

BW 6



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

Cottardo Peter Ghio has earned title 'old salt'

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A fisherman nets 90 years

Cottardo Peter "Trub" Ghio knows the waters of Monterey Bay as well as most people know their own back yards.

After all, Trub fished those waters for 52 years.

He'll be 90 years old on Tuesday and tonight his family is having a party to honor him. Included will be his three children, seven grandchildren and their families and four of his eight great-grandchildren.

The veteran commercial fisherman is the oldest living member of Santa Cruz' once vibrant group of Genoese fishermen. He never had a mishap, fortunately, because he never learned to swim.

Born near the coast of Riva Trigoso in Genoa in 1893, he emigrated to San Francisco at the turn of the century. After the 1906 earthquake, he moved to Santa Cruz and has lived here ever since.

Trub's name is short for "trouble," a nickname that stemmed from his knack for getting into mischief.

As the story goes, the young Trub

was sitting in his sixth grade classroom one day when a classmate hit him in the eye with a spitball. Trub promptly retaliated by hitting the classmate back — but with his fist.

Sent to the principal's office, he was told to wait.

The sight of an open window there tempted him mightily. He jumped through, went fishing and never returned to school.

After he retired in 1961 from a lifelong fishing career, he still went down to the wharf, either going out with other fishermen or mending nets and trawl baskets.

His wife, Clara, died in 1968 and he moved in with his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Egidio Torchio.

Today, Trub is more commonly called "Nono" by his family. That's the Italian's affectionate term for "grandfather", and very fitting since he spends so much time playing with his great-grandchildren these days.



Ghio's nickname 'Trub' stands for 'trouble'