

# Begonia Festival delights thousands

by Joel Roberts

10/93

The group known as "the Bozo Brigade" feared their float might not survive the trip down the river. However, Godzilla, kneeling to get under the Stockton Avenue Bridge, not only spewed smoke and fire, but successfully navigated the lagoon and was the grand sweepstake winner of the 41st Annual Begonia Festival. Dan Beagle and Brian Roder and their group built the float using about 10,000 begonias.

This year's theme, "Calling All Creatures," brought out animals ranging from a fish to Puff the Magic Dragon, from Prudence the Wonderworm to a troll. Organizers estimate nearly 10,000 people watched the eight

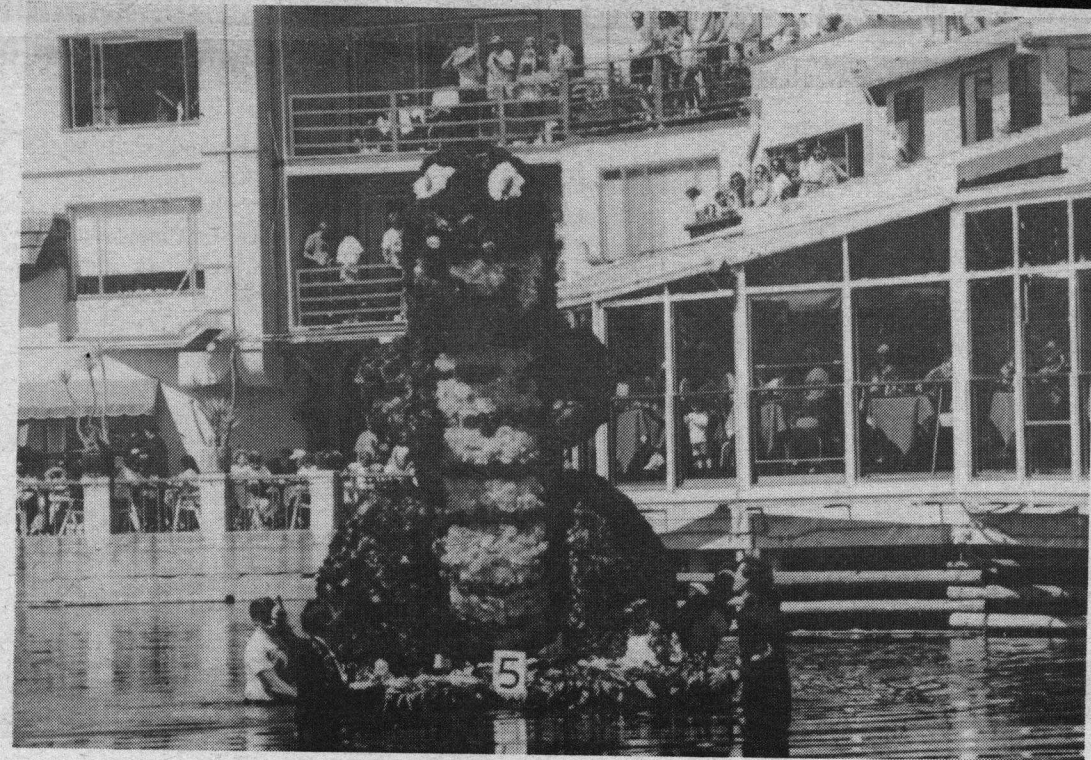


photo by Robert J. Airolti

Godzilla emerges from the lagoon during the 41st Annual Begonia Festival.

floats towed down the creek and into the lagoon.

Like other entrants, members of the Bozo Brigade were up

early to put the finishing touches on their 12-foot-high creature. When Godzilla neared the bridge, the Bozo group looked surprised that their float was too

tall to fit under the eight-foot span. Then the crew rotated the beast forward and Godzilla, bowing gracefully, cruised under

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