

A Companion To Capitola

By Frank Perry

Capitola Historical Museum

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Cover: A portion of the mural

“Our Capitola”

by Jon Ton and Maia Negre

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Introduction

At the Capitola Historical Museum, we are asked hundreds of questions each year about Capitola. Many visitors want to know certain dates, such as when Capitola was incorporated or when the railroad trestle was built. Others are curious about people, places, or historic buildings.

This publication is an attempt to answer many of those questions in the form of a quick reference guide. It includes people, places, events, agricultural products, natural features, public art, schools, parks, churches, books about Capitola, movies made in Capitola, and assorted other topics. Each entry includes a brief description and significant dates. Many entries also include a reference to the source of the information and/or further reading. Some entries are based on information from multiple sources, of which only one or two are listed.

Emphasis is on the historical development of Capitola. This list does not include living people, and it does not include businesses that started after 1980. If a word in a description has its own entry, it is often in **bold**. For places that have several names, I have tried to make entries for each and direct readers to the entry with the description. Animals are listed by their full name and cross-referenced to alternative names. For example, readers looking up “Tidewater Goby” will be directed to “Northern Tidewater Goby.”

It was not possible to develop a hard and fast rule for names that begin with “Capitola.” If “Capitola” seems to be an integral part of the name, the entry is under “Capitola.” If you cannot find a certain entry, try alternative names.

For many entries, the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* or *Santa Cruz Evening News* is listed as a source. Older issues are available online through the Santa Cruz Public Library website (free), the California Digital Newspaper Collection website (free), or for a fee at newspapers.com. Recent articles can be accessed through the *Sentinel* website.

This is a work in progress. It is the author’s intention to make periodic revisions. Readers who have corrections or suggestions for additions should contact the Capitola Historical Museum (capitolamuseum@gmail.com). For issues involving historical accuracy, please include documentation.

—Frank Perry, Curator,
Capitola Historical Museum

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Adobe. Capitola was for many years the site of a historic Mexican-era adobe. It was originally the residence of **Martina Castro** and **Michael Lodge** and was known by various names, such as the Castro Adobe or the Castro-Noble Adobe. It was located at the east end of Hill Street and was said to have been built in 1833. Adobe bricks, made of dried mud and straw, were an important building material used by the Spanish at the missions and for dwellings. According to a 1924 description, “the building was approximately 30 by 80 feet, with a great fire-place jutting out at one side, with wide eaves extending over verandas which ran the full length of both sides of it. . . .” The walls were plastered with lime made from clam shells. By 1924 the house was “rapidly falling into a state of decay” and was razed a year later. (See “Old Adobe Near Soquel was Associated with Early History of County Back to Days of Figueroa then Governor,” by Edgar A. McRoberts, *Santa Cruz Evening News*, January 2, 1924, p. 5)

Airport. A landing strip was first established at Capitola in the middle 1920s. It was located at what is now the **Cliffwood Heights** neighborhood, east of today's **New Brighton Middle School**. In the early 1930s improvements were made so that it could become the Santa Cruz Airport, which was dedicated April 23, 1931. More improvements were made and a second dedication held November 10-11, 1934. After World War II it became better known as the “Capitola Airport.” It closed in October, 1954, and the land was leased for strawberry growing. In the 1960s the site was subdivided for houses. (See “Capitola Air Field To Return To Use As Agricultural Area,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, September 30, 1954, p. 1)

“Amorous Blues.” A mural of Blue Whales painted on the side of the movie theater (then called the 41st Avenue Playhouse and later Cinelux) in the **Kings Plaza Shopping Center**. A sign on the mural said, “This mural was executed in one moon (26 days) in the summer of 1979, the International Year of the Child, for the children of Santa Cruz Co. and the World by Daniel E. Burgevin, assisted by Robin Whitmore, Judy Schneider, with special thanks to Stephan, Suzanne, G.P.S.C. & George Ow, Jr. In memory of Phillippe Cousteau.” G.P.S.C. was short for Greenpeace Santa Cruz. The mural was dedicated July 15, 1979 and was replaced in 2017 with a new mural, **“Blue Monterey Bay.”** (See “Whales Surface on 41st Avenue,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, July 13, 1979, p. 15)

Anchovy. (See **Northern Anchovy**)

Antonelli Brothers Begonia Gardens. A plant nursery in Live Oak, located at the corner of Capitola Road and Maciel Avenue, just west of Capitola. It was founded in 1935 by three brothers and their wives: John and Becky Antonelli, Patrick and Helen Antonelli, and Peter and Dora Antonelli. Antonelli Brothers became one of the top begonia breeders and producers in the world, along with the nearby **Brown Ranch** and **Vetterle and Reinelt**. Though best known for begonias, they also produced

gloxinias, fuchsias, geraniums, pelargoniums, rhododendrons, azaleas, gladioli, and calla lilies. In the early 1950s, members of the family helped start the Capitola **Begonia Festival**. The retail nursery was destroyed by a fire on March 8, 2005, and the site is now a residential neighborhood. (See “Live Oak nursery burns,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, March 9, 2005, p. 1)



A Photographic Essay of a Capitola Cat. A book by Minna Hertel about a cat named Morris that was a fixture on the Esplanade from 1978 to 1991. “One day he just showed up and settled in.” Published in 1993 by Hertel Books, 56 pages.

Aptos. An unincorporated community east of Capitola. “Aptos” was the name of the Native American village in that area. It is one of four Native American place names in Santa Cruz County. The others are **Soquel**, Zayante, and Pogonip. (See *Santa Cruz County Place Names* by Donald Thomas Clark, 2008)

Architectural Survey. (See *City of Capitola Architectural Survey, The*)

Area. The City of Capitola presently (2018) has an area of 1.676 square miles.

Area Code. When telephone area codes were created in 1947, Capitola was in area code 415—one the three area codes assigned to California. In 1959 the area code for Capitola was changed to 408, and in 1998 to 831. Area codes did not come into common use until 1963. They enabled direct long-distance calling without the use of an operator.

Art and Cultural Commission (See **Capitola Art & Cultural Commission**)

Art Commission (See **Capitola Art Commission**)

Art, Public. Capitola has number of murals, sculptures, and other examples of “public art.” Some of these were publicly funded, others were privately funded but are outdoors and visible to the general public. A few no longer exist. See individual listings by title or description: “**Amorous Blues**” (mural), “**Batteries Not Required**” (tile paintings), “**Beach Ball**” (sculpture), “**Blue Monterey Bay**” (mural), “**Capitola-by-the-Sea**” (mural), “**Capitola Memories**” (sea wall tiles), “**Capitola Village Railing**” (sidewalk railing), “**Children of the World**” (redwood sculpture), **City Hall Photomurals** (historical photos), “**Finding Our Past**” (sculpture), “**Joy of Flight**” (mural), **Kelp Forest medallion** (bronze inlay), “**Monterey Bay Guardian**” (marble sculpture of dolphin), “**Monterey Bay Sea Life**” (utility box paintings), “**Our Capitola**” (mural), **Sea Lions** (bronze sculpture), **Sea Otter Kiosk** (bronze sculpture), **Tiki** (sculpture), “[**View of Capitola**]” (mural), and “**Your Capitola.**”

Artists (See entries for individual artists: **Warren Chase Merritt, Olaf Palm, Harold Peelor, Cipriano Doderio, Nicholas Solovioff, and Lewis Sorensen**)

Automobile, First. According to Albretto Stoodley, who came to the area in 1902, the first automobile that he saw was a Stanley Steamer that came through Capitola in about 1903 or 1904. This could well have been the first automobile in Capitola. He said it attracted “a lot of attention.” (See *The Loma Prieta Lumber Company and Santa Cruz in the Early Twentieth Century*, by Albretto Stoodley, An Interview By Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, 1964, pp. 87-88. Available on the UCSC Library website)

Averon, Joseph. (c1829-1897) Pioneer resident of the Soquel-Capitola area who was married to **Maria Guadalupe Averon**. Averon came to California in 1846 aboard the U.S.S. *Savannah* under Commodore John Sloat. Averon was primarily a farmer, growing hay, grapes, hops, beans, and fruit. The Averon house (aka **Lodge Mansion**) still stands at 919 Capitola Avenue. The couple had no children. (See “Came Before the Pioneers,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, March 10, 1897, p. 3)

Averon, Maria Guadalupe. (1842-1920) Born Maria Guadalupe Lodge, she was the sixth child of **Martina Castro** and **Michael Lodge**. At age 15, she married **Joseph Averon**, and the couple built a large house that still stands at 919 **Capitola Avenue**. She inherited large chunks of the **Rancho Soquel** from her mother and owned 55 acres in cherry orchards at the time of her death at age 78. She and her husband are buried at Holy Cross Cemetery. (See “Death Claims aged Pioneer of Soquel,” *Santa Cruz Evening News*, March 11, 1920, p. 3)

Averon Home (See **Lodge Mansion**)

Ballaarat. A town in Australia (near Melbourne) which has an annual begonia festival. The Ballaarat festival began around the same time as Capitola’s (early 1950s) and is held each fall (our spring). In 1990 Capitola and Ballaarat established a sister festival agreement honoring the **tuberous begonia**. (See *By-the-Sea: A History of the Capitola Begonia Festival*, by Carolyn Swift, 1992, p. 33)

Ballroom (See **Capitola Ballroom**)

Bandstand. A circular, outdoor bandstand was constructed around 1920 beside the beach near the foot of San Jose Avenue. Before the advent of electronic amplification, outdoor music was mostly made by brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments, as these were loud enough to be heard by large crowds. The lower portion was a food stand, serving hot dogs and hamburgers. It was demolished in November, 1960. The present rectangular bandstand in Esplanade Park was dedicated May 19, 2007. A

plaque near the bandstand lists major contributors to the project. (See “Historic Bandstand Demolished,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, November 8, 1960, p. 14)

Baptist Church, See **First Baptist Church of Capitola**.

Baseball. Baseball was introduced to the West Coast in the 1860s, before Capitola was founded as a resort. It is not known just when the first baseball game was played in Capitola, but it was a popular sport in Santa Cruz County by the 1880s. In 1889, for example, a game was played in Capitola between the California Baseball Club of Santa Cruz and the Alerts of **Soquel**. Capitola’s most significant connection to the sport was hall-of-famer **Harry Hooper**, who lived in Capitola for over fifty years. (See “Baseball at Capitola,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, May 26, 1889, p. 3; and *Sports of Santa Cruz County*, by Geoffrey Dunn, Arcadia Publishing, 2013)

Bath House(s). In the very late 1800s and early to middle 1900s a bath house fronted the Soquel Creek **Lagoon**. An article in the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* from May 2, 1893, stated “Contractor Harmon is pushing to completion the Capitola bath-houses as fast as the material will permit him to do so. The bath-houses are a great thing for the camp.” In 1937 the newspaper noted, “Henry Gohee will be in charge of rental of bathing suits, boats, and the facilities for changing cloths preparatory to swimming.” (See *Capitola*, by Carolyn Swift, 2013, pp. 39, 78, 82.

“Batteries Not Required” (tile paintings). A set of paintings on ceramic tiles by **New Brighton Middle School** eighth-grade art students. According to the description, “The tile paintings depict games and activities that do not require electricity. The artists focused on traditional games and activities that have been passed on through generations and will continue to bring joy to people of all ages.” The paintings were commissioned by the **Capitola Art and Cultural Commission** for the retaining wall on **Monterey Avenue** near the intersection with **Bay Avenue** and were completed in 2011.

Battistini, John. (1900-1973) John Mondo Battistini was born in San Francisco and lived in Stockton before moving to Capitola in 1943. He was a member of the **Capitola Improvement Club** in the late 1940s and helped pave the way toward incorporation. He later served on the Capitola Planning Commission and was a leader in the effort to annex 41st Avenue to Capitola. He served on the board of the **Soquel Creek Water District** and was a founder of the Mid-County Senior Center. (See “John M. Battistini Dies At 72,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, April 27, 1973, p. 34)

Bay Avenue. One of the principal streets in Capitola, extending from **Highway 1** to **Monterey Avenue**. The part northeast of the intersection with **Capitola Avenue** was

in place by 1880. Originally it included the lower part of what is now Monterey Avenue and extended all the way to the beach.

Bay Head Land Company. A stock company incorporated in 1922 to “carry on extensive building developments in Capitola.” **Henry Allen Rispin** was one of the principal stockholders. (See “Building Plans on Extensive Scale Planned at Capitola,” *Santa Cruz Evening News*, April 17, 1922, p. 4; and “Bay Head Land Co. to Take Over Capitola,” *Santa Cruz Evening News*, April 21, 1922, p. 12.)

Beach. Since the founding of Capitola in 1874, the beach has been the town’s biggest attraction. Sand for the beach comes from **Soquel Creek** and other creeks up the coast and is transported along the coastline by a process called **littoral drift**. Talk of adding Capitola Beach to the state park system began after the creation of **New Brighton State Beach** in 1933. In the 1940s controversy erupted over whether Capitola Beach east of the wharf was public and owned by the county or private and owned by **John Belden Bias**. In 1948, however, Bias donated most of the beach to the state, thereby making the issue moot. In the early 1960s construction of the **Santa Cruz Small Craft Harbor** temporarily robbed sand from Capitola Beach, but the situation was remedied by the building of a **groin**. In 1965, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Sr. signed a bill transferring beach ownership to the City of Capitola. Today the city beach also includes **Hooper’s Beach** (west of the wharf) which was purchased by the city in 1985 from the Hooper family. (See “Capitola and Manresa Beaches Added To State Park System,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Sept. 5, 1948, p. 1)

“Beach Ball” (sculpture). This giant beach ball is a mosaic of red, white, and yellow tiles and rests on a “waterway” of sea glass with bronze sea stars. The work is located in the **Nob Hill Shopping Center** on **Bay Avenue** and was completed by artist Robert Kvenild in 2010.

Beachcomber’s Guide to Fossils in Capitola, The. A book by Lorena Paras published by Grizzly Peak Press, 2015.

Beach Seining. A method of fishing whereby a long net with floats at the top and weights at the bottom is released in a large oval from a small boat. The two ends are then pulled onto the beach, dragging in fishes trapped within the net. This type of fishing was conducted at **China Beach** in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Because the method catches many undersized fishes, it was banned by the State of California in 1915.

Each October biologists conduct a seining operation in the **lagoon** to count fish before the opening of the lagoon to the sea. This is done with permits and the fish are released.

Begonia, Tuberous. For much of the twentieth century, the Capitola area was internationally famous for the breeding and production of tuberous begonias. The begonia is one of the largest groups (genera) of flowering plants in the world, with 1,839 named species (as of 2004) and hundreds of hybrids. It is native to tropical and subtropical South and Central America, Africa, and southern Asia. The “tuberous begonias” are a group of cultivars, first developed by cross-breeding several species native to South America. The first was bred in England in 1870. They have been hybridized to have especially large and attractive flowers. The stems and foliage die back each year, but new foliage sprouts from the tuber the following season. Begonias sprout from a tuber (shaped like a potato) rather than a bulb (shaped like an onion). In 2017 the Capitola City Council voted to make the tuberous begonia the city’s official flower.

Begonia Festival. Established in the early 1950s, the Capitola Begonia Festival was one of the longest running annual festivals in Santa Cruz County. When it began, three major producers of tuberous begonias were located near Capitola (**Antonelli Brothers, Brown Bulb Ranch, and Vetterle & Reinelt**). There had been a begonia festival in Santa Cruz in 1940 and 1941, but it did not resume after World War II.

The Capitola version evolved from the **Capitola Water Fantasy**, held from 1950-1954. The first nautical parade of floats decorated with begonias was during the 1952 Water Fantasy. The name “Begonia Festival” was not used until 1954, but the organizers later adopted 1952 as the starting date. From 1959 through 1979 it was called the National Begonia Festival. Although many different activities were held during festival, the nautical parade was the signature event. The festival was usually held in September over Labor Day weekend. The last (65th) was held in 2017. It ended because the last source of the blossoms, Golden State Bulb Growers, ceased growing begonias. It was replaced in 2018 by the Capitola Beach Festival. (See *By-the-Sea: A History of the Capitola Begonia Festival*, by Carolyn Swift, 1992, 76 p. and “Capitola Begonia Festival to sign off after final 2017 hurrah,” by Jessica York, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Jan. 10, 2017)

Begonia Festival Queen. From 1954 to 1974 a young woman was selected each year as festival “queen.” The selection process varied, but sometimes involved an elaborate competition. The first queen was Jennette Hayford; the last was Teri Bennett. (See *By-the-Sea: A History of the Capitola Begonia Festival*, by Carolyn Swift, 1992, pp. 51-61 for the names of all the queens)

Benias. A restaurant at 112 Capitola Avenue from 1951 to 1971. It was established by John and Vivian Benias (pronounced ben-EYE-as), restaurateurs from San Francisco who moved to Capitola in 1946 to run the Kozy Koffee Shop. The couple were very active in civic matters and played an important role in the founding of the Capitola **Begonia Festival**. John Benias (1897-1981) was a native of Greece. (See “Capitola Community Officials Honor John and Vivian Benias,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, May 16, 1951, p. 7; and “Vivian Mae Benias,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, August 20, 1987, p. 12)

Berries. (See **Strawberries**)

Beulah Glen (See **Glen Beulah**)

Beulah Tract. A subdivision north of **Noble Gulch**, between **Capitola Avenue** and **Bay Avenue**. Though laid out in the late 1920s or early 1930s, it remained sparsely developed until the 1960s. (See *Historic Context Statement For the City of Capitola*, by Carolyn Swift, 2004, p. 44)

Bias, John Belden, Jr. (1890-1962) Belden Bias was born in Santa Cruz in 1890 and became a well-known local businessman and conservationist. Bias was a vice president with the Santa Cruz Land Title Company and helped in the acquisition of **New Brighton Beach** as a state park in 1933. He lobbied Congress for an improved harbor in Santa Cruz and tried (unsuccessfully) to create a state forest around Loma Prieta to protect watersheds. In 1948 he personally donated most of the **beach** at Capitola to the State Park System (later transferred to the city). In 1949 he built a fish restaurant on the beach at the foot of San Jose Avenue.

Bigbee, Guy R. (1897-1978) Guy Rubin Bigbee was a native of Illinois and served for twenty-two years in the U.S. Army (attaining the rank of colonel) before settling in Capitola. He served as Capitola's first city clerk from 1949 to 1956. He married **Lulu M. Dunn** Crump in 1947. (See “Former Capitola Clerk Guy R. Bigbee Dies,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, March 23, 1978, p. 38)

Big Top Ballroom. The Big Top Ballroom was built in June, 1933, to replace the **Hawaiian Gardens**, which had burned earlier that year. Construction started June 8, and the ballroom opened for dancing with its 60x120-foot dance floor on June 30. Contractor **Erle McCombs** supervised construction, with men working in double shifts. It was not nearly as successful as the Hawaiian Gardens, prompting the nickname “Big Flop Ballroom.” For the 1934 season the name was changed to the “New Hawaiian Gardens.” Alas, in 1935 the building was cut up and part of it moved to the old **Hotel Capitola** site where it became the **Capitola Ballroom** and **Capitola Beach Club**. It was later the Caribbean Ballroom and **Sāba** until it was

destroyed in a 1957 fire. (See "Rushing Work on Capitola's Big Pavilion," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, June 17, 1933, p. 3; and "Capitola Opens Dance Season Tonight in Big Top," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, June 30, 1933, p. 12)

Birds, The. A 1963 thriller/horror film about a town on the California coast attacked by birds. It was directed by **Alfred Hitchcock** and starred Tippy Hedren and Rod Taylor. The film was loosely based on a novelette of the same name by Daphne du Maurier and published in 1952. That version took place in Cornwall. Hitchcock was just starting work on the movie when a huge flock of **Sooty Shearwaters** crashed into Capitola. He provided copies of news stories to his screen writer, who worked a mention of the event into the movie. (See "Alfred Hitchcock Using Sentinel Seabird Story," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, August 21, 1961, p. 4)

Black & White Store. A grocery and liquor store at 215 Capitola Avenue in the 1940s and 1950s. It was built in 1937 by **Erle McCombs** for proprietor Homer Berry and included a second-floor apartment for Berry. (See "New Capitola Store Building," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, December 1, 1937, p. 2)

Blue Gum Trees (See **Eucalyptus**)

"Blue Monterey Bay." A mural depicting Monterey Bay whales and dolphins on the side of the Cinelux movie theater in the **Kings Plaza Shopping Center**. The mural was painted by Laurel Bushman with Dawn Teall in June, 2017 and faces 38th Avenue. The mural replaced an earlier mural, **"Amorous Blues,"** done in 1979.

Blue Plaques. The Historic Landmark "Blue Plaque" Awards are presented by the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History (MAH), and there is a ceremony at the Museum each spring. "The awards highlight historic structures, educate the public, and provide visibility for successful preservation," according to the Museum's website. "The historic landmark designation by MAH is purely honorary and has no legal implications." They should not be confused with listing in city or county historic building surveys, which have legal ramifications. The program was initiated in 1973 in Santa Cruz and is now county wide. Fifteen awards have been given to Capitola buildings (public, commercial, and residential) as of 2017, though one of these—the Capitola Theater—is no longer standing. All are listed on the Self-Guided Walking Tour on the Capitola Historical Museum website.

Bootlegging (See **Rum-running**)

Bowles, Harry M. (1909-1997) Born in South Dakota, Harry Bowles moved with his family to Capitola when he was 13. In the 1930s, he was a standout pitcher for the

Soquel Giants baseball team. He is best remembered today as a member of Capitola's first city council. He also served on the Capitola police and fire commissions and knew just about everybody in **Soquel** and Capitola back then. (See Harry M. Bowles, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, January 18, 1997, p. 10)

Bowling alley (See **Capitola Bowl**)

Brennan, Walter. (1894-1974) Before working in Hollywood as an actor, Walter Brennan sold real estate for **Henry Allen Rispin** in Capitola. In 1924 he had an office in the **Superintendent's Building**. The next year, however, he landed his first acting job and eventually won three Academy Awards for best supporting actor. Brennan appeared in more than 230 movie and television roles from 1925 into the early 1970s. (See *Historic Context Statement for the City of Capitola*, by Carolyn Swift, 2004, p. 105; and *A Real American Character: The Life of Walter Brennan*, by Carl E. Rollyson, Univ. Press of Mississippi, 2015)

Bricks by the Beach. A program by the Capitola Soquel Chamber of Commerce.

Participants pay a fee to have their personal message engraved on a brick, which is then installed in a sidewalk in Capitola Village.

Bridges. At present, four bridges cross Soquel Creek within the City of Capitola. These are the **Stockton Avenue Bridge**, the **railroad** bridge, the pedestrian/bicycle bridge near the **Rispin Mansion**, and the **Highway 1** freeway bridge.

Brookvale Terrace Mobile Home Park. A mobile home park off of Plum Street in Capitola along **Noble Gulch**. When it opened in 1972, it was described as having 111 spaces on 22 acres. Space rentals were \$88-\$130 per month. (See "Trailer Park in Capitola—You'll Have To Look For It," by Don Righetti, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, August 8, 1972, p. 13)

Brown, Allan K. (1906-1988) Allan K. Brown came to the Capitola area in 1911 with his family. He attended Live Oak School and Santa Cruz High School before earning a degree in veterinary medicine from Washington State University. He then joined his father and brother (see below) in the flower business. "Mr. Brown was the first American grower to produce begonia seeds for commercial plantings, and helped to create the big-blossomed, ruffled, and frilled American hybrids popular today." (See "Famed horticulturist Allan K. Brown dies," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, April 3, 1988, p. A-13)

Brown, James A. (1872-1932) James Brown was born in Nobelsville Indiana, and was raised as a Quaker. Brown first came to California in 1898 and eventually settled here

with his wife, Rura, also from Nobelsville. He was the founder of the **Brown Bulb Ranch** on 41st Avenue in Capitola and later expanded it to include diary cattle and a line of diary products under the **Moo Cow** name. (See "J. A. Brown of the Brown Ranch Died Yesterday," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Feb. 4, 1932, p. 6)

Brown, Worth A. (1909-1982) Worth Brown came to the Capitola area in 1911 when his father, James A. Brown, established the Brown Ranch, later known as the **Brown Bulb Ranch**. Brown attended Stanford University and started running the family business with his brother, **Allan K. Brown**, after their father died. It developed into the world's largest producer of tuberous begonia bulbs and colored calla lilies. In 1948 he authored the book, *Tuberous Begonias: A Complete Guide for Amateur and Specialist*. Brown also played an important role in the creation and development of the Santa Cruz **Small Craft Harbor**. (See "Community Leader Worth Brown Dies," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, July 8, 1982, p. 1)

Brown Bulb Ranch. The Brown Ranch grew strawberries and blackberries when first started in about 1911 by **James A. Brown**. In the early 1920s the ranch began producing begonia tubers, which were sold wholesale. Soon the name was changed to Brown Bulb Ranch (even though, technically, begonias grow from tubers rather than bulbs). It was located where the **Capitola Mall** and **Brown Ranch Marketplace** are today. The company later changed its name to Golden State Bulb Growers, with headquarters near Moss Landing. In 2017 its product line was sold to Dümmer Orange, a Netherlands company.

Brown Ranch Marketplace. A shopping center on **Clares Street** across from the **Capitola Mall**. It is on part of the **Brown Bulb Ranch** site and opened in 1992.

Buffalo Bill Cottage (See **Cody, William F.**)

Butterflies (See **Monarch Butterflies**)

California Brown Pelican. A common seabird that can often be seen resting on shore, sitting on the water, or flying overhead. Groups will fly in lines or in V-shaped formations. They feed by diving into the water from overhead, catching small fishes. They breed on islands off the coast of southern California and northern Baja California. Once endangered because of pesticides such as DDT, pelicans have been making a comeback.

California Buckeye. A deciduous small tree or large shrub native to the Coast Ranges and Sierra foothills of central California. The plant is especially noticeable in the spring when it produces sweet-scented spikes of white flowers. The large nuts are

poisonous. Look for Buckeyes adjacent to **Wharf Road** near the top of the hill when leaving **Capitola Village**.

California Coastal Commission. A state agency whose mission is “to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance the environment of the California coastline.” It was created as a result of a voter initiative (Proposition 20) passed in 1972 and a later legislative act, passed in 1976. See also, **Local Coastal Program**.

California Gray Whale. A medium-sized baleen whale sometimes seen at Capitola, but more often farther out in **Monterey Bay** or just off the Santa Cruz north coast. The Gray Whale annually migrates from its summer feeding grounds in the Bering Sea to its winter breeding grounds in the lagoons of Baja California. Once nearly extinct, the species has made a remarkable comeback thanks to protection from hunting. The best way to see them is on whale watching tours during the winter as they pass through on their migration. Occasionally, one will swim close to shore at Capitola.

California Sea Lion. California Sea Lions are common in northern **Monterey Bay**, though are more often seen at Santa Cruz under the Municipal wharf or on Seal Rock than at Capitola. They differ from **Harbor Seals** in that they are larger, have ear flaps, can bring their hind legs forward, and bark.

Camp Capitola. The original name of Capitola when it opened in 1874 as a summertime camp of mostly tents. It was founded by members of the **Hall** family. The name began to fade away by the early 1900s, being replaced by Capitola-by-the-Sea. As incorporated in 1949, the city is simply “Capitola.”

Camp Capitola. A program for children ages 6 to 11 by the Capitola Recreation Department and held during the summer months at **Jade Street Park**.

Camp Fairview (See **Fairview**)

Camp McQuaide. This training camp for the Coast Artillery operated in Capitola for several weeks each summer from 1926 to 1938. The camp was located at the **airport** site (now the **Cliffwood Heights** neighborhood). Large quantities of munitions were brought in by railroad, and the soldiers practiced firing at offshore targets towed by boats or airplanes. Following noise complaints, the camp relocated to San Andreas Road near Watsonville, now the site of the Monterey Bay Academy. The camp was named for National Guard Chaplain Joseph P. McQuaide, who died in 1924. (See *Historic Context Statement For the City of Capitola*, by Carolyn Swift, 2004, pp. 83-84)

Camp New Brighton (See **Fallon, Thomas**)



Camp San Jose (See **Fallon, Thomas**)

Campo Del Mar. A porcelain manufacturing business founded in 1945 and owned by Waldemar F. Dietrich and his wife, Grace. Mr. Dietrich was a mining engineer who had taught at Stanford. Grace, coined the company name, which she said meant “site by the sea.” The California Avenue factory employed about 16 woman and cast high-grade porcelain after-dinner coffee sets, vases, ash trays, etc. The clay was imported from the eastern U.S. and Canada. The product was sold at shops as far away as Los Angeles and New York. Mr. & Mrs. Dietrich sold the business in 1952 after he was appointed to a position with the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Washington D.C. (See “New Capitola Pottery Plant,” by Frank N. Jones, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, April 12, 1946, p. 9)

Canary Island Date Palm. This palm has been planted at a number of locations around Capitola. One of the best examples is at the intersection of Monterey Avenue and the **Esplanade**. This individual was transplanted to that location as a young tree in about 1920. As the name implies, the species is native to the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa. The fruit is reportedly edible.

Canepa, Luigi and Luigia. Mr. and Mrs. Canepa were immigrants from Italy who settled in Capitola around 1912. Luigi worked as a fisherman, selling fish from a small market where the **Venetian Court** is today. In the early 1920s they built a new market on the corner of the **Esplanade** and Stockton Avenue. The family lived upstairs. The building survived the fire of 1933 that destroyed the rest of the block. It still stands at 102 Stockton Avenue. Luigi died in 1932 at age 59 and Luigia in 1938. (See *Santa Cruz Evening News*, Feb. 15, 1932, p. 7)

Capitola. Uncertainty remains on how the town came to be named Capitola. There are two principal theories. The first, which has been around since at least the middle 1900s, holds that the town was named because of an effort to persuade the State Legislature to relocate the state capital here. This theory received considerable traction in the late 1900s and still shows up in some tourist guides. It is discussed in detail in the books *Santa Cruz County Place Names* by Donald T. Clark (1986) and in *Soquel Landing to Capitola-by-the-Sea* by Sandy Lydon and Carolyn Swift (1978). In recent decades, however, this theory has fallen out of favor in light of new evidence. It now seems much more likely that the town was named for **Capitola Black**, the protagonist in the 1859 novel *The Hidden Hand* by E. D. E. N. Southworth.

In the late 1860s there was indeed talk of moving the capital out of Sacramento. There are several problems with this naming theory, however, foremost being that the timing is wrong. The resort was not advertised with the name Camp Capitola until

June of 1874. “Capitola” does not appear in the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* prior to then based on a search of the digitized issues.

According to a memoir by **Lulu Hall Green Wolbach**, it was the Hall family who started the resort, leasing the land from **Hihn**. While she does not mention the origin of the name, she played a key role in helping get the resort started and may very well have named it. She was a school teacher and could certainly have been familiar with the novel. The story was hugely popular, and the name Capitola was starting to be used extensively. At least three other towns in the United States were named Capitola, and it became not uncommon as a girl’s name. The novel was also the basis for a play of the same name that was performed in San Francisco and Sacramento theaters in the early 1870s. The most convincing evidence for the second theory comes from the *Santa Cruz Surf* newspaper, in 1889, which stated that Capitola, “like the little heroine for whom it was named, has long made for itself a place in the hearts of many admirers.” This source (only fifteen years after the resort’s naming) seems to directly imply that it was named for the girl in the Southworth novel. Unless contradictory evidence turns up, this seems like the most plausible source for the name.

Capitola. A free, quarterly magazine published by the Capitola Chamber of Commerce. First issue was dated Summer, 1996. Discontinued.

Capitola. A book on the history of Capitola by Carolyn Swift, published in 2013. It is part of the “Images of America” series by Arcadia Publishing.

Capitola Airport. See **Airport**

Capitola Architectural Survey. A survey conducted for the City of Capitola in 1986 by Sara Boutelle, Roger Hathaway, and Charles Rowe. According to the document, the objectives were “to conduct an inventory of Capitola’s architectural resources for community planning use and cultural appreciation, and to determine the feasibility of establishing a historic district.” The document is 107 pages and includes photos and brief descriptions of many buildings. Available as a pdf on the City of Capitola website.

Capitola Art and Cultural Commission. According to the City of Capitola website, “The Capitola Art and Cultural Commission advises the City Council about allocation of public funds for the support and encouragement of existing and new programs in the arts; acquires works of art subject to City Council approval; initiates, sponsors and/or directs special programs that enhance the cultural climate of the City; and implements the Art & Cultural Master Plan.” The Commission was

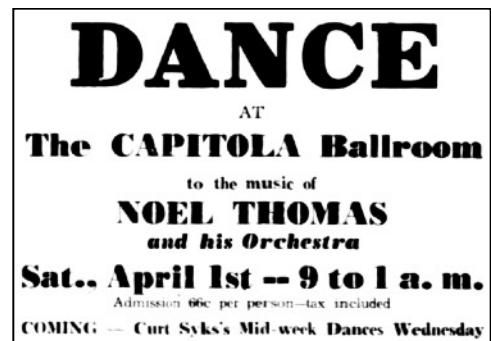
established in 2003, replacing the earlier **Capitola Art Commission**. The Commission has nine members, who are appointed by the City Council. (See “City arts panel ready to go—except for members,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, June 19, 2003, p. 3)

Capitola Art and Wine Festival. A weekend festival held each September in **Capitola Village**, featuring artists, local wineries, food, and music. The free, all-ages event began in 1982 and is hosted by the Capitola Soquel Chamber of Commerce.

Capitola Art Commission. A commission on the arts established in 1985 and appointed by the Capitola City Council. The purpose was to “fund art activities in the community for the benefit of the people.” The commission launched the summer concert series, presented awards at the Capitola Art & Wine Festival, sponsored caroling at Christmas, funded classes for senior citizens, and purchased works of art for the city. It was replaced by the **Capitola Art and Cultural Commission**. (See *Mid-County Post*, January 16, 1990, p. 17)

Capitola Avenue. A street that runs from Monterey Avenue in **Capitola Village** to Soquel Drive. It began in the 1870s as a trail between tents in **Camp Capitola**. In the early to middle 1900s the first few blocks in the Village formed the town’s main business district, with a grocery store, drug store, hardware store, meat market, and post office. With the commercial development of **Forty-first Avenue** in the 1960s and 1970s, art galleries, gift shops, and boutiques began to dominate the Village.

Capitola Ballroom. The Capitola Ballroom and adjacent **Capitola Beach Club** opened for business on the site of the old **Hotel Capitola** June 20, 1936. The 12-piece Stewart Maus orchestra provided the music with singer Dede Vance. General admission was 55¢. Many big-name entertainers performed there, including Harry James, Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and Lionel Hampton. In 1954 the name was changed to the Caribbean Ballroom, which operated in conjunction with the adjacent **Sāba** restaurant. Both burned in 1957.



1939

Capitola Beach and Fishing Club (See **Capitola Light Tackle Club**)

Capitola Beach Club. A restaurant and bar that operated from 1936 into the early 1950s where **Esplande Park** is today. It was closely associated with the attached **Capitola Ballroom** and had the same owner. The restaurant was remodeled in 1940 to give it the longest bar in Santa Cruz County: 80 feet. The original owner was the Capitola

Investment Company, the chief stockholders being **Lowell** and **Everett Vetterle**. It had several successive owners until 1954, when the new owners changed the name to the **Sāba**. The building burned in 1957. (See “Expansion Of Capitola Beach Club Started,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, June 8, 1940, p. 5)

Capitola Black. The tomboyish protagonist in the novel, *The Hidden Hand* by E. D. E. N. **Southworth**. The town of Capitola was likely named after this fictional character.

Capitola Bluffs. The name for the cliffs along the edge of **Depot Hill**, between Capitola **Beach** and **New Brighton State Beach**.

Capitola Book Café. A locally-owned bookstore located in the **Kings Plaza Shopping Center** on **Forty-first Avenue** from 1980 to 2015. After closing, the neighboring movie theater, Cinelux, expanded into the space.

Capitola Bowl. A bowling alley in Capitola Village that operated from 1950 to 1973. It opened to the public November 10, 1950, with the grand opening a week later. Located at 115 San Jose Avenue, it featured eight Brunswick lanes and 8 billiard tables. In 1975 the building was converted to the Arcadian Gardens indoor shopping mall. In 1980 it became the **Capitola Mercantile**, also a collection of indoor retail shops. An earlier bowling alley occupied a similar location in the early 1900s. (For a short history of the bowling alley, see “Strikes and Spares” by Bob Hughes, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Sept. 5, 1973, p. 15)

Capitola-by-the-Sea. A name apparently coined in the 1890s and used to promote Capitola by emphasizing its location near the ocean. The term may have originated with a poem written by Georgina Lecky titled “To Camp Capitola” and published in 1897. It begins, “Of all the curious spots on earth; The quaintest one to me; Is winter’s mild, romantic spot; Capitola by the sea.” The name gained popularity in the 1920s. Though NOT the official name of the incorporated city, it is still used in advertising. (See “To Camp Capitola,” by Georgina Lecky, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Feb. 3 1897, p. 3)

“Capitola-by-the-Sea.” A mural painted in 2004 on the side of a restaurant (then called The Beach House) at 207 Esplanade. The mural depicts various scenes in Capitola Village and was dedicated to the “Capitola community.” It was sponsored by Janel Daniel and created by Beth Clevenstine. Although the restaurant has changed names, the mural remains as of this writing (2018). (See “New mural graces Capitola restaurant,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, September 1, 2004, p. 11)

Capitola Community Center. A community center in **Jade Street Park** built in 1986 by the City of Capitola. It is used for classes, meetings, and community gatherings, and

it houses the offices of the Parks and Recreation Department. The architect was **Douglas Messini**.

Capitola Community Church of God. This church dated back to at least the 1960s and was located on the corner of **Forty-first Avenue** and Brommer Street. The site is now (2018) a hotel.

Capitola Company. A stock company incorporated in 1920 to operate Capitola as a resort. Stockholders were **Henry Allen Rispin**, **Robert Hays Smith**, and five others. Rispin was the general manager. (See “Capitola Company,” *Santa Cruz Evening News*, March 31, 1920, p. 3; and “Summer Life Courses Through Busy Capitola,” *Santa Cruz Evening News*, June 19, 1920, p. 4)

Capitola Courier. A short-lived monthly newspaper in the 1990s.

Capitola Cup. A swimming championship held in the early 1920s. An account from September, 1921, describes it as a one mile race held over a 220-yard course in **Soquel Creek Lagoon**. Top female swimmers from around the state competed, with officials from the Pacific Association of the A.A.U. officiating. (See “Swimming Events At Capitola Will Afford Fine Sport,” *Santa Cruz Evening News*, September 16, 1921, p. 2)

Capitola Drive (See **Portola Drive**)

Capitola Elementary School. Capitola’s first school had just one room and opened in 1898 with Kate Leonard as the teacher. It closed sometime in the early 1900s, and Capitola students resumed attending school in Soquel. A new elementary school was dedicated October 24, 1952, and located at 504 Monterey Avenue. It had eight classrooms (one for each grade), a kindergarten, cafeteria, and office, and cost \$273,000 to build. It was part of the Soquel Union School District. In 1967 a separate Capitola Intermediate School (7th-8th grade) was added. Later this became known as Capitola Junior High School. In 1983 it became **New Brighton Middle School** (6th-8th grade). In 2004 the School Board voted to close the elementary school, and Capitola students were again sent to Soquel. The middle school now uses the entire site. (See “The Capitola school opened. . .,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, February 8, 1898, p. 3; and “Capitola Dedicates New School Building,” by Fred Jenkins, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, October 26, 1952, p. 7)

Capitola Flats. An older term for the **Capitola Village** area, often used prior to the 1970s. In 1970, 39 downtown Capitola residents and landowners petitioned the city to “refrain from referring to their area as ‘the flats,’ because of the unsavory

connotations of the phrase.” Strictly speaking, this term applied only to the flat land of the village. (See “No More ‘Flats,’” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, April 14, 1970, p. 18)

Capitola Garage. An auto repair shop on California Avenue in the 1950s and early 1960s operated by **Fred Jarvis**. For a while it also housed Capitola’s only fire truck.

Capitola Grove. A term used in the 1890s for the grove of **Coast Live Oaks** between **Glen Beulah** and the railroad tracks. It was used as a picnic grounds. The site is currently occupied by the parking lot (Beach and Village Parking Lot 1) behind **City Hall**.

Capitola Heights. A large subdivision established in 1907 west of **Soquel Creek** and north of **Capitola Road** on the former **Henry Daubenbis** tract. Advertisements in November, 1907, described it as “one of the prettiest subdivisions in California.” Lots were \$100 and up, but sales were slow. The area was not fully developed until the latter part of the 1900s. In 1977 Capitola Heights residents voted on annexation by the City of Capitola. Of the 123 registered voters, only 49 voted. The measure passed by a vote of 25 to 24.

Capitola Historical Museum. Founded in 1966, the Museum maintains collections of photographs and artifacts relating to the history, culture, and natural features of Capitola and strives to bring about a better understanding of these resources through exhibits, publications, walking tours, and other educational programs. The Museum has been at its present location at 410 Capitola Avenue since March, 1968. The building is a former Thompson Avenue home (in **Live Oak**) that was moved to the present site and altered to look like an old school house. The Museum is supported by the City of Capitola and through donations. Visit the Museum’s website for current activities and a list of past exhibitions. (See “Capitola Museum Opens Saturday,” by Ron Reeves, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, March 17, 1968, p. 3)

Capitola History Coloring Book. A coloring book published in 2018 by the **Capitola Historical Museum** with illustrations by Frank Hill and text by Frank Perry. Available in English and in English/Spanish.

Capitola Hotel. A small, two-story hotel at 210 Esplanade, across from the beach. The building was constructed in 1942. Still in business, it should not be confused with the much larger **Hotel Capitola**, which burned in 1929. (See *Mid-County Post*, January 16, 1990, p. 17)

Capitola Improvement Club. There have been at least three clubs by this name, all formed by local citizens working for the betterment of Capitola. The first was founded in 1928, but appears to have only lasted about a year. A second club was established in 1935 to clean the beach and streets and lasted until the early 1940s. The

third incarnation was founded in 1948, primarily to lay the groundwork for incorporation. It lasted until at least the end of 1949. In 1954 a new group, the Capitola Businessmen's Association, was founded using the club's charter. (See "Improvement Club Is Formed by Capitola Citizens," *Santa Cruz Evening News*, June 22, 1928, p. 9; "Improvement Club Formed By Men Of Capitola District," *Santa Cruz Evening News*, June 28, 1935, p. 4; and "Form Capitola Improvement Club To Plan Incorporation," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, May 18, 1948, p. 1)

Capitola Light Tackle Club. An anglers association established in 1927 as part of **Henry Allen Rispin's** effort to attract the wealthy to Capitola. In July, 1928, a two-story clubhouse, by then called the Capitola Beach and Fishing Club, was completed near the foot of the wharf. Sportsmen from throughout the state were invited to join. It cost \$12 for a one year membership and \$200 for a life membership. An insufficient number of memberships were sold, however, and the club quickly ran into financial trouble. Only two months after opening, the furniture was repossessed. The building was put to other uses until 1940 when it burned. This club seems to be distinct from an earlier Light Tackle Club, founded in 1911. (See "Capitola Clubhouse Destroyed," *Santa Cruz Evening News*, March 21, 1940, p. 1)

Capitola Mall. An indoor shopping mall bordered by **Capitola Road**, 41st Avenue, and **Clares Street**. The first anchor store, **Sears**, was erected in 1971, but the main part of the Mall was not built until 1977, with an expansion in 1989. In 2016 the mall was purchased by Merlone Geier Partners, a real estate investment company. The purchase did not include the buildings housing Sears, Target, and Macy's.

"Capitola Memories" (tile mural). These hand-decorated tiles along the **Esplanade** sea wall are the result of a community art project organized in 2008 by the **Capitola Art and Cultural Commission**. Residents and visitors of all ages were invited to create tiles for inclusion on the wall. The theme was, "Capitola Memories—Sand, Sun, and Sea." The project was done in cooperation with Petroglyph, a do-it-yourself ceramics studio in Santa Cruz, and the tiles were installed by Latshaw Tile and Stone. The cost to participate was \$35 per tile, with sales handled for the city by the Chamber of Commerce. The tiles were the subject of a book, *Capitola Sea Wall Tiles*. (See "Capitola Beach-Goers Share Their Memories," by Jondi Gumz, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, July 29, 2008)

Capitola Memories Project. A project begun in 2015 by the **Capitola Historical Museum** to record on video oral histories about Capitola. The videos can be watched on the Museum's YouTube channel. Search "Capitola Historical Museum."

Capitola Mercantile. A collection of indoor retail stores located in the former **Capitola Bowl** at 115 San Jose Avenue. Capitola Mercantile opened in 1980.

Capitola Merry-go-round (See **Merry-go-round**)

Capitolan. A newspaper published briefly in 1973. The paper went through several name changes, becoming the *Mid-County Voice*, then the *Aptos Voice*, then the *County Voice*, and finally the *County News*, which ceased publishing in 1977. The latter should not be confused with the earlier **Central County News**. (See *Every Structure Tells A Story*, 1990, pp. 36-38)

Capitola Nicknames. Common nicknames for women with the first name of Capitola are Cap, Capi, Cappy, Cappie, or Tola. **E. D. E. N. Southworth**, in her novels about **Capitola Black**, often played with the name, with chapter titles such as "Cap in Captivity," "Capitola the Capitalist," and "Capitola Caps the Climax."

Capitola Park. An early name for **Depot Hill** (1880s and 1890s). The neighborhood became known as Depot Hill in the early 1900s after an enlarged railroad depot was built near the east end of Escalona Drive (then Railroad Avenue). (See *Historic Context Statement For the City of Capitola* by Carolyn Swift, 2004, p. 25)

Capitola Park Hotel. A hotel operated in the late 1800s and early 1900s by **Patty Reed Lewis**. She first managed it in 1889. The building was on the **McCormick Tract** and later became the **Old Plantation** inn and nightclub.

Capitola Pavilion (See **Skating Rink**)

Capitola Pharmacy. A pharmacy located on Capitola Avenue from the 1920s to early 1970s. It changed locations several times, but in later years was at the northeast corner of Capitola and San Jose Avenues. D. Brainard Dunn was an early proprietor. From the 1940s through 1960s it was owned by Sherwood Rodgers and sometimes known as Rodgers Capitola Pharmacy. (See "D. Brainard Dunn, Capitola Druggist, Dies At Age of 65," *Santa Cruz Evening News*, February 15, 1932, p. 2; and "Thursday Rites For Sherwood H. Rodgers, Sr., 84," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, August 5, 1970, p. 14)

Capitola Playhouse. A business on the **Esplanade** in the 1950s and 1960s featuring arcade games such as skee roll and **pokerino**. The proprietors were Andy and Laverne Antonetti, who also operated the nearby **merry-go-round**.



Capitola Police Protection District. Also known as the Capitola Police District, it was responsible for police protection in the Capitola area from 1928 to 1967. The district was created by the voters in 1928 primarily in response to “young hoodlums” using the streets for “drinking bouts and disturbances.” The district continued after incorporation in 1949 and was not replaced by a city police department until 1967. At that point, Opal Cliffs, which had been part of the district, came under the jurisdiction of the County Sheriff since it was not within the City of Capitola. (See “They Want Peace,” *Santa Cruz Evening News*, July 17, 1928, p. 3; and “Capitola Voters Approve Police District Dissolution,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, March 29, 1967, p. 18)

Capitola Reservoir (See **Reservoir**)

Capitola Road. One of the main east-west routes through **Live Oak**, connecting Santa Cruz and Capitola. It runs from **Soquel Drive** near Arana Gulch eastward to **Wharf Road** near **Capitola Village**. It is also one of the very early roads through Live Oak, apparently dating back to at least the 1870s when it was called **Lower Soquel Road**. By the very early 1900s, Capitola Road seems to have been the preferred name.

Capitola Rod and Custom Classic Car Show. A car show featuring over 300 hot rods, muscle cars, coupes, roadsters, customs, and classics, from vintage to 1972. The free event debuted in 2006 and is held in Capitola Village each June as a benefit for the Capitola Safety Foundation. (See capitolacarshow.com for schedule)

Capitola Sea Wall Tiles: A 2008 Community Project. A photo book by the Capitola Art and Cultural Commission about the **sea wall art tiles**. It tells the story of the project and has photos taken by Larry Smith depicting each of the tiles. (Hardcover, 2009, 210 pages)

Capitola Shores. Capitola’s largest apartment complex blankets some twenty acres at the corner of Jade Street and 45th Avenue. McKeon Construction of San Jose received approval for the development in May of 1970, and construction started later that year. The apartments occupy some 80 fourplexes and were originally offered for sale at \$16,300 each. (See “Apartment Development Wins Capitola Council’s Approval,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, May 12, 1970, p. 13)

Capitola Soquel Times. A monthly tabloid-sized newspaper devoted to the Capitola-Soquel area. It was first published in 1995 by Times Publishing Group, Inc.

Capitola’s Peril. This novel by **E. D. E. N. Southworth** was a sequel to *The Hidden Hand* and features more adventures of **Capitola Black**.

Capitola State Beach. (See **Beach**)

Capitola: Stories from The Village. A book of Capitola stories by William Walden Aebersold (Gaybil Press, 2006). According to the author, "This is a work of fiction and of the Author's imagination. Several Capitola icons have been models for the various vignettes, but the stories are mine, and not necessarily theirs, although they could be."

Capitola Sunset (newspaper). A late 1800s newspaper published in Capitola. Only a few issues have survived, all being from the summer of 1897. It apparently began as a daily, then switched to being published Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. In 2007 the name was resurrected for the Capitola Historical Museum newsletter.



Capitola Theater. The first Capitola Theater opened on San Jose Avenue on June 18, 1920, and had nearly 300 seats. A. I. Wilson was the proprietor, H. D. White the projectionist, and Kate Arns the pianist. The first motion picture to be shown was *Dollar for Dollar*, a "romantic drama" starring Frank Keenan. Adult tickets were 25¢, children 10¢, including the war tax. The building burned in the 1933 fire that also destroyed the neighboring **Hawaiian Gardens**. (See "Capitola Theater Opens Tonight; House Seats 300," *Santa Cruz Evening News*, June 18, 1920, p. 4)

A second motion picture theater of the same name opened August 6, 1948, and was located at 120 Monterey Avenue near the Esplanade. The first movie shown was a Cole Porter musical, *The Pirate*, starring Judy Garland and Gene Kelly. Built by Joseph Jacobs and Arthur Meyer, the 500-seat, single-screen theater was popular for its bargain ticket prices, popcorn with real butter, crying room, and double-features. Daughter **Audrey Jacobs** operated it for nearly 50 years. The theater closed in 1996 and the building was used for lectures, concerts, and live theater before being demolished in 2010. (See "New Theater In Capitola Open Tonight," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, August 6, 1948, p. 1; and "That's all, Folks: Final curtain will soon fall at Capitola Theater," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Sept. 12, 1996, p. 1)

Capitola Trailer Park (See **Glen Beulah**)

Capitola Trestle (See **Railroad Trestle**)

Capitola Village. Capitola Village, or simply The Village, is an informal name for that portion of Capitola on the lowlands beside the mouth of **Soquel Creek**. The name seems to have originated in 1965 when a citizens group headed by **Tom King** proposed keeping **Capitola Flats** as a “village area” (*Sentinel*, June 26, 1965, p. 7). This was in response to a city general plan proposal for a complex of hotels, motels, and a convention center. A “Capitola Village Merchants Association” formed in 1969 and in 1970 the **Chamber of Commerce** prepared a report titled *Potential of the Village*. The term distinguishes what was once the only “downtown” area from the rest of Capitola, particularly the business district along **Forty-first Avenue**. The name is a retronym: an older name modified to distinguish it from a new development. The business district farther north on **Capitola Avenue**, near **Bay Avenue**, is sometimes called the **Upper Village**. (See “Capitola Chamber Urges Action to Realize Commercial Bonanza,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, May 8, 1970, p. 22)

Capitola Village Railing. A decorative and functional sidewalk railing along the 300 block of **Capitola Avenue**. Lois and Ernest Rich of Sculptural Accents designed and installed the ocean-themed railing in 2018. The design was selected by the **Capitola Art and Cultural Commission**, and the project was funded by the City of Capitola. (See *Capitola Currents*, Spring/Fall, 2018, p. 1)

Capitola Water Fantasy. A festival held annually in Capitola from 1950 to 1954. The festival was the brainchild of swimming teacher **Peggy Slatter Matthews** and included music, swimming, demonstrations, and decorated floats on **Soquel Creek**. (See *By-the-Sea: A History of the Capitola Begonia Festival* by Carolyn Swift, 1992, pp. 4-7)

Capitola Wharf (See **Wharf**)

Capitola Wharf book. (See *The Endearing and Enduring Capitola Wharf and Environs*)

Cardwell, Leo C. (1894-1954) Santa Cruz area contractor whose company, Leo Cardwell Construction, built many of the region’s roads and bridges between 1929 and 1954. In Capitola, Cardwell built the **Stockton Avenue Bridge** (1934) and the Capitola **Flume**. He also helped with the construction each summer of the beach berm to create a **lagoon** at the mouth of Soquel Creek. Cardwell announced the sale of his business to Granite Construction Company in January of 1954. (See “Retired Contractor Leo Cardwell Dies,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, April 24, 1954, p. 1)

Caribbean Ballroom (See **Capitola Ballroom**)

Castro, Martina. (1807-1890) Maria Martina Castro grew up at the Villa de Branciforte and in 1833 was granted the 1,668-acre **Rancho Soquel**. She and her husband, Michael Lodge, lived in an **adobe** home at the upper end of what is today Hill Street in Capitola. Much of present-day Capitola lies within Rancho Soquel. She later received a second grant of 32,702 acres, known as the Rancho Soquel Augmentation. It encompassed much of the Soquel Creek watershed. Martina Castro's brother, Rafael Castro, was granted Rancho **Aptos** to the east. (See "Stones to the Four Winds: The Sorrow of Martina Castro Lodge," by Carolyn Swift, *Santa Cruz County History Journal*, No. 3, 1997, pp. 123-134)

CCC (See Civilian Conservation Corps)

Cemeteries. There are no cemeteries within the Capitola city limits, though a Native American burial site was discovered in Capitola in the 1970s. Two Catholic cemeteries serve Capitola: Holy Cross Cemetery in **Live Oak** and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cemetery in **Aptos**. Soquel Cemetery is the nearest Protestant cemetery and is adjacent to a Jewish cemetery called 'Beit Olam Cemetery. Many former Capitola residents are buried in these cemeteries.

Census (See **Population**)

Central County News. A weekly newspaper that served the mid county area (primarily Aptos, Soquel, Live Oak, and Capitola) from 1962 to 1970. In 1970 it merged with another paper to become the *Journal News*, but it ceased publication later that year. Available on microfilm at the Santa Cruz Public Library.

Central Fire Protection District. The district was established in 1984 through consolidation of the **Soquel** and **Live Oak** Fire Districts. Capitola joined the district in 1987. Capitola is Station 4 and is at 405 Capitola Avenue. The administrative headquarters is at Station 1, 930 17th Avenue in Live Oak. In 2018 the district began working toward consolidation with the Aptos / La Selva Beach Fire Protection District. Website: centralfpd.com. (See "Firefighters Resist Council Takeover," by Mark Bergstrom, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, January 5, 1987, p. 2)

Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit membership organization that works to promote local businesses, supply information to visitors, and coordinate special events. The Chamber of Commerce has had several starts, name changes, and locations since its founding. An organization called the Capitola Chamber of Commerce held its first meeting on June 11, 1929 at the old **Hotel Capitola**. Starting in the middle 1930s there was a Capitola-Soquel Chamber of Commerce. In 1941 the Capitola Progress Club was formed, but in 1942 became the

Chamber of Commerce of Capitola. In the 1970s it was called the Greater Capitola Chamber of Commerce. In 2005 it once again became the Capitola Soquel Chamber of Commerce. Offices are at 716-G Capitola Avenue. (See “Capitola Chamber makes room for Soquel,” by Gwen Mickelson, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, March 30, 2005, p. A-3)

“Children of the World.” A large redwood sculpture by artist Luis Villarreal of Capitola depicting a globe of the world held up by hands. The heads of four children, representing different ethnicities, gaze outward from the four corners at the base of the sculpture. Villarreal began the work in late 1979, the International Year of the Child, and it was dedicated in March, 1980. Funding came from private donations. The sculpture was displayed at the **Capitola Mall**, Capitola Branch **Library**, and other locations. In 2016 it was moved to Rosarito, Baja California, Mexico. (See “‘Children of the World’ sculpture gets new home,” by Ramona Turner, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, June 26, 2002, p. 2)

China Beach. An earlier name for what is now **New Brighton State Beach**. A bronze plaque placed there in 1984 says, “During the 1870s and 1880s, a small village constructed of scrap lumber and driftwood was erected at the base of these cliffs. Known as China Beach, or China Cove, it was established by Chinese fishermen who set their nets by boat and then hauled their daily catch onto the beach by hand for drying and selling. By 1890, however, the expanding resort industry and waves of anti-Chinese sentiment had combined to force the last of the Chinese fishermen out of Santa Cruz County.”

Chinese Redwood (See **Dawn Redwood**)

Chute the Chute. A recreational slide at the **lagoon** in the early 1900s. Swimmers climbed a ladder or stairway to the top and then slid into the lagoon. The slide changed location and configuration through the years.

City Council. Major decisions on the operation of the city are made by the five-member city council. Members are elected by the voters and serve four-year terms, with either two or three of the seats to be filled by election every two years. Until the 1990s, there were no term limits. Members are presently limited to two terms, but can run again after a break of two years. Each member receives a small stipend. Meetings are usually held in the evenings on the first and third Thursdays of each month.

City Hall. Capitola’s first city hall was at 127 Monterey Avenue in a building which still stands, but is now a private home. In the early 1950s city hall moved to 420 Capitola Avenue in a room behind and attached to the police department. The present two-story city hall was built in 1977 and was designed by Capitola architect **Douglas**

Messini. Part of the building incorporates the walls of an old garage that was used for city vehicles.

City Hall Photomurals. A display of eleven historical photographs of Capitola displayed outdoors in the stairwell and upstairs walkway at **City Hall**. The images depict **Soquel Creek Lagoon**, the **beach**, the old **Hotel Capitola**, **Camp Capitola**, the **Esplanade**, the **wharf** with davits, the **merry-go-round**, and the **railroad trestle**. All are from the **Capitola Historical Museum** collection.

City Manager. Capitola has a council-manager form of government, which is typical for small cities. The city manager is hired by the council to oversee the day-to-day operating of the city. The city does not have a separately elected mayor. Each year one of the council members, all of whom are elected, takes a turn serving as mayor. The mayor chairs the council meetings.

City of Capitola Architectural Survey, The. A book by Sara Boutelle, Roger Hatheway, and Charles Rowe prepared for the City of Capitola, 1986. "The objectives of this survey were to conduct an inventory of Capitola's architectural resources for community planning use and cultural appreciation, and to determine the feasibility of establishing an historic district." The 107-page book includes photos and short descriptions of buildings and is arranged by street and number.

City of Capitola Historic Structures List. A 14-page list of historic structures, by street address, prepared for the City in 2005. Available on the City of Capitola website.

Civilian Conservation Corps. Also known as the CCC, it was one of President Franklin Roosevelt's depression-era programs to put people to work on public projects. A CCC camp was established near the **airport** in 1934, using barracks built for **Camp McQuaide**. The Capitola CCC camp closed in 1940. Local CCC projects included improvements at **New Brighton State Beach**. (See "New Brighton CCC Youths Leaving After Year's Work," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, March 11, 1939, p. 1)

Clares Street. A street on the west side of Capitola running from **Wharf Road**, across **Forty-first Avenue**, and curving south to **Capitola Road**. It was presumably named for the **Poor Clares**, a cloistered order of nuns which occupied the **Rispin Mansion** during the 1940s and 1950s. The street connects to Wharf Road opposite the mansion. Based on old maps, it would appear the street follows the boundary between two historic land tracts, that of **John Daubenbiss** to the north and his brother, **Henry Daubenbis** (note different spelling) to the south.

Cliffwood Heights. The name for a housing subdivision built in the 1960s on the site of the old **airport**. An advertisement from 1966 lists 2- to 4-bedroom homes ranging in

price from \$19,950 to \$25,500. Many of the streets are named for European explorers, such as Columbus, Magellan, and Balboa. One of the investors in the project was local nurseryman **Keith Shaffer**. Shaffer bred orchids and his wife was named Elinor—hence Orchid Avenue and Elinor Street.

Cliffwood Heights Neighborhood Church (See **Shorelife Community Church**)

Cliffwood Park (See **Cortez Park**)

Climate. Capitola (and much of California) has a Mediterranean climate. The climate is mild (seldom dipping much below freezing in the winter) with a hot dry spell of several months from the late Spring to early Fall. The climate is typical of the land areas surrounding the Mediterranean Sea and is influenced by the moderating affects of a large body of water.

Clubs (See name of club: **Capitola Improvement Club, Capitola Light Tackle Club.**

Coastal Commission. (See **California Coastal Commission**)

Coast Artillery. (See **Camp McQuaide and Fifty-fourth Coast Artillery Regiment**).

Coast Live Oak. A native evergreen tree common in Capitola, such as along the southern part of **Noble Gulch**. The species grows in the Coast Ranges of California from Mendocino County to northern Baja California. Its acorns along with those of several other oaks were a dietary staple for the Native Peoples of this region.

Coast Redwood. A tall, evergreen tree native to the Coast Ranges from Monterey County north to the Oregon border. It can reach a height of over 300 feet, but most are much smaller. Harvesting redwoods for lumber and other products was a major industry in Santa Cruz County in the late 1800s, and some harvesting continues today. It is also a common tree in landscaping. One grows in front of the **Capitola Historical Museum**.

Cody, William F. (1847-1926) Just as Capitola had a resident named **George Washington**, so too did it have a William F. Cody. Because of his famous namesake, he also had the nickname “Buffalo Bill.” Cody and his wife, Catherine, lived in San Francisco, but spent each summer at “Buffalo Bill cottage” on San Jose Avenue in Capitola. “The Codys were so identified with our town’s summer activities as to have been considered almost institutional. . . . The Cody’s were property owners here for many years, the parents of Mr. Cody being among the first to purchase when Capitola was plotted for residential purposes. . . .” (See “Death of Will Cody,” *Santa Cruz Evening News*, August 21, 1926, p. 3; and “Capitola Mourns Death of Mrs. Catherine Cody,” *Santa Cruz Evening News*, March 7, 1927, p. 8)

Community Church of God. (See **First Baptist Church of Capitola**)

Community Hall. Construction of a community hall was first proposed in 1918, but it was not until 1947 that ground was broken. The building was constructed by the Chamber of Commerce and originally intended to house the fire department, a library, and meeting hall. Not long after incorporation, part of it became **City Hall**. Today the extensively remodeled building houses the Police Department. (See “Capitola Community Hall Gets Under Way At Ground Breaking,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, August 7, 1947, p. 1)

Compass Points. People who are new to the Santa Cruz and Capitola areas can get confused about directions. They think of the ocean as being to the west. Capitola, however, lies on the north edge of **Monterey Bay**. The water is to the south and the mountains are to the north. **Forty-first Avenue**, for example, runs north-south. **Highway 1** runs east-west. Someone traveling in a “northbound” lane on Highway 1 in Capitola is actually going west. The sea cliffs at Capitola are even more confusing because they are oriented northeast-southwest. A person walking at low tide from Capitola Beach to **New Brighton State Beach**, although walking “down” the coast, is actually walking to the northeast.

Concrete Garage. The Concrete Garage was a large white building located at the corner of Cliff Drive and Wharf Road from the 1920s to 1960s. It served as an auto repair shop and gas station. The walls were concrete, but the roof was metal.

Cope, Katherine (See **Henderson, Katherine (Hihn) Cope**)

Cortez Park. A public park located in the **Cliffwood Heights** neighborhood and bounded by residences along Cortez Street, Sir Francis Avenue, and Columbus Drive. The park was dedicated in 1970 and is mostly hidden from the street, hence its other name: Hidden Park. It is also known as Cliffwood Park (after the neighborhood), Triangle Park (because of its shape), and by other names. It has a large, open lawn area and play structure area for small children. The main entrance is on Cortez Street. (See “Capitola Park Almost Ready,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, April 9, 1970, p. 16)

Costanoan. A term for the Indigenous Peoples of the southern San Francisco Bay and **Monterey Bay** regions. It was derived from the Spanish term *Costeños*, meaning “Coast People.” In the late 1900s this term was largely replaced by the term **Ohlone**.

Craft Gallery. An arts and crafts gift shop in Capitola Village established in 1969 by Carin Hanna. For many years it was on the corner of Capitola and San Jose Avenues. It is now at 209 Capitola Avenue.

Currier, Minnie Perry. (1906-circa 2000) Currier went to work for **Henry Allen Rispin** as a stenographer when she was just 19. When the 1925 Miss California contest was held in Santa Cruz, Rispin asked her to be "Miss Capitola." "After I had been in the pageant," she later recalled, "people would come in Mr. Rispin's office and say, 'We want to See Miss Capitola,' and I would talk and laugh with them." She left her job with Rispin at age 21, but had become part of local history as the first Miss Capitola. (See "Minnie Perry Currier," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, July 7, 1986, p. A-8)

Cypress (See **Monterey Cypress**)

Daubenbis, Henry. (1822-1907) Henry was a younger brother of **John Daubenbiss** and settled in the **Soquel** area in the 1850s, a few years after his brother. Henry Daubenbis, like his brother, was a farmer. A map from 1880 shows him owning 92 acres on the west side of **Soquel Creek** between what is now **Capitola Road** and **Clares Street**. His farm was purchased by developers in 1907, subdivided into one-acre lots, and marketed as **Capitola Heights**. Note that Henry spelled his name with one "s" instead of two like his brother, John.

Daubenbiss, John. (1816-1896) A native of Bavaria, John Daubenbiss came to New York in 1835, and over the plains to Oregon in 1842. The next year he traveled to San Jose and lived there until 1847 when he purchased 1,100 acres in and around what would become the village of **Soquel**. He helped build a flour mill and saw mill in Soquel, and later donated land for a cemetery. Known as "The Father of Soquel," his holdings on the west side of **Soquel Creek** extended south to about where **Clares Street** is today. (See *Santa Cruz County History Journal*, No. 4, 1998, pp. 81-84)

Davenport, John Pope. (1818-1892) Davenport set up a shore-whaling operation in Monterey and then moved it to Capitola for the 1865-1866 whaling season. "Capt. Davenport's whaling company have been extremely unfortunate this season, not having caught a single whale," reported the *Sentinel*. He and his men caught fish however, such as rock cod, bass, sole, and flounder, for the Santa Cruz market. In the summer of 1866 he moved his whaling station to the Santa Cruz north coast where he was more successful. He also built a wharf there. Davenport Landing and the town of Davenport were named for him. In later years he sold real estate.

Dawn Redwood. An tree closely related to the California **Coast Redwood**, but native to China and sometimes called the Chinese Redwood. As a conifer, it is unusual in being deciduous. It is also one of the very few organisms, plant or animal, that was known to scientists from fossils before it was discovered alive. It was first brought to the United States just after World War II and is often planted at schools and in public

parks (ie. Harvey West Park, Santa Cruz High, Branciforte Middle School, Soquel High). There are two beside **Capitola Avenue** near the **railroad trestle**. (See *Discovered Alive: The Story of the Chinese Redwood*, by William Gittlen, Pierson Publishing, 1999)

Deasy, Lewis S. (1907-1996) Lew Deasy made many contributions to the betterment of Capitola during the late 1900s. He and his wife, Myrle, purchased property in Capitola in 1952, and they moved permanently to Capitola in 1966 after he retired from teaching high school in San Jose. He helped with the **Begonia Festival**, studied Capitola history, and served as volunteer director of the **Capitola Historical Museum**. (See "Lewis S. Deasy," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Nov. 8, 1996, p. 8)

Depot (See **Railroad Depot**)

Depot Hill. A neighborhood on the hill east of **Capitola Village** and south of the railroad tracks. When first subdivided in the 1880s, it was called **Capitola Park**. Later, when the railroad depot was built nearby, it became known as Depot Hill.

Disco. A giant "everything under one roof" department store built on Bay Avenue in 1964. It was a chain store, restricted to northern California and northern Nevada. Disco closed in 1975 due to financial problems with its parent company. The building presently (2018) houses CVS Pharmacy, **Nob Hill Foods**, Capitola Self Storage, and several smaller shops.

Dodero, Cipriano. Soquel artist of the late 1800s. Dodero painted the large 1889 view of Capitola on permanent exhibit at the **Capitola Historical Museum**. The style is somewhat primitive, but the painting is fairly accurate (based on photographs from the same period). The painting previously hung in the **Lodge Mansion** and was purchased by the City in 1970. (See "Early Painting of Capitola," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, July 12, 1970, p. 19)

Driftwood. Heavy winter rains can result in large quantities of driftwood washing into Monterey Bay from local rivers and streams. Driftwood that accumulates on the beach at Capitola is free for the taking.

Drugstore (See **Capitola Pharmacy**)

Dunn, Lulu M. (1885-1973) Lulu Dunn was the proprietor of several Capitola businesses during the early to middle 1900s, including **Capitola Pharmacy** (with her husband, D. B. Dunn, who was a pharmacist), and concessions selling ice cream, candy, and sandwiches. She was Capitola postmaster from 1928 to 1933 and assistant postmaster under **Harry Hooper** until 1957. After her first husband died, she married newspaper

writer Walter Earl Crump in 1933 (later divorced) and then **Guy Bigbee** in 1947. After retiring from the post office, she taught school at Freedom, Happy Valley, and Holy Cross. (See "Capitola Carousel," by Norma Nelson, *Central County News*, Feb. 5, 1969)

Ealy, John T., Sr. (1943-2016) The long-time area restaurateur purchased **Zelda's** in Capitola in 1978 and owned and operated it until his death. Ealy was born in Minnesota, but came to Santa Cruz at age 2. He attended local schools including Cabrillo College. He graduated from Long Beach State University and worked as a CPA for more than 30 years in addition to his involvement with several Santa Cruz area restaurants. (See *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, April 6, 2016)

Earthquakes. Small earthquakes are not uncommon in the Monterey Bay area, large ones much less so. Since the middle 1800s, there have been six earthquakes strong enough to do significant damage to buildings. These were in 1857, 1865, 1868, 1906, 1926, and 1989. Of course, prior to 1874 there was no Capitola.

The Fort Tejon Earthquake of 1857 was an estimated magnitude of 7.9. Though the epicenter was 225 miles to the south, it did major damage to the mission chapel in Santa Cruz.

The earthquake of 1865 was an estimated 6.3 magnitude and centered in the **Santa Cruz Mountains**. At what is now Capitola, "the high cliffs crumbled into the sea, and the tide rose and fell with convulsive throbs." After the quake, the bay was full of little bubbles rising to the surface. (See "The Recent Earthquake," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, October 14, 1865, p. 2)

The earthquake of 1868 was between 6.8 and 7.0 and probably occurred on the Hayward Fault in the East Bay. It damaged buildings in Santa Cruz.

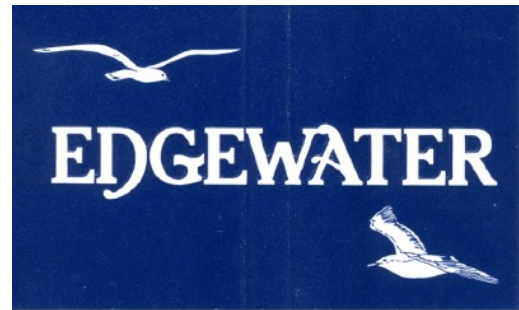
The great earthquake of April 18, 1906, has been estimated at magnitude 7.8. The epicenter was on the San Andreas Fault near San Francisco, but towns throughout central California coastal region suffered damage to buildings. "Capitola, particularly the eastern side of it, suffered considerably in loss of chimneys and broken windows." —*Santa Cruz Sentinel*, April 19, 1906, p. 8

Early on the morning of October 22, 1926 twin earthquakes, both about magnitude 6.1 and an hour apart, severely shook the Monterey Bay region. The epicenters were in the middle of **Monterey Bay**. At Capitola a visitor wrote to a friend in Alameda three days later: "I guess you felt the quake. Was sure pretty bad here. Frightened us awfully." A newspaper account mentioned products knocked off shelves in stores.

The Loma Prieta Earthquake of October 17, 1989, was a magnitude 6.9 with the epicenter in the hills behind **Aptos**. Capitola did not suffer the major damage that

occurred in downtown Santa Cruz and Watsonville, but chimneys fell, furniture toppled, walls cracked, and windows broke.

Edgewater. A restaurant and bar at 215 Esplanade in Capitola from around 1940 to 1992. In 1940 it was a cocktail lounge known as the Edgewater Club, operated by Larry Wessell and Bill Lovier. They expanded it to include a restaurant the following year. In later years it featured steak, seafood, a full bar, and live music. Local pundits used to refer to it as the “Bilgewater” or “Sludgewater.”



Elections. Prior to becoming and incorporated city in 1949, Capitola was in an unincorporated part of **Santa Cruz County**. Residents voted in county, state, and national elections, but not in any city election. After incorporation, Capitola held its own local election for **city council** and other offices, usually in the spring. In the 1980s, the County took over administration of Capitola’s elections and moved them to the same time as other elections as a cost-saving measure.

Electricity. An engine for generating electricity for electric lights was first installed at Capitola in 1889. In the early years, only the more important buildings, such as the **Hotel Capitola**, **Superintendent’s Building**, and **Skating Rink**, had power and only for the summer season. (See *Historic Context Statement For the City of Capitola*, by Carolyn Swift, 2004, pp. 78-79)

Elementary School (See **Capitola Elementary School**)

El Salto. A popular Capitola resort of the middle to late 1900s, presently (2018) known as Monarch Cove Inn. Two cottages were built on the site in 1895 by the Rawlins and Robinson families who lived in the San Joaquin Valley and visited Capitola in the summer. In about 1912 it was purchased by **Lewis E. Hanchett** of San Francisco, who kept it as a family estate and named it El Salto. The name means “a jumping off place.” In 1946 **Joe Tabacchini** and his wife, Mary, purchased the property and turned it into a resort of the same name. Later it was owned by Elizabeth Blodgett. The property is at the east end of **Depot Hill** at the end of El Salto Drive, originally called Prospect Avenue (not to be confused with the current Prospect Avenue near the **Jewel Box** neighborhood).

Emery, Don. (c1877-1948) Donald Duncan Emery was a well-known Capitola businessman and civic leader from the 1920s through 1940s. Born in San Francisco, he

settled in Capitola in 1921. According to his obituary, "He and his wife, Maude, who shared all his interests, assisted in organizing the Capitola chamber of commerce and were consistent boosters in everything for the betterment of Capitola." In late 1920s they built a two story stucco building at 101 Capitola Avenue. Downstairs was his real estate office and upstairs was their residence. For many years the downstairs housed **St. John's Helpful Shop**. Later they lived at 610 Riverview. (See "Don Emery of Capitola Dies Suddenly," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Feb. 12, 1948, p. 1)

Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist. Capitola citizens founded the parish in 1889, but it took nearly ten years to raise money for a church building. The church was completed in 1899 at the corner of Escalona and Oakland Avenues on land donated by **F. A. Hihn**. It was the first church built in Capitola. The gothic design came from Europe and is similar to that of the Episcopal churches in Ben Lomond and Boulder Creek. The property was sold in 2007 and the building converted to a private residence. The parish moved to **Aptos** where a new church was constructed at 125 Canterbury Drive. (See "The History of St. John's Episcopal Church," by Suzanne Krakover-Nickel on the church website: <http://www.st-john-aptos.org/about/our-new-campus/our-history>)

Endearing and Enduring Capitola Wharf and Environs, The. A book by Phillip Walker on the history of the wharf. Includes vintage photographs and information from oral histories conducted by the author. Self published, 2010. Unpaginated.

Erlandson, Axel N. (1884-1964) Better known as a resident of Scotts Valley, Erlandson established his nationally-famous "Tree Circus" roadside attraction there in the 1940s. He bent and grafted the trunks of trees into remarkable shapes and designs, including hearts, squares, and knots. After selling the attraction in 1962, he moved to Capitola. In the 1980s some of his trees were transplanted to the Gilroy Gardens theme park and can still be seen there. (See "Founder Of SV 'Tree Circus,' Axel N. Erlandson, Dies," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, April 29, 1964, p. 9)

Escalona Gulch. A small ravine that passes through the **Cliffwood Heights** neighborhood and along the eastern edge of **Depot Hill**. Water flow is seasonal. The gulch terminates at the sea cliff where, after heavy rains, a waterfall forms.

Esplanade. "Esplanade" or "The Esplanade" is a street that runs along the waterfront between Stockton and **Monterey Avenues**. It was earlier called Ocean View Avenue. In 1920 **Henry Allen Rispin** rebuilt and renamed the street, moving it seaward, and putting the curve in it. According to the dictionary, an esplanade is a long, level area, usually beside a beach, along which people may walk for pleasure.

Esplanade Park. A park beside the beach in Capitola at the intersection of **Esplanade** and **Monterey Avenue**. Several historic buildings occupied the site through the years: the **Hotel Capitola**, the **Capitola Ballroom**, and the **Sāba** restaurant. Restrooms and a parking lot were constructed there in 1960. The park was dedicated in July, 1984, and includes restrooms, outdoor showers, benches, plantings, and a bandstand. The park covers an underground **sewer** pumping station.

Eucalyptus, Blue Gum. The Blue Gum or Blue Gum Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*) is large evergreen tree native to Australia. It has been widely planted in California since the middle 1800s. In the 1870s it was one of the first trees planted in Capitola. Several groves remain in Capitola including at the **Rispin Mansion** and along **Park Avenue**. There is a Blue Gum Avenue in the **Riverview Tract**. Some of the groves serve as overwintering sites for **Monarch Butterflies**.

Fairview. An early name for the **Jewel Box** neighborhood and environs. It was first subdivided in 1886 by **Dennis C. Feeley** and advertised as Camp Fairview. An 1889 map shows it as Fairview Park, but with a street layout very different from today. It was billed as “the most charming of Pacific Coast resorts,” but was not nearly as successful as Capitola. A map from 1922 shows it as the Fairview Tract, with a modern street arrangement, but with names such as First, Second, and Third rather than the jewel names of today. (See *Historic Context Statement For the City of Capitola*, by Carolyn Swift, 2004, pp. 28-29)

Fallon, Thomas. (1825-1885) Pioneer capitalist and politician. Born in Ireland and raised in Canada, Fallon first came to California as part of the **Frémont** Expedition in 1846. He married Carmelita Castro Lodge, daughter of **Martina Castro** (grantee of Rancho Soquel) and **Michael Lodge**. In 1878 he established a resort called **Camp San Jose** to compete with nearby **Camp Capitola**, but it was not very successful. Fallon was San Jose’s tenth mayor, and his house in San Jose is a museum.

Family Cycling Center and Crossfit Pump Track. This bicycle pump track is located at **McGregor Multiuse Park** and was dedicated August 13, 2016. Funding came in part from a \$15,000 donation by Family Cycling Center and Crossfit.

Fanmar Terrace. A subdivision along Fanmar Way just north of Capitola Village and south of the railroad tracks. The tract was acquired and developed in 1928 by **Harlan P. Kessler**. Some of the homes were built by **Erle McCombs**. (See “New Apartments At Capitola; Social Notes,” *Santa Cruz Evening News*, June 12, 1928, p. 4)

Feeley, Dennis Carlton (1827-1906) A native of Ireland, D. C. Feeley first came to the Santa Cruz area in 1857 and owned property in both Santa Cruz and Santa Clara

Counties. Through marriage to the widowed Phoebe S. Curtis of Soquel, Feeley acquired the **Fairview** tract. She died in 1870. He was “thoroughly informed on plant life and could converse learnedly of fruit-eating trees and vines,” said his obituary. He was also an ardent Socialist. His name was sometimes spelled “Feely.” (See “Death of a Benevolent Socialist,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, January 4, 1906)

Field and Cole Curio Store. A retail store in the early 1900s that was located at the northwest corner of what is now the **Esplanade** and **Monterey Avenue**. The store was a branch of a larger store in Santa Cruz and sold souvenirs, postcards, jewelry, and other merchandise for summer visitors to Capitola.

Fifty-fourth Coast Artillery Regiment. An all-black mobile regiment that helped guard the Monterey Bay and Morro Bay areas against a potential attack from Japan during the early part of World War II. The regiment arrived in Santa Cruz in April, 1942. The largest battery locally was at Lighthouse Point. Smaller batteries were established at Davenport and Capitola (near the airport). Still other batteries were at Moss Landing and Pacific Grove. Had enemy warships entered Monterey Bay, the regiment would have fired their 155mm guns, which had a range of several miles. (See *Lighthouse Point: Illuminating Santa Cruz*, by Frank Perry, 2002, pp. 109-116)

“Finding Our Past.” A sculpture of an archaeological site by artist Susana Arias, 1996. The work is on **Bay Avenue** under the **Highway 1** overpass. It was commissioned by the Board of Supervisors and the Arts Commission of the County of Santa Cruz. It was funded by the United States Department of Transportation, the City of Capitola, and the County of Santa Cruz.

Fire Department. For many years Capitola had an all volunteer fire department, which was located at several successive locations in **Capitola Village**. The present station at 405 Capitola Avenue was completed in December, 1955, at a cost of approximately \$25,000. At that time an auditory alarm was used to signal to volunteers the general location of the fire. Two blasts indicated **Capitola Village**, three for **Depot Hill**, four for **Fairview** Heights, and five for **Opal Cliffs**. During the 1950s and 1960s Capitola got its first paid firefighters, though it continued to have volunteers. Today, all staff are paid. In 1987 the Capitola Fire Protection District, established in 1937, merged with the neighboring **Central Fire Protection District**. (See “Capitola Proud of New Fire Station,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Dec. 6, 1955, p. 16, and “Capitola’s Harold Jarvis Was Destined To Be A Fire Chief,” by Mark Bergstrom, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, June 18, 1981, p. 15)

Fireworks. Capitola held fireworks displays on the July 4th beginning in the late 1800s. These displays were continued through 1980. That year the show simply drew more people than the town could safely handle—an estimated 30,000—and the event was afterwards discontinued. Displays have been held on special occasions, however, such as the city's 50th birthday in 1999. In 2014, the Monte Foundation started holding a fundraising fireworks show in Capitola in the fall. (See "No Capitola Fireworks," by Keith Muraoka, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, January 15, 1981, p. 1)

Fires. Three devastating fires struck **Capitola Village** in the early 1900s. In December, 1926, a fire destroyed several businesses at the corner of **Esplanade** and San Jose Avenue. In 1929 the **Hotel Capitola** burned, and in 1933 the **Hawaiian Gardens** nightclub (plus other nearby buildings) burned. The last major fire was that of the **Sāba** restaurant and Caribbean Ballroom in 1957.

First Baptist Church of Capitola. Efforts to establish a Baptist church in Capitola began in December, 1948, with Sunday school and worship at Capitola Community Hall (now the site of the Police Department). Ground was broken for the church's main building in 1953 at the corner of **Capitola Road** and 46th Avenue. A Baptist church remained at this location for several decades. Later it became the home of the Capitola Community Church (aka Capitola Community Church of God, formerly at 1125 41st Avenue). The site is presently (2018) home to Calvary Chapel Capitola. (See "Baptist Church To Be Formed In Capitola Sunday," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, February 4, 1949, p. 6; and "Ground Broken for Main Unit Of Capitola Baptist Church," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, March 20, 1953, p. 5)

Fishing. Fishing was an important commercial enterprise in Capitola during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Today, it remains a popular recreational activity from the wharf or from small boats rented at the wharf. Common fishes caught in the area include surfperch, flatfish such as sanddabs and halibut, salmon, rockfish, and lingcod. The concession on the wharf has photographs of many of the fishes caught through the years.

Flats, The (See **Capitola Flats**)

Floods. The site of **Capitola Village** lies in the floodplain of **Soquel Creek**. Prior to development, it no doubt was frequently flooded during winter rainstorms. The Village and **Riverview** neighborhoods suffered damage during the severe flood of December, 1955, and to a lesser extent in January of 1982. The latter damaged the **Venetian Court** sea wall. During a February, 2011, rainstorm, a 72-inch storm drain in

Noble Gulch failed and water poured down **Capitola Avenue** and through the Village. Several **videos** taken of this flood can be viewed on YouTube.

Flowers. During much of the 1900s the Capitola and Live Oak areas were a prominent flower growing region. Though the area was best known for **tuberous begonias**, local nurseries also bred and propagated calla lilies, gladioli, irises, violets, gloxinias, fuchsias, and orchids. See also individual growers: **Antonelli, Brown, Hager, Pawla, Reinelt, Rochex, Shaffer, and Vetterle.**

Flume, Capitola. An artificial channel, made of concrete, used to carry the overflow from **Soquel Creek** lagoon during the summer. The present (2018) flume was built in the 1940s and sits on the beach, perpendicular to the shoreline. It is mostly buried by sand in the summer, but can be easily seen after winter storm waves remove some of the beach.

In the late 1800s, a wooden flume followed **Soquel Creek** between **Soquel** and Capitola. It carried effluent from the South Coast Paper Mill in Soquel to the east end of Capitola **Beach**. This was to prevent the pollution of Soquel Creek, then popular with fishermen, boaters, swimmers. (See *Capitola* by Carolyn Swift, 2013, pp. 23-24)

Fontes, Anthony Wayne. (1925-2016) In 1962 Wayne Fontes, his wife, Audrey, and children moved to Capitola, where he eventually became principal of Capitola Intermediate School. Born in San Mateo, his family moved to Santa Cruz when he was still a child. He graduated from Santa Cruz High School in 1942. He served on many Capitola area boards and commissions including the Capitola **City Council**. He was also a founding board member of the **Wharf to Wharf Race**. (See "From the Boxing Ring to the Principal's Office: How Wayne Fontes Made His Mark on Capitola," by Michael Thomas, *Mid-County Post*, July 24-Aug. 6, 2007, pp. 5, 8; and "Wayne Fontes," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Jan. 4, 2017)

Forty-first Avenue. Usually written as "41st," it is the main north-south commercial street through western Capitola. In the early 1900s, it was in two sections, with a gap between **Capitola Road** and what is now **Clares Street**. It was bordered by farms and a few farmhouses. The north and south sections were connected in the 1920s. Large-scale commercial development began in the 1960s and 1970s.

Fossils. The cliffs between Capitola **beach** and **New Brighton State Beach** comprise a geologic unit called the **Purisima Formation** and contain abundant fossil sea shells. According to geologists, the fossils date from about 3 to 5 million years ago, when all or most of what is now **Santa Cruz County** was under the sea. In some areas, the

fossil bones of whales are visible. Several of the old **retaining walls in Capitola Village** are made of the local fossiliferous sandstone. See the book, below.

Fossil Invertebrates and Geology of the Marine Cliffs at Capitola, California. A book by Frank Perry describing the rocks and fossils. Published in 1988 (revised 1992) by the Santa Cruz Museum Association.

Frémont, John Charles. (1813-1890) The controversial soldier, explorer, and politician led several explorations of the West during the 1840s. In 1846, as a major in the U. S. Army, he took control of California from the California Republic. He and his soldiers passed through what is now Santa Cruz County that same year, camping in the vicinity of the “Frémont Tree” growing in what is now Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. On March 1, 1846, they camped near Soquel, and Frémont paid a visit to the **adobe** home of **Martina Castro** and **Michael Lodge**, located in the present Capitola. “Sure, I remember the little red-haired devil,” said 92-year-old Michael A. Lodge in a 1930 interview. “He rode up to the old adobe and asked for my father.” Frémont ran unsuccessfully for President in 1856. (See “Santa Cruz Has Resident Who Remembers When Gen. Fremont Visited This Region in 1846,” by Leon Rowland, *Santa Cruz Evening News*, Sept. 9, 1930, p. 7)

Funville Casino. An arcade on the Esplanade in the 1950s.

Gayle’s Bakery and Rosticceria. A bakery and deli founded by Gayle and Joe Ortiz in 1978 in **Capitola Village**. Today it is located at 504 **Bay Avenue**.

Gay Nineties Festival. An 1890s-themed festival held in Capitola in June of 1948 and 1949. It included a costume ball, parade, bicycle race, and apple box derby and was said to be the first such fete held in the mid-county area. The 1949 festival also had a queen, 15-year-old Vera Blaeholder. “It has often been said that the ‘Gay Nineties’ era was one of the happiest in American history,” said the newspaper. (See “First Central County Fete Starts Saturday,” by Frank N. Jones, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, June 24, 1948, p. 1)

Gerlach, Emil (See **Wave Motor**)

German. There was considerable German influence during Capitola’s early development. **F. A. Hihn**, who owned the resort and oversaw its early development, was a German immigrant who had come to California during the Gold Rush. When he began selling Capitola lots in the 1880s, he succeeded in getting many of his German friends to buy sites for summer homes. Some were members of a San Jose German club called Germania Verein, founded in 1856. One of the streets on **Depot Hill** is Saxon—Saxony being a part of Germany.

Gibelli, Alberto. Italian fisherman famous in the annals of Capitola for having been stranded at the end of the Capitola Wharf during a storm in November, 1913. Waves washed away the middle of the structure while he was at the end. Fortunately, he was able to swim safely to shore with help of a rope and life preserver. Earlier, in 1901, Gibelli had helped rescue survivors of the ship *Rio de Janeiro*, which sunk while entering the Golden Gate. (See “A. Gibelli, Marooned At End of Wrecked Capitola Wharf, Saved,” *Santa Cruz Evening News*, Nov. 26, 1913, p. 1)

Glen Beulah. A name used in the early 1900s for the south end of **Noble Gulch**. In Scottish it means “beautiful canyon.” A popular picnic area, it was described at the time as a paradise of tall grass, ferns, and oak trees with a babbling brook. In the 1920s it became a campground and auto camp, and in 1929 it was named River Villa Campground. It later became Capitola Trailer Park, and then the Pacific Cove Mobile Home Park. The mobile homes were removed after a **flood** in 2011 and in 2014 the site was converted to the Beach and Village Parking Lot 2. It contains 220 spaces and is owned by the City of Capitola. (See *Historic Context Statement For the City of Capitola*, by Carolyn Swift, 2004, p. 44)

Glorious Top Shell. A species of small marine snail first described and named in 1871 from a specimen found at what is now Capitola. Empty shells still wash up occasionally on local beaches. Scientific name: *Calliostoma gloriosum*.

Golden State Bulb Growers (See **Brown Bulb Ranch**)

Good Times. A weekly tabloid-sized newspaper published in Santa Cruz since 1975. Its focus is entertainment, but it often includes articles on other topics. The paper’s geographic scope includes Capitola and the mid-county area.

Government. The City of Capitola has a council/manager form of government, typical of most California cities. Members of the **city council** take turns serving as mayor and presiding over meetings. The City of Capitola website lists the various city departments, has the full text for many important documents, and posts agendas for meetings of the city council and various boards and commissions.

Grace Community Church of Capitola (See **Shorelife Community Church**)

Grand Avenue. A street on **Depot Hill** that ran along the edge of the cliff. By the late 1900s, parts of the street had to be abandoned due to cliff erosion. What remains is mostly reserved for pedestrians.

Grand Hotel Capitola. An illustrated book on the history of the **Hotel Capitola** by Gordon van Zuiden and Carolyn Swift, published in 2007 by the **Capitola Historical Museum** (hardcover, 95 pages).

Graves, Charles Edward. (1881-1965) C. E. Graves was a veterinarian in Santa Cruz during the early 1900s. He was superintendent of the Santa Cruz City Animal Shelter and founder of the local S. P. C. A. In 1938 he established the Santa Cruz Pet Cemetery. In 1948 he moved to Riverview Avenue in Capitola for semi-retirement. In Capitola he continued to be active in the community, helping with the campaign for incorporation and advising the new city on animal control. His grandson, **Ronald Graves**, served for many years on the Capitola **City Council**. (See "The Cemetery of Dr. Graves," by Carolyn Swift, *The Mid-County Post*, Nov. 14, 1995, p. 18)

Graves, Ronald. (1938-2019) Ron Graves moved to Capitola in 1966, although he had been visiting here since childhood. In 1968 he was elected to the City Council and served for nearly 31 years. He played a vital role in shaping the development of the town while preserving its character and charm. For many years he worked for PG&E, which gave him an intimate knowledge of Capitola's people, streets, and buildings. (See "Ronald Graves," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, December 22, 2019)

Gray Whale (See **California Gray Whale**)

Green Sheet and Cabrillo Times. A subsidiary newspaper of the *Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* published from 1970 to 1986. Also called the *Cabrillo Times and Green Sheet*, it served the mid-county area, including Capitola, **Aptos**, Rio del Mar, **Soquel**, and **Live Oak**. Available on microfilm at the Santa Cruz Public Library.

Grocery Stores. Several grocery stores have occupied **Capitola Village**. In the early years some of these closed in the winter. In 1942 Capitola Grocery, part of the Red and White chain but independently owned, opened at the southwest corner of Capitola and San Jose Avenues after being at two other locations in Capitola Village. In 1950 it was purchased and operated by Alger Nusbaum, who later served on the **city council**. The store closed in the 1960s. (See "Capitola Grocery In New Location," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Sept. 26, 1942, p. 5)

Groin. A low wall made of stacked boulders and extending from the shore into the sea to check beach erosion. In 1970 a groin was built at the east end of Capitola Beach to trap sand and preserve the beach.

Grove, Capitola (See **Capitola Grove**)

Gulls. Although commonly referred to simply as “seagulls,” there are several species common to the Capitola area. These include the California Gull, Western Gull, and Herrman’s Gull. Gull species are challenging to identify because many change coloration as they mature, which can take several years. Readers Seeking to identify gulls should consult one of the many good field guides to bird identification.

Gum Trees (See Eucalyptus)

Hager, Herbert. (1910-1995) Born in New York, Herb Hagar lived in Southern California for many years before moving to the Capitola area in the 1950s. “For 30 years, he owned and operated **Herb Hager Orchids** in Capitola. . . . Internationally acclaimed, he won a gold medal in 1965 from the British Horticultural Society. In 1992 he also received the American Orchid Society’s highest honor—a Gold Medal of Achievement.” (See “Herbert Hager,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, January 10, 1995, p. 12)

Hall, Samuel Alonzo. (1816-1902) S. A. Hall, with his wife Rachel and daughter **Lulu Hall Green Wolbach**, leased what is now the site of **Capitola Village** from F. A. Hihn and in 1874 opened it as a resort called **Camp Capitola**. Mr. Hall was a native of Berkshire County, Mass., and also helped design the historic Congregational Church in Soquel. The Halls left Capitola in 1879 to establish a resort beside Wood’s Lagoon (now the **Santa Cruz Small Craft Harbor**) in Santa Cruz. (See *Capitola*, by Carolyn Swift, 2013, pp. 13-16)



Halloween Parade. One of the earliest of

Capitola’s Halloween parades for children was held in 1962 and sponsored by the Capitola Volunteer Fire Department. In 1976 the Village Merchants Association began holding a children’s costume parade, with gifts for the winners in various categories. A costume parade continues to be held each year by the Capitola Soquel **Chamber of Commerce** on the weekend before Halloween.

Hall’s Beach. The first advertisement for the opening of **Camp Capitola**, published June 13, 1874, says that it is “At Hall’s Beach, Soquel.” Presumably it was called this because the **Hall** family started the resort with his family. It is the same as Capitola **Beach**.

Hanchett, Lewis Edward. (1872-1956) Hanchett was a wealthy San Francisco Bay area businessman who in 1911 bought property at the west end of **Depot Hill** as a seaside

retreat for his family. He had married his second wife, Mary, in 1909, and they had four children. He named the retreat **El Salto**, a name that was continued after it was purchased by Joe and Mary **Tabacchini** in 1946 and converted to an inn. (See "L. E. Hanchett Services Held," *San Mateo Times*, March 2, 1956, p. 26; and *Historic Context Statement For the City of Capitola*, by Carolyn Swift, 2004, pp. 26-27)

Harbor (See **Santa Cruz Small Craft Harbor**)

Harbor Seal. A common marine mammal in the waters around Capitola. They differ from California Sea Lions in being smaller, having no ear flap, and not being able bend their back legs forward. They can be gray or brown, sometimes spotted.

Hawaiian Gardens. A popular music and dancing venue that was located on the west side of San Jose Avenue, a half block from the **Esplanade**. It opened May 29, 1924, in the building that had previously been known as the Capitola Rink or Capitola Pavilion. An advertisement described it as "California's Most Beautiful and Picturesque Ball-room and Amusement Center." The Hawaiian Gardens and most of the block burned in a February, 1933, fire. It was replaced by the short-lived **Big Top Ballroom**.



1926

Henderson, Katherine (Hihn) Cope. (1857-1921) Henderson was the oldest child of Capitola owner **F. A. Hihn** and his wife, Therese. Henderson married William Thomas Cope of Santa Cruz in 1878, but they divorced 20 years later. She married Harry O. Henderson shortly after she inherited Capitola from her father in 1913. The Hendersons owned and operated Capitola until selling to Henry Allen Rispin in 1919. (See *Historic Building Survey for the City of Capitola*, by Carolyn Swift, 2005, p. 34)

Herb Hager Orchids. An orchid nursery established near Capitola by **Herbert Hager** in the early 1960s. "This fine nursery specializes in varieties of the beautiful Orchid. Located on Capitola Road one block east of **Antonelli Begonia Gardens**. Many excellent strains developed here for shipment over the world. Herb Hager has won Awards (top) from England, etc. Visitors find this a must on the flower tour."—*Soquel, Calif. Guide Map*, published by Soquel Merchants, Inc., circa 1961.

"Hidden Hand, The." A novel by **E. D. E. N. Southworth**, first published in 1859. It was originally serialized in the *New York Ledger* and was also published simultaneously in a London magazine with the title "The Masked Mother." The story was later performed as a play and, in 1888, was finally issued in book form. The main character

was a young woman named **Capitola Black**. As a result of the novel, many mothers named their daughters Capitola during the late 1800s. There is good evidence that the town of **Capitola** was named for the character in the novel. The novel is in the public domain and available free online both in written form and as an audio book. Southworth wrote a sequel titled *Capitola's Peril*, also available online.

Hidden Park (See **Cortez Park**).

Highway 1. At 655 miles, it is the longest state highway in California and passes through the City of Capitola. It was built in sections, but the sections had different names and numbers until the entire route was designated State Route 1 in 1964. The Rob Roy to Santa Cruz (including Capitola) section was built as a freeway and dedicated November 4, 1949. Construction cost \$3,000,000. It became the boundary between the unincorporated town of Soquel and the incorporated City of Capitola and remains so today. The boundary is on the north side of the highway. (See "Green Light For A New Road," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Nov. 3, 1949, p.16; and "7 Years and 7.7 Miles of Highway 1," by Jill Ramar, *Santa Cruz County History Journal*, Number 9, 2018, pp. 1-7)

Hihn, Frederick Augustus. (1829-1913) Better known as F. A. Hihn (pronounced heen), he was the pioneer capitalist who owned and supervised the development of Capitola from its early years until his death in 1913. A native of Germany, Hihn came to California during the Gold Rush and to Santa Cruz in 1851. Hihn first went into the general merchandise business. He then acquired large portions of the **Rancho Soquel** and Rancho Soquel Augmentation land grants and established lumber mills. Hihn was involved in many local enterprises and amassed a great fortune. He was also a member of the school board, the Board of Supervisors, and served in the State Assembly. (See *A Biographical Sketch of F. A. Hihn Compiled by Stanley D. Stevens*, on the UCSC website, and "Frederick Augustus Hihn," *Santa Cruz County History Journal*, No. 4, 1998, pp. 130-132)

Hihn, Katherine (See **Henderson, Katherine (Hihn) Cope**)

Hihn Archive. A collection of records of the F. A. Hihn company in the collection of the McHenry Library, University of California, Santa Cruz. Many of the records pertain to Capitola, since Hihn was the original owner of the resort. Some of the collection is available online.

Hihn Building (See **Superintendent's Building**)

Hihn Park. A tiny park on **Depot Hill** at the corner of Fairview and Cliff Avenue. It is one of the few places in Santa Cruz County that bears the name of the pioneer developer of Capitola, **Frederick Augustus Hihn**. The park is owned and maintained by a group of area neighbors. The sign at the park says “1966,” presumably the year it was established. The pathway between the park and **Monterey Avenue** is known as **Porter Path** according to a sign in the park. (See “Walking Through Time,” by Sandy Lydon, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, June 17, 1990, pp. B-1, B-3)

Hinton, Walter. (1888-1981) Pioneer aviator, aviation explorer, and promotor of aviation. In 1919 Hinton helped pilot the first aircraft across the Atlantic. In 1931 the famous flyer visited Capitola to dedicate the Santa Cruz **Airport** and sign autographs. For a personal account of Hinton’s visit, see “Meeting Walter Hinton” in the book *Now and Then*, by Harold J. van Gorder, 1995, pages 15-16.

Historic Context Statement For the City of Capitola. A history of Capitola prepared in 2004 by Carolyn Swift, 160 pages. It is arranged by subject, including early development, subdivisions, transportation, schools, artists, etc. It also includes a timeline and a list of all **city council** members up to 2004. A pdf copy is available on the City of Capitola website. Printed copies are available at the **Capitola Historical Museum**.

Historic Districts. There are four historic districts in Capitola listed on the **National Register of Historic Places**. See entries for individual districts: **Old Riverview**, **Rispin Mansion**, **Six Sisters/Lawn Way**, and **Venetian Court**. See also the **Superintendent’s Building** (aka Hihn Building), which is on the National Register and is also a State Historic Landmark.

Hitchcock, Alfred. (1899-1980) The famous movie director and “master of suspense” had a home in the **Santa Cruz Mountains** during the 1940s, ‘50s, and ‘60s and occasionally visited Capitola. In 1961 when the **Sooty Shearwaters** crashed into Capitola, littering the streets with dead and disoriented birds, Hitchcock supplied his screenwriter with newspaper accounts of the incident, and it got a brief mention in his movie, *The Birds*.

Hooper, Harry B. Baseball player Harry Hooper (1887-1974) played for the Boston Red Sox (1909-1920) and the Chicago White Sox (1921-1925). During the off season, he lived in Capitola with his wife, Esther, and three children. After leaving the major leagues, he played and coached minor league baseball, sold real estate, served as Capitola Postmaster (1933-1957), and was an influential Capitola civic leader. In 1972 he was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. He is also in the Boston Red Sox Hall of Fame and the Saint Mary’s College Hall of Fame. A plaque honoring

Hooper was placed on the Capitola Wharf in 2002. (For a biography, see *An American Baseball Life* by Paul Zingg, 1993; and the website <http://www.takemeouttocapitola.weebly.com>)

Hooper's Beach. The name for the beach west of the **Capitola Wharf**. Also known as Hooper Beach, it was named for the Hooper family, which owned the beach between 1940 and 1985. **Harry B. Hooper** was a star baseball player in the early 1900s and later served as Capitola Postmaster. It is now owned by the City of Capitola.

"Hoop, Hoop, Hooper up for Red-Sox." A song about baseball star (and Capitola resident) Harry Hooper written in 1915 by Daniel J. Hanifen and Bernard H. Smith. A copy of the sheet music is in the Library of Congress and available online.



Hotel Capitola. The hotel began in the late 1870s as a small building at at the northwest corner of what is now **Monterey Avenue** and the **Esplanade**. In the 1880s it grew to include several buildings. In 1895 **F. A. Hihn** built a large three-story hotel on the east side of Monterey Avenue where **Esplanade Park** is today, replacing some of the earlier hotel buildings. An addition, located behind the original, opened in 1899. There was a dining room, ballroom, and 160 guest rooms. It became an instant landmark and shows up in countless old photos of the Capitola **beach** area. Fire completely destroyed the hotel in December of 1929. Also known as the Capitola Hotel, it should not be confused with the present **Capitola Hotel** of the same name. (See *The Grand Hotel Capitola* by Gordon van Zuiden and Carolyn Swift, 2007)

House of Wax (See **Sorensen's House of Wax**)

Hoyt, Peggy. (1876-1977) Mrs. Hoyt was well-known in Capitola as the **Begonia Festival** "Queen Mother." During the era of the begonia queens, she transformed her house on the creek each year into the royal headquarters. The house (called **Komtakarest**

and no longer standing) was at 329 Riverview, immediately south of the trestle. Mrs. Hoyt first visited Capitola in 1924 and moved permanently from Oakland to Capitola in 1948. She died in 1977, six months after her 100th birthday. (See *By-the-Sea: A History of the Capitola Begonia Festival*, by Carolyn Swift, 1992, p. 29)

Humpback Whale. A large baleen whale common in Monterey Bay and sometimes seen near shore in Capitola. In the summer of 2014 Humpbacks came exceptionally close to shore to feed on schooling anchovies.

Improvement Club. (See **Capitola Improvement Club**)

Incorporation. Voters approved making Capitola an incorporated city on January 4, 1949. Votes were cast at the **Capitola Ballroom**, with 297 yes and 243 no votes. Voters also selected the five-member **city council**. Capitola became Santa Cruz County's third city to incorporate, joining Santa Cruz and Watsonville. In 1966 Scotts Valley became the fourth. Incorporation gave the citizens of the community greater say over the operation of the town, which could then have its own elections, city council, and departments such as planning and public works. Today, however, many well-known area towns remain unincorporated and under the jurisdiction of the County Board of Supervisors and County Sheriff. These include **Soquel**, **Aptos**, Felton, Boulder Creek, Ben Lomond, and Davenport. Urbanized areas such as **Live Oak** and Rio del Mar are also in the unincorporated part of the County. (See "Capitola Approves Incorporation," by Frank N. Jones, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, January 5, 1949, p. 1)

Italian Fishing Village. A term used for a settlement of wooden shacks in the late 1800s and early 1900s where the **Venetian Court** is today. Many of the fishermen were immigrants from Italy, hence the name. They leased the land from **F. A. Hihn** and launched their small fishing boats from the beach and wharf. The village was demolished shortly after **Henry Allen Rispin** bought Capitola in 1919, but not before some of it appeared in a 1920 silent movie, *The Testing Block*.

Jacobs, Audrey. (1924-1997) Audrey Jacobs operated the **Capitola Theater** for nearly 50 years, becoming a Capitola legend. Her father and uncle built the theater in 1948; she sold it in 1996. (See "Gone with the Wind: Local Cinema Legend Dies," by Carolyn Swift, *Mid-County Post*, Oct. 28 – Nov. 10, 1997, p. 26; and "The Capitola: Family Managed For 28 Years," by Dale Pollock, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, July 6, 1976, p. 15.)

Jade Street Park. A 10-acre public park in the **Jewel Box** neighborhood. It apparently began as an informal park in the late 1960s or early 1970s. Originally just an empty field, today it includes a soccer field, tennis and basketball courts, playground, and

the **Capitola Community Center**. The City of Capitola leases the site from the Soquel Union Elementary School District.

Jarvis, Frederick M. (1887-1964) Born in Iowa, Fred Jarvis held many different jobs before becoming Capitola fire chief in 1944. He was the first paid fire chief. He was also part owner of the Capitola Garage, where the town's fire truck was kept. Jarvis served as chief until 1964 when he was replaced by his son, Harold.

Jarvis, Harold F. (1918-2004) Harold Jarvis served as Capitola fire chief from 1964 to 1980. He started as a volunteer firefighter in 1945 while his father, **Frederick M. Jarvis**, was chief. One of the biggest fires he fought was at the ballroom and **Sāba** restaurant in 1957: "It was about 4 o'clock in the morning and the wind was blowing and it was raining when somebody saw fire coming out the roof," he said in a 1981 interview. "Our primary tactic was to chase flying embers because we only had about 500 gallons of water per minute and we could have used 5,000. Boy, what a night!" (See "Capitola's Harold Jarvis Was Destined To Be A Fire Chief," by Mark Bergstrom, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, June 18, 1981, p. 15; and "Frederick Harold Jarvis, Capitola fire chief, dies," by Ramona Turner, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Oct. 18, 2004, p. 6)

Jewel Box. A neighborhood west of **Capitola Village** that in the late 1800s was part of Camp **Fairview**. Originally it encompassed the area between **Capitola Road** and the railroad tracks and between 49th and 45th Avenues. Arguably, it can be more broadly defined as from Prospect Avenue to 42nd Avenue. The Jewel Box was so named because the streets are named for precious stones. They are, from north to south, Crystal, Emerald, Garnet, Jewel, Opal, and Topaz. These names were adopted sometime prior to 1940. The name "Jewel Box," however, seems first to have been used in the 1960s or early 1970s for real estate promotion. Eventually, Jade Street and Diamond Street were added. The streets between Prospect and 49th were changed from 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Streets to the Jewel names in the late 1970s to accommodate the **nine-one-one** system. There were already 1st through 3rd streets in Santa Cruz, and officials were afraid emergency operators would get confused.

Jewel Box: A Capitola Mystery, The. A murder mystery novel written by **Misty W. Moonfree** and published in 2007. The story is set in Capitola's **Jewel Box** neighborhood.

"Joy of Flight." This fanciful mural depicts airplanes, balloons, various imaginative flying contraptions, and even some cows and rhinoceroses for good measure. Apparently untitled, it was described in the newspaper at the time it was painted as depicting the "joy of flight." It has also been called the "Flying Cows Mural." A

group called Visual Events (Elizabeth Sadoff, Julie Heffernan, and Dennis Marks) painted the mural in 1983 and, at 240 feet, it was then the largest mural in the county. The fading mural was refurbished in 2015 by The Regional Artisans Association (Laurel Bushman, Dawn Teall, Cynthia Siegel, Amber Romano, Elaine Means, and Joan Davisson). It is on the rear of a building in the **Kings Plaza Shopping Center** (behind Palace Art) and faces 38th Avenue. (See "Large Mural Going Up at Kings Plaza, Capitola," by Keith Muraoka, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, August 7, 1983, p. D-10)

Junior Guards. The Capitola Junior Guards is a summer program for children offered through the Capitola Recreation Department. It began in 1980 and was modeled after similar programs elsewhere in California. "The Junior Guards program provides instruction in the basic fundamentals of ocean water safety, first aid, and lifesaving. Participants have the opportunity to build self-esteem and gain respect for themselves and others by improving their skills and working together with other participants and instructors in a team-building environment," according to City Manager Jamie Goldstein. In 2016 there were over 500 participants in each of the two sessions. (See "Updates from City Hall" by Jamie Goldstein, August 26, 2016)

Jupiter. The name of the locomotive which, along with the *Santa Cruz*, was used by the **Santa Cruz Railroad**. Both were Baldwin 4-4-0 narrow gauge locomotives, purchased in 1876, and pulled trains that served Capitola. The fully-restored *Jupiter* is now in the National Museum of American History, part of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. A number of unrelated steam locomotives were named *Jupiter*, including the one at the driving of the Golden Spike in 1869. (See "Steam Locomotive Jupiter" on the Smithsonian's website: http://amhistory.si.edu/onthemove/collection/object_2.html)

Kay, Harry Ashley. (1883-1953) Santa Cruz-based commercial photographer and artist in the 1930s. A native of New York city, Kay settled in Santa Cruz in 1930 with his wife, Catherine. He was a member of the Santa Cruz Art League and was vice president of the league at the time of his death in 1953. Kay took photographs of Capitola, some of which he made into postcards. (See "Harry A. Kay, Photographer-Artist Dies," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, June 30, 1953, p. 1)

Kelp Forest Medallion. This large medallion set into the plaza in front of the **Esplanade Park** bandstand is made of concrete and bronze. It depicts a kelp frond surrounded by a circle of small fish. The work was designed by artist Roy Holmberg and installed by Keith Bridges Construction in 2008.

Kennedy Drive. A street in the **Cliffwood Heights** neighborhood. It was officially named by the Capitola **City Council** in December, 1963, in memory of the recently-assassinated President John F. Kennedy. (See “Capitola Renames Monterey Drive-Chittenden Lane ‘Kennedy Drive,’” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Dec. 10, 1963, p. 7)

Kessler, Harlan P. (1885-1966) Kessler’s association with Capitola began in the 1920s when he worked as an agent for **Henry Allen Rispin** and the **Bay Head Land Company**. Kessler later sold insurance in Santa Cruz, but lived in Capitola with his wife, Marjorie, and was active in civic matters and the **Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist**. He is best remembered today as Capitola’s first mayor. (See “Capitola’s First Mayor, Harlan P. Kessler, Dies,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Nov. 18, 1966, p. 1)

Killer Festival, A. (book) A mystery novel by **Misty W. Moonfree** that takes place in Capitola.

King, Thomas G., Jr. (1919-2016). Tom King was born in Seattle, Washington, but grew up in Hollister and started coming to Capitola as a child. He worked as a professional photographer in San Francisco before settling permanently in Capitola. In 1969 he established The Courtyard restaurant and later taught food service at Cabrillo College. In the 1960s he played an important role in the effort to preserve the character and vintage buildings of **Capitola Village**. Two oral histories with Tom King are available on the Capitola Historical Museum’s YouTube channel. (See “Thomas G. King, Jr.,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, June 29, 2016)

King’s Plaza Shopping Center. A shopping center developed on the southwest corner of 41st Avenue and Capitola Road in the 1960s and 1970s by **George Ow, Sr.** and members of his family. The first store constructed on the site was a supermarket, which George Ow, Sr., named “Kings.” He had noticed a store named Kings in the San Francisco bay area. He thought it had a nice, regal sound, and it was a short name that would save him money on the big sign. The original market later became **Orchard Supply Hardware** and in 2019, Outdoor Supply Hardware. (See *Chinese Gold: The Chinese In The Monterey Bay Region*, by Sandy Lydon, 1985, p. 472)

Knob Hill (See **Nob Hill**)

Komtakarest. A collection of several cottages on Riverview Avenue just south of the **railroad trestle**. It was owned during the middle 1900s by **Peggy Hoyt** and her husband, Jesse. “Hoyt used to enjoy looking out one window as people read the ‘Komtakarest’ sign . . . and watch their faces break into smiles as they realized the meaning of the name.” During the early **Begonia Festivals**, Komtakarest was the dressing area for the festival queen. Damaged in the 1989 earthquake, Komtakarest

was demolished in 1992. (See "The End for this Old House," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, January 23, 1992, p. A-1)

Kraft, Herman. (1894-1970) Known as the "nation's oldest lifeguard," Herman Kraft was a fixture on Capitola's beach for twenty years. Born in Indiana, Kraft worked in the San Francisco Bay area as a boilermaker before retiring to Capitola at age 51 and taking the summer job of lifeguard. "For the kids on the beach, Kraft was a commanding authority figure, but he was also a friend, first aid dispenser, keeper of the lost-and-found, and locator of wayward parents," according to historian Carolyn Swift. Kraft also played Santa Claus in Capitola at Christmas. (See "Herman Kraft: Nation's Oldest Lifeguard" by Carolyn Swift, *Capitola Sunset*, June 2007, p. 1)

Kraft, Margaret (See **Matthews, Peggy Slatter**)

LAFCO (See **Local Agency Formation Commission**)

Lagoon. During the summer months a lagoon forms at the mouth of **Soquel Creek**. Originally, it formed naturally as summer waves piled up sand on the beach. Today, with permits granted by seven permitting agencies, it is formed artificially by the City of Capitola near the end of May by constructing a sand berm. This guarantees that there will be a freshwater lagoon to serve as a fish nursery for endangered species such as the **Steelhead Trout** and **Northern Tidewater Goby**. During the summer, overflow from the lagoon is carried by the **Capitola Flume**. The sand berm is artificially broken with the arrival of the first heavy rains so that water from the rising creek can again flow unimpeded into the sea.

Historically, the lagoon was used each summer for swimming and wading. In addition to creation of the berm, the bottom was deepened. Since the 1970s has been used mostly by wildlife and the bottom has been left undisturbed except for natural processes. Biologists call the lagoon a "seasonally tidal estuary." The term "estuary" means that there is a mixture of fresh and salt water.

Land Grants. The City of Capitola stretches across two Mexican land grants: **Rancho Arroyo del Rodeo** and **Rancho Soquel**. Both were established while this area was part of Mexico. There were no Spanish land grants in this part of California.

La Playa de Soquel. The early Spanish name for Capitola Beach. Translated: The Beach of Soquel.

Lawn Way. A pedestrian street one block north of the **Esplanade** and running between Monterey and San Jose Avenues.

Lawn Way Historic District (See **Six Sisters/Lawn Way Historic District**)

Lemos, William. (1861-1942) Born in New York, Bill Lemos and his wife, Daisy, lived in Santa Cruz for many years. Both were artists. He sold oil paintings and created signs and theater backdrops. In the 1890s he painted advertising signs for Capitola and scenery for the stage at the Capitola Pavilion (aka Capitola Rink or **Skating Rink**). (See "One Form of Advertisement," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Aug. 5, 1898, p. 3; and "William Lemos, Fisherman And Artist, Is Dead," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, August 9, 1942, p. 1)

Lent, Alfred H. (1879-1969) Al Lent was one of Capitola's best known residents in the early to middle 1900s. Lent was born in New York and came to California in the 1890s. While playing semi-professional baseball, Lent met **Harry Hooper**, who encouraged him to settle in Capitola. In 1915 Lent built a prominent house on Prospect Avenue overlooking the town. Lent sold real estate and was a skilled hunter, fisherman, and horseback rider. His house was demolished in the early 2000s and in 2007 replaced with a replica very much like the original. (See "Alfred H. Lent Of Capitola Dies," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Dec. 31, 1969, p. 18; and "Al Lent: Capitola Icon," *Capitola Sunset*, Dec. 2009, p. 3)

Lent, Molly Julieta. (1913-2007) Molly Lent grew up in Palo Alto, but her parents owned a cottage in Capitola. In 1941 she married longtime Capitola resident **Alfred Lent** (who was 33 years her senior) after his first wife died. Molly was well known in Capitola social circles and was a skilled wood carver. She sold the family home on Prospect Avenue in 2000.

Lewis, James Frazier. (1866-1943) Known as Frazier Lewis, he was the son of **Patty Reed Lewis**, a survivor of the Donner Party. Frazier Lewis managed various concessions in Capitola in the late 1800s, including a candy store, and in 1889 became the town's first postmaster. In 1910 he opened a candy store in Santa Cruz and became widely known as a confectioner. He was most famous for the Victoria Cream, said to have been the first nickel candy bar. He invented it around 1911 and sold it at his Santa Cruz store and by mail-order throughout the United States. His secret recipe has never been revealed.

Lewis, Martha Jane "Patty" Reed. (1838-1923) Patty Reed Lewis was best known for being a survivor (at age 8) of the Donner Party, which in 1846 became snowbound in the Sierra while trying to reach California by wagon train. Lewis moved from San Jose to Santa Cruz in 1882 and to Capitola in 1888. She ran the **Capitola Park Hotel** (later called the Lewis House) and from time to time the **Hotel Capitola**. She moved to Twin Lakes in about 1918, where she spent her last years sharing a home with her

grown children. (See "Pioneer of Pioneers Passes," *Santa Cruz Evening News*, July 3, 1923, p. 6)

Lewis, Susan Augusta. (1873-1929) Susan Lewis lived in Capitola in the late 1800s and early 1900s and was deeply involved with the **Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist**. She was also a photographer, and took some early views of the area. In about 1915 she moved to Twin Lakes with her brother, **James Frazier Lewis**, and sister, Martha. Her mother, **Martha Jane "Patty" Reed Lewis** was a survivor of the Donner Party. (See "Sudden Taking Off of Miss Susan Lewis," *Santa Cruz Evening News*, Oct. 7, 1929, p. 8)

Library. In the early 1930s Capitola's public library was located in the **post office**. It moved several times through the years. In 1945, for example, it was in a converted barn. In 1953 it moved to a store building at 411 Capitola Avenue owned by **Harlan P. Kessler**. The building was enlarged in 1963 and the hours and number of books increased. By this time the library was part of the Santa Cruz City County Library system. The library closed in 1981 due to funding cuts. A new "temporary" library was constructed in 1999 at 2005 Wharf Road across from the **Rispin Mansion**. In 2016 voters approved funds for a permanent library facility at this location.

Life in Aptos, Capitola and Soquel. A monthly newspaper launched in 2011 to serve the three towns in the title. It is a subsidiary of the *Watsonville Register-Pajaronian*.

Lindsay, Capt. Thomas. (c1846-1926) Born in Ireland, Captain Lindsay worked for many years as a sea captain and was a well-known and beloved Capitola resident in his later years. In the early 1900s he ran a **beach seining** operation at **China Beach**, and later entertained summer tourists with tours up **Soquel Creek** in a small boat. (See "Capt. Lindsay Passes Away At Advanced Age," *Santa Cruz Evening News*, July 26, 1926, p. 1)

Littoral Drift. The process by which sand is transported along the beach. The wave crests usually strike the beach at a slight angle, this usually results in the sand grains slowly being transported in a zig-zag pattern down the coast. The **groin** at the east



1890

end of Capitola **Beach** was constructed to trap sand that was transported by littoral drift, thereby enlarging the beach.

Live Oak (community). The name for the unincorporated community between the cities of Santa Cruz and Capitola. It was probably named for the informal Mexican land grant (never secured) called Rancho Encinalitos, or “Ranch of the Little Live Oaks.” **Coast Live Oak** trees are native to the area. As of 2010, Live Oak (including **Pleasure Point**) had a population of approximately 23,000. Parts of Live Oak in the vicinity of **Forty-first Avenue** were annexed by Capitola in the 1960s and 1970s. (See *Santa Cruz County Place Names* by Donald Thomas Clark, 2008, page 176; and “Between the Gulches,” by Linda Wilshusen, *Santa Cruz County History Journal*, No. 9, 2018, pp. 83-101)

Live Oak (tree) (See **Coast Live Oak**)

Local Agency Formation Commission. In 1963 the State Legislature established a Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) for each California county. Each commission serves as the Legislature’s local watchdog over changes to city and special district boundaries, thereby promoting order and discouraging urban sprawl. This very important commission must either approve or disapprove any proposed city annexation, detachment, incorporation, or disincorporation; and any special district formation, consolidation, or dissolution. For details, visit the LAFCO of Santa Cruz County website: santacruzlafco.org. (See *50 Years of LAFCOs*, Third Edition, by the State Governance and Finance Committee, Dec., 2013, 20 p., available as a pdf on the calafco.org website)

Local Coastal Program. The Local Coastal Program (LCP) was developed for Capitola as a result of the California Coastal Act passed by the voters of California in 1972 and a subsequent California Coastal Act passed by the legislature in 1976. It is divided into two major parts, the Land Use Plan and the Implementation Plan. Topics include planning future development, public access to the coast, visual resources, natural resources, natural hazards, recreation, and housing. Capitola’s Land Use Plan was completed and certified in 1981, with revisions in 2001 and 2005. A copy of the Land Use Plan is available on the City of Capitola website. See also **California Coastal Commission**.

Local, The. A popular tavern located at 212 Capitola Avenue during the late 1960s. Proprietor Tom Louagie also ran Club Zayante in Zayante. An oral history with Mr. Louagie is available on the Capitola Historical Museum’s YouTube channel.

Lodge, Carrie. (1881-1979) Carrie Lodge was a granddaughter of **Martina Castro** (grantee of **Rancho Soquel**) and the sister of **Julia** and **Louise Lodge**. As a young woman she worked as a stenographer in San Jose, but lived much of her life in the Soquel-Capitola area. The UCSC Regional History Project conducted an oral history with Carrie Lodge in 1964. She discussed her family history and memories of growing up in the region. A transcript is available on the UCSC Library website and at the Capitola Historical Museum.

Lodge, Julia. (1887-1980) Julia Lodge was the last surviving member of the three unmarried Lodge sisters, granddaughters of **Martina Castro** and **Michael Lodge**. Their father was Michael Antonio Lodge (died in 1931), and they also had two brothers, Michael Lodge, Jr., and Frank Lodge. Proud of their heritage, the sisters donated in 1964 the flagpole at Pringle Grove in **Soquel**. It is in memory of their brother, Mike. They also donated the BBQ. Pringle Grove is the site of the Soquel Pioneer and Historical Association annual picnic, held each July.

Lodge, Louise. (1878-1970) Better known as Lulu, she was born in Soquel and was a granddaughter of **Martina Castro Lodge**. In 1920 Miss Lodge and her two sisters were deeded what became known as the **Lodge Mansion** at 919 Capitola Avenue. It had belonged to their aunt, **Maria Guadalupe Averon**, youngest daughter of **Martina Castro** and **Michael Lodge**. Lulu Lodge lived in the house for 78 years. The large 1889 painting of Capitola displayed at the **Capitola Historical Museum** was purchased from the Lodge sisters in 1970 by the City of Capitola.

Lodge, Michael. (c1795-c1849) A native of Dublin, Ireland, Lodge came to California in about 1822. Lodge worked as a carpenter in Monterey before moving to the north side of **Monterey Bay**, where he married **Martina Castro** in 1831. In 1833 Martina was granted the **Rancho Soquel** and the couple built an adobe home at the east end of what now Hill Street in Capitola. Lodge disappeared in 1849, probably murdered while returning to his Soquel family from the gold fields. (See "Michael Lodge: The Overlooked Pioneer," by Willa Dean Reynolds, *Santa Cruz County History Journal*, No. 6, 2009, pp. 6-16)

Lodge Mansion. This historic house at 919 Capitola Avenue was built for **Joseph Averon** and his wife, **Maria Guadalupe Averon**, in about 1877 or 1878. The Averons had no children, but raised a niece, **Louise "Lulu" Lodge**. She lived in the house after the death of the Averons and it later became known as the Lodge Mansion or Lodge House. Supposedly the house was originally located down on the floodplain, and was moved to the hillside after a flood. At this time an addition, used as a music

room, was built on the east side. In the late 1940s the house was moved slightly to the south to make way for the **Highway 1** freeway. In the early 1970s it was sold, remodeled, and surrounded by the Capitola Mansion Apartments. The addition was removed. The house still stands, but is private and used as an office. (See "Old Capitola Home To Be Preserved In Development," by Don Righetti, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, January 4, 1972, p. 13)

Lodge sisters. (See separate entries for **Carrie**, **Louise**, and **Julia Lodge**)

Loma Prieta Earthquake (See **Earthquakes**)

Loma Prieta Lumber Company. An early lumber company with logging operations in the mountains behind Soquel and Aptos. In the early 1900s, the company's distribution yard was beside the railroad tracks at **Opal**, now the **Jade Street Park** area. (See *The Loma Prieta Lumber Company and Santa Cruz in the Early Twentieth Century*, by Albretto Stoodley, An Interview By Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, 1964. Available on the UCSC Library website)

Lover's Lane. A nickname in the early 1900s for the pathway beside **Grand Avenue** on **Depot Hill**. A row of trees bordered each side of the lane, all of which has been lost to cliff erosion.

Lower Soquel Road. An early name for **Capitola Road** that dates back to at least the 1870s.

Lynch, Sedgwick. (1822-1881) Building contractor who erected the Capitola **Wharf** in 1857. Lynch was born in Pennsylvania and came to California in 1849. He built houses, mills, wharves, bridges, and railroads in Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Clara Counties. He also had a mill and lumberyard in Los Angeles. In 1854 he built the first wharf in Santa Cruz. His house, which still stands at 174 West Cliff Drive, overlooks the Santa Cruz waterfront and is now a bed and breakfast inn. (See *Santa Cruz County Illustrations . . .*, San Francisco: Wallace W. Elliott & Co., 1879, p. 86; indexed edition by the Museum of Art & History, Santa Cruz, 1997)

Macabee, Zephyr A. (1857-1940) Los Gatos resident "Zeph" Macabee is best known today as the inventor of the famous Macabee gopher trap. He patented the trap in 1900. The company remains in business and is still run by the Macabee family. Macabee had a weekend beach house in Capitola, which still stands on Prospect Avenue (it is a private residence). (See "About Us/History," Macabee Gopher Trap

Company website, <http://gophertrapping.com/about-the-macabee-goper-trap-company/>)

Macdonald, Bradley M. (1921-1999) Born in San Francisco, Brad Macdonald moved with his family to Capitola when he was just five years old. In 1947 he and his wife, Beatrice, helped found the famed **Shadowbrook Restaurant**. Later, he and his father, Jack, and brother, John, started the **Sāba** restaurant on the old **Hotel Capitola** site. He was elected to Capitola's first **city council** and (while still in his twenties) became the town's second and youngest mayor.

Macdonald, Mabel. (1896-1973) Longtime Capitola resident Mabel Edith (White) Macdonald grew up in Santa Cruz and graduated from Santa Cruz High School. She worked as a nurse during World Wars I and II and took many photographs of Capitola during the middle 1900s. **Bradley M. Macdonald** was a son. (See *Historic Context Statement For the City of Capitola*, by Carolyn Swift, 2004, p. 103; and "Mrs. Mabel E. Macdonald Dies at Age 77," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, August 12, 1973, p. 38)

Mac's Patio. (See **Patio**)

Mall (See **Capitola Mall**)

Marine Terrace. The upper elevations of Capitola, such as the **Jewell Box**, **Depot Hill**, **Capitola Heights**, and **Cliffwood Heights** neighborhoods are on a marine terrace. The terrace is fairly flat, slopes very gently seaward, and is old sea floor. According to geologists, it was much lower in elevation around 100 thousand years ago when it was covered by the sea. The sea retreated, the land uplifted, and soil layers developed on top of the marine sands and gravels. North of Santa Cruz there are several terraces cut into the hills, like giant stair steps, recording multiple fluctuations in sea level. (See *The Natural History of the UCSC Campus*, edited by Tonya M. Haff, Martha T. Brown, and W. Breck Tyler, Environmental Studies Dept., UCSC, 1978, pp. 58-62)

Marine Terrace Deposits. These are old beach and nearshore sediments such as sand and gravel that were left behind tens of thousands of years ago as the sea retreated. These deposits are around 15 feet thick, rest on top of the sandstone bedrock, and are capped by soil. The terrace deposits are best seen as a distinctive layer along the upper part of the coastal cliffs.

Matthews, Peggy Slatter. (1920-1996) Peggy Slatter Matthews played several important roles in the early development of the City of Capitola. A professional swimmer and swimming instructor, she instigated the annual **Water Fantasy** celebration in the

early 1950s to help promote Capitola and paved the way to the creation of the **Begonia Festival**. She served as president of the **Chamber of Commerce**, was the first woman elected to the Capitola **City Council**, and served several years as director of the Begonia Festival. Her father, **Herman Kraft**, was a longtime Capitola life guard. (See *By-the-Sea: A History of the Capitola Begonia Festival*, by Carolyn Swift, 1992, pp. 5-7; and "Peggy Slatter-Matthews," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, July 29, 1996, p. A-12)

McCombs, John Erle. (1894-1966) Erle McCombs was a well-known Capitola building contractor from the late 1920s to 1940s. He arrived from San Jose in 1925 and did new construction, remodels, and repairs after fire and storm damage to both residential and commercial buildings. He built the Capitola Beach and Fishing Club (aka **Capitola Light Tackle Club**) building in 1928 and the **Big Top Ballroom** in 1933. He also built sea walls and in 1936 repaired the **Capitola Wharf**. He and his wife, Betty, lived in **Pleasure Point**, but his office was in Capitola. Newspaper articles often misspelled his name "Earl." (See *Historic Context Statement For the City of Capitola*, by Carolyn Swift, 2004, p. 93)

McCormick, Ernest Oliver. (1858-1923) E. O. McCormick was a prominent **Southern Pacific Railroad** executive, whose primary home was in San Francisco, but who also had residences in Santa Cruz and Capitola. He owned about 50 acres in Capitola, opposite the railroad depot. After McCormick died in 1923, the land was subdivided and to this day is known as the **McCormick Tract**. (See "E. O. McCormick, Vice-President S. P., Dies Here," *San Francisco Chronicle*, Nov. 2, 1923, p. 7; and "Emery to Handle Capitola Estate of E. O. McCormick," *Santa Cruz Evening News*, July 12, 1933, p. 7)

McCormick Tract. A residential subdivision started in the middle 1920s between Park Avenue and Monterey Avenue. It includes McCormick, Loma, and **Washburn** Avenues. The tract is named for **Ernest Oliver McCormick**. By July, 1925, new homes were "springing up rapidly . . . in this beautiful subdivision." (See "Capitola News; Tracts in Demand; Many Reservations," *Santa Cruz Evening News*, July 1, 1925, p. 6)

McCrea, George. (1871-1943) San Francisco architect best known to Capitolans as the architect around 1920 for the **Rispin Mansion**. McCrea also designed the sea wall along the **Esplanade** and had a temporary office in the **Superintendent's Building** while working for Rispin. McCrea designed churches and private residences throughout the San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay areas. He specialized in the

Spanish Colonial Revival style. (See *Historic Context Statement For the City of Capitola*, by Carolyn Swift, 2004, pp. 36 & 93)

McGeoghegan, Kathryn. (1885-1969) Kathryn Bothwell Hihn McGeoghegan (probably pronounced mc-GOFF-ah-gun) was a daughter-in-law of **F. A. Hihn** and at one time owned a large portion of **Opal Cliffs**. She and her second husband, John T. McGeoghegan, tried to develop the tract in the 1920s but were unsuccessful. In her obituary it stated that as a young woman she named the area "Opal" because of the "opalescent sky which was always so beautiful when viewed from the cliffs." For an alternative etymology, see **Opal Cliffs**. (See "Kathryn Hihn McGeoghegan, Pioneer Family Member, Dies," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, May 6, 1969, p. 18)

McGregor Drive. A road between **Park Avenue** in Capitola and State Park Drive in Aptos, parallel to **Highway 1** along its south edge. At a meeting of the County Board of Supervisors, May 23, 1960, Robert L. McGregor requested that the frontage road running through his property be named McGregor Drive. McGregor (1914-1969) was in the construction business and had an equipment yard in the area. The Supervisors finally approved the name in a resolution passed May 13, 1963.

McGregor Multiuse Park. Located at the eastern edge of the city on **McGregor Drive**, this public facility was completed in 2016 and comprises **Ozzi's Dog Park**, the **Monte Family Skateboard Park**, and the **Family Cycling Center and Crossfit Pump Track**.

Medallion (See **Kelp Forest Medallion**)

Melliar, William Holoway. (1880-1940) Santa Cruz commercial photographer in the 1920s and 1930s who photographed Capitola, publishing some of his photographs as postcards. Melliar was born in England and lived in Canada before settling in Santa Cruz in the middle 1920s. His son, William Arthur (Art) Melliar, was also a photographer. (See "William H. Melliar Photographer, Dies," *Santa Cruz Evening News*, Nov. 14, 1940, p. 2.)

Merritt, Warren Chase. (1897-1968) Nationally-known artist Warren Chase Merritt lived with his wife, Aline (also an artist), in Capitola for a few years during the 1940s. He was born in Marin County and attended the California School of Fine Arts in San Francisco. He painted portraits, landscapes, and seascapes in both oils and watercolors. Merritt also did murals and was a prolific illustrator for magazines and text books. He was a member of the Santa Cruz Art League and did a number of art shows locally and in San Francisco. He left the area in 1950, but returned to Santa Cruz in 1965, living in the "circles." (See "Capitola's Warren Chase Merritt Is A Versatile American Artist," by Aline Merritt, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Oct. 31, 1947, p. 12;

and “Artist Warren Merritt Back in SC Area After 15 Years,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Sept. 8, 1965, p. 5)

Merry-go-round. Capitola Village had several merry-go-rounds through the years. Best remembered today is the one that operated between about 1950 and 1965. It was located at the end of San Jose Avenue beside the beach and was owned by Andrew Antonetti and his wife, Laverne, who also owned the adjacent **Capitola Playhouse** arcade. Antonetti’s merry-go-round was built by the Arrow Development Company of Mountain View, which built merry-go-rounds, roller coasters, and other rides for amusement parks throughout the U.S., including the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk and Disneyland. The merry-go-round was set up at least once in the early 1970s before being moved to Casa de Fruta near Morgan Hill and subsequently to the Big Red Barn in Aromas.

Messini, Douglas. (c1940-1997) Douglas George Messini was a prominent Capitola architect, and the son of **Edna** and Raymond Messini. Raised in Capitola, he earned a degree in architecture from the University of Oregon and began practicing architecture in Santa Cruz County in 1972. He designed the Capitola **City Hall**, the **Capitola Community Center** at **Jade Street Park**, and various private residences. He served on several area committees and was chair of the **Begonia Festival**. He died suddenly in May, 1997, while surfing near the Capitola **Wharf**. (See “Douglas Messini,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, May 10, 1997, p. 10)

Messini, Edna. (1912-2008) Longtime Capitola resident Edna Messini was born in Hollister and lived with her husband, Ray, in Menlo Park before moving to Capitola. In 1950 they purchased and began managing the Capitola Venetian Motel. She was active with the **Begonia Festival**, serving as director for many years. (See “Edna Catherine Messini,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, March 11, 2008, p. A-14)

Mexican Fan Palm. This palm grows to be the tallest (over 80 feet) of the three **palm** species commonly planted in Capitola. It derived its name due to its fan-shaped fronds and being native to northwestern Mexico. Two grow at the intersection of the **Esplanade** and **Monterey Avenue**, on each side of the **Canary Island Date Palm**.

Mexican land grants. See **Rancho Arroyo del Rodeo** and **Rancho Soquel**.

Mid County. A term for the region that includes Live Oak, Soquel, Capitola, and Aptos.

Mid-County Post. A newspaper that served the mid-county area from 1989 to 2012. It was published twice each month. Shrinking advertising revenue forced founder and

publisher Mary Bryant to terminate the paper after 23 years. <http://patch.com/california/capitola/mid-county-post-calls-it-quits>

Mission Santa Cruz. Founded in 1791, the mission lands originally encompassed the coastal region from Point Año Nuevo to the Pajaro Valley. Indigenous Peoples, including those of the Soquel-Capitola area, were recruited to live and work at the mission. The one remaining mission building, on School Street in Santa Cruz, is a state park and has exhibits on the history of the mission.

Mitchell, George Elmer. (1870-1955) Born in the midwest, Mitchell came to California in 1894, fell in love with Capitola that same year, and eventually became a permanent resident. He enjoyed fishing and sold boat trips on his **naphtha launches**, the *Bessie* (named for his daughter) and the *Capitola*. He worked as manager of the wharf and then bought the lease. In 1913 he set a fishing record, catching 135 salmon in one morning. He retired from wharf duties in 1945 and spent his remaining years with his wife, Kathryn, in their home at 221 San Jose Avenue. (See "Soquel Has An Authority On Fish Matters," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, October 5, 1934, p. 10; and "George Mitchell, Former Capitola Wharf Owner, Dies," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, August 22, 1955, p. 12)

Monarch Butterfly. A large black and orange butterfly common in the Capitola and Santa Cruz area during the winter. Monarchs are famous for their long migrations inland, returning to the coast to overwinter. Incredibly, the butterflies that return each winter are several generations removed from the ones that were here the year before. Yet, somehow they know how to return to the same groves of trees for clustering at night and on cold days. Natural Bridges State Beach and Pacific Grove are two of the best known overwintering sites in the **Monterey Bay** area. But Capitola has three groves of **Eucalyptus** trees where the butterflies are known to hang in clusters. These are at the **Rispin Mansion**, **New Brighton State Beach**, and at the east end of **Depot Hill** near the Monarch Cove Inn.

Monte Family Skateboard Park. A skateboard park within the **McGregor Multiuse Park** on **McGregor Drive** in Capitola. It was built with a donation from the Monte family of Aptos and dedicated June 4, 2016.

Monterey Avenue. A street between the **Esplanade** and **Kennedy Drive** in Capitola. The name was in use at least as early as the 1890s. During the first half of the 1900s the south end was an extension of **Bay Avenue**, but by 1950 the name had been changed. There is also a section of Monterey Avenue off Soquel Drive, north of the **Highway 1** freeway. It was connected to the other part until severed by the highway.

Monterey Avenue Park (See **Monterey Park**)

Monterey Bay. Capitola lies on the north shore of Monterey Bay, a 22-mile-wide bite out of the central California coast. The bay was named by Spanish explorer Sebastian Vizcaíno in 1602. Explorers Cabrillo and Cermeño had given it other names, but these did not stick. According to Donald Clark, in his book *Santa Cruz County Place Names* (1986, revised 2008), “Monterey Bay is the oldest surviving place name associated with Santa Cruz County.”

“Monterey Bay Guardian.” A marble sculpture of a dolphin installed on the **Esplanade** in May, 2002. The sculpture, on loan from **Soquel** artist Bjorg Yonts, was stolen less than a year later and was never recovered. (See “It’s a Bird, It’s a Plane . . . No, It’s the ‘Monterey Bay Guardian,’” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, May 9, 2002, p. 3; and “Capitola’s ‘guardian’ vandalized, swiped,” by Heather Boerner, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, March 1, 2013, p. 1)

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The waters off Capitola **Beach** are part of this sanctuary, created in 1992. Although named for **Monterey Bay**, the sanctuary extends from Marin County to Cambria in San Luis Obispo County. While fishing is permitted, many kinds of activities, especially the extraction of mineral resources, are tightly regulated or prohibited. According to its website, the sanctuary “offers some of the best wildlife viewing in the world! This ‘Serengeti of the Sea’ . . . includes pristine beaches, jewel-like tide pools, lush kelp forests, steep canyons and an offshore seamount teeming with life—from tiny shrimp to giant Blue Whales.” The National Marine Sanctuary System is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and promotes environmental protection, stewardship, and ocean research. The visitor center for the sanctuary is located in Santa Cruz near the foot of the Municipal Wharf.

“Monterey Bay Sea Life.” (paintings) A series of paintings done by artist Bruce Harman depicting life in **Monterey Bay**. The artist was selected through a competition held by the **Capitola Art and Cultural Commission**. The paintings are on utility boxes around the city, including on **Capitola Road**, **41st Avenue**, and **Clares Street**. “I thought it would be a bright, interesting way to remind people of the beautiful bay that’s right outside, even though they are stuck in traffic,” said the artist. (See “Artist transforms Capitola utility boxes into underwater scenes,” by Emily Nord, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, July 29, 2009)

Monterey Cypress. An evergreen tree used in landscaping and common in Capitola. It can reach a height of 133 feet, and the trunk can reach a diameter of 8 feet. It is native to the Pebble Beach and Point Lobos areas of Monterey County.

Monterey Park. A public park on Monterey Avenue in the **Cliffwood Heights** neighborhood.

Monterey Pine. An evergreen tree commonly used in landscaping. It is named for the Monterey Peninsula where it is native. Native stands also grow near Cambria and near Waddell Creek. (See *The Monterey Pine Forest* by The Monterey Pine Forest Watch, 2011, 187 pages)

Moo Cow. The brand name of a line of food products produced by the **Brown Bulb Ranch** in the early 1900s. Besides dairy products, there was also Moo Cow soda pop and Moo Cow pie (a small ice cream pie). The business had retail outlets in Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, San Benito, and Monterey Counties. "The Brown Bulb Ranch, Capitola, market their ranch products through their own Moo Cow Stores. Ice Cream, Candies, Milk, Butter, Eggs, Seeds, Bulbs, direct from ranch to you." (See "Tulips Are Here," *Santa Cruz Evening News*, Nov. 22, 1930, p. 7)



Moonfree, Misty W. Pseudonym for the group of five authors (**Marybeth Varcados**, Pat Pease, Judith Feinman, Tomi Newman, and Gayle Ortiz) who wrote the books, *The Jewel Box: A Capitola Mystery* (2007) and *A Killer Festival* (2008). According to the introduction to the first novel, the name "is an anagram for Women of Mystery, the name of our book club, which has been meeting since 1993." Both stories are set in Capitola.

Moorings. While boats have long dropped anchor off the beach at Capitola, the present moorings were established in 1983 and can be rented from Capitola Boat and Bait on the Capitola **Wharf**. The moorings are available May 1 to September 30 and are rented by the afternoon, night, week, month, or for the whole season. Capitola Boat and Bait advertises it as the "Capitola Bay Marina." (See "Capitola Handles 'Marina' Traffic," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, August 25, 1983, p. 39)

Movies (For motion pictures filmed in Capitola, see *The Testing Block* and *Tilt*)

Mr. Toots Coffee House. A coffee shop on the **Esplanade** established in February, 1978. In the 1980s the shop published a newsletter with articles on Capitola history by Carolyn Swift. (See *A Photographic Essay of a Capitola Cat*, by Minna Hertel, 1993)

Murals (See individual listings by title. For a list of murals, see **Art, Public**)

Museum (See **Capitola Historical Museum**)

Myoporum. Also known as Ngaio or Mousehole Tree, this small tree is native to New Zealand and used in urban landscaping. Its scientific name is *Myoporum laetum* (pronounced my-OP-or-um LAY-tum). It has shaggy bark and does well close to the ocean. Several grow in the planter boxes at **Esplanade Park**.

Naphtha Launches. Small motor boats powered by naphtha, a flammable oil made from the distillation of coal or crude oil. Advertisements in the early 1900s offered fishing trips and excursions on two such launches in Capitola, named the *Bessie* and the *Capitola*, operated by **George Elmer Mitchell**. The fuel was sometimes spelled "Naptha."

National Register of Historic Places. A program administered by the National Park Service to recognize historic sites, buildings, and neighborhoods around the nation. The following buildings and districts in Capitola are listed in the register: **Old Riverview Historic District, Rispin Mansion, Six Sisters/Lawn Way Historic District, Superintendent's Building, Venetian Court.**

New Brighton Middle School. The school opened in the fall of 1983 at the former Capitola Junior High School campus at the corner of **Monterey** and **Washburn Avenues** in Capitola. The school serves 6th through 8th graders from Soquel and Capitola and is part of the Soquel Union Elementary School District. The name was chosen by a 15-member committee of teachers, parents, and students from among 39 suggested names. (See "New Brighton Official Name of New School," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, April 27, 1983, p. A-9)

New Brighton State Beach. According to historians Sandy Lydon and Carolyn Swift, the name New Brighton was first applied to the hotel at a short-lived resort called Camp San Jose. The camp was founded in 1878 by **Thomas Fallon** (who had married Carmelita Lodge, a daughter of **Martina Castro** and **Michael Lodge**) and was located east of the present New Brighton State Beach campground. Later the entire resort was called New Brighton. Fallon (who was from Ireland) may well have borrowed the name from Brighton, the famous seaside resort in England. When state officials named the new state beach in 1933, they applied the name New Brighton, even

though the state beach was farther to the west and located at what previously had been called **China Beach**. (See *Soquel Landing to Capitola-by-the-Sea* by Sandy Lydon and Carolyn Swift, 1978, p. 32)

Newspapers. Most of the newspapers serving Capitola have been published outside of the Capitola city limits. They have been either dailies published in Santa Cruz, or weeklies or monthlies serving a large area such as the **mid county**. See *Capitola Courier; Capitolan; Capitola Soquel Times; Capitola Sunset; Good Times; Green Sheet and Cabrillo Times; Life in Aptos, Capitola and Soquel; Mid-County Post; Santa Cruz Evening News; Santa Cruz Sentinel; Santa Cruz Surf; Soquel-Capitola Record; Soquel Press*; and the *Tri-City American*.

Nicknames. (See **Scrapitola** and **Wikiki-of-the-West** for the town; see **Capitola Nicknames** for the woman's name)

Nine-one-one. An emergency telephone number for use in North America. It connects to a dispatcher for police, fire, and ambulance and is intended only for use in emergencies. ATT inaugurated the system in 1968 and it has gradually been adopted by various cities and counties. Santa Cruz County (including Capitola) established its 911 system in 1978.

Nob Hill (also Knob Hill). A name in the 1930s for the **Fairview** Tract (now the **Jewel Box** neighborhood) west of **Capitola Village**. Earlier, Nob Hill was a nickname for **Depot Hill**, east of the Village. It appears on an 1888 map as the name for the hillside between Cliff Avenue and the tiny street of El Carmino Medio. Today it is also the name of the supermarket at 809 Bay Avenue, located in former **Disco** building. Nob Hill Foods opened in Capitola August 27, 1980.

Noble, Augustus. (1823-1915) A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Noble came to California in July, 1849. Noble married his wife, Johannah, in 1852, and in 1856 he purchased over 100 acres between what is now **Capitola Avenue** and **Noble Gulch**. Noble grew cherries, apples, and flowers. He was one of the first commercial flower growers in the area and had over a dozen rose varieties. He began calling the farm **Rosedale** and in 1891 built the road with that name. (See "Was Pioneer of the County of Santa Cruz," *Santa Cruz Evening News*, June 23, 1915, p. 8)

Noble Gulch. A gulch that begins in the hills east of Soquel and intersects the **Soquel Creek** valley in Capitola near **City Hall**. It is part of the Soquel Creek watershed and was named for **Augustus Noble**, an early landowner. See also **Glen Beulah** and **Peck Gulch**.

Noble Park. A small public park at the intersection of **Bay Avenue** and **Monterey Avenue**. Presumably named for nearby **Noble Gulch**.

Northern Anchovy. A small (about 6 inches) marine fish that sometimes occurs in great numbers in the waters off of Capitola. When such schooling occurs (such as in the summer of 2014), large numbers of whales and seabirds come to feed on them. Anchovies are harvested for food, animal feed, and bait.

Northern Tidewater Goby. A small fish native to the streams and coastal **lagoons** of California, including **Soquel Creek**. It prefers lagoons that form where streams connect with the sea and there is seasonal mixing of salt and fresh water. This fish was placed on the federal endangered species list in 1994 and is presently classified as “threatened.” (See listing in Wikipedia)

Nurseries (plant). See **Antonelli Brothers Begonia Gardens**, **Brown Bulb Ranch**, **Herb Hager Orchids**, **Pawla’s Violet Farm**, **Rene Rochex**, **Shaffer’s Tropical Gardens**, and **Vetterle and Reinelt**.

Nutter, Olley R. (1882-1941) Born in Soquel, Olley Nutter was proprietor with Charles Russell of the Nutter and Russell apple drying business in the 1920s and 1930s, located at the corner of Capitola Avenue and Hill Street. They also manufactured apple cider and vinegar. Nutter loved trees and was a successful and highly regarded orchardist. Through hybridizing, he developed the Nutter Crackless Bing Cherry. He also served as a trustee of Soquel School and as a Boy Scout leader. He and his wife, Clara, had three children. Newspapers often misspelled his name “Ollie.” (See “Funeral Held for Esteemed Soquel Man,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, November 4, 1941, p. 2)

Ohlone. A name commonly used since the 1970s for the Indigenous Peoples of the San Francisco and **Monterey Bay** regions. The origin of the name is uncertain, but it may have been derived from the name for a village on the San Mateo County coast. The “Ohlone” can be divided into several language groups, and some descendants identify themselves by their language group plus Ohlone, ie. Rumsen Ohlone. The Spanish called these peoples the Costeños, later anglicized to **Costanoans**. (See *A Gathering of Voices: The Native Peoples of the Central California Coast*, edited by Linda Yamane, 2002, p. 1; and *Ohlone/Costanoan Indians of the San Francisco Peninsula and their Neighbors, Yesterday and Today* by Randall Milliken, Laurence H. Shoup, and Beverly R. Ortiz, 2009, 339 pages, https://digitalcommons.csumb.edu/hornbeck_ind_1/6/)

Old Plantation. An inn, restaurant, and nightclub that opened in 1927. "The old building located on what is now called the **McCormick Tract** and known for many years as the **Lewis** home, is to be opened on May 26 as The Old Plantation, a roadside inn. This building was originally built by the **Hihn** interests to serve as a hotel for the employees of the old **sugar** mill. . . . When the mill closed down the hotel building was moved to its present location and was used as a home for many years by the pioneer Lewis family." The building had several earlier names, including **Capitola Park Hotel**. The name was changed to the Colonial House in 1932, and the building was demolished in 1934. (See "News of Capitola-by-the-Sea," *Santa Cruz Evening News*, May 18, 1927, p. 3)



1927

Old Riverview Historic District. A Capitola historic district on the **National Register of Historic Places** (No. 87000626). The district includes the **railroad trestle** and 54 contributing buildings in the Riverview Avenue and Riverview Drive neighborhood. It preserves Capitola's largest, intact neighborhood of summer cottages dating from the early 20th century.

O'Neill, Jack. (1923-2017) O'Neill was a pioneer in the developing and marketing of wetsuits for cold-water surfing. He moved to Santa Cruz County around 1959, started a small manufacturing shop in **Live Oak**, and set up a shop selling surfing gear at Cowell Beach in Santa Cruz. It grew into an international business that is today the world's largest manufacturer of wetsuits. In the 1960s he opened O'Neill's Surf Shop on 41st Avenue in what is now Capitola, and the store remains at that location. Jack O'Neill lived in **Pleasure Point**, overlooking the famous surfing spot of the same name. (See "Jack O'Neill, Surfer Who Made the Wetsuit Famous, Dies at 94," by Sam Roberts, *New York Times*, June 5, 2017)

Opal. An early name for the region just west of Capitola, also known as **Fairview** and later encompassing the **Jewel Box** and **Opal Cliffs** neighborhoods. There was a railroad station by that name and also an **Opal Race Track** (around 1912-1913). The station name dates back to at least 1901 (but see comments under **McGeoghegan**). For some reason old-timers pronounced it "o-PAL." (See *The Loma Prieta Lumber Company and Santa Cruz in the Early Twentieth Century*, by Albretto Stoodley, An Interview By Elizabeth Spedding Calciano, 1964, page 48. Available on the UCSC Library website)

Opal Cliffs. A neighborhood west of Capitola, east of **41st Avenue**, and sandwiched between **Portola Drive** and **Monterey Bay**. The name likely came from the nearby railroad stop called **Opal** and the fact that it borders the cliffs. A housing subdivision by the name of Opal Cliffs was proposed in 1929, but it did not formally open until December, 1936. The developer, C. H. Parker Co. of San Francisco, required that all buildings be of “stucco and tile type or Early California or Monterey type.” Beaches were for home owners and their invited guests. Lots cost between \$250 and \$1,000 depending on size and location. The first house was constructed in 1937. In the late 1940s, many Opal Cliffs residents were opposed to being incorporated into the proposed City of Capitola, so the boundary lines were drawn to exclude Opal Cliffs. The neighborhood remains in an unincorporated part of the county. (See “New Residence Tract to Open to the Public,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, December 4, 1936, p. 9)

Opal Cliffs School. This preschool and transitional kindergarten opened in 2012 at 4510 Jade Street. The preschool is operated by the private Campus Kids Connection, and the transitional kindergarten by Santa Cruz Gardens Elementary School, part of the Soquel Union Elementary School District. The school provides children who are not quite five when kindergarten begins a preparation year or “transitional kindergarten” to prepare them for kindergarten.

Opal Race Track. A short-lived race track in the vicinity of what is now the **Jewel Box** neighborhood and active around 1912 and 1913. It was used for horse racing, motorcycle racing, and shooting competitions. Later it was an informal landing strip.

Orchard Supply Hardware. A hardware, home improvement, and garden supply store that was located in the **Kings Plaza Shopping Center** at the southwest corner of 41st Avenue and **Capitola Road**. Orchard began in San Jose in 1931 and eventually expanded to a chain of stores around California. The Capitola store opened in 1973, occupying the former Kings Market. The chain had a number of different owners, including Sears. In 2013 it was purchased by Lowes, which kept Orchard as a separate brand. The Capitola store underwent a major remodel in 2015. In 2018 Lowes announced the closure of it and all other stores in the chain. In 2020 the building reopened as Outdoor Supply Hardware. (See “41st Avenue a Booming Commercial Hub,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, February 25, 1973, in the “Santa Cruz Looks Ahead” supplement, page 8; and “Lowe’s to shutter all of its Orchard Supply Hardware stores,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, August 22, 1918, p. 1)

“Our Capitola” (mural). A large mural on the retaining wall along **Wharf Road** beneath the **railroad trestle** completed in 2015 by artists Jon Ton and Maia Negre. It was

commissioned by the **Capitola Art and Cultural Commission** and depicts the bay, beach, begonia blossoms, and a kite flyer. See also "**Your Capitola.**"

Ow, George, Sr. (1919-2004) Born in the village of Toisan, China, Ow emigrated to the United States in 1937 and served in the U. S. Army during World War II. Ow opened his 30,000-square-foot supermarket, Kings Market, on 41st Avenue in 1963 in what would develop into the **Kings Plaza Shopping Center**. It paved the way for the development of the 41st Avenue business corridor. Born to a poor family, Ow lived the "quintessential American success story" through wise business and real estate investments. He also gave back to the community, providing scholarships for minority youth and supporting many local non-profits. (See "Living the American dream," by Kurtis Alexander, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, July 28, 2004, pp. A-1, A-10; and *Chinese Gold*, by Sandy Lydon, 1985, pp. 469-474)

Ozzi's Dog Park. A dog park within **McGregor Multiuse Park** in Capitola. A sign in the park says, "Ozzi's Dog Park has been named in memory of Joshua Raine Laven who lost his life to a hit-and-run driver along **Highway 1**, just north of Santa Cruz. Josh and Ozzi had bicycled across the country and were nearing the end of their journey when tragedy struck. Josh's spirit lives on as Ozzi plays with his pals, both large and small, in his namesake dog park." The park was dedicated June 11, 2016.

Pacific Cove Mobile Home Park (See **Glen Beulah**)

Pacific Cove Parking Lot (See **Beach and Village Parking Lot**)

Palm, Olaf. (1935-2000) Artist Olaf Palm was best known for his oil paintings of "ordinary" people. Born in Detroit, he moved to California as a child, earned a degree in Fine Art from San Jose State, and taught school for a while before turning to art full time. Palm had a studio in Capitola from about 1965 to 1970 and during that time did portraits of a number of local residents. Palm left Capitola to settle in Mendocino County, but traveled widely. Born Alvan Palm and known to his friends as "Al," he legally changed his name to Olaf to honor his Finnish roots. (See *Olaf Palm: A Life in Art*, by Irene D. Thomas. Fort Bragg, California: Redwood Springs Press, 2005, 144 p.)

Palm Trees. See entries for **Canary Island Date Palm**, **Mexican Fan Palm**, **Queen Palm**.

Park, Frank L. (1863- ?) Los Angeles area photographer who, in 1902, operated the photo concession in Capitola. Several of Park's Capitola photos have survived. Each says "Park Photo" in white letters in a bottom corner. (See *Biographies of Western Photographers*, by Carl Mautz, 1997 p. 129)

Park Avenue. A street in Capitola extending east from Monterey Avenue and then curving north, passing under Highway 1 freeway, to Soquel Drive. The name was probably derived from **Capitola Park**, an early name for the **Depot Hill** neighborhood.

Park Hotel (See **Capitola Park Hotel**)

Parks. See entries for **Cortez Park** (aka Cliffwood Park, Hidden Park, or Triangle Park), **Esplanade Park**, **Jade Street Park**, **Noble Park**, **McGregor Multiuse Park** (includes **Family Cycling Center** and **Crossfit Pump Track**, **Monte Family Skateboard Park**, and **Ozzi's Dog Park**), **Monterey Park**, **Peery Park**, **Rispin Park**, **Rotary/Deasy Bayview Bluff**, and **Soquel Park**.

Patio. The Patio was a restaurant and bar located at 110 Monterey Avenue. It opened in March of 1945 as the "Patio Cocktail Lounge." Shortly after opening, artist **Warren Chase Merritt** decorated the interior with fantastical paintings of pirates attacking Capitola. The restaurant was severely damaged but rebuilt after a fire in 1957. The restaurant changed owners several times, and the name was changed to Mac's Patio in the early 1960s. The restaurant closed in 1989 and the building was demolished. It is currently (2018) the site of Britannia Arms. (See "'Patio' Opens At Capitola Saturday," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, March 23, 1945, p. 8)



Pavilion (See **Skating Rink**)

Pawla, Edith. (1881-1968) Edith Pawla was a native of Pennsylvania who settled in Capitola in 1917 with her daughter, Emily. Pawla established a plant nursery on the west bank of **Soquel Creek** near the present **Highway 1** bridge. Although they grew many kinds of plants, they specialized in violets. Pawla's Violet Gardens (aka Pawla's Violet Farm) became nationally famous and she published an annual catalog. She and her daughter operated one of the few nurseries in the nation that specialized in violets. They offered over 100 varieties, which they sold by mail order during the early 1900s. Edith Pawla also sold real estate and bred Old English Sheepdogs. Shortly after buying the land, she sold off six acres to **Henry Allen Rispin** for construction of his mansion. (See *Capitola*, by Carolyn Swift, 2013, p. 65; and "Flower Grower had zest for life, resourceful spirit," by Carolyn Swift, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, June 9, 2002, p. A-17)

Pawla's Violet Farm. (See above)

Peck Gulch. An alternative name for all or some of **Noble Gulch**. Named for Henry Winegar Peck, who married a daughter, Maria Antonia, of **Martina Castro**, and who owned land in the area. (See *Santa Cruz County Place Names*, by Donald Thomas Clark, 2008, p. 242)

Peelor, Harold G. (1856-1940) San Jose landscape artist, stained glass designer, and sign painter remembered today in Capitola for his large, somewhat primitive painting titled "Capitola in 1892." The view looks down on **Capitola Village** from the west bluff. The painting is in a private collection, but was made into a postcard in the 1970s and appears in the booklet *Art and Artists in Santa Cruz*. (See *Art and Artists in Santa Cruz* by Nikki Silva, Santa Cruz City Museum, 1973)

Peery Park. A one-acre public park located on the east bank of **Soquel Creek** near **Nob Hill Foods** and dedicated July 17, 1971. Land for the park was donated by Richard T. Peery, a Sunnyvale businessman. In 1998 a bicycle and pedestrian bridge was built between the park and the **Rispin Mansion**. In 2015 a local riparian restoration project was initiated. (See "Peery Park Dedicated," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, July 18, 1971, p. 6)

Pelican (See **California Brown Pelican**)

Petersen's Coffee Shop. A popular coffee shop on the **Esplanade** during the 1960s and early 1970s owned by Walter and Lois Petersen of **Soquel**. The sign advertised hamburgers, fries, hotdogs, ham & eggs, waffles, and milk shakes.

Pharmacy (See **Capitola Pharmacy**)

Photographers. See entries for individual photographers: **Harry Kay, Susan Lewis, Mabel Macdonald, William Melliar, Frank Park, Ole Ravnos, Ken Stone, Henry Washburn, Carleton E. Watkins, Stephen W. Watrous, Ed Webber, and R. E. Wood.**

Pine (See **Monterey Pine**)

Playhouse (See **Capitola Playhouse**)

Pleasure Point. A neighborhood of **Live Oak** west of Capitola and widely known as a surfing area. Its boundaries vary according to who is describing it, but Pleasure Point generally lies south of **Portola Drive** and between 41st Avenue and Moran Lake. The County of Santa Cruz, however, defines it as extending to Corcoran Lagoon. Real estate agents have been known to describe the area north of Portola Drive as North Pleasure Point.

Pleistocene. The geologic time interval from about 2.6 million years ago to 11,700 years ago comprises the Pleistocene Epoch. The **marine terrace** deposits that underlie most of Capitola are of Pleistocene age.

Pliocene. The geologic time interval from about 5.2 to 2.6 million years ago comprises the Pliocene Epoch. The sandstone bedrock of the **Purisima Formation** that underlies Capitola and underlies the Pleistocene **marine terrace deposits** is of Pliocene age.

Plum Street. A street in Capitola between **Capitola Avenue** and **Rosedale Avenue**. The area was the site of a plum orchard in the early 1900s.

Plum Tree, The. A popular art, gifts, crafts, party, and fashion store at 417 **Capitola Avenue**, founded in 1960 by artists Shirley Camden and Bernie Waymire. The store was replaced by The Enchantor in 1986. (See “Unusual Business Founded By Two Women,” by Ron Reeves, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, July 10, 1960, p. 7)

Poems. There are many poems about Capitola; for an example see entry for **Capitola-by-the Sea**.

Pokerino. One of the arcade games played on the **Esplanade** in the middle 1900s. The player tries to roll balls into holes representing playing cards to get the best poker hand.

Police, Capitola. The Capitola Police Department was established in the middle 1960s by the City of Capitola, replacing the **Capitola Police Protection District**, which had been established by the voters in 1928.

Poor Clares. A cloistered order of nuns that occupied the **Rispin Mansion** from 1941 to 1957. The Poor Clares purchased the mansion in 1940 and moved to Capitola from Oakland. The mansion was renamed **Saint Joseph’s Monastery**. The Poor Clares relocated to Aptos in 1957. (See “Order of Poor Clares In New Home; Former Rispin Estate,” by Laura Rawson, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, January 19, 1941, p. 3)

Population. Capitola has a resident population of roughly 10,000 people. There are no population statistics for Capitola prior to incorporation in 1949. The population grew rapidly in the 1960s and 1970s, but has been fairly level since the 1990s. Decennial census results: 1950—1,848. 1960—2,021. 1970—5,080. 1980—9,095. 1990—10,171. 2000—10,033. 2010—9,926. (Statistics from the Santa Cruz Public Library website)

Porter Path. A pathway between Cliff Avenue and **Monterey Avenue**. A sign in **Hihn Park** at the Cliff Avenue end identifies the path by this name (as of 2018). It is one of the few named pathways in Capitola.

Portolá, Gaspar de. (1716-1786) A Spanish soldier and later administrator, Portola was sent to New Spain (now Mexico) to help expel Jesuits from the missions. He is best known today as the leader of a land expedition to establish a mission at San Diego and to locate Monterey Bay. The Portola party crossed **Soquel Creek** in the Soquel/

Capitola area on October 16, 1769. In Spanish it is pronounced por-tow-LA, but it is more commonly pronounced por-TOW-la by non Spanish speakers, especially when used as a place name.

Portola Drive. A road in **Live Oak** that runs between 17th Avenue and Capitola—previously called Capitola Drive. Confusion between Capitola Drive and **Capitola Road** led to the changing of the name to Portola Drive in 1949. (*Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*, Dec. 15, 1949, p. 1.)

Postmasters. Capitola's first postmaster was **James Frazier Lewis**, who served from 1889 to 1900. The town's first female postmaster was **Nellie M. Ryder** (1906 to 1914). Most famous of the postmasters was **Harry Hooper** (1933 to 1957), who had been a major league baseball player and was later inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Mary M. Parker held the position the longest, 1958-1983. She was the last to be appointed by the President of the United States.

Post Office. The first post office was established at the **Hotel Capitola** in 1889, with **James Frazier Lewis** as postmaster. The post office moved several times through the early and middle 1900s, but was usually on the first two blocks of **Capitola Avenue**. The post office eventually moved out of the village to a location at the northeast corner of Bay and Capitola Avenues. This one was dedicated February 10, 1963. The present post office off **Bay Avenue** near **Highway 1** opened on November 10, 1986. (See "200 Attend Dedication," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, February 10, 1963, p. 1; and "New Capitola post office opens Monday," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, November 6, 1986, p. 9)

Print It! A memoir by Mel Bowen, who grew up in Capitola and was a writer and editor for the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*. It includes stories about **Harry Hooper**, **Harry Bowles**, and local sports. Published in 2007 by BookSurge, 179 pages.

Prohibition (See **Rum-running**)

Purisima Formation. Name used by geologists for the bedrock unit of sedimentary rock (mostly gray to brown sandstone) that underlies Capitola. It is exposed along the lower part of the coastal cliffs and is formed from sediment laid down on the sea floor about 3 and 5 million years ago during part of the **Pliocene Epoch**. In some areas it contains seashell **fossils**. This same rock unit is exposed along Purisima Creek in coastal San Mateo County, from which it was named. In English it means "purest."

Race Track (See **Opal Race Track**)

Railing (See **Capitola Sidewalk Art Railing**)

Railroad. The railroad line through Capitola was originally established in the middle 1870s for the **Santa Cruz Railroad**, a 32-mile-long narrow gauge line linking Santa Cruz with Watsonville and Pajaro. After the Santa Cruz Railroad went bankrupt in 1881, the right-of-way was eventually acquired by the **Southern Pacific**, which converted it to standard gauge in late 1883. In 1996 the right-of-way was acquired by Union Pacific and in 2012 by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC). The Commission immediately began exploring options for its public use, including as a railroad, pedestrian path, bicycle path, or some combination of the three. For updates on this project, visit the SCCRTC website: <https://sccrtc.org/projects/rail/>

Railroad Depot. The first depot was built in the middle 1870s for the narrow gauge **Santa Cruz Railroad** and was located on the west side of **Soquel Creek**. In the 1880s it was relocated to the east side near the present **Monterey Avenue**. In 1903 a larger depot was built in the same area. It was then that the nearby subdivision became known as **Depot Hill**. Passenger service was discontinued in 1940, freight service in 1950. Eventually, it was moved slightly from its original location, rotated 90 degrees to face Monterey Avenue instead of the tracks, and made into a private residence. In 1983 the building was converted for use as a bed and breakfast inn. (See “Capitola To Lose Freight Depot Shortly,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, September 22, 1950, p. 1; and “New Life Proposed for Capitola Railroad Depot,” by Keith Muraoka, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, March 14, 1982, p. 7)

Railroad Trestle. Construction of the first trestle began in 1874. It was built for the **Santa Cruz Railroad**, a narrow-gauge line between Santa Cruz and Watsonville. The **Southern Pacific** converted the line to standard gauge in late 1883. The trestle was raised by 12 feet in 1886 has been repaired many times through the years. The wooden truss over the creek was replaced with the present steel truss in 1903. In 1996 the line was acquired by the Union Pacific and in 2012 by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission. The **Capitola Avenue** and **Wharf Road** underpasses were originally very narrow and were widened in 1970 and 1971 respectively. The trestle is a contributing element to the **Old Riverview Historic District**, which in 1988 was listed on the **National Register of Historic Places**.

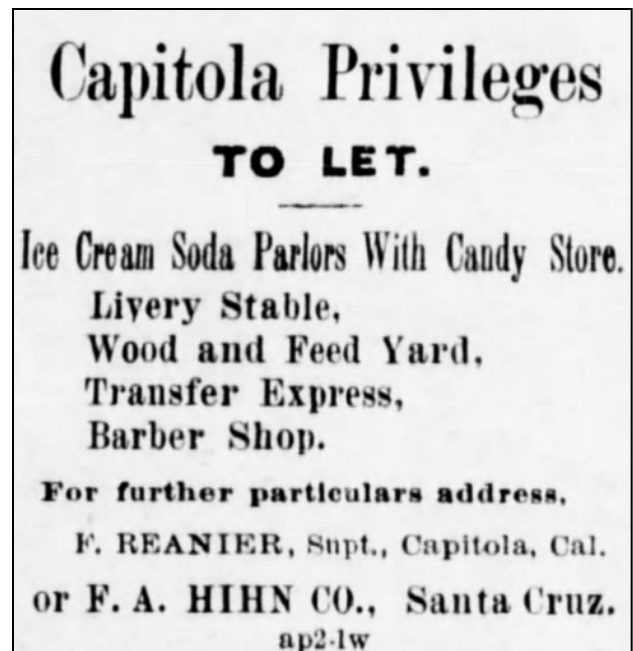
Rancho Arroyo del Rodeo. The City of Capitola west of **Soquel Creek** occupies what was once part of this Mexican land grant. The rancho stretched from Soquel Creek to Rodeo Gulch and was granted to Francisco Rodriguez in 1834. The rancho was so named because of the cattle roundups held in Rodeo Gulch by the Rodriguez and

Castro families. (See *Santa Cruz County Place Names*, by Donald Thomas Clark, 2008, p. 273)

Rancho Soquel. Two Mexican land grants bore the name **Soquel**, both granted to **Martina Castro**. Rancho Soquel (sometimes spelled Shoquel) was granted in 1833 and the larger Rancho Soquel Augmentation in 1844. Together, they amounted to over 34,000 acres and extended from **Monterey Bay** to the summit of the **Santa Cruz Mountains**. That part of the City of Capitola east of **Soquel Creek** lies within the 1833 rancho. (See *Santa Cruz County Place Names*, by Donald Thomas Clark, 2008, p. 259)

Ravnos, Ole. (1862-1945) Commercial photographer who lived primarily in Santa Cruz from about 1905 to 1945. A native of Norway, Ravnos operated the photography concession in Capitola for several summers between 1907 and 1914. He took many of the best photographs of Capitola during this period, including beach and street scenes, group photos, and ones of events.

Reanier, Frank. (1856-1931) Born in Ohio, Frank Reanier came to Santa Cruz in 1886 and to Capitola in 1890, where he took the job of superintendent for the **F. A. Hihn Company**. Reanier stayed at the job until 1915 and the dissolution of the company. He then took charge of the northern Santa Cruz County exhibit at the Panama Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. In 1917 he took charge of the hotel and concessions at Big Basin and remained at that job for 10 years. He served on the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors briefly in 1916 and from 1927 until his death. (See "Supervisor Frank Reanier Dies," *Santa Cruz Evening News*, Feb. 7, 1931, p. 1)



1890

Red and White Store (See **Grocery Stores**)

Reding, James. (1927-2014) Jim Reding was born in San Jose and for many years taught in the Campbell School District. He served in the Navy during WWII and wrote of his experience in his book, *22 Months*. Jim and his wife, Barbara, eventually settled in Capitola and worked to promote historic preservation, the arts, and other

improvements to the community. He and Barbara restored the **Superintendent's Building** in 1972, and he was a founder of the **Wharf to Wharf Race**. (See "Jim Reding," *The Monterey Herald*, Nov. 1, 2014)

Redwood (See **Coast Redwood** and **Dawn Redwood**)

Reed, Patty (See **Lewis, Martha Jane "Patty" Reed**)

Reinelt, Frank. (1900-1979) Born in Czechoslovakia, Reinelt worked in the field of horticulture in Europe before he came to California in 1926 to work with Luther Burbank. Unfortunately, Burbank died before they could meet. Reinelt eventually settled in Santa Cruz County and in 1934 joined **Vetterle Brothers** to establish the firm of Vetterle and Reinelt, located on Capitola Road at 45th Avenue. Reinelt achieved international fame as a breeder of begonias, delphiniums, and primroses. He received many awards and was the subject of several magazine articles on his life and accomplishments. (See "Frank Reinelt Dies At Age 78," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Dec. 5, 1979, pp. 1, 16)

Reservoir. A large reservoir for water was built in 1884 at what is now the northwest corner of Park Avenue and Washburn Avenue. "F. A. Hihn has a large gang of men at work with horses building a reservoir just beyond the station at Camp Capitola. It is to be 15 feet deep, 20 feet across at the bottom, and about 100 at the top. It is designed to supply the cottages on the bluff. . . ."—*Santa Cruz Sentinel*, June 20, 1884, p. 3.

Retaining Walls. There are several stone retaining walls around **Capitola Village**, many dating from the late 1800s and early 1900s. Prominent examples are along the hill on **Monterey Avenue** and along Cherry Avenue. Both of these are largely made of native sandstone from the beach between Capitola **Beach** and **New Brighton State Beach**. Many of the stones contain fossil seashells.

Rice, Esther. (1907-2002) Esther Lucile Rice operated the Capitola **Airport** with her husband, **Russell Rice**, from 1945 to 1954. Born in Santa Cruz, she spent her later years providing historical information and identifying old photos for UCSC, the Capitola Historical Museum, and the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History. (See "Esther Lucile Rice, 94; made, chronicled Santa Cruz history," by Cathy Redfern, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, August 18, 2002, p. A-19)

Rice, Russell. (1904-1981) Edwin Russell Rice was "bitten by the flying bug" while a youngster growing up in **Soquel**. He purchased his first plane in 1930 and took lessons at the Capitola **Airport**. Later he ran a commercial flying service out of Capitola and then operated the airport with his wife, Esther, from 1945 to 1954. They

also ran the Skypark airport in Scotts Valley from 1951 to 1962. According to a 1965 article, "Since the end of World War II, the Rices have been a guiding force in maintaining private aviation in the Santa Cruz community." (See "Longtime Santa Cruz Aviator Russell Rice Dies At Age 77," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, April 3, 1981, p. 58)

Rink (See **Skating Rink**)

Riprap. A term for large boulders used to control erosion. Riprap has been placed at the base of the cliffs at **Hooper's Beach** and in other areas along the shoreline.

Rispin, Henry Allen. (1872-1947) San Francisco capitalist who, in 1919, purchased Capitola from the heirs of **F. A. Hihn**. During the 1920s Rispin poured his own money and that of investors into improving Capitola and promoting it for home sites. His own home, known as the **Rispin Mansion**, was built as a showpiece to encourage others to settle in the area. Rispin eventually went bankrupt and permanently left Capitola by the end of the decade. He died in poverty in 1947. (See *Capitola*, by Carolyn Swift, 2013, pp. 75-98)

Rispin Mansion. A three-story home built by **Henry Allen Rispin** in 1920. Located on **Wharf Road** at the end of **Clares Street**, the home was built as a showpiece by Rispin to encourage wealthy investors from the San Francisco Bay area to buy property in Capitola. It was claimed to have cost about \$250,000 to build, though the actual cost may have been considerably less. In the 1940s and 1950s the mansion was home to a cloistered order of nuns called the **Poor Clares**. Despite many plans for re-use, including as a library, community center, bed and breakfast inn, museum, etc., the home has stood vacant for decades. The City of Capitola bought the property in 1985, and work on a hotel project began in 2009. In May of 2009 fire destroyed much of the building, except for the concrete exterior walls. In 2012 a new roof was put on the mansion and the building mothballed until such time as a new use can be found. In 2016 work began on restoring the gardens as a public park (**Rispin Park**) and building better pathways. The mansion is on the National Register of Historic Places (No. 91000286).

Rispin Park. A 5.7-acre park between **Wharf Road** and **Soquel Creek** at the foot of **Clares Street**. The park contains the abandoned **Rispin Mansion** and a pathway between Wharf Road and the bridge over Soquel Creek at **Peery Park**.

Riverview Historic District (See **Old Riverview Historic District**)

Riverview Terrace. A name first used in the 1930s for the upland portion of the **Riverview Tract**. It is bordered on the west by **Soquel Creek** and on the east by

Capitola and Bay Avenues and encompasses Oak, Gilroy, Sunset, and Riverview Drives. In the 1870s it was the site of a **sugar** refinery. (See *Historic Context Statement For the City of Capitola*, by Carolyn Swift, 2004, p. 42)

Riverview Tract. A general term for the neighborhood in the vicinity of Riverview Avenue and Riverview Drive.

River Villa Campground (See **Glen Beulah**)

Rochex, Rene. (1898-1974) Early-day begonia grower in what is now Capitola. Rene Rochex (he pronounced it ree-nee row-SHAY) grew begonias and other flowers on his mother's acreage near today's **Clares Street** in the 1920s and early 1930s. He was one of the most prominent begonia growers in the region, and in 1930 shipped 100,000 begonia tubers to various parts of the nation. In the middle 1930s he discontinued the Capitola business and moved to Salinas where he became a partner with his sister, Clotilde, and brother-in-law in Stoffey's Flowers. (See "Capitola's Forgotten Begonia Grower," by Frank Perry, *Capitola Sunset*, Summer 2015, p. 1)

Rodriguez, Francisco (See **Rancho Arroyo del Rodeo**)

Rosedale Avenue. A street running roughly north-south between **Bay Avenue** and Hill Street. Pioneer settler **Augustus Noble** enjoyed growing flowers and referred to his large tract as "Rosedale." There are several early mentions of "A. Noble of Rosedale" and of the Rosedale gardens and Rosedale farm. "A. Noble is throwing open Rosedale Av., through the Rosedale tract, intersecting the main road [Bay Street] near the bridge just below the depot."—*Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Feb. 12, 1891, p. 2.

Rotary/Deasy Bayview Bluff. A contemplative park with benches and a pathway overlooking Capitola **Beach** and **Monterey Bay**. Located at the south end of Prospect Avenue, the park was dedicated February 23, 2005. The Rotary Club of **Capitola** and **Aptos** renovated the park as a project for the club centennial. The land was leased from the **Southern Pacific Railroad** for many years by the **Deasy** family. The renovation was done in cooperation with the Deasy family and the City of Capitola (which now maintains it). (See "Rotary Club of Capitola/Aptos to Renovate Bluff," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, July 13, 2004, p. 30)

Rum-running. Also known as bootlegging, refers to the illegal transporting of alcoholic beverages. There are several stories and many rumors of rum-runners in the Capitola area during Prohibition. One of the most widely publicized incidents occurred January 5, 1933. Coastguardsmen seized a speedboat with 102 cases of liquor after a gun battle off of Capitola. Two crewmen were arrested.

During Prohibition, Canadian liquor ships would anchor offshore in international waters and smugglers would attempt to haul the booze to land. It is difficult today to imagine smugglers successfully making late-night landings on local beaches, but in the 1920s and early 1930s the coastline was much less populated than is now. For a short explanation of local rum-running, see *Night Landing*, by David Heron (Central Point, Oregon: Hellgate Press, 1998), pages 37-52.

Ryder, Nellie M. (1858-1929) Capitola's 5th postmaster (or postmistress), she served from 1906 to 1914. She was widowed and had a grown daughter when she took the job. In 1914 she moved to San Francisco, but returned often on visits. (See "Former Capitola Postmistress Is Summoned in S.F.," *Santa Cruz Evening News*, February 8, 1929, p. 1)

Sāba. A fondly remembered but short-lived restaurant located at the intersection of the **Esplanade** and **Monterey Avenue**. It was established in 1954 by Brad Macdonald, his brother, John, and father, Jack. It had previously been the **Capitola Beach Club** restaurant and bar. The name "Sāba" was taken from an island in the Caribbean. Macdonald pronounced it "SAY-bah." The decor, however, was inspired by both the Caribbean and South Pacific, with spears, dugout canoes, masks, shields, tikis, and exotic fauna and flora. The artwork was by local resident Frank Hill. The Sāba operated until 1957 when it and the associated Caribbean Ballroom burned to the ground. The entry in this book for **Harold F. Jarvis** includes a description of the fire. (See "Plan New Hotel In Capitola," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, March 1, 1954, p. 1)



Saint John's Helpful Shop (See **St. John's Helpful Shop**)

Saint John the Baptist Episcopal Church (See **Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist**)

Saint Joseph's Catholic Church. The Parish of Saint Joseph was established in 1904, and the first church was built at the corner of Capitola and Bay Avenues. The church was dedicated in 1905 and was well-known for its beautiful stained glass windows and elaborate altar. In 1970 preparations began for building a new church and parish center. The last mass at the old church was said on March 19, 1973 and the building was demolished the following year. The present church at 435 Monterey Avenue was dedicated February 24th, 1974. Four stained glass windows, a statue of Our Lady of Carmel, and the bell were transferred from the old to the new church. (See "History

of Saint Joseph's Church" on the church website: <http://saint-josephs.church/parish/history/>; and "St. Joseph's To Be Dedicated," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, July 22, 1905, p. 7.)

Saint Joseph's Monastery. From 1940 to 1957 the **Rispin Mansion** was home to the **Poor Clares** and known as Saint Joseph's Monastery.

Sairs, Capitola Bell. Capitola Sairs was the first child born in **Camp Capitola**—April 13, 1886. Her parents, Charles T. and Phoebe A. Sairs, named her for her place of birth. Mr. Sairs was proprietor of the **Skating Rink**.

Sand Between Your Toes: A Watercolor Journey Through Santa Cruz County. A book of watercolor paintings by artist Sally Bookman, who for fifteen years had a gallery in Capitola. Many of the paintings are of Capitola scenes. Published in 2002.

Sand Sculpture Contest. A popular event held on the beach each year. It began in September, 1971, as part of the annual **Begonia Festival**. (See *By-the-Sea: A History of the Capitola Begonia Festival*, by Carolyn Swift, 1992, p. 60)

Santa Cruz, The (See **Jupiter**)

Santa Cruz Airport (See **Airport**)

Santa Cruz City Water District (See **Santa Cruz Municipal Utilities**)

Santa Cruz County. Capitola lies within Santa Cruz County. Santa Cruz was one of the original counties created in 1850. It is second smallest in area (607 square miles) and has a population of 262,382 (2010 census).

Santa Cruz County Sanitation District (SCCSD). According to the districts's website, it is a "non-profit agency which provides sewage collection, treatment, and disposal services to the **Live Oak, Capitola, Soquel, and Aptos** areas." This wastewater is pumped to the Neary Lagoon treatment plant in Santa Cruz, which is owned by the City of Santa Cruz. The plant treats approximately 12 million gallons per day to a quality level that meets EPA standards for discharge into **Monterey Bay**. Treatment costs are split between the district and the cities of Santa Cruz and Scotts Valley.

Santa Cruz Evening News. A daily newspaper from 1907 to 1941 based in Santa Cruz, but which regularly carried news from Capitola.

Santa Cruz Mountains. A mountain range that is part of the Coast Ranges of California. Broadly defined, the range extends from the Golden Gate to the Pajaro River and from San Francisco Bay and the Santa Clara Valley to the Pacific Ocean. (See *Santa Cruz County Place Names*, by Donald Thomas Clark, 2008, p. 305)

Santa Cruz Municipal Utilities. Most of the City of Capitola falls within the **Soquel Creek Water District**. However, the western part of Capitola (west of 41st Avenue) and all of **Live Oak** and Santa Cruz is served by Santa Cruz Municipal Utilities, a department of the City of Santa Cruz. The water comes from north coast springs, Loch Lomond Reservoir, and various wells, including some in Live Oak.

Santa Cruz Railroad. A narrow gauge railroad that operated between Santa Cruz and Watsonville from the middle 1870s to early 1880s. The line was dedicated May 7th, 1876. One of the driving forces behind construction of the line was capitalist **F. A. Hihn**. Not surprisingly, the line went through many of Hihn's lands, including Capitola. The railroad had two Baldwin 4-4-0 locomotives, the *Santa Cruz* and the *Jupiter*. Due in part to competition from a direct route through the mountains that opened in 1880, the Santa Cruz Railroad folded in 1881. The line eventually passed into the hands of the **Southern Pacific**.

Santa Cruz Sentinel. A daily newspaper based in Santa Cruz and which serves Santa Cruz, Capitola, and much of Santa Cruz County. It was founded in Monterey in 1855, but moved to Santa Cruz a year later. It switched from weekly to daily publication in 1884. The paper has had several name variations (ie. *Santa Cruz Morning Sentinel*, *Evening Sentinel*, *Santa Cruz Sentinel-News*, *Santa Cruz County Sentinel*) and several different owners. It continues to cover Capitola news as it has since the 1800s.

Santa Cruz Small Craft Harbor. Although this harbor is located 1.5 miles west of Capitola and is within the City of Santa Cruz, its construction in 1962-1964 had a profound effect on Capitola. Completion of the harbor jetties blocked the natural flow of sand along the shoreline, severely reducing the size of Capitola's **beach**. In 1970 Capitola constructed a **groin** to trap sand and restore the beach. (See "Effects of the Santa Cruz harbor on coastal processes in northern Monterey Bay, California," by G. B. Griggs and R. E. Johnson, *Environmental Geology*, Sept. 1976, pp. 299-312)

Santa Cruz Surf. A daily newspaper published in Santa Cruz from 1883 to 1919. There was also a weekly edition. The *Surf* included news and society stories from Capitola and the **mid county** area. It is available on microfilm at UCSC, the Santa Cruz Public Library, and Cabrillo College Library. An index to major news stories is available on the Public Library website.

Schools. See entries for individual schools: **Capitola Elementary School, New Brighton Middle School, Opal Cliffs School**.

Scrapitola. A nickname for the city during its formative years because of the many heated arguments at **city council** meetings.

Seagulls (See **Gulls**)

Sea Lion (See **California Sea Lion**)

Sea Lions (public art). A life-sized, climbable, bronze sculpture of two **California Sea Lions** by artist Kim Chavez. It was installed in **Esplanade Park** on October 29, 2018, and was funded by the **Capitola Art and Cultural Commission**. (See “Coast Lines: Sea lion sculpture to be unveiled Monday,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Oct. 26, 2018)

Sea Otter. Once common along the West Coast, sea otters were hunted extensively for their pelts during the early 1800s and nearly exterminated. A small population survived and was “rediscovered” off Big Sur in the 1930s. This population grew, spreading north to the Monterey Peninsula and eventually (by the 1970s) to the northern part of **Monterey Bay**. They often feed in the waters near Capitola, diving for crabs, clams, and other shellfish.

Sea Otter (public art). A life-sized bronze statue of a sea otter by artist Kim Chavez was unveiled near **Esplanade Park** in 2013. The statue sits atop an information kiosk. (See “Capitola backs art project: sculpture destined for kiosk at Esplanade,” by Jondi Gumz, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, May 23, 2013)

Sears. A Sears retail store opened at the northwest corner of 41st Avenue and Capitola Road on April 14, 1971. It later became an anchor store for the **Capitola Mall**. At the time of construction, the site was not yet part of the City of Capitola but was later annexed. In 2018 Sears Holdings Corp. announced that it would be closing 33 Sears stores (including Capitola) and 11 Kmart stores late that year. (See “New Sears Store Will Open To Public Wednesday,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, April 11, 1971, p. 29; and “Sears at Capitola Mall to close,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, August 24, 2018)

Sea Stars (sculptures). Many private homes, businesses, and other buildings around Capitola have decorative sea star sculptures on their exterior. These are the work of Depot Hill artist and former **city council** member Jerry Clarke. Clarke makes each one by hand, pressing clay into a mold, adding the spines and glaze, then firing them in a kiln. He began in the 1990s making just a few for himself and friends. Now there are hundreds, and some have gone to other parts of the United States and even to Europe. (See “Handmade Here: Big Birds,” by Holly Hayes, *San Jose Mercury*, February 6, 2009)

Sea wall. Several successive walls have been constructed through the years, first of wood and later of concrete or large boulders (**riprap**) to separate the beach from the village and protect the village from large storm waves.

Seawater Intrusion. A process by which seawater migrates inland underground, contaminating freshwater aquifers. It can be caused by excessive pumping of freshwater from underground sources and is an issue of concern in the Soquel-Capitola area. For this reason, the **Soquel Creek Water District** maintains monitor wells in Capitola.

Seining (See **Beach Seining**)

Sewage. In the early years, untreated sewage was discharged into **Monterey Bay** just east of Capitola's **beach** where currents usually swept it away from the resort. This system continued until the late 1920s when it was condemned by the county as unsafe. In the early 1930s new sewer lines were installed and a pumping/treatment plant and pipeline built at the east end of Capitola Beach to discharge the wastewater farther out in the bay. In the 1970s and 1980s the small, local pumping and treatment plants in Aptos, Capitola, and Live Oak were converted to pumping stations only. Local discharge ceased, and the communities became part of the **Santa Cruz County Sanitation District**. All sewage is now pumped to the large treatment plant at Neary Lagoon in Santa Cruz. From there it is pumped far out on the continental shelf for discharge.

"Sewers." Surfers' slang in the 1960s and 1970s for the surfing area at the east end of Capitola Beach. There used to be a sewer outfall there.

Shadowbrook Restaurant. Bea and **Bradley Macdonald** and Ed Phillipet founded the Shadowbrook in 1947 on the west bank of **Soquel Creek**. The restaurant has changed ownership and been enlarged several times. It is famous for its cable car (first one installed in 1958) that transports patrons to and from the restaurant.

In the late 1930s and early 1940s it was the summer home of Robert and Ernestine Fowler of San Francisco. Ernestine named the house Shadow-Brook, and the name was kept by the restaurant owners.

Shaffer, Keith. (1915-2005) Horticulturalist Keith Shaffer, with his brother Hal, started their orchid breeding and nursery business in 1937. **Shaffer's Tropical Gardens** eventually grew to have 12 large greenhouses on 41st Avenue. In the orchid world, he was famous for developments in breeding the white *Phalaenopsis* orchid. Shaffer served on the Soquel Union Elementary School District board, the Santa Cruz City Schools board, and played an important role in the establishment of Cabrillo College. He was also one of the developers of the **Cliffwood Heights** subdivision in Capitola, and helped redevelop Santa Cruz after the flood of 1955. (See "Keith Shaffer: 1915-2005," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, October 24, 2005)

Shaffer's Tropical Gardens. A nursery on 41st Avenue from 1937 to 1986 founded by Keith and Hal Shaffer. It specialized in orchids. It is presently the site of the Begonia Plaza shopping center. (See "Last bloom at Shaffer's Tropical Gardens, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, May 22, 1986, p. B-3)

Shorelife Community Church. Located at 875 Monterey Avenue in the **Cliffwood Heights** neighborhood, the church was built in 1970 as the Cliffwood Heights Neighborhood Church and became a member of the Pacific District Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches. In 1989 the congregation changed its name to Grace Community Church of Capitola. In 1997 the congregation disbanded, but 15 members founded the present church. The new Mennonite Brethren congregation began public services July 7, 1998. (See "Shorelife Community Church," www.shorelifecc.org/about-us/history/)

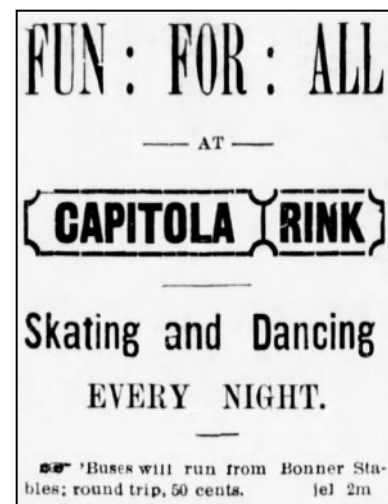
Six Sisters. Nickname for a set of six nearly identical homes (actually three duplexes) built around 1900 on the **Esplanade** (then Bay View) and facing the beach. It is possible they date from 1897. "The Hihn Co. has taken down about nine of the old huts that faced the beach and built in their stead six modern cottages that are far more sightly as well as better paying." —*Santa Cruz Evening Sentinel*, May 20, 1897, p. 3. The six sisters still stand and have become a village landmark. They are part of the **Six Sisters/Lawn Way Historic District**.

Six Sisters/Lawn Way Historic District. A historic district in Capitola Village incorporating the **Six Sisters** and the buildings to the north along Lawn Way. The district is on the **National Register of Historic Places** (No. 87000623) and is a link to Capitola's turn-of-the-century residential development as a seaside resort.

Skatepark (See **Monte Family Skateboard Park**)

Skating Rink. In 1884 a skating rink or pavilion was built on the south side of **Capitola Avenue** between Stockton and San Jose Avenues. The large building is clearly visible in many early photos. It was used for roller skating, dancing, and other events. In 1924 the building was moved south towards the middle of the block and clad in stucco to become the **Hawaiian Gardens** nightclub. It burned in 1933. (See *Capitola*, by Carolyn Swift, 2013, pp. 46, 88)

Slatter, Peggy (See **Matthews, Peggy Slatter**)



Slide (See **Chute the Chute**)

Smith, Francis Nicol. (1910-1995) Nicol (or “Nick”) Smith was the son of **Robert Hays Smith** and Susan Smith. He served as a Lieutenant in the U. S. Army and became a successful author, explorer, and lecturer. An account of his family’s involvement with **Henry Allen Rispin** and Capitola appears in his biography, *Traveler of the Crossroads*, by Sharon E. Karr, 1994, pp. 118-122.

Smith, Robert Hays. (1877-1962) In 1929 wealthy businessman and attorney Robert Hays Smith and his wife, Susan, purchased the **Rispin Mansion** for \$19,800 and named it “Capitola Place.” R. H. Smith was one of the developers of the Kettleman Hills oil field. Sue liked the idea of having the mansion as a “beach house,” and was appalled when her husband filled it with pretentious furniture from the James L. Flood estate in San Francisco. She refused to set foot in it after it was furnished. The Smiths also had homes in San Francisco and Hillsborough, where they entertained movie stars and other celebrities. She authored a social column, “Susan Smith Says,” for the *San Francisco Examiner*. They were the parents of **Nicol Smith**.

Society of California Pioneers of Santa Cruz County. An organization established in 1881 with **F. A. Hihn** as president. An annual picnic for members was held each year in Capitola on August 16, Hihn’s birthday. The local society disbanded after Hihn died in 1913, but the statewide Society of California Pioneers still exists and is headquartered in San Francisco. Members are descended from people who came to California prior to statehood in 1850. (See *Santa Cruz County History Journal*, No. 4, edited by Stanley D. Stevens, 1998)

Solovioff, Nicholas. (1927-1994) Born in New York, artist Nicholas Solovioff received his Masters in Fine Arts from Harvard University and worked for many years as an artist and illustrator. His work appeared in *Fortune*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Readers Digest*, Time-Life books, and many others. He lived in **Capitola Village** during the last seven years of his life and could often be seen painting watercolors at the edge of the cliffs overlooking the bay and town. He exhibited widely around Capitola and Santa Cruz and was voted “best artist in the area” by readers of the *Good Times* newspaper in 1989. (See *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, July 7, 1994, p. A-8)

Sooty Shearwater. A migratory seabird that sometimes appears by the thousands off the coast of Capitola during the late summer and early fall. The species occupies both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. The Pacific population nests on islands near New Zealand during our winter (their summer), then migrates north to Japan, Alaska, and the West Coast for the northern hemisphere summer. At 40,000 miles, it is one of the

longest bird migrations in the world. Shearwaters feed on small fishes and squid, usually near the surface, although they can dive to depths of over 200 feet. Early the morning of August 18, 1961, a massive flock of Shearwaters crashed into the coastline between Rio del Mar and Santa Cruz, with the greatest numbers in Capitola and **Opal Cliffs**. Thousands of dead or disoriented birds littered the streets, and the event was mentioned in the movie, *The Birds* (see under **Birds**, *The*). Scientists later determined that the birds had ingested a natural toxin from fish that had eaten toxic plankton. (See “Seabird Invasion Hits Coastal Homes,” by Wally Trabing, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, August 18, 1961, p. 1; see also “Study documents marathon migrations of sooty shearwaters as they pursue endless summer in Pacific,” by Tim Stephens, *UC Santa Cruz Currents*, August 14, 2006: <http://currents.ucsc.edu/06-07/08-14/shearwaters.asp>)

Soquel. An unincorporated town immediately north of the Capitola city limits. Established in the early 1850s, Soquel predates Capitola. Originally, much of the land now encompassed by Capitola was part of Soquel. Capitola **Beach** was Soquel Beach and the **wharf** was **Soquel Landing**. The name was derived from the Indigenous People of the area. Historically, there were at least fourteen spelling variations, including Shoquel, Sauquel, and Osocales. (See *Santa Cruz County Place Names*, by Donald Thomas Clark, 2008, p. 328)

Soquel-Capitola Record. A newspaper published in 1929 that served the Capitola and Soquel communities.

Soquel Cove. The official name for the general area of northern Monterey Bay between **Soquel Point** and Seacliff State Beach.

Soquel Creek. Soquel Creek begins near the summit of the **Santa Cruz Mountains** and flows south through **Soquel** and Capitola, where it empties into **Monterey Bay**. It is about 15 miles long and drains an area of approximately 42 square miles. Major tributaries include Amaya Creek, Bate’s Creek, Hester Creek, and Hinkley Creek. During the summer, there is a **lagoon** at the mouth. For more details, see the Santa Cruz County Environmental Health website.

Soquel Creek Water District. The Soquel Creek Water District was established in 1961 and serves a population of 40,000 people in Capitola, **Soquel**, **Aptos**, Rio del Mar, and Seascape. Most of Capitola is served by the district, except for the area west of 41st Avenue, which is served by **Santa Cruz Municipal Utilities** (City of Santa Cruz). Despite its name, the water provided by the Soquel Creek Water District comes from wells rather than from the creek. (See *The History of the Soquel Creek Water District, 1961-1988*, by Sandy Lydon, 1989, 49 p.)

Soquel Drive. This was apparently the first east-west road through the mid-county area, linking Santa Cruz with Soquel and continuing on to Watsonville. One of the earliest maps showing the route dates from 1853.

Soquel High School. The high school opened in September, 1962, on a hill overlooking downtown **Soquel** and was built to serve the growing populations of **Live Oak**, Soquel, and Capitola. For many years it also served Scotts Valley and the summit area. It is part of the Santa Cruz City High School District and has about 1,200 students.

Soquel Landing. An early name for the beach and later wharf at Capitola, prior to the founding of **Camp Capitola** in 1874.

Soquel Landing to Capitola-by-the-Sea. A book on the history of Capitola written in 1978 by Sandy Lydon and Carolyn Swift. This was the first telling of the history of Capitola in book form. Although still available in libraries, co-author Carolyn Swift urges readers to consult the *Historic Context Statement For the City of Capitola* (2004) or her book, *Capitola* (2013), for a more up-to-date treatment of the town's history.

Soquel Park. A small city park on the west bank of **Soquel Creek** near the **Stockton Avenue Bridge**. There are benches for sitting and viewing the creek and wildlife.

Soquel Point. The official name for the prominent point that projects southward into **Monterey Bay** between **Santa Cruz** and Capitola. Although this is its official name and the name on most maps, locals call it **Pleasure Point**, which is the name for the neighborhood.

Soquel Press. A newspaper published in the 1940s serving Capitola, **Soquel**, **Aptos** and the nearby mountain areas, "The Heart of Santa Cruz County."

Soquel Rancho (See **Rancho Soquel**)

Sorensen, Lewis August. (1910-1986) A world-renowned wax-doll artist who made figures for many wax museums and Ripley's Believe-It-Or-Not museums. Sorensen lived in **Santa Cruz** in the 1950s and early 1960s. He was active with the Santa Cruz Art League and established wax museums in Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, Monterey, and Capitola. **Sorensen's House of Wax** in Capitola operated for only a year, being destroyed in the 1957 fire that destroyed the Caribbean Ballroom and **Sāba** restaurant. (See *Lewis Sorensen's Doll Scrapbook*, by Lewis Sorensen, 1976, unpaginated)



Sorensen's House of Wax. A short-lived wax museum created by **Lewis Sorensen** in a large room adjoining the **Sāba** restaurant in Capitola. Sorensen created life-sized renditions of people from history, such as Abraham Lincoln, Father Serra, and Betsy Ross. There were also characters from literature, such as Huckleberry Finn and Little Red Riding Hood, and Hollywood celebrities such as James Dean and Lillian Russell. Sorensen continuously made changes and additions, including a wax Nativity scene for Christmas. The museum opened in 1956, but burned the following year in a fire that also destroyed the Sāba. (See "'House of Wax' Is Loaded With Intimate Glimpses of Famous," by Wally Trabing, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, October 17, 1956, p. 8)

Sotola. In 1929 there was talk of consolidating the towns of **Soquel** and Capitola and incorporating. The name "Sotola" was suggested for the new city, being a combination of the two names. A meeting of interested citizens was held in September but there was considerable opposition and the plan never came to fruition. In 2016 the name was resurrected for a **Capitola Village** restaurant. (See *Santa Cruz Evening News*, Sept. 6, 1929, p. 3)

Southern Pacific Railroad. The Southern Pacific operated in the western United States from 1865 to 1998, when it was taken over by the Union Pacific. Beginning in the 1880s, it operated the railroad line through Capitola.

Southworth, E. D. E. N. (1819-1899) Emma Dorothy Eliza Nevitte Southworth was one of America's most popular authors during the second half of the nineteenth century. One of her novels, *The Hidden Hand* (first published in the *New York Ledger* in 1859), featured the adventures of a young heroine named **Capitola**—likely the source for the name of the town. *The Hidden Hand* was Southworth's most successful novel.

Sperm Whale. A species of toothed whale that typically reaches a length of 35-50 feet. Based on strandings, it lives nearly world-wide in tropical to temperate waters. In 1990, a very young individual washed up at **Hooper's Beach**. The carcass was studied by scientists from the Long Marine Laboratory at UCSC. The skull was cleaned and later put on display in the visitor center at Año Nuevo State Reserve.

Stairways. There are a number of public stairways around Capitola Village, the best known being the 80-foot climb near the foot of Capitola Avenue. Built around 1920, it is a local landmark.

Starfish. (See **Sea Stars**)

St. John's Helpful Shop. A thrift store at 101 Capitola Avenue established in 1953 as a fundraiser for the **Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist**. It closed in 2018. Run mostly by volunteers, the shop gave grants to many local nonprofits. At the time of the shop's 60th anniversary, historian Carolyn Swift noted, "St. John's Helpful Shop has weathered some definite changes over the years. It's managed to fit the character of Capitola well enough that it reflects the values of the visitors and is also a favorite place for locals to come." (See "St. John's Helpful Shop celebrates 60 years in Capitola Village," by Kara Guzman, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, June 11, 2013)

Stockton Avenue Bridge. This concrete bridge over **Soquel Creek** was erected in 1934 according to the bronze plaque at its east end. Prior to the concrete bridge, there was a wooden bridge used by wagons and later by automobiles. From about 1904 to 1924, there was a second bridge here for an electric streetcar line linking Capitola with Santa Cruz. The contractor for the concrete bridge was **Leo Cardwell**. (See "County Accepts Capitola Bridge," *Santa Cruz Evening News*, June 23, 1934, p. 1)

Stone, Ken. Commercial photographer of the late 1940s and 1950s. He was hired as a postcard photographer for Mike Roberts and photographed Capitola. He was also staff photographer for Santa's Village amusement park in Scotts Valley. (See "A man and his camera send us to another era," by Nancy Redwine, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, April 19, 2001, p. B-1)

Stone Walls (See **Retaining Walls**)

Storms (See **Floods**).

Storm Waves. Approximately once every twenty years or so, damaging storm waves strike the Capitola shoreline. These have been known to top the **sea wall**, damage buildings beside the beach, and batter the wharf. In the twentieth century, years in which major storm waves struck Capitola include 1913, 1926, 1938, 1958, 1960, 1976, and 1983. Large waves topped the sea wall along the **Esplanade** in early 2017, but damage was minor compared to that from heavy rains that winter which downed many trees. It should be noted that local rain storms and large waves do not necessarily correlate. Often, very large waves are generated far out in the Pacific and

are unrelated to local weather. (See *Santa Cruz Storm Book '83* by Dennis Noonan, 1983)

Strawberries. Capitola was an important strawberry-growing region in the 1950s.

Strawberries were grown on the former Capitola **Airport** property, at **Opal Cliffs**, and near **Capitola Road**. In 1953, for example, Capitola Berry Farms grew strawberries near the intersection of 41st Avenue and **Capitola Road**. People from Hawaii were brought in to harvest the berries. (See "Japanese-Americans At Work In Strawberry Fields," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, May 7, 1953, p. 4)

Streetcar. In 1904 an electric streetcar line was constructed by the **Union Traction**

Company between downtown Santa Cruz and Capitola. The line went from Pacific Avenue out Soquel Avenue, over to Seabright, across the beach at Twin Lakes, and along what is today **Portola Drive**. Other branches extended to the Santa Cruz Beach, to Woodrow Avenue on the Santa Cruz west side, and to DeLaveaga Park on the east side. One-way fare from Santa Cruz to Capitola was 12¢. Streetcar service to Capitola was discontinued in December, 1924. Although the terms "streetcar" and "trolley" are synonymous, the ones here were almost always called "streetcars." (See *Surf, Sand, and Streetcars*, by Charles S. McCaleb, 1977)

Street Names. Many of the older streets in Capitola (in **Capitola Village** and on **Depot Hill**) are named for California cities. Examples include Stockton, Sacramento, Monterey, San Jose, Oakland, Hollister, etc. **F. A. Hihn**, who oversaw the town's early development, no doubt chose these names to further entice visitors from these cities to purchase lots for summer cottages. See also **Jewel Box**.

Sugar. A sugar refinery was located in what is now Capitola from 1874 to 1880. The sugar was extracted from sugar beets grown on surrounding farms. Chinese laborers planted, tended, and harvested the beets, and redwood from above **Soquel** served as fuel to operate the steam-powered factory machinery. The beets were cooked and mashed to extract the juice. Through a series of steps, impurities were removed, leaving only sugar. The refinery was located on the hill south of the present **Nob Hill** Foods store. The mill employed two hundred men during the fall processing season and had a capacity of 60 tons of beets per day. (See "The Soquel Beet-Sugar Co.," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, November 28, 1874, p. 3)

Suntan Special. An excursion train run by the **Southern Pacific** on summer weekends during the middle 1900s to bring visitors from the San Francisco Bay area to the beach at Santa Cruz and Capitola. It began in 1927, and originally the route went through the tunnels under the **Santa Cruz Mountains**. Operation ceased after 1941

due to World War II but resumed in the summer of 1947. By then the tunnels had been closed, and the train went by way of the Pajaro Gap and Watsonville. The last season was supposed to be 1959, but it was resurrected for the summer of 1962. In 1959 a round trip ticket from San Francisco cost \$3.00. (See "Suntan Special Will Run No More to Santa Cruz," by Skip Littlefield, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, April 10, 1960, p. 1)

Superintendent's Building. Also known as the Hihn Building, it was constructed in the 1880s at the corner of what is now Capitola and Monterey Avenues and served as offices for the resort superintendent until about 1930. The offices handled vacation rentals and sales, and the superintendent's residence was upstairs. At one time condemned, the building was rescued by Jim and Barbara **Reding** and restored in 1972. It is built out of local redwood and is both a State Historic Landmark (No. 860) and on the **National Register of Historic Places**. The present address is 201 Monterey Avenue.

Supervisory District. Capitola east of Soquel Creek lies within the Second Supervisory District of Santa Cruz County. This district also includes Aptos, Rio del Mar, Seacliff, Corralitos, Freedom, and part of Watsonville. Most of Capitola west of the creek (excluding the Jewel Box neighborhood) is in the First District. This district also includes Live Oak, Soquel and the mountain areas north to the summit.

Surfing. Surfing was a rather obscure sport enjoyed mostly in Hawaii until the 1950s and 1960s when it started to become popular on the mainland, including in the Capitola and Santa Cruz area. Invention of the wetsuit (needed for our cold water) and portrayal of the sport in movies and songs helped make surfing mainstream.

Tabacchini, Joe A. (1903-1979) Born in Gordona, Italy, Mr. Tabacchini (pronounced tab-ah-KEE-nee) emigrated to the United States in 1920. In 1946 he and his wife, Mary, moved to Capitola and operated the **El Salto** resort on **Depot Hill**. They purchased the property for \$50,000. He was very involved in Capitola civic matters, serving on various city committees and commissions. He served on the **city council** from 1949 to 1960, including eight years as mayor. (See "Former Capitola Mayor Joe Tabacchini Succumbs," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Sept. 16, 1979, p. 62)

Telephone. The first telephone in Capitola was for a single line connecting Capitola with a telephone in **Soquel** in April, 1880. By 1908, there were six telephones in Capitola according to that year's telephone directory. In the early 1900s all calls needed an operator to make the connection. In 1954 the dial system was introduced to Santa Cruz County, eliminating operators except for long distance calls. Modern seven-

digit numbers were also introduced at that time. See also **Area Code** and **Nine-one-one**.

Tennis. The first tennis court in Capitola was probably the one built in the early 1900s just north of the old **Hotel Capitola**. Later, tennis courts were built at **El Salto**. Presently there are courts at **Jade Street Park**.

Testing Block, The. A 1920 silent movie western filmed partly in Capitola and partly in the San Lorenzo Valley. It starred William S. Hart, who also produced the film and co-wrote the screenplay. Hart plays an outlaw who marries a violinist (played by Eva Novak). A gambler (played by Gordon Russell) then persuades the woman to leave her husband, who tries to get her back. The movie crew built a fake Gold Rush-era town (named Pan Creek) near the Capitola Wharf. The movie still exists. The **Capitola Historical Museum** and the Cabrillo College History Success Club held a special centennial showing on January 26, 2020, in the **Capitola Community Center** at **Jade Street Park**.

Theater (See **Capitola Theater**)

The Hook, the Hill, and Lilly Too! A book of Capitola sunset and sunrise photographs by David Mrus, published in 2016, 118 pages.

Tidewater Goby (See **Northern Tidewater Goby**)

Tiki (sculpture). A wooden tiki sculpture was donated in 2013 by a local surf group known as "The Usual Suspects." It gazes out over Monterey Bay from Esplanade Park.

Tiles, Sea wall (See "**Capitola Memories**")

Tilt. A 1979 motion picture about pinball hustling, starring Charles Durning and Brooke Shields. The movie was shot partly in Capitola inside one of the Esplanade restaurants. Other scenes show the beach and boardwalk in Santa Cruz.

Time Frames. A book by paleontologist Niles Eldridge of the American Museum of Natural History in New York on Darwinian evolution and the theory of punctuated equilibria. Chapter 1 tells about the fossils in the cliffs at Capitola. Published by Simon and Schuster, 1985.

Trees (See **Buckeye, Coast Live Oak, Eucalyptus, Canary Island Date Palm, Dawn Redwood, Mexican Fan Palm, Monterey Cypress, Monterey Pine, Myoporum, Queen Palm**)

Trestle (See **Railroad Trestle**)

Triangle Park (See **Cortez Park**)

Tri-City American. A short-lived newspaper “devoted to the interests of Soquel, Capitola, and Aptos—the heart of Santa Cruz County.” Published from 1929? to 1937.

Triton. A pontoon raft built by several young Watsonville men in 1965. The men, mostly in their twenties, set out from Capitola October 18th on a 7,400-mile voyage to the South Pacific. The attempt drew state-wide attention. Alas, in December the raft ran aground in Baja California and the expedition came to an end. (See “Hope for 7,400-Mile Raft Trip Sunk with Triton Off Mexico,” *The Daily Sun* (San Bernardino),” Dec. 13, 1965, p. 4)

Tuberous Begonia (See **Begonia, Tuberous**)

Tuberous Begonias: A Complete Guide for Amateur and Specialist. A book on how to grow begonias by **Worth A. Brown** of the **Brown Bulb Ranch**, 1948 (reprinted 1955), 128 pages. Besides explaining how to grow begonias, the author also tells about the breeding history of the different varieties.

“Touching Souls with Art & Heart.” A mural on the side of Capitola Beach Suites painted by Manuel Cruz III in 2016. The mural depicts an underwater scene with a mermaid and is near the corner of Cliff Drive and Wharf Road.

Tola Rat. An informal term, circa 1970s, for locals (mostly teenagers) who hung out around the beach and village (aka “beach bums”). Around this same time, the Rio Rats were from Rio del Mar and the Mall Rats hung out at the **Capitola Mall**. According to the dictionary, one definition of “rat” is a person associated with or who frequents a specific place. The “Tola Rats” was also the name for a middle 1970s football team composed of townspeople and who played in charity games against police and fire department personnel. (See “Begonia Bowl (Pigs vs. Rats) Set Saturday,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, October 16, 1975, p. 32)

Tracts. In the late 1800s and early / middle 1900s the Capitola area developed through a series of residential subdivisions on large tracts of land. See listings for individual tracts: **Beulah, Depot Hill, Fairview, Fanmar Terrace, McCormick, Opal Cliffs, and Riverview.**

Union Traction Company. The Union Traction Company (UTC) operated the electric **streetcar** line in Santa Cruz and between Santa Cruz and Capitola. It formed in 1904 from the consolidation of two earlier companies. Formal announcement of the company’s formation was made October 4, 1904, the day the first streetcar entered Capitola. (See *Surf, Sand, and Streetcars*, by Charles S. McCaleb, 1977, p. 63)

Upper Village. A term coined in about 1983 for the business district in the vicinity of the intersection of **Capitola Avenue** and **Bay Avenue**.

Van Cleeck, Edward L. (1849-1925) A Santa Cruz-based architect and builder who designed many buildings during the late 1800s and early 1900s, including large homes for some of the Santa Cruz's wealthy residents. In Capitola he designed the **Hotel Capitola** and the **Superintendent's Building**, among others. (See *Historic Context Statement For the City of Capitola*, by Carolyn Swift, 2004, p. 32)

Van Syckle, Henry. (c1830-1903) A native of New York, Van Syckle was a wealthy San Jose area farmer who, in 1887, built one of the first large permanent homes in Capitola Village. Described as their "country residence," the family occupied it primarily in the summer. He also had a farm in Colusa County. Van Syckle was the subject of much gossip in 1889 when his young wife left him for another man. His elaborate house still stands on the corner of San Jose and Cherry Avenues and is one of Capitola's best examples of Victorian architecture. It is a private residence. (See "The Capitola Sensation," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, May 9, 1889, p. 3)

Varcados, Marybeth. (1940-2009) Marybeth Varcados was a local newspaper journalist who worked as an editor for the *Watsonville Register-Pajaronian* and later the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*. She served on the **Art and Cultural Commission** and on the Planning Commission for the City of Capitola and on the board of the Cabrillo Music Festival. In later years she and four friends wrote two Capitola-based mystery novels under the pseudonym **Misty W. Moonfree**. Her husband, Peter Varcados, taught history at Cabrillo College. (See "Marybeth Varcados: 1940-2009." *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Jan. 24, 2009)

Venetian Court. A cluster of multi-colored stucco dwellings on the west side of the mouth of **Soquel Creek**. Construction started in 1924 on the former site of an **Italian fishing village**. The units are individually owned except for the part which functions as a motel. It has been written that these were the first condominiums in California, but subsequent research indicates this may be incorrect. The land beneath each unit is a separate parcel. They have appeared in calendars, paintings, and postcards and are a Capitola landmark. They are also on the **National Register of Historic Places** (No. 91000286). (See book, below)

Venetian Court, Est. 1924: Capitola's Unique Charming Seaside Resort. A book by Melanie Shaffer Freitas on the history of the **Venetian Court** (published in 2013, 27 p.)

Vetterle Brothers and Vetterle and Reinelt. A flower business in Capitola started in the early 1900s by **John V. Vetterle**. Later his sons took over the business and in 1934

Frank Reinelt joined as a partner. The business was again Vetterle Brothers after Frank Reinelt left the partnership in 1969. Vetterle Brothers was located on the north side of Capitola Road between 44th and 45th Avenues and closed in 1972. Though best known for **tuberous begonias**, they also grew irises, gladioli, and freesias. Perhaps their most famous customer was the Duke of Windsor. (See "Nursery Purchases Vetterle Begonia Growing Operation," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, March 3, 1972, p. 10)

Vetterle, Everett. (1892-1943) Everett L. Vetterle was best known as a partner in the **Vetterle Brothers** and later Vetterle and Reinelt begonia gardens in Capitola. He was also involved in many other local business ventures including the **Capitola Ballroom**, a butane gas business, and real estate. Everett Vetterle died unexpectedly in an automobile accident in 1943. Just after Vetterle's death, business partner **Frank Reinelt** said, "I hardly know how to begin to describe the pleasant association I have had the past seven years with Mr. Vetterle. He was the kindest, the finest partner a man could have." (See "Everett Vetterle Of Capitola Killed in S. F. Auto Collision," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Feb. 6, 1943, p. 1)

Vetterle, John Lowell. (1897-1974) Lowell Vetterle and his brother, **Everett Vetterle**, took over the flower growing business after the death of their father in 1917. Besides begonias, **Vetterle Brothers** also grew iris, gladiolas, and freesias. Lowell Vetterle retired in 1972, and the family's famed begonia gardens on **Capitola Road** closed. (See "J. Lowell Vetterle, 77, dies," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, September 30, 1974, p. 1)

Vetterle, John V. (1860-1917) Born in Michigan, John Vetterle and his family came to Santa Cruz County from Merced in the early 1900s. In 1910 he purchased 16 acres in **Capitola Heights** with the intention of raising chickens and growing strawberries. His sons' business later became one of the principal begonia growers of the Live Oak/Capitola area.

"[View of Capitola]." (mural) This mural seems to be untitled, and efforts to contact the original artist were unsuccessful. It is a view from the west, looking down on Capitola Village. The mural was painted on the side of the building at 114 Stockton Avenue in 2004 by artist Luke Lamar. The mural was refurbished in 2016 by artist Manuel Cruz III.

Village, The (See **Capitola Village**)

Waikiki-of-the-West. Nickname for Capitola in the late 1940s. It was apparently started by **Esther Rice** who, with her husband **Russell Rice**, operated the Capitola **Airport**. She would greet arrivals with leis made from local flowers.

Washburn, Henry L. (1889-1972) For 37 years (1917 to 1955) Washburn was director of the University of California Agricultural Extension Service in Santa Cruz County. He showed farmers how to improve farming practices, conducted forestry tours, promoted soil conservation, and helped establish the local Farm Bureau. He helped introduce the commercial growing of Christmas trees and helped established the poultry industry in Santa Cruz County. Washburn was an accomplished photographer and documented his work through photographs. In the middle 1900s he was one of the best-known people in the county. Washburn lived in Capitola (on Washburn Avenue) and later in Santa Cruz. (See "Henry Washburn To Retire As County Farm Director," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, February 3, 1955, p. 1; and "Henry L. Washburn Succumbs At Age 82," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, July 14, 1972, p. 1)

Washburn Avenue. A street in the **McCormick Tract** named for **Henry L. Washburn** (1889-1972), who had a home there in the early 1900s. (see above)

Washington, George. (1907-1987) Many people are surprised to learn that George Washington had a home in Capitola. Of course, it was NOT President Washington, but a man with the same name. A native of Canada, Washington worked as a structural engineer in San Francisco starting in 1927. The family kept a vacation home on Prospect Avenue in Capitola, and settled there permanently in 1964. In the 1970s Washington served as the Capitola City Engineer and as a member of the Planning Commission. (See "George Washington," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, June 10, 1987, p. A-12)

Water. Domestic water comes from two water departments: The **Soquel Creek Water District** and **Santa Cruz Municipal Utilities**. The latter serves only the western part of Capitola (west of 41st Avenue).

Water Fantasy (See **Capitola Water Fantasy**)

Water Taxi. An amphibious "duck" vehicle used to ferry patrons to the **Shadowbrook Restaurant** during its formative years. The vehicle picked up passengers in **Capitola Village** and drove them across **Soquel Creek** to the restaurant. It was good publicity and eliminated the need for patrons to negotiate the steep climb down to the restaurant from **Wharf Road** and back. This was before construction of the cable car. (See "Capitola Restaurant Offers Water Taxi Ride For Patrons," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, July 27, 1949, p. 10)

Watkins, Carleton E. (1829-1916) Famous 19th century California photographer and one of the first photographers (mid 1870s) to take pictures of **Camp Capitola**.

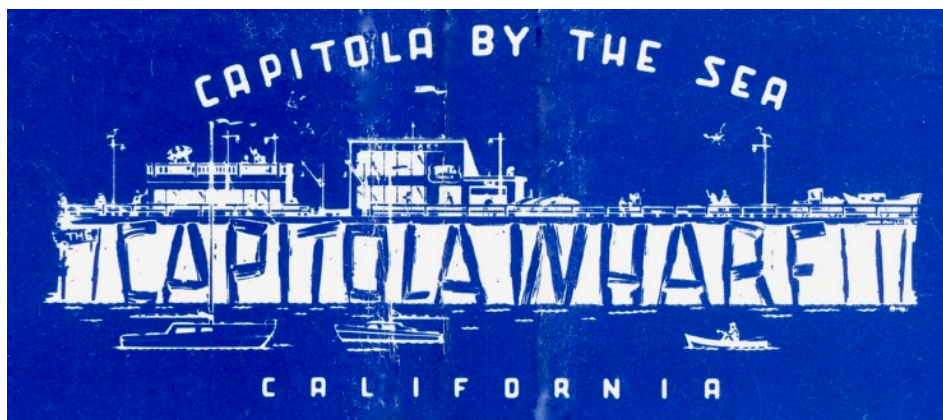
Watrous, S. W. (c1844-1898) Born in Massachusetts, photographer Stephen W. Watrous operated a photographic studio in Visalia before moving to the Capitola/Soquel region in the early 1890s. He photographed Capitola and other nearby areas over the next few years. In a letter to the *San Francisco Call*, July 18, 1895, p. 4, he reported on salmon fishing at Capitola and stated that about 1,600 people were camped there.

Wave Motor. A short-lived mechanical contraption erected on the Capitola **Wharf** in 1895-1896. Invented by Emil Gerlach and funded by San Francisco investors, it was supposed to use wave power to generate electricity. Gerlach had built a prototype in Long Beach before moving north. The waves were to strike paddles under the wharf which were to turn a fly-wheel and generator. The device was a failure and was removed in the spring of 1896. The effort was watched closely by the Armstrong brothers of Santa Cruz, however, who successfully built a wave-powered water pump on West Cliff Drive two years later. It, too, was known as the "Wave Motor." (See "An Apparent Success," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, March 4, 1896, p. 2; and "The Gerlach Wave Motor . . .," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, June 3, 1896, p. 2)

Wax Museum. See **Sorensen's House of Wax**

Webber, Edward E. (1914-1993) Commercial photographer based in Santa Cruz during the 1940s and 1950s. Webber photographed Capitola news events for the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* and published photo postcards of the town. One of his early employees was Vester Dick, who bought the commercial photography part of Webber's business in 1960. The business is now Covello & Covello Photography. (See "Edward E. Webber, longtime Sentinel photographer, dies," *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, April 9, 1993, p. A-10)

Whales (See **Sperm Whale** and **Humpback Whale**)



Wharf. The Capitola Wharf was built in 1857 by Sedgwick Lynch for **F. A. Hihn**. Although it has been damaged by storms and rebuilt many times, its location is the

same. Originally it was known as **Soquel Landing**, as Capitola did not yet exist. Its principal purpose was for shipping lumber from the hills behind **Soquel**. Later, use shifted to commercial and recreational fishing. Two especially noteworthy events were construction of a **wave motor** in 1895 and the loss of the wharf's mid section in a 1913 storm. Today, it is used entirely for recreational purposes and includes a restaurant, retail store, and boat rental facilities. In the 1970s both the wharf and the seabed under the wharf were acquired by the City of Capitola. (See *A Short History of the Capitola Wharf*, by Frank Perry, 3 p., 2016. In Capitola Museum files.)

Wharf history book (See *The Endearing and Enduring Capitola Wharf and Environs*)

Wharf Road. This is one of the oldest roads in Capitola. It runs from **Soquel** to the shoreline and was first used to haul lumber and other goods to the coast for shipping. It shows up on a map dated 1853.

Wharf to Wharf Race. A 6-mile running race from Beach Street in **Santa Cruz** along the coast to **Capitola Village**. First held in 1973, it was so popular that it has been held annually ever since on the fourth Sunday in July. Runners come from across the United States and the world. In 2016 there were 16,000 official participants.

Wolbach, Lulu (Hall) Green. (1850-1936) Born in Iowa, she came to California by way of Panama in 1855. She and her parents (Mr. & Mrs. **Samuel Alonzo Hall**) established **Camp Capitola** in 1874. She taught at several different schools and was very active in the temperance movement. She was also a composer and wrote several temperance songs. At the time of her death, she was the last surviving founder of the Congregational Church in **Soquel**. (See "Mrs. Lulu Walback [sic] Celebrates Her 84th Birthday," by Laura Rawson, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Jan. 26, 1934, p. 7; and "Mrs. Wolbach, Soquel Church Founder, Dies," *Santa Cruz Evening News*, May 11, 1936, p. 5)

Wood, Romanzo Erastus (1838-1925) R. E. Wood was an early California photographer who lived in Santa Cruz County during the 1870s and took some of the earliest photographs of **Camp Capitola**. His original glass-plate negatives are in the collection of California State University Chico.

Woodhouse, Everard V. (1881-1947) A native of Australia, E. V. Woodhouse, known as "Teddy" to his friends, moved to Capitola in 1913 to take the job of manager at the **Hotel Capitola**. Ten years later he purchased the hotel and was the owner when it burned in 1929. "Capitola residents who have known and loved him feel a personal loss for he has been closely identified with the seaside town, . . ." said his obituary. "His public spirit, as well as his devotion to children, made him an outstanding host

... ‘Teddy’ was a one-man chamber of commerce.” Although Everard was his first name, newspapers accounts sometimes used “Edward.” (See “Teddy Woodhouse of Capitola, Booster And Hotel Man, Dies,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Sept. 9, 1947, p. 1)

Works Progress Administration (WPA). A federal agency started during the Great Depression to put people to work building infrastructure. In 1937 WPA workers built new sewer lines in Capitola. (See “Construction Work on Capitola Sewer Lines To Begin on Thursday,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, March 9, 1937, p. 7)

“Your Capitola.” (mural) A mural on **Wharf Road** near the **railroad trestle** completed in 2010 by artist Jon Ton. The mural depicts the bay, beach, bridge, and begonia blossoms, and shows people walking along the road. It was commissioned by the **Capitola Art and Cultural Commission**. See also the companion mural, **“Our Capitola.”**

Yvonne’s. A women’s clothing store established in 1974 by Yvonne Zannis at the corner of Capitola and San Jose Avenues in **Capitola Village**. It is one of the oldest Village businesses and is located in a building that was once used by the **Post Office**.

Zelda’s. A restaurant at 203 Esplanade in Capitola. The restaurant opened in the late 1970s and now goes by the name **Zelda’s On The Beach**. See also **Ealy, John T., Jr.**

Zip Code. Capitola’s zip code has been 95010 since the inception of five-digit zip codes on July 1, 1963. Zip is an acronym for Zone Improvement Plan and replaced an earlier system of two-digit codes used only in larger cities.

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