

LIBRARY
7695 SOQUEL
APTOS, CALIFORNIA

Green Sheet

Capitola, California
Eighth year, No. 157

Saturday, September 8, 1979
16 Pages, 15 cents



Yesteryear's memories--Depot Hill Association's World War 1 biplane, the co-winner of the 1978 Grand Sweepstakes.

Begonia Festival

Begonia parade goes Hollywood

For the few moments of glory each enjoys, building a float for the Capitola National Begonia Festival is not the easiest project to undertake.

Planning for many of the floats that 15,000 and more people will be watching Sunday afternoon move slowly down Soquel Creek through Capitola started months ago, shortly after the theme — "Capitola Goes to the Movies" — was announced. And construction of the float framework has been quietly going on in backyards and garages for

got under way in earnest Friday when the barges with the floatation attached were delivered to the river banks.

Distributed along the river, they awaited the workers.

Most began showing up early Saturday morning with their framework of chicken wire, wood and metal.

Begonias — 12-20 per square foot — are wired to the chicken wire framework after being picked in Marina and transported to Capitola.

Saturday afternoon and evening and into Sunday morning.

perennial entrant in the parade, and this year will be offering their version of "The Greatest Show on Earth."

The Santa Cruz Gay Men's Club, a new entrant, will be drawing a theme from the movie, "Jaws," one of the greatest box office attractions in movie history.

Susan Hull of Aptos and her friends will be entering Don Quixote and his Impossible Dream.

Traditionally, Joe Urbanic and the children of Capitola have entered a float in the

Metropolitan Transit District chose a apt theme, "A Streetcar Named Desire."

Donald Duck, one of Walt Disney's most irrepressible characters, is the character for the Guarantee Land and Title Co.'s entry.

"At the Drive-in Movie" is the theme for the Howard Carr family, a group who have entered for several years.

Appropriately, "Intermission" is the title of the Riverview Terrace Group, led by Nels Westman.

trying to repeat his grand sweepstakes winning entry of last year with "King Kong."

He tied with the Depot Hill Association, who is also looking for the top prize again this year. They'll be entering the greatest whale to ever sail the seven seas — Captain Ahab's nemesis, Moby Dick.

The gang at Aires Arts in Capitola Village will be entering "The Yellow Submarine" this year.

There are three cash prizes offered this year in the Water Parade competition.

several weeks.

For others — the directors and volunteers serving on the Festival board of directors — Sunday's water parade is the culmination of a full year's planning and fundraising.

Spaghetti dinners were held in the spring and early summer, followed by a highly successful chicken barbecue last month.

Commemorative T-shirts and patches are still to be sold by local merchants with all profits going into the Begonia Festival's treasury.

Other money is raised by the committee through entry fees in the water parade.

All goes to the direct costs of staging the water parade and the other events, such as the highly popular Sand Sculpture Contest, held last weekend in Capitola.

The staging of the Water Parade is an effort shared by many local organizations and businesses. The city of Capitola has aided the Festival by purchasing the styrofoam floatation used underneath each of the barges. Local lumber companies, over the years, have donated the wood needed to construct the barges on which the framework is mounted.

For the last several years, Browns Bulb Ranch has opened its growing gardens in Marina — the world's largest — to pickers. Thousands of the multi-hued blossoms are picked there every year for use on the float — all without charge to the Festival or the entrants.

The construction of the floats

it's a race to get the begonias wired onto the framework, and perhaps make a last minute trip to Marina for extra flowers.

Everything is supposed to be completed and ready to move upstream to the staging area near Shadowbrook by noon, but veteran festival officials will tell you something always goes wrong. Perhaps a float isn't finished, or maybe, as happened last year, an unseasonable rain storm rolled through the area Saturday night and severely damaged one entry — causing them to pull out and help a competitor finish theirs.

Or the outboard motor used to propel the ungainly half-ton float down the stream will conk out. Never mind that every one of the motors was fired up, tested under the watchful eye of a festival official a hour earlier, something always goes wrong at the last minute.

And then comes the magic hour — 2 p.m.; when the water parade starts. It's all over in an hour and a half, and by dusk, everything is a pile of debris and stacked barges, plus thousands of photographs and memories.

Traditionally, the parade is led by the City of Capitola float. Built this year by members of the city council and city employees, it depicts the Capitola Theater — a landmark in Capitola and the home of many happy memories for generations over the decades.

The Capitola branch of County Bank of Santa Cruz is a

parade. This year, it will be "Superman."

Erik's Deli this year will be honoring the movie "bad guys," "Bonnie and Clyde."

Kaleidoscope, a children's educational toy and game store on 41st Avenue, has picked "Charlotte's Web."

For their first entry, the employees of the Santa Cruz

Dominican Santa Cruz Hospital is also taking a page from a Disney movie, creating "Dumbo" the flying elephant.

The Malibu beaches in the late 1950s is the setting for the Santa Cruz Volleyball Co-op, as they recreate "Beach Blanket Bingo."

Luis Villereal, owner of Wooden Expressions, will be

The Grand Sweepstakes takes home \$150 in cash plus a trophy.

First place in the group and the commercial division each collect \$100 checks, plus a trophy.

Second and third places in each division receive a trophy and all other participants this year will be getting plaques.

Planners move to pluck Porter-Sesnon land plum

By BOB SMITH

Capitola planners took the first steps Thursday toward extending their sphere of influence over the 66-acre Porter-Sesnon property east of New Brighton Beach hoping ultimately to annex the land.

When the sphere of influence is sent to the county Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), it will put Capitola into direct opposition to the supporters of cityhood for Aptos — who also want the Porter-Sesnon property in their city.

The city planning commission overrode the protests from the residents of the Pine Tree Lane residential area and approved an environmental impact report (EIR) which discusses the impacts of developing the 66-acre site as a Mid-County Community Complex, the frontage along MacGregor Drive as commercial, and leaving the remainder in its present uses of either state park or residential.

But the commissioners split over the ultimate use for the Community Complex, with a majority willing to allow development of a convention center, but others wanting to limit the ultimate use to a day-use-only local recreation and cultural center.

Planning Commissioner Mrs. Terre Thomas opposed the convention center use that has been rumored for the property. "My concern is that Capitola should consider this for local use (Santa Cruz County).

"It should not be a convention center that brings people in from out of the area. My concern is for the county — not overnight housing for a

convention center," Mrs. Thomas added.

But the Commissioner Robert Bucher expressed the feelings of other commissioners, saying, "leave it the way it is," referring to the county's designation of the site as a Mid-County Complex site.

A compromise was finally imposed by the commission chairman, Alvin Wilder, who told Planning Director Richard Steele, "The commission wants to see a specific plan for this area before we'll be more specific."

A motion to approve the general plan designations was adopted by the commission on a 4-1 vote with Mrs. Thomas dissenting.

Earlier, the environmental impact report was unanimously approved by the commission. Both recommendations will now go to the Capitola city council for final review and approval.

Pine Tree Lane residents attacked the EIR which will serve as a master document for any development that takes place in the area under Capitola's control.

Spokesman Jim Warnock told the commission that he and his neighbors don't want to see the Porter-Sesnon property developed.

"We feel that the property should not be developed, but kept in open space," Warnock told the commission.

The EIR says a convention center would wind up using 24,000 gallons of water a day, or nearly nine million gallons a year.

"That's very undesirable," Warnock said. "If this complex is developed, that is a lot of water. On Pine Tree

Lane (which has its own water wells) we are getting some salt water intrusion now. And for people to come from out of the county and use our water, we just don't have it."

The report, Warnock complained, also understated the traffic conditions now on MacGregor Drive.

"We have taken straw votes and polls," Warnock told the commission. "We want to stay the way we are. We are in the county and we are against incorporation into anything."

Warnock said he personally favors joining Capitola if forced to choose a city, but some of his neighbors prefer joining the proposed city of Aptos.

Gilbert Geddes challenged the umbrella approach used in preparing the EIR and told the commission he believes "a focused EIR is needed on each project.

"I don't know why you spent money to prepare an EIR on land not in Capitola," Geddes said. "If I were a taxpayer in Capitola, I would be asking why.

"So far as annexation to Capitola is concerned, I don't know how the people on Pine Tree Lane would benefit from it. We would provide a lot of headaches for Capitola and not much else.

"I'm 95 percent against annexation to Capitola," Geddes said.

A third resident from the small residential area added his opposition to the convention center. Kermit Yerkes told the commission: "A park proposes no problem. But I shudder when I think of a convention center there. I would like to see it a park."

Begonia Festival Schedule of Events

SATURDAY

Men's beach Volleyball, Capitola city beach, 8:30 a.m.

Skateboard contest, Monterey Avenue, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Jester dinghy race, Monterey Bay near Capitola Wharf, 10 a.m.

Float decorating, Saturday afternoon and evening, Soquel Creek.

SUNDAY

Men's beach volleyball finals, Capitola city beach, 8:30 a.m.

Home and commercial decorating, judging, citywide, all day.

Water parade, Soquel Creek, 2 p.m.