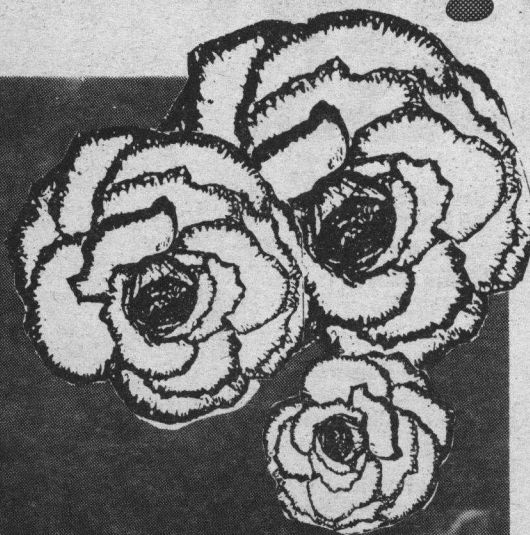
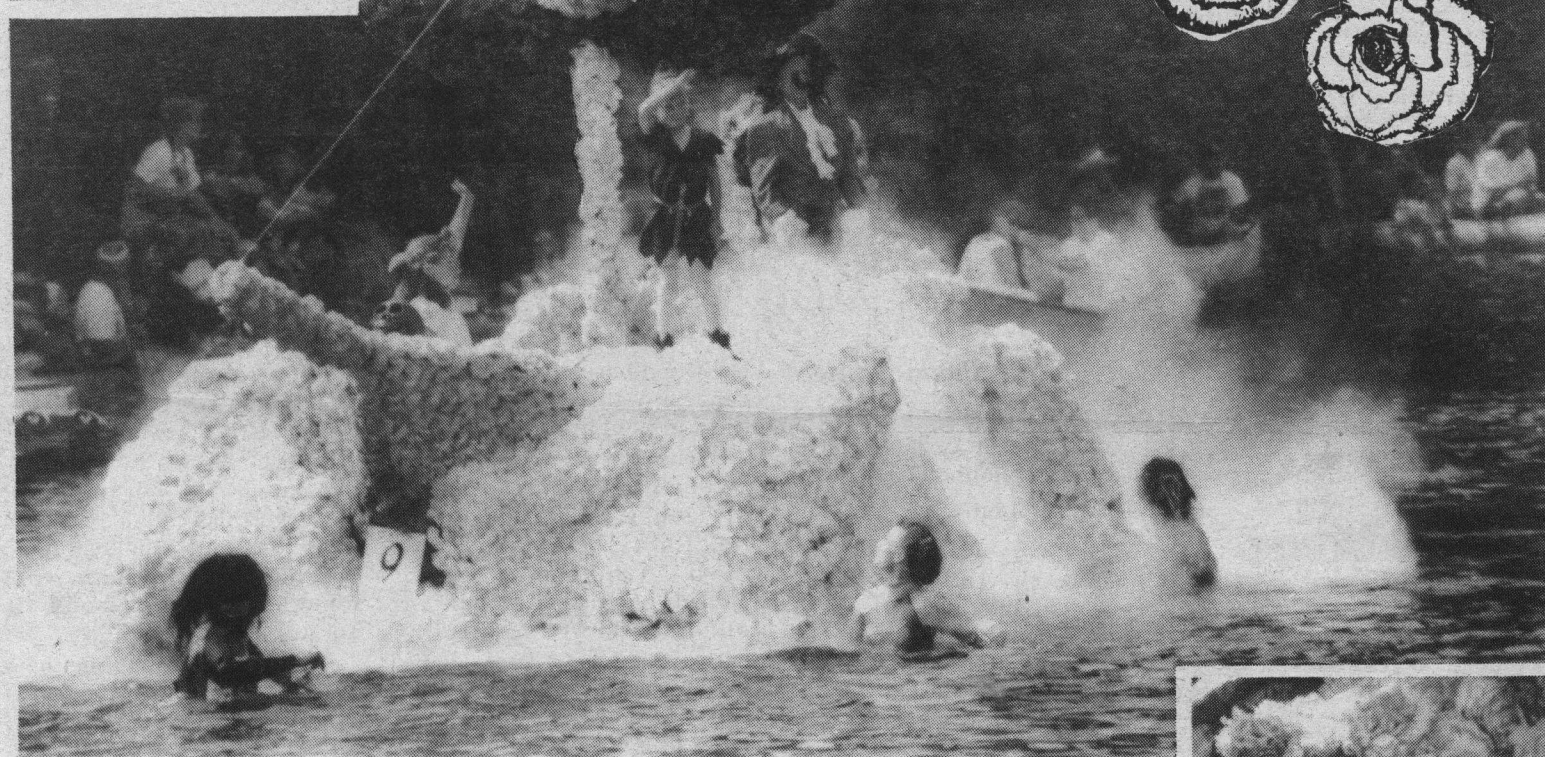
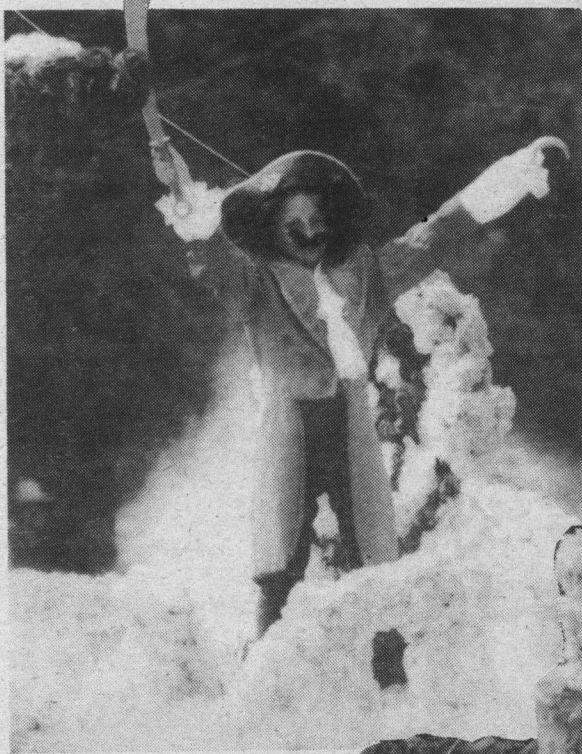


# 39th Begonia Festival Blooms In Capitola



Festival hang-up as the reluctance of some homeowners to allow the Festival participants to use their property. "One of the concerns is that people who own property along the creek do not like the groups using their building sites because in the past there have been some problems in cleaning up afterwards."

Although Enemark's personal favorite float did not win, she called the contest very fair and also said, "the basis for judging criteria was excellent."

Carin Mudgett, a director on the Festival committee said she heard, "only good comments about the Festival. The quality of both the floats and commercial and residential displays was high."

She felt that the crowd's appreciation helped create the positive atmosphere.

Mudgett said that the best thing about the Festival was the sense of camaraderie among the participants. "It's not a cut throat thing; everybody helps each other out. It's a community camaraderie." □

by Summer Lopez

**D**uring the first weekend in September, the entire community of Capitola plunges into a sort of begonia mania.

Houses and shops adorned with flowers flourish along quaint lanes of the Village, all in the name of the Begonia Festival, which annually hails incredibly intricate float designs, and the gorgeous fragrance of fresh flowers.

In the Festival's 39th year, St. John the Baptist sailed away with a first place prize. The colorful float, "St. George and the Dragon" made its way down Soquel Creek, aided by a wet-suited crew which guided the blooming red and gold masterpiece under the trestle to the judging tables.

Crowds of thousands thronged through the streets

of Capitola Village, closed to all motorist traffic. Along the riverbank, sightseers swarmed down the narrow waterfront paths to catch a glimpse of the spectacular floating parade.

In accordance to this year's theme, Flights of Fancy, the following entries took first place in their respective divisions: Group - St. John the Baptist, "St. George and the dragon;" Commercial-Sea Bonne Restaurant, "Flying Fish;" Residential Display-Barry Hamby, "Old Glory;" Commercial Display-Sea Level T-shirt shop, "Flight of Fancy Flamingos." Awarded the Grandsweepstakes was Capitola Kids for "Snoopy does a fly-by."

Miscellaneous winners included Best First Time Entry-Riverview Homewreckers Association, for "Capitola Tourists 2001;" President's Choice-Central Fire District for "Snoopy and the Red Baron;" County Office of Education,

for "Monarch Butterfly;" and Sweepstakes- Cherry Street Gang, for "Magic Carpet Ride," respectively.

The float, "Capitola Tourists 2001" was a crowd pleaser with its depictions of futuristic visitors from the galaxy abroad. The children's favorite seemed to be a toss up between the enormous whale containing Pinocchio and his father Gepetto inside and Captain Hook's pirate ship complete with a dueling Peter Pan.

Many weeks of preparation were required to build and decorate the floats. Some projects claimed as many as 20,000 blossoms. Crews worked together to pick the flowers and prepare the float for the big day.

Maureen Enemark, an organizer of the Begonia Festival since 1979, felt that Festival went "smoothly; there were no problems."

But she cited one pre-

