

Capitola Wharf sold

7-15-84

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CAPITOLA — The lease concessions on Capitola Wharf have been sold to one of the principle forces in the development of Old Town shopping center in Los Gatos.

Leaseholder Rick Karleen has sold his 30-year lease to John Warren of Los Gatos. Warren will take over the operations of the restaurant, snack bar, bait/tackle shop, boat rentals and boat moorings on Sept. 9.

Karleen has had the wharf concession for sale since April. His reported asking price was \$600,000, although the sale price was not revealed.

Karleen, the owner of a Capitola construction company, acquired the wharf in 1979 from former owners Robert Mason and Vince Brown. After months of negotiations with the city, he dedicated the wharf to the city in October, 1979, in exchange for the long-term lease concession.

The wharf, which had been closed for three years because of extensive storm damage, was repaired by the city in a \$1 million-plus renovation.

Karleen was lauded by members of the City Council recently for his cooperation with the city. Mayor Michael Routh applauded him, saying, "If Rick hadn't taken the gamble, the wharf may not be here today."

In a letter to the council, Karleen called the wharf "a total part of the flavor of the village, which should always remain for the public to enjoy and use."

He said Warren will retain the recreational and visitor-serving use of the operation. Along with the leaseholder name change, Warren is proposing to operate a full-service liquor bar on the wharf. He is in the process of applying for a license from the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.