

# 12th annual festival at the cement ship

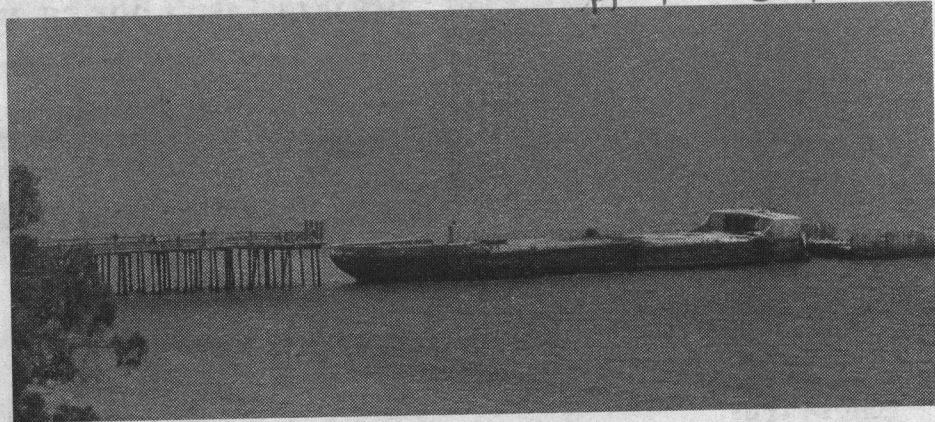
Cement Ship

## Volunteers fete colorful history of Palo Alto

Aptos - Seacliff State Beach, located off the State Park Drive off Highway 1 in Aptos, launches the 12th annual "Festival at the Cement Ship" on Saturday, June 4, from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This year's activities will include not only the rousing history of the Palo Alto, the old concrete ship that lays in the sand at the end of the pier, but will also provide arts, crafts, and games for children of all ages. Music, fun, food and dance will tell the story of Seacliff's intriguing history. Informational displays and exhibits will help explain the natural wonders of Seacliff's fossil beds and the many animals that call the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary their home. So, Grab your dancin' shoes and your sunscreen and come one, come all for a day of fun at Seacliff State Beach!

Each year, Seacliff's dedicated team of volunteer docents gather together to create a day of fun to celebrate Seacliff's rich marine life and unlikely maritime heritage—The theme of the event is easy to figure out when you have a World War 1 relic ship beached and broken along the shoreline! The ship is slowly returning to the sea, but as it does, it provides a reef home to rocky shore animals including invertebrates, fish, birds, and even harbor seals that are sometimes spotted on deck. The Festival at the Cement Ship celebrates this park's unique natural and cultural heritage.

Most people think this is a site of a shipwreck, but the ship was purposely towed from the Shipyards in Oakland to Seacliff Beach. Entrepreneurs brought the ship to Seacliff with plans to turn it in to Santa Cruz's



hottest nightspot. It was 1930, the Jazz Age, and visitors came to dine and dance. You could enjoy a 5-course meal for about 80cents followed by tunes of Ed Rockledge and his 10-piece orchestra. The ship also had penny arcade games, a soda fountain, and there were rumors about illegal gambling below deck.

After just 2 seasons in operation the ship's owners went broke, and a wintertime storm cracked the ship's hull.

For more information, please call (831) 685-6444.

Co-sponsored by California State Parks and Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks