

Capitola Sunset

Fall 2016

CAPITOLA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

NEWS, EVENTS & INFORMATION

Providing a future for our past.

Aptos Boy Scout Troop 609

By Niels Kisling

The begonia fields of the Golden State Bulb growers in Marina called out to us. Capitola Museum volunteers Stephanie Tetter, Jack Kisling, Kathleen Church and Deborah Lorber answered that call, meeting me early Saturday morning for the foggy drive south.

With the help and huge effort of Troop 609, we picked the blossoms that are used to decorate the hats, bikes, strollers and kids at Capitola Museum's annual Capitola Begonia Festival event called, Begonias-to-Go.

Koa the dog, brought her owner Dave Dominguez to Esplanade Park to get decorated at Begonias-to-Go.



The boy scouts helped us pick 350 flats of begonia blossoms. The blossoms were spread out more than usual this year, but there were plenty of beautiful flowers available—you just had to cover more territory. And cover more territory is just what these scouts did.



Volunteers Deborah Lorber and Jack Kisling enjoy a begonia moment together in the fields of Marina.

The Scout's tireless energy and enthusiasm was contagious. Kathleen Church and Deborah Lorber somehow, could not stop picking blossoms even after my van was full. The flowers continued to call out to them and these two ladies did not want to leave any blossom left behind. Soon Jack was addicted too, and could not stop.

We are honored by the great efforts of Boy Scout Troop 609. Their hard work and get-it-done attitudes got it done. And, they make it look easy. Thank you for helping the Capitola Museum and thanks another fine year together in Marina!



Troop 609 scouts and scout parents pose by a van full of begonia blossoms with Board Members Kathleen Church, Stephanie Tetter and Niels Kisling. Some scout pickers had already left to distribute blossoms to Village businesses and do not appear in this image.

Highlights of Begonias-to-Go



A Volunteer's Experience

By Pam Greeninger

Volunteering at the Capitola Historical Museum is always fun, but on a summer afternoon in August, I had an especially great afternoon with visits from a number of young children who enjoyed seeing the exhibit and coloring at the kid's table.

The young boy in this photo had just arrived from Korea to visit relatives in Sunnyvale. Although he couldn't speak English, he had lots of questions about the bicycle, cameras, and other things on display. His aunt spoke English and translated my answers to him. He spent quite a while coloring and he was so happy! His aunt and the others in his group had a hard time pulling him away from the coloring table, but they finally convinced him they had more to explore at the beach.



A little while later Violet, a young girl in a red Capitola Junior Lifeguard swimsuit, stopped by with her mom after Guards to see the exhibit. Violet's mom grew up in Capitola and enjoyed looking at all the wonderful photos

in the Ravnos Exhibit. Violet spent over half an hour coloring the beautiful picture she is holding in the photo.

The Capitola Historical Museum caters to young and old... if you haven't seen the current exhibit, please stop by and bring your kids and grandkids, too! You'll be happy you did.

History Fair is Coming to Town

The Capitola Museum will have a display at the History Fair, October 8, Noon to 4 p.m. at Loudon Nelson Community Center in Santa Cruz. Over 25 local museums, historical societies, local authors, and others will be participating. There will be old photos, artifacts, lectures, demonstrations, and activities for all ages. Anyone interested in local history will enjoy this event and, best of all, it is free!

The Day Capitola Closed

By Frank Perry

Many readers have probably heard stories or may even remember back when Capitola would practically close during the winter. The contract for photographer Ole Ravnos' concession in Capitola for 1913, on display in the current exhibition, is good evidence of this. It was only for the period June 1 to October 1.



Recently, I came across another interesting tidbit: a newspaper article from October 15, 1932. "Capitola Railroad Station is Closed for Winter Season," said the headline. "The Southern Pacific station at Capitola had today settled down for its long winter sleep. Emil Feldt, agent, closed the station yesterday and will not reopen it until May 15, next year."

Welcome Dave Peyton

Dave Peyton was recently appointed to serve on the Capitola Historical Museum Board. Dave has been a museum volunteer for a year and a half. Most know him as the go-to guy, volunteering his time and serving many public events in Capitola including (but not limited to) Capitola Rod and Custom Car Show, Capitola Begonia Festival and the recent Capitola Art and Wine Festival.



Dave literally has the 'key to the city' as the Capitola/Soquel Chamber of Commerce and the City of Capitola give him full access to the infrastructure needed to put on public events. He came in handy for the museum's 50th Birthday Celebration in July with his access to pop-up awnings, tables and chairs, and his broad, get-it-done enthusiasm.

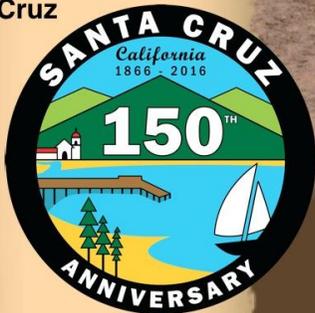
I know we will put Dave to work for the museum and the people of Capitola will benefit from his efforts. Welcome aboard Dave!

TIP: Pin this flyer to your fridge or bulletin Board. Then turn it over to display the other side after October 8.

Amah Mutsun
Relearning Garden
Archaeological
Research Center
Blue Plaque Program
Capitola Museum
Davenport Jail
Museum
Evergreen Cemetery
Friends of Santa Cruz
State Parks
Genealogical Society
of Santa Cruz
County
Ross Eric Gibson
Mobile Ranger
Norris Center for
Natural History
Peter Nurkse
Otter B Books
Quarry Amphiteater
Project, UCSC
Researchers
Anonymous
San Lorenzo Valley
Museum
Santa Cruz Archaeo-
logical Society
Santa Cruz County
History Journal
Santa Cruz Heritage
Foods Project
Santa Cruz Museum of
Art & History
Santa Cruz Museum of
Natural History
Scotts Valley Historical
Society
JoAnn Semones
Soquel Pioneer and
Historical Assoc.

And More!

**Co-Sponsored by
the City of Santa
Cruz**



Santa Cruz County

History Fair

Displays, Demonstrations, Lectures
Activities for all ages

Learn about local historic industries, archaeology, heritage foods, genealogy,
how to do historical research, the Native Americans, and much more!

Saturday, October 8, 2016, 12 noon to 4 p.m.

Louden Nelson Community Center, Santa Cruz

Free Admission



Sponsored by the Friends of the Cowell Lime Works
limeworks.ucsc.edu — (831) 459-3732



Don't miss it!

Dine at the world famous Shadowbrook Restaurant to support us!

Reservations are recommended!

JOIN THE CAPITOLA HISTORICAL MUSEUM BOARD AS WE CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE 50 YEARS BY DINING WITH US AT SHADOWBROOK ON

NOVEMBER 1

Community Tuesday Night

The Community Tuesday Program is an excellent opportunity for the Capitola Historical Museum to raise funds effortlessly while members and supporters socialize, network, and enjoy a delightful evening at an award-winning restaurant. Shadowbrook donates one-third of the evening's sales to our organization! Make your reservations directly with Shadowbrook Restaurant as early as 28 days prior to the event date above. In order to avoid confusion when making reservations, let the receptionist know who you are dining for. You may also wish to enjoy appetizers and cocktails in our Rockroom Lounge. By letting their server know their group affiliation; they may participate also. Any promotional prices; however, will not be applied.

Let the restaurant know you are dining for the Capitola Historical Museum

Dine in the Lounge or in the main restaurant - you choose!

SHADOWBROOK RESTAURANT

1750 Wharf Road
Capitola, Ca 95010

www.shadowbrook-capitola.com



Don Ramle www.ramle.net

TIP: Pin this flyer to your fridge or bulletin Board, displaying THE OTHER SIDE, until October 8. You can take this flyer down November 2.

The Story Behind the Photo

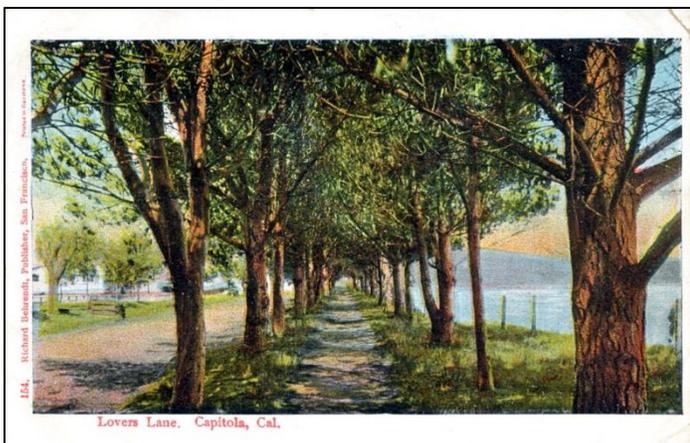
By Frank Perry

Many visitors to the “Photos by Ravnos” exhibit are curious about the photograph of Lover’s Lane on Depot Hill. It was taken in September of 1907. They are amazed to learn that the lane and two rows of trees have long since eroded away into the ocean.



Besides selling stock photos and documenting industries and events, Ole Ravnos also sold photos to postcard companies. His Lover’s Lane photo was reproduced by the Edward H. Mitchell company of San Francisco, one of the largest postcard publishers of the early 1900s. Mitchell published two versions of the postcard. One was titled “Some Happy Moments in Lover’s Lane near Capitola, California.” In another version, Mitchell omits Capitola from the caption so that the card could be sold over a wider geographic area.

One of Mitchell’s competitors, Richard Behrendt, published another Lovers Lane postcard around the same time, but the photographer is unknown. The photos were taken from roughly the same location, but the Ravnos image is more evocative because it has a man and woman as the “lovers.” The other shows only the rows of trees. Were they actually lovers? According to a handwritten note on the back of one postcard, the woman was Gertie Belle Reynolds of Stockton and the man was her cousin, Harry Reynolds of Capitola. Ravnos likely posed the couple so that the photograph would tell a better story.



Takin’ it to the Streets

By Niels Kisling

The Capitola Museum recently hosted a history display under the historic Canary Island Date Palm in Capitola Village during the Capitola Art and Wine Festival. It was a chance for the public to come out and tell us about history—and we always learn something new.

Our two-table display featured images of the old Capitola Theater, Hotel Capitola and The Esplanade before it was curved out towards the sea in 1920. This special image included the Six Sisters along with the Union Traction Company streetcar that ran until 1907.

One visitor recalls that her grandparents paid \$3500 for their ‘sister’ and then a few years later paid \$3500 for the lot in front of it that is now a lawn. When landowner H.A. Rispin curved the Esplanade out towards the sea, it opened up an opportunity for him to sell more Capitola land—the lots in front of the Six Sisters. All of the owners at the time were probably not interested in losing their ocean view and presumably they all purchased the lots to preserve their ocean front status.



The Capitola Museum display at the Capitola Art and Wine Festival always draws a crowd. We format the exhibit around interactive history where the public is encouraged to participate.

We also featured an aerial image from the 1940s looking from about New Brighton State Park (then called China Beach) towards Pleasure Point. The old Capitola Airport and the expanse of open land always stir up conversations about this image.

As we were trying to capture a date of the image, one visitor told us that her father developed the Beulah Housing Track (north of city hall) in 1955. In the image that land was not yet developed. The Capitola Airport appears to be open with eight airplanes surrounding the hangars. That puts the date before 1954 when the airport closed.

Ron Burke discovered that his neighbor’s house on 47th Avenue (built in the early 1940s) was not yet in the image. These clues put the date of the aerial image in context to a period *before* the early 1950s and *after* the early 1940s. Interactive history is fun and the Capitola Museum always learns when we take our exhibit to the streets.

Volunteer Potluck a Huge Success

By Kathleen Church

Thank you to all the many volunteers and potential volunteers who joined us on August 20th for the Volunteer Party Barbecue. Special thanks to our generous and gracious host, Stephanie Harlan, who went to a lot of effort to ensure a good time was had by all. The crowd was estimated to be more than 50 people, all with various connections to the Capitola Historical Museum and the City of Capitola.

The day started out down at City Hall with Frank Perry, Dave Peyton and Frank & Kathy Church loading up tables and chairs into the pick-up truck for the event. Stephanie Harlan and Stephanie Tetter met us at Stephanie Harlan's home and before we knew it the tables and chairs were in place and the tablecloths were on. The lush garden, colorful umbrellas, fresh flowers and our perfect California weather provided the ideal setting for a party!

Frank Church and Stephanie's neighbor, Scott Mayer, manned the barbecues and provided a steady supply of tri-tip, fish kabobs, hamburgers, hot dogs and chicken. As guests continued to arrive, the food tables became loaded down with an assortment of appetizing dishes. It was obvious no one would leave hungry!



Kathryn Parker, Cathlin Atchison, Stephanie Harlan, Kristen Petersen and Kali Mulligan are all smiles. Could it be the wine, or were they having a fine time, or both?

Music in the garden was provided by the talented Cabrillo College Orchestra.

Ron and Diane Graves diligently guarded the beer cooler thereby keeping the streets of Capitola safe from over indulgers. Unfortunately, no one was providing a similar service for the wine!

Capitola Museum Board Member, Gordon van Zuiden and his wife, Michele, had recently returned from their trip to Norway, hot on the trail of Ole Ravnos' early history. Gordon entertained us with interesting and humorous stories of what they had discovered.

We know everyone enjoyed the chance to get together. The Capitola Historical Museum is very fortunate to have such great volunteers. Without these dedicated people we would not be able to keep our doors open. Thank you all and we look forward to our next get together!

The Capitola Museum has recently received generous donations from:

Bruce and Doreen Arthur, in memory of Marshall Greeninger

Cadillac Designs (for birthday banners)

Diane and Steven Burbank	Al and Marian Carlson
Capitola Hotel	Michael & Barbara Clark
Robert T. Deacon	Craig and Mimi French
Jan Jensen	Lynn Lance
Joan Gilbert Martin	Dave and Carol Matson
Paul Parsons	David Peyton
Ardith A. Porter	Barbara Reding
Susan & Nels Westman	Richard Wilson
Ken Wood	

Recently, the following artifacts were generously donated to the Capitola Museum:

Ronald A. Fritche: Photos of Capitola taken in the 1960s-1980s by Carl Fritche

Greg Fyvie: Drawings of Capitola by artist Robert Holter

Karen Nevis: Painting of the Capitola Wharf by Nicholas Solovioff

Ann Wagner: Old Begonia Festival Buttons

Thank you to all of our great volunteers for staffing the museum and contributing at special events. Volunteerism is a gift to yourself and your gift to the community.

Capitola Sunset is published by:

The Capitola Historical Museum
410 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA 95010

Website: www.capitolamuseum.org
E-Mail: capitolamuseum@gmail.com
Volunteer blog: capitolamuseumblog.weebly.com
Telephone: 831-464-0322

Museum Hours:
Thursday through Sunday, 12 to 4 P.M.

Curator: Frank Perry

Board Members: Kathleen Church, Pam Greeninger (Secretary), Niels Kisling (President), Kristen Petersen (Treasurer), David Peyton, Stephanie Tetter (Vice President) & Gordon van Zuiden