

Restoration show features two Boardwalk relics

By J.M. BROWN

jbrown@santacruzsentinel.com

SANTA CRUZ — Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk President Charles Canfield and two relics from the historic amusement park's Casino Arcade will be featured on upcoming episodes of a popular History channel restoration show.

Canfield will appear in Wednesday's episode of "American Restoration," in which star fixer-upper Rick Dale of

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A10 TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012



CONTRIBUTED

Charles Canfield, president of the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, left, stands with Tyler Dale, center, and Ron Dale, two stars of the History channel's 'American Restoration' who returned the Boardwalk's penny scale and mutoscope after restoring the early 1900s machines.

HISTORY

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Rick's Restorations and his crew in Las Vegas replace missing parts of an early 1900s mutoscope, a machine for viewing moving pictures. On Jan. 25, Canfield will be on the reality show again as the crew tackles repairs on a penny scale, which is also more than 100 years old.

Canfield, 72, traveled to Las Vegas three times as part of the restorations.

The show repaired the 105-year-old Boardwalk's 1940s baseball game in an episode last fall after contacting the Seaside Co. about its cache of historic relics. Canfield was so impressed with Dale's work that he then drove the penny scale and his son drove the mutoscope to Las Vegas last year.

"He does a great job on restoration and I like the colors and the way they finished the machines off," Canfield said of Dale and his team. "I really like the way the baseball machine turned out. We told them we have other machines that are pretty beat up and need to get restored."

Representatives of the show were unavailable Monday, but the program's website explains that Dale and his "crew of loose screws" take great pains to restore high-value antiques.

"Whether it's a giant gas pump from the 1940s or a Hopalong Cassidy bicycle from the 1950s, every restoration is a high-stakes business project where worthless rust is transformed into a valuable collectible," the website says. "However, these restorations aren't easy. Every project presents unique challenges for Rick and his team, who develop inventive processes to finish each job flawlessly and on time."

Two of the show's stars, Dale's brother Ron and son

TUNE IN

'AMERICAN RESTORATION'

WHAT: History channel 'American Restoration' segment called 'Double Trouble,' on restoration of a turn-of-the-century mutoscope belonging to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk
WHEN: 10 p.m. Wednesday
CHANNELS: 62 on Comcast, 256 on AT&T, 37 on Charter, 269 on DirectTV
INFORMATION: www.history.com/shows/american-restoration

Tyler, visited the Boardwalk to return the mutoscope and penny scale earlier this month. No film was taken to use for the show, but the two had their photo taken on the 125-foot-high Double Shot ride.

"We gave them a tour of the 'walk, and they were pretty impressed with all we've got here," Canfield said.

Canfield said the three restorations cost his Seaside Co. about \$18,000, but the investment was worth it for machines that would be difficult to put a price on. Once relegated to storage due to their state of disrepair, they will return to the Boardwalk's Casino Arcade but only as a history exhibit, Canfield said.

"We didn't lose any money on them," Canfield joked. "I also figured in the advertisement we got out of it."

Wednesday's episode featuring the mutoscope is called "Double Trouble" and the Jan. 25 episode with the penny scale is called "The Big Move." "American Restoration," whose popularity recently helped History gain top cable ratings among viewers 25-54 on Wednesday nights, will air at 10 p.m. on Comcast Channel 62, AT&T Channel 256, 37 on Charter and 269 on DirectTV.