



These three youngsters display some of the colorful begonia blossoms from Antonelli Brothers Begonia Farm that will decorate floats, homes and businesses during Capitola's Begonia Festival on Sept. 4-5 and 11-12. Thousands of the blooms will be used to decorate floats on Soquel Creek during the Nautical Parade on Sept. 12 at 2 p.m. Displaying the blooms are, from left to right, Bill, Rob and Elizabeth Hood of San Jose.

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