

Thousands at nautical parade

More than 15,000 people lined the banks of Soquel Creek in Capitola Sunday afternoon to watch a giant circus steam calliope win the grand sweepstakes award in the 27th annual Capitola Begonia Festival Nautical Parade.

The calliope, belching steam and playing circus tunes as it swept down the Soquel Creek into Capitola Lagoon, was a sixth-time entry for the Kaleidoscope, a children's educational toy and game store on 41st Avenue.

Sixteen floats, the 40-piece Watsonville Band and the Barbara Ellen Dancers were entered in this year's Nautical Parade. But disaster struck one entry shortly before parade time, and only 15 floats followed the band down the river.

A strut supporting a skeletal framework of a large elephant entered by Erik's Deli broke as an outboard motor was being started on the float and the elephant "just laid down and died," one float worker reported.

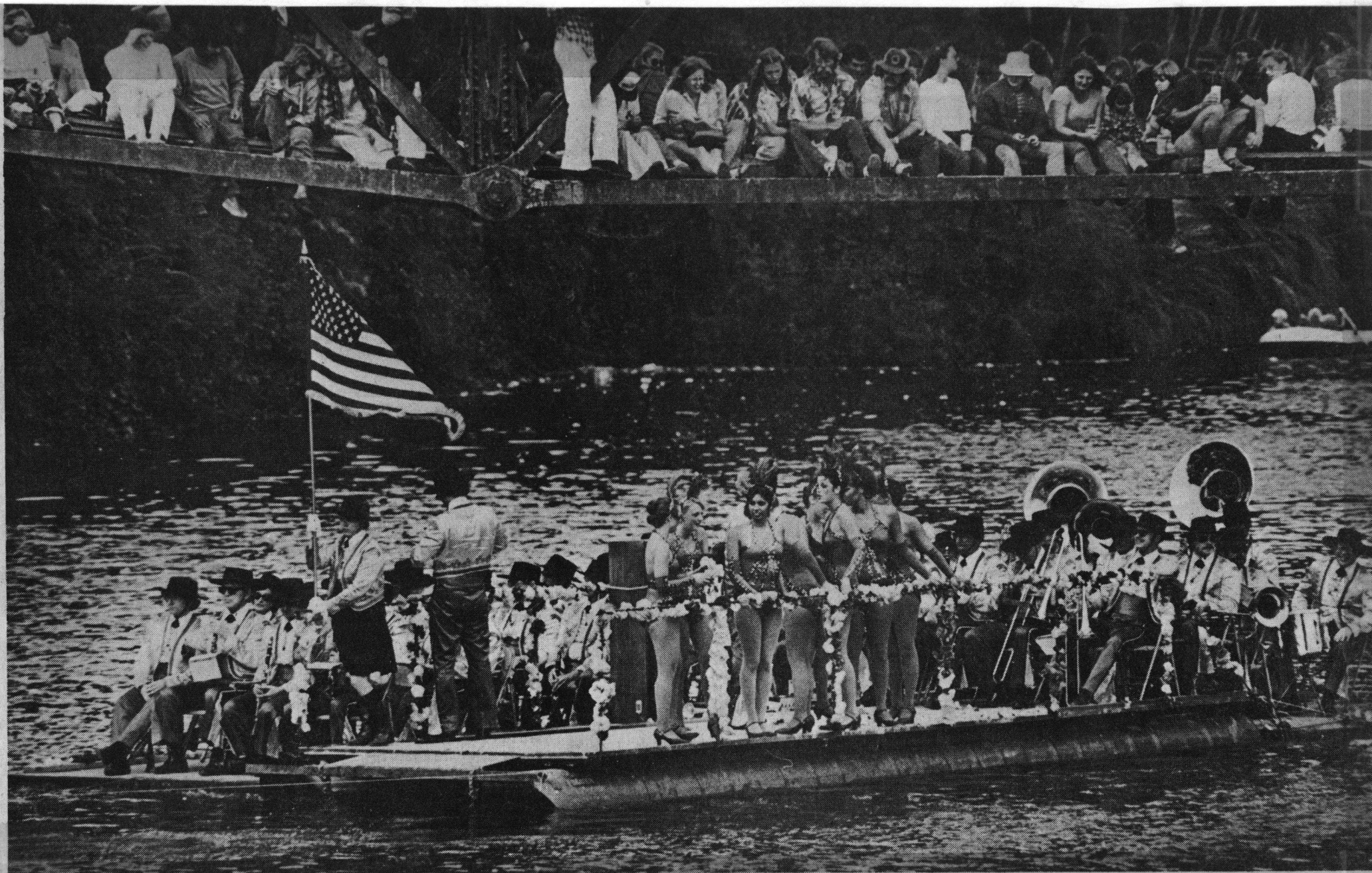
The Watsonville Band and the Barbara Ellen Dancers' appearance on a specially constructed float was a first-time entry for the famous marching band in the Begonia Festival and their float was the largest ever assembled for a festival water parade.

Other winners in the competition included:

Commercial division — 1st place, Mervyn's Department Store, a circus bear "On the Tightrope"; 2nd, Wooden Expressions, "The Human Cannonball"; 3rd, El Puentito Cafe, "Seal with a Ball".

Group division — 1st, Santa Cruz Volleyball Assn., "Caged Gorilla"; 2nd Review Terrace Gang, "The Happ, Giant"; 3rd, Headstart of Santa Cruz County, "Carousel".

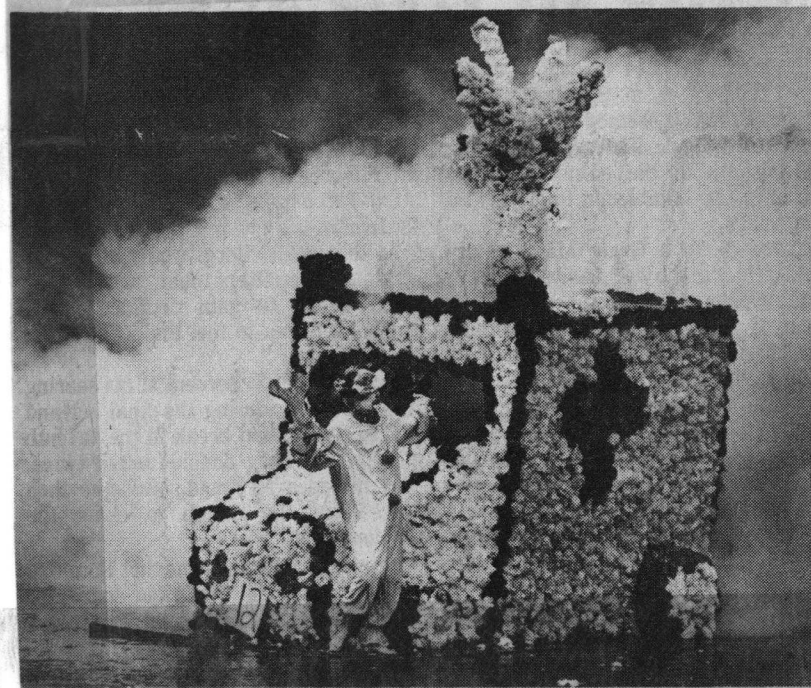
The Mayor's Trophy was presented to Community Hospital of Santa Cruz' "Ambulance to the Rescue"; and the Festival President's Trophy was awarded to Joe Urbancic, who entered his 25th float, "The Lion and Tamer."



Watsonville Band made its first entry in water parade on specially- built float

WATSONVILLE
REGISTER-PAJARONIAN
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ATLOS, CALIFORNIA 95002



"Ambulance to the Rescue,"
Community Hospital of
Santa Cruz's entry in the
Begonia Festival needed
rescuing itself as its motor
failed and smoke display got
out of hand (at left). Despite
all the troubles the float
received the Mayor's trophy.
At right is a general view of
water parade looking
upstream. People filled
every available spot to get a
view.

