

Capitola Sunset

Fall 2017

CAPITOLA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

NEWS, EVENTS & INFORMATION

"Providing a future for our past"

Capitola Christmas Connections

By Frank Perry

The best thing about being curator of the museum is that every day I learn something new about Capitola history.

Recently I discovered a newspaper article from December 1926 that mentions both my mother and my aunt participating in a Sunday School Christmas program at the Episcopal Church. Other children participating were Viola and Vivian Vetterle, daughters of the pioneer begonia grower Everett Vetterle, and Jean Lincoln, member of another prominent bulb-growing family in Live Oak.

The article says that "E. V. Woodhouse was Santa Claus." Having read up on Mr. Woodhouse, I am not surprised. He was owner of the Hotel Capitola and, although he and his wife had no children, they loved to entertain the Capitola kids with Easter egg hunts and Halloween programs, etc.



Ted Woodhouse poses with the children and their Easter Baskets. He and his wife had no children, but they loved to host Holiday events like this one. This image was taken outside of the Hotel Capitola.

"Shepherds' crooks were given by Miss Martha Lewis and Frazier Lewis." Both were the grown children of Patty Reed Lewis, famous survivor of the Donner Party. The

Lewis Family settled in Capitola in 1880 and they were innkeepers. They helped establish the Episcopal Church on Depot Hill. Frazier Lewis later became a well-known candy manufacturer. My mother mentioned knowing Martha Lewis but she did not know of the Donner Party connection.



The Episcopal Church on Depot Hill was built in 1899 with help from the Lewis family. The building was sold in 2007 and is now a private residence.

Last, the article says that "Miss Lillian Waghorn was in charge of the music." Miss Waghorn was involved with the church for many years, and my mother often spoke of her. Mom took me on a visit to Miss Waghorn when I was quite young. By then she was very elderly (at least to me) and lived in a tiny cottage on the west edge of Schwann Lagoon. Of course, being only 8 years old or so, I found the visit very boring. How I wish now that I could somehow go back in time and interview her! She worked for the land title office, so she probably knew a lot about Capitola real estate and development in the 1920s and 1930s. I could ask her about the Lewises, Mr. Woodhouse, and maybe Mr. Rispin.

Although we can't go back in time, at least we can preserve memories from today, memories that generations in the future will thank us for recording.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Speaking of memories . . .

The museum has added five more video oral histories as part of the Capitola Memories Project:

- Artist **Frank Hill** tells about growing up in Capitola during the 1930s and 1940s and about his career as a cartoonist.
- **Nancy Lenox** grew up around Capitola in the 1960s and 1970s and shares some of her experiences during the “hippie era.”
- **Barbara McCrary** recalls riding her horse through the waves at New Brighton Beach in the 1940s.
- **Robley Levy** shares her perspective as a member of the Board of Supervisors during the 1980s.
- We have also added a second interview with the late **Tom King**. This was an interview conducted by Carolyn Swift in 2007. Tom talks about the famous Lodge sisters, about staying at the Hotel Capitola, and teaching food preparation at Cabrillo College.

To watch the interviews, go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search any of those names for those names and the “Capitola Historical Museum.”

Capitola Museum Outreach

By Niels Kisling

Your Capitola Museum participated in the recent Capitola Art and Wine Festival by setting up an interactive display in the village near the historic Canary Islands Date Palm. This is the same palm tree that Ted Woodhouse transplanted to its current site across the street from the Hotel Capitola in the 1920s. But, that’s another story.



This aerial image was taken by George Lawrence with a 49 pound camera attached to a kite flying high above Santa Cruz in 1906. It was taken shortly after the Casino and Salt Water Plunge burned.

Our display this year featured an aerial image taken from a kite flying over Santa Cruz by well-known Illinois photographer and aeronautical inventor, George Lawrence. The image is over five feet long and we held a drawing which was won by Joe and Josie Melo (one ‘L’). They live on Monterey Avenue and attend St. Joseph’s church. Joe was delighted to get our phone call telling him that he won, shortly before heading down to the village for a second look at the Art and Wine Festival on Sunday.

Our Mayor and Capitola Museum volunteer, Stephanie Harlan, drew the winning ticket and later presented Joe and Josie with their drawing prize of the mounted George Lawrence image, *Santa Cruz 1906*.



Lawrence is probably most famous for his image of San Francisco taken shortly after the great earthquake of 1906. This image netted him \$15,000 in 1906 dollars which is about \$400,000 today—for one image.

After shooting the San Francisco image, Lawrence took the train to Santa Cruz to see if he could capture other great images on the coast. A few days after he got here, the Boardwalk’s Casino and Salt Water Plunge buildings burned to the ground. The image that he captured from about 1000 feet above Santa Cruz, with his 49 pound camera suspended from a kite, clearly shows the pile of rubble.

George Lawrence also shot aerial images of San Jose, Salinas and Pacific Grove from his kite in the summer of 1906. He was truly ahead of his time.

To read more about George Lawrence go to Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_R._Lawrence.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of the people who participated in the drawing and supported the museum with great stories and generous donations. The Capitola Museum belongs to the community and we cannot do what we do without you.



Mayor and Capitola Museum Volunteer, Stephanie Harlan, presented our lucky drawing winner with the George Lawrence aerial image, *Santa Cruz 1906*. Joe and Josie Melo were delighted to win the print which will hang in their home on Monterey Avenue.



Don Ramis www.ramis.net

Curating Capitola's Past

By Frank Perry

Like most museums, we have more items than we can display at any one time. And like ALL museums, there is the challenge of cataloging and organizing the collections so that the artifacts are properly preserved, yet can be easily retrieved for use in special exhibits, historical research, and other programs.

Since March, the museum has greatly benefited from the expert assistance of Madeline Horn. Madeline and Curator Frank Perry have been working hard to improve the organization and level of care for the collections—everything from begonia buttons to Moo Cow milk bottles. Madeline grew up in Live Oak, just down the road from Capitola, so she has a personal interest in preserving Capitola's past. "I love history, and I love Capitola Village."



Madeline Horn works on the museum's image collection at Capitola Self Storage. Photographic images are the backbone of the museum's history collection and Madeline is making sure that we know what we have, and that we know where to look for it when we want to find it.

Madeline earned a master's in museum studies from San Francisco State University with a specialty in collections management and has many years of experience working in museums. She has worked for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, the Oakland Museum of California, the California Academy of Sciences, Peralta Hacienda Historical Park in Oakland, and the Museum of TV and Radio in New York. She also cataloged archaeological artifacts for the Museo Nacional de Sican in Peru.

For Madeline, working for the Capitola Museum has rekindled many wonderful memories of growing up in the area, including hanging out at Mr. Toots and eating Polar Bear Ice Cream. "I loved the Capitola Theater and went to double features there all the time."

One of her jobs has been to reorganize the Museum's Begonia Festival collection of posters and memorabilia, which reminded her of coming with her grandparents to

see the floats under construction the night before the festival. Madeline has also organized the Karen Nevis photograph collection, with help from volunteers (and board members) Stephanie Tetter and Kathleen Church.

Madeline is pleased to be living in Live Oak again and to be helping the Capitola Historical Museum. "I find this job very gratifying because it is making the items in the collection more accessible and preserving them better for future generations. It is so interesting to learn more about the history of this wonderful little town."

Dining for Dollars at Shadowbrook

Pam Greeninger, your Capitola Museum Secretary and Volunteer, has arranged for another Community Tuesday Program event at Shadowbrook Restaurant on November 7. The event raises money for the museum while you get to dine in the warm and unique atmosphere that only Shadowbrook can deliver.

Make a reservation up to 28 days in advance by calling ahead to 475-1511. Please mention that you are dining for the Capitola Historical Museum and Shadowbrook will generously donate 33% of your bill to the museum. Last year's event raised a donation from Shadowbrook of over \$536, which went towards *Providing a Future for our Past*.



If you plan on taking 'The Duck' to Shadowbrook, you are about 65 years too late. This amphibious vehicle purportedly sank in the kelp beds just off the beach in Capitola early one morning after a very good party. It may still be out there.

Walk-ins are welcome the night of the event. If you choose to eat a lighter meal in the Rock Room lounge, please mention to your server that you are supporting the Capitola Historical Museum so that one third of your bill gets donated. The donation to the museum, however, will not apply on any promotional prices, such as the Two-Fer Tuesday promotion.

This is an excellent opportunity to have a night out for dinner at Shadowbrook while supporting your Capitola Museum. A win-win for everyone! Board members will be dining after our Museum Board meeting about 7 p.m.

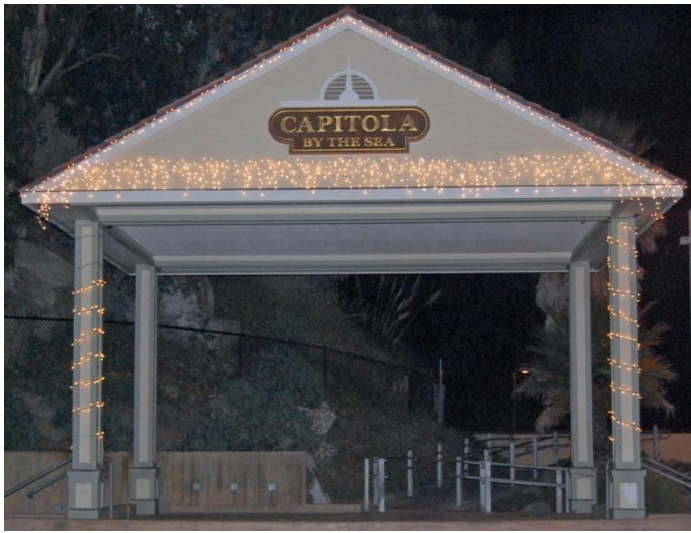
We hope to see you there!

iSKATE Capitola is Coming to Town

By Niels Kisling

Whether you are naughty or nice you will have the chance to go ice skating in Capitola Village during this Holiday Season. A temporary ice skating rink called, iSKATE Capitola, will be set up in Esplanade Park and the skating begins December 15 and runs through January 7, 2018.

The synthetic ice is made of interlocking panels of a high-tech plastic material that will give the feel of skating on real ice without the water waste and energy cost of ice. The skating experience is said to be the same as on real ice. This is an open air skating rink complete with piped-in Holiday music and the Capitola Village Christmas tree set up as a background display on the Bandstand Stage.



The Capitola Bandstand will be even more festive this December with a lighted Christmas tree, Holiday music in the background, and the flurry of ice skaters using the iSKATE Capitola skating rink.

Corrie Sid, owner of the Capitola Hotel, played a key role in bringing the holiday ice skating rink to Capitola Village. "I'm obsessed with the history of Capitola and finding a way to honor that past has been a driving force for me. Bringing this event to our village during the holiday season seemed like the perfect way to celebrate our amazing community! iSKATE Capitola is a community building effort and we hope that locals flock to Capitola Village during this amazing time of year."

iSKATE Capitola will run three skating sessions per day from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Sunday. Admission is \$10 and ice skate rentals will be available for \$5 or visitors may bring their own.

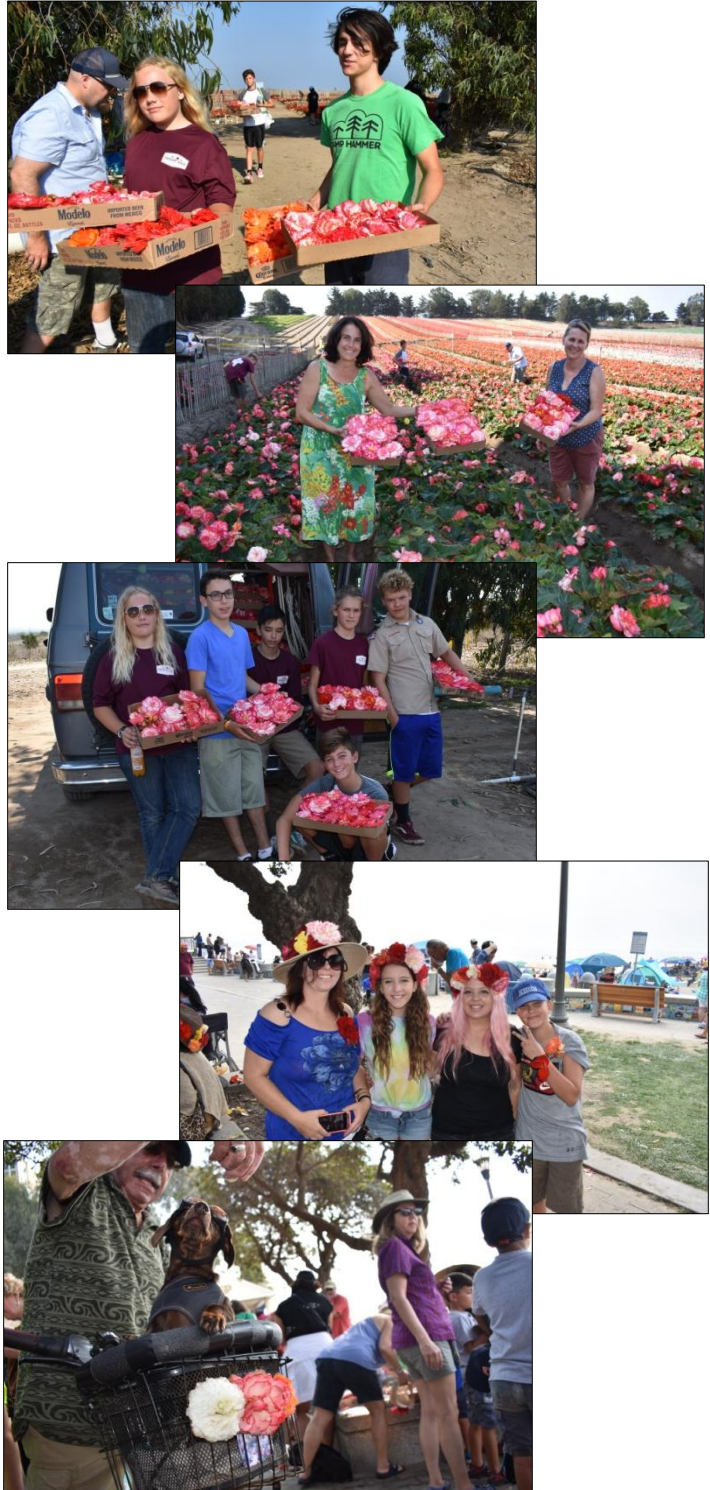
For more information log into the Capitola Village Association's web page at:

<http://www.capitolavillage.com/ice-skating-capitola/>

Begonias Took a Bow

By now everyone in town knows that this year's Begonia Festival was our last one. What you may not know is that the Capitola Museum could not host our event called, Begonias-to-Go without the help of Boy Scout Troop 609 from Aptos. They tirelessly worked alongside museum volunteers in incredibly hot conditions to fill our van with begonia blossoms to the delight of Begonias-to-Go event participants the next day.

Participants decorated hats, baby strollers, dogs and bikes with the begonia blossoms picked the day before by Boy Scout Troop 609. Thank you scouts!



Volunteer Spotlight ~ Mary Hay

By Pam Greeninger

Join me in welcoming Mary Hay to our growing group of museum volunteers. Mary is not new to Capitola or to the many community events we enjoy. Mary was born and raised in the bay area and moved to Capitola from Vacaville in 2003. She started working part time at the Capitola-Soquel Chamber of Commerce while continuing her degree program at U.O.P. (University of Phoenix).



During the time Mary worked for the Capitola-Soquel Chamber, she learned to love the city she now called home. Mary really enjoyed being involved in the various chamber events and, as Administrative Assistant to the CEO, her duties included recruiting volunteers and artists for the Capitola Art and

Wine Festival, working with members of the Capitola Public Safety Foundation in coordinating the Capitola Rod & Custom Car Show including registration, recruiting volunteers and working at the event. Included in her chamber duties, Mary was involved with the local S.C.O.R.E. group that provides assistance to small businesses, and she received a commendation for her community efforts on their behalf.

During a short stint volunteering at the Capitola Senior Center for their Sunday morning breakfasts, Mary met a recently retired gentleman who was looking to get involved in the community. She recruited him to assist staff at the chamber. That now well-known figure to just about every major event in Capitola is Dave Peyton. Although Dave's computer skills were sometimes lacking, he made up for it with his incredible people skills and his ability to coordinate complicated logistics for events.

Mary's career has been one of continuing customer service. Since moving to the mobile home park she has resided in since 2010, Mary has served on the Board of the Residents' Association, has presided as president for several terms and enjoys volunteering on the Social Committee. In addition, Mary has been trained to serve as a Volunteer in Policing (VIP) for the Capitola Police Department. For many years she volunteered with Dave Dominguez on New Year's Eve for the "Safe Ride Home Program." Mary also continues to assist the Capitola Police Department staff with the National Night Out event in August every year.

While volunteering on the Capitola Begonia Festival Committee, life came full circle when her friend Dave Peyton, museum board member and volunteer, then

recruited her to be a museum volunteer. She was happy to learn more about the history of the community she loves. Mary truly values the many benefits of community volunteering and enjoys being able to provide great "customer service" to the many museum visitors and all the people she comes in contact with. We are so happy to have Mary volunteering at the museum.

Donations in Memory of Ardith Porter

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Ardith Porter in August. In the 1980s she served on the Capitola Arts Commission and was instrumental in establishing the annual Twilight Concerts at the beach each summer. We thank her sister, Beth Porter, for urging that donations be made to the Capitola Museum. "She loved the museum," says Beth, "and had many happy memories of summers in Capitola."

Darlene Burnham
Deborah Choy
Helen K. Colquhoun
Marcia Fishman
Dee Howard
Francis M. Jordan
MacDowell & Family
Elizabeth Porter
Dale & Janice Sorensen
Theresa Watson

Jack & Mary Lou Cassingham
Rebecca P. Clark
Kimberly & Eric Delancey
Doreen Powers & William Green
Minna Hertel
Gary & Betty Kinoshita Shirley
Kathy Novelo
Carla Sarkisian
Evelyn Stuart
Mary Carla & Lyle Peterson

The Capitola Museum has recently received generous donations from:

Steven & Diane Burbank Michael & Barbara Clark
Robert T. Deacon/Monterey Bay Properties
Kathleen King Joan Gilbert Martin
Molly and Mickey Ording Paul Parsons
David Peyton Ow Family Properties
Debbie Vilotti

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

Stephen Graap: Seed packets from the Brown Bulb & Seed Ranch, Capitola, circa 1918.

David Gilkison: 1880s credenza and bamboo plant stand used for many years in the Lodge mansion, Capitola.

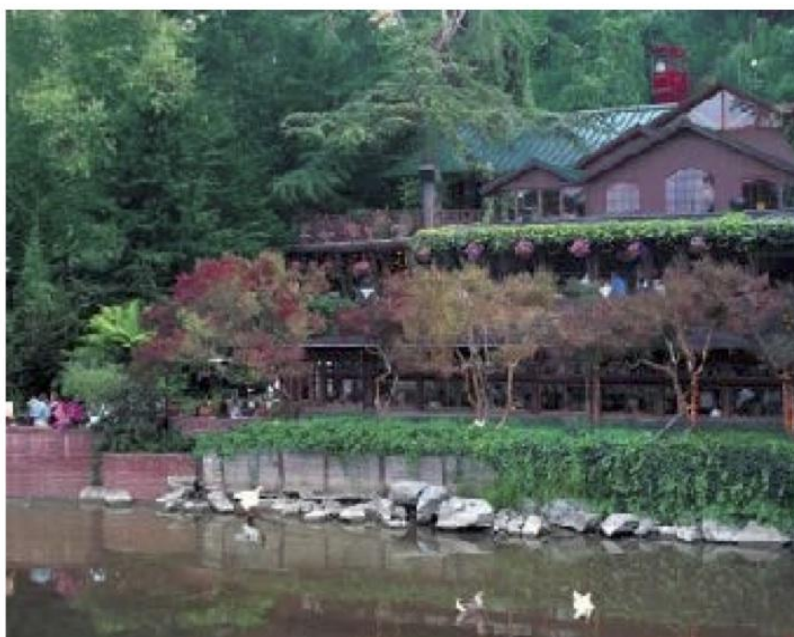
Stanley D. Stevens: two more volumes in the Hihn-Younger Archive series.



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Museum Hours: Thursday through Sunday 12-4 P.M.

Curator: Frank Perry
Board Members: Niels Kisling (President), Stephanie Tetter (Vice President), Pam Greeninger (Secretary), Kathleen Church (Treasurer), Georgette Neal, David Peyton and Gordon van Zuiden



Don't miss it!

**Dine at the world
famous Shadowbrook
Restaurant
to support us!**

**Reservations are
recommended!**

**JOIN THE CAPITOLA
HISTORICAL MUSEUM
BOARD FOR COMMUNITY
TUESDAY AT THE BEAUTIFUL
SHADOWBROOK
RESTAURANT**

NOVEMBER 7

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 the Rock Room ~ just let your server know you are dining for the Capitola Historical Museum. * Any promotional prices; however, will not be applied.

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

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

**SHADOWBROOK
RESTAURANT**

1750 Wharf Road
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www.shadowbrook-capitola.com

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*Note: Does not apply to
Two-Fer Tuesday Promotion