

Giraffe Floats to Victory in Begonia Festival "Safari"

Begonia Festival

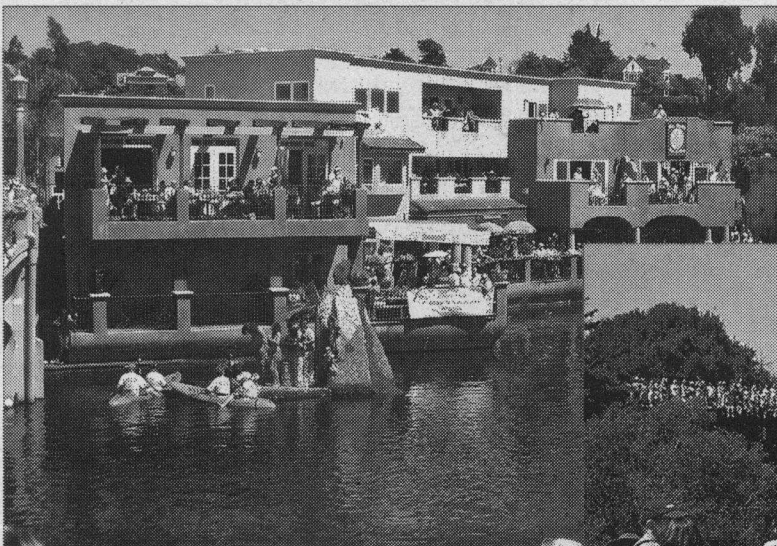
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The Capitola Jungle Safari theme for this year's Begonia Festival provided inspiration for some crowd-pleasing floats at the 55th annual event on Sunday, Sept. 2. The winning entrant, "High Tech Safari," featured a Land Rover safari truck piloted by a giraffe. On the back of the float, built by Riverview Avenue residents led by Nels Westman, a monkey-boy tossed bananas to the crowd.

"There was a lot going on and it was a lot of fun," Westman said.

The 23-foot-tall giraffe made an awkward duck to pass under the 10-foot arch of the Stockton Street bridge.

Second Place went to the Silva family's "Jungle Love" float. Third Place was awarded to "Tarzan and Jane in the Internet Café," built by last year's champions, the Cherry Street Gang. ■



Left: Floats pass beneath the bridge to finish the parade in front of waterfront Esplanade businesses.

Above: Crowds packed the trestle and Stockton Street Bridge to get the best views of this year's floats.

