

More Begonia fun on tap

Thousands flocked to Capitola Village last weekend to watch skateboarders barrel down Monterey Avenue and artists create fleeting images in the sand.

John Hutson of Santa Cruz won the skateboard contest for the second year in a row, with a time of 26.593 seconds. He went home with a \$600 cash prize.

Christopher and Kelley Desmet of San Jose were the Grand Sweepstakes winners in the Sandsculpture contest and the Banks family of Oakland received the Director's trophy for their entry "Parade Rest."

The 29th edition of the Capitola National Begonia Festival concludes this weekend with two major events — the world-famous Nautical Parade on Sunday, and the Capitola Beach Festival Saturday.

More than 15,000 spectators are expected to jam themselves into Capitola Village Sunday to watch 15 begonia-bedecked floats parade down Soquel Creek.

Parade time is 2 p.m. but spectators should come early as parking will be at a premium.

Free shuttle buses will be running from the Bay Avenue area into the village before and after the parade.

Other parking is available in easy walking distance off Cliff Drive and at the Jade Street Park at 47th Avenue.

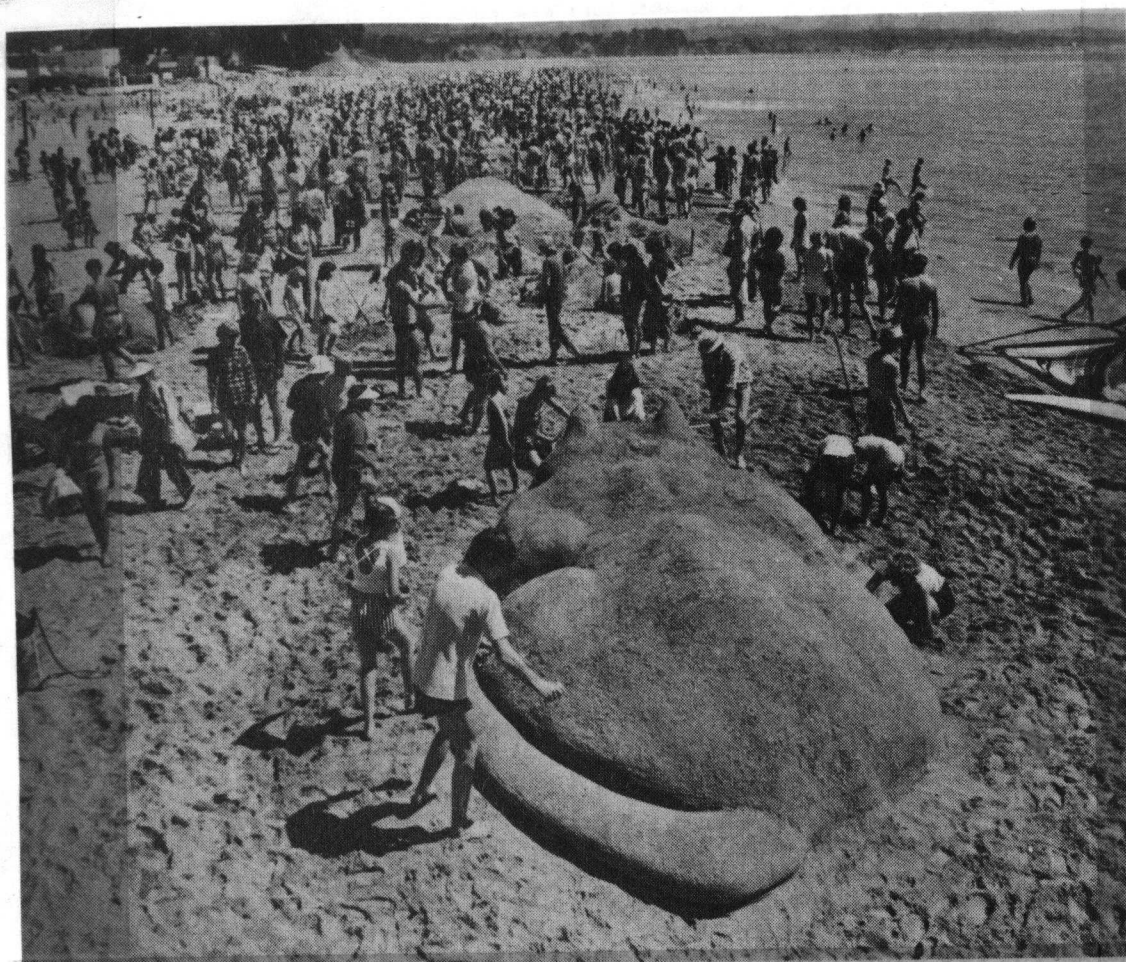
Some of the volunteers will start building their floats Friday night and float building will be underway in earnest Saturday afternoon and evening.

Blossoms again this year are being picked at the Brown Bulb Ranch growing fields outside Marina.

Entries this year in the Nautical Parade are divided into two divisions — Group and Commercial.

Group entries include:

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The popular sand-sculpture contest drew thousands to the beach.

A one-mile ocean swim kicks at 11 a.m. with the same age grouping as in the soft sand run. There is a \$3 entry fee and a bright

colored cap is required for the swim through chilly water — temperatures range between 58 and 60 degrees.

The beach flags competition, a rough but fun competition for all ages, opens at noon. There is a \$1 entry fee and age groups will depend on the number of entries race day.

Awards will be given in all events with trophies to the winner. Medals and ribbons will be given to the place winners. All proceeds benefit the Capitola Junior Lifeguard Program and additional information is available from Pat Gilbert by calling 688-3599.

Joe Urbancic, sponsored by the Venetian Courts Homeowners Association, — **Talk to the Animals.**

Depot Hill Gang — **In the Octopus's Garden**

County Superintendent of Schools office — **I Left My Heart in Capitola.**

Capitola Community Channel 8 — **Undecided.**

Green Earth Singles — **Here Comes the Sun.**

Santa Cruz Elks Club — **God Bless America.**

Nels Enemark and The West Hillies — **His Master's Voice.**

Baha'i Faith — **Undecided.**

In the commercial division, entries include:

Mervyn's Dept. Store — **Somewhere Over the Rainbow.**

Brown's Bulb Ranch — **Age of Aquarius.**

Cathedralite Domes — **Capitola Energy Express.**

Dragginwood and the Magic Crystals — **Puff the Magic Dragon.**

Edgewater Club — **Scotch and Soda.**

Old California Title — **Little Deuce Coupe.**

Orchard Supply Hardware — **What's New, Pussycat?**

David Lyng and Associates — **"Going down to Rio" with Carmen Miranda.**

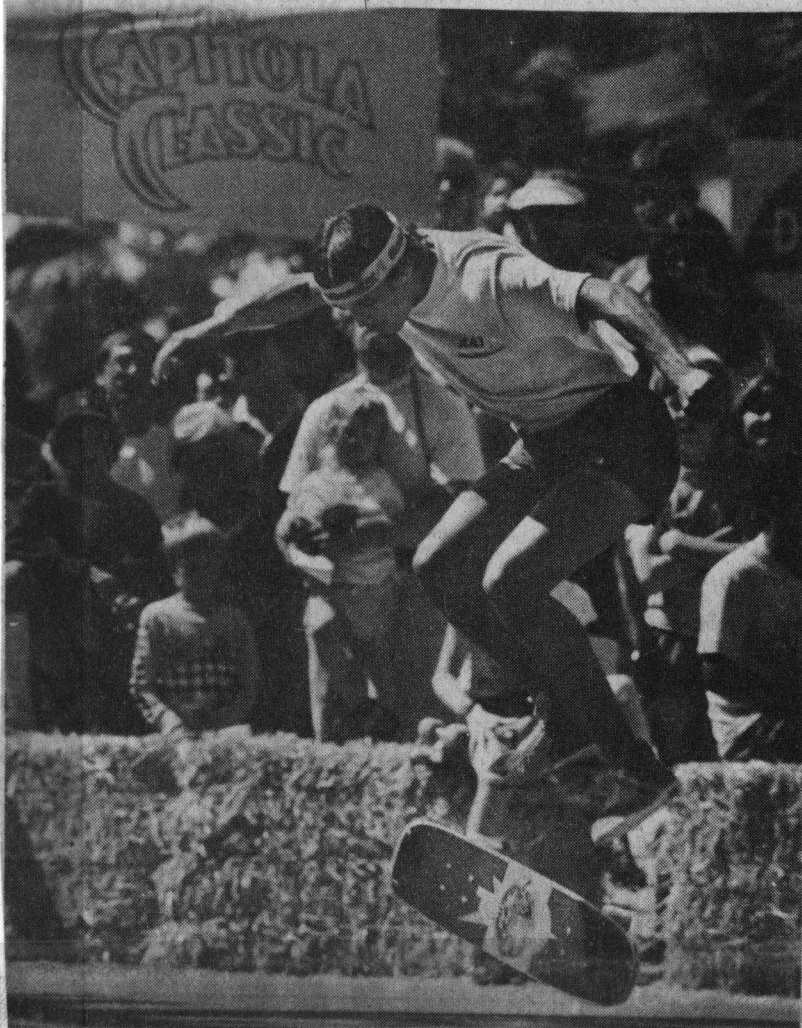
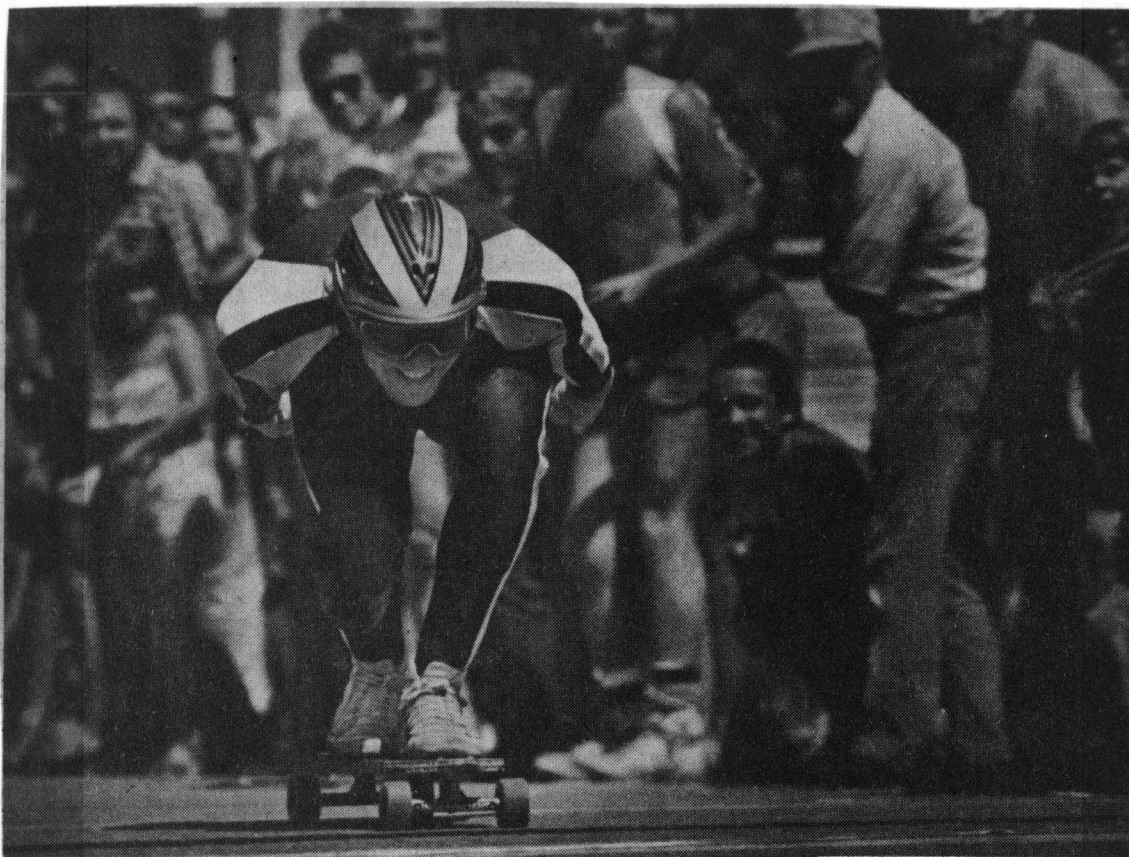
Music before and during the parade will again be provided by the Begonia Cowboys, featuring William Strickland and Dene Davidson of Capitola.

Judging for entries in the Home and Commercial decorating contest will take place at 11 a.m. Sunday. Entries are still being accepted by Joanne McKown at Aires Arts, 476-6655. The Capitola Junior Lifeguards are again sponsoring the Capitola Beach Festival on Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m. with the Eddie Arco Memorial Paddleboard Race. Racers will paddle from the Capitola Wharf to New Brighton Beach and back — a distance of approximately two miles.

Divisions are men and women, 15 and under, 16 to 24 years old, 25-35, and 36 and older. There is a \$3 entry fee.

At 10 a.m., a one-mile soft sand run begins on the beach. There is a \$1 entry fee and entry categories are men and woman, 10 and under, 11-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-30, 31-35, 36-40, 41-49, and 50-plus.

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John Hutson, above, won the exciting Begonia Festival skateboard race for the second year. At left, Ray Gardia shows his skill in the free-style event. As if blazing speed and fancy tricks weren't enough, many of the skateboarders delighted the crowd with their costumes.

Photos by Kurt Ellison