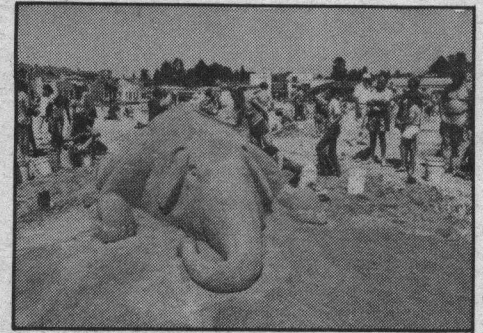


PHOTO: GLENN VIGUERS



► The nationally known nautical parade is the highlight of the annual Begonia Festival in Capitola. The theme for this year's festival is "Begonias, Past and Present."



BEGONIA BASH

THE EVER-POPULAR Capitola Sand Sculpture Contest and Diaper Derby will highlight the 30th annual Begonia Festival Sunday, September 4, in Capitola Village.

Along with the Pro-Am Downhill Skateboard Race on Saturday, these events mark the midway point in this annual tribute to the locally-grown begonia bloom.

The festival will continue through the Labor Day weekend with a fishing derby and Capitola regatta on Monday, September 5. The regatta will include jester dinghy races, rowboat races, and windsurfing competition. Community play volleyball begins in the afternoon.

The fourth annual Capitola Beach Festival, sponsored by the Capitola Junior Lifeguards, will be held September 10.

The final day of the festival is the colorful nautical parade. Seventeen begonia-decked floats are expected to enter this year, making the parade the biggest ever. The parade is held on the lagoon near the Capitola Beach.

The Begonia Festival has gained Capitola national attention over the years. Known as the "Begonia Capital of the World," Capitola's proclamation rings true—with Brown Bulb Ranch and Antonelli Brothers Begonia Gardens combining to produce 99 percent of the begonias in the US. ■



PHOTOS: LEE MAY