

Capitola Pams  
 Capitola - 1960 - 1969

# Capitola Museum Opens Saturday



Capitola Museum directors hustle to get exhibits ready for the museum opening next weekend. At left Pat Shevlin adjusts turn-of-the-century clothing on a mannequin. Others, left to right, are Pat Koski, Roberta Walker, Mayor Phillip Walker, Ed Koski, and a non-director, Mrs. Shevlin's infant son, William. An open house will be held Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. The museum is located on the lower end of the Capitola city hall parking lot.

By Ron Reeves  
 Sentinel Staff Writer

The Capitola Museum will open officially next weekend.

Mayor Phillip Walker, who with a group of volunteers is primarily responsible for development of the museum, had promised efforts in this direction when he ran for city council two years ago.

First, he opened what he called his "one-room Smithsonian Institute" in a room behind the Capitola Chamber of Commerce office in July, 1966. Over 400 persons visited the tiny museum, which consisted primarily of loaned or donated exhibits.

Then last October the mayor spotted a small house which was being removed by the county as part of the Brommer Street extension project. He purchased the 700-square foot building for \$25, and offered it to the city.

The city council turned down his offer, holding that Walker's plans were vague and that the city didn't have any money with which to develop a museum.

Mayor Walker gave the city one last chance and called a special council meeting. He brought in a bunch of backers, produced

petitions carrying 383 signatures of people liking the museum idea and then promised there wouldn't be any cost to the city until at least 1970, which is when his present term expires.

The council reconsidered, and the mayor was given his chance. Chuck Booth of Clark and

Clark House Movers, without charge, moved the building to its location on the lower end of the city hall parking lot, and mayor and his volunteers went to work.

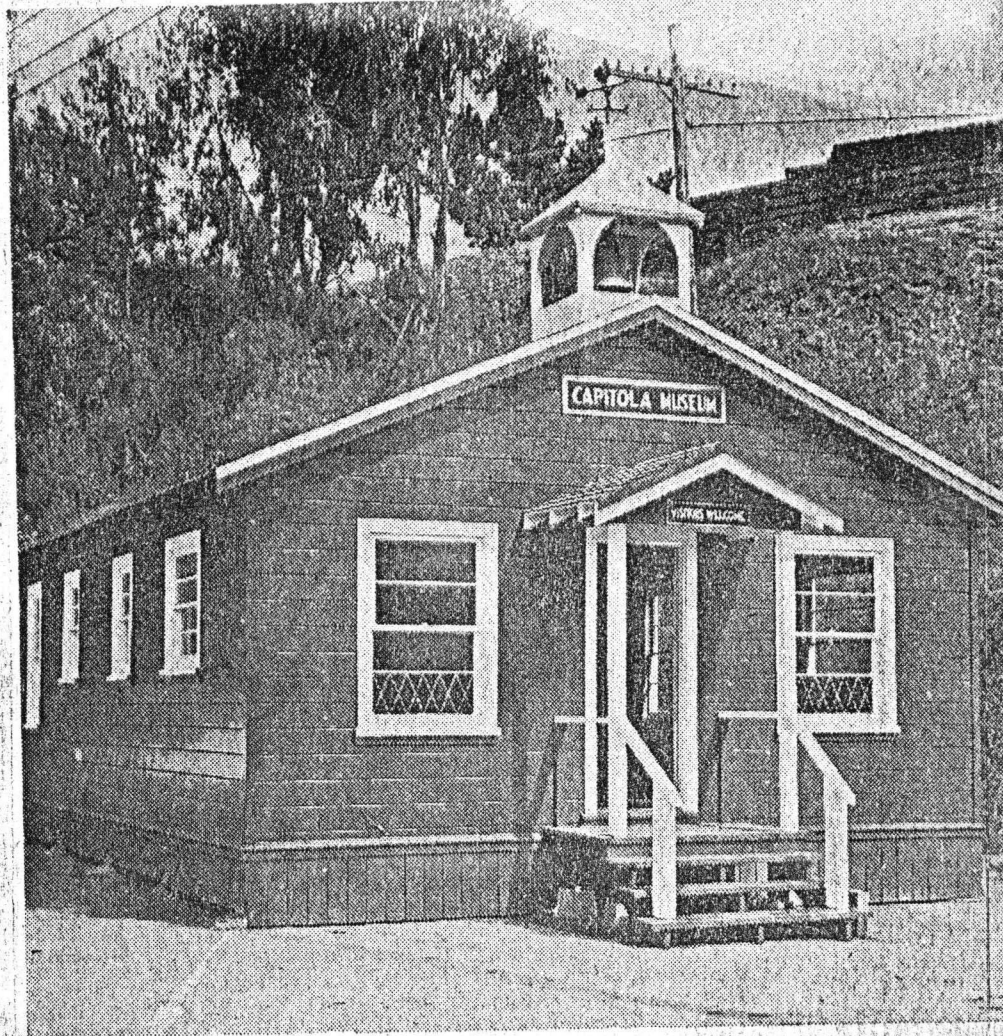
They have painted the house red and added a bell tower, making the building resemble an old-fashioned school house. Inner walls have been shifted and exhibits are going up.

It has all been done without a penny from the city. Most of the money has come from the mayor's \$75 monthly salary from the city and his \$25 monthly salary for serving on the Capitola sanitation district board of directors. As pledged in his council campaign, all of the mayor's salary money has gone for city beautification, which included purchasing and planting of hundreds of street trees.

When the museum opens Saturday, the public will get a chance to see some of the museum's 500 photographs, which extend back to 1873, along with many other interesting artifacts. Most of the museum is dedicated to Capitola history, past and present, but other areas of the county are also included.

The exhibits include items from the collections of the late Harlan Kessler, the city's first mayor, and a long-time resident, the late Violet Rose.

An informal open house is planned Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. After this, the museum is to be open daily from 1 to 5 p.m., the mayor said.



A former residence, moved out by the county as part of the Brommer Street extension project, has been converted into the Capitola Museum. The doors officially open Saturday noon, and the public is invited, without charge, to see the work of Mayor Phillip Walker and his volunteers.

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