



CAPITOLA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Spring 2011

NEWS, EVENTS & INFORMATION

## New Exhibit Captures Time

The Capitola Historical Museum's newest exhibit, "Capitola History—It's About Time," opened right on schedule on Saturday, February 26.

Let's hear it for the cliché!

We've liberally sprinkled well-known and well-worn adages throughout the show for three reasons: Even though people like to scoff at them, clichés are a fast and effective means of communication. They make up in speed what they lack in freshness. And when used deliberately, they can also be a laugh a minute.

So there's not a moment to lose. A reception for the exhibit will begin at noon on Saturday, March 26, at the museum. Please come and join us for lemon cliché cake (you can have your cake and eat it too) and Martinelli's apple cider.

One of the show's best features is a collection of newly acquired 1890s images that once belonged to one of early Capitola's few year-round residents—fisherman Thomas Lindsay.

The Lindsay family—including Tom and his son, Athol (Tom) Lindsay—were well-known in the communities of Soquel and Capitola, residing for many years on Depot Hill and at New Brighton Beach.

The elder Lindsay started a seining (net fishing) company at New Brighton in 1894 when the cove

was known as China Beach, named for the small colony of Chinese fishermen that had previously leased it.

Some of the photographs in Tom Lindsay's collection are so awesome they inspire comments such as "What the heck is THAT!?!". And it's well worth the visit to come and see.

One component of the exhibit features heavy gear: airplanes, cannons, military trucks, ships, trestles, and trains. Another more relaxing focus is on Capitola's traditional role as a vacation resort, a popular place to camp and run barefoot, and a fashionable retreat where "a day at the beach" meant walking the strand in the latest summer styles.

A final theme salutes the photographers who, with their camera artistry, give us the opportunity to travel through time.



The Gerlach wave motor, captured and frozen in time in this photograph from the late 1800s, was built on Capitola Wharf. There are other rare photos of it featured in the new exhibit.

## The Museum's New Archive Space

Everyone finds value in the things they remember. All of our attics and drawers contain little things that we like to see occasionally, to share and show to others. Likewise, the Capitola Museum has many things we, as a community, have found to be valuable, too. Like the things in our attics, keeping all those artifacts safe and usable takes up space. It also takes people to oversee their proper safekeeping.

In recent years, the Capitola Museum's storage facilities have suffered a series of water leaks mainly due to aging of the trailers we use. Past fundraisers allowed us to keep the trailers in pretty good condition and keep our exhibits full of the wonders of Capitola's past.

Recently, the museum's storage has begun to fail and the museum board began a search for alternatives. Enter Craig French.

Much to the board's pleasure, Craig, along with his company Redtree Properties, offered storage space with almost everything our antiquities need; a dry, climate-controlled and secure space. While it is temporary for now, the museum wishes to salute Craig for stepping up to offer much-needed storage that is close to the museum itself.

Craig is no stranger to civic giving of this sort nor to volunteering in general. Craig is past president of the Santa Cruz County Cultural Council. He is a member of the Economic Advisory Councils for both cities of Santa Cruz and Capitola. He also participates in the City of Santa Cruz Technology Task Force, and is a director of Lighthouse Bank, a locally-owned banking institution.

The museum is still working out the details of a longer-term storage arrangement but Craig's generosity has given the museum board precious time to find a permanent solution.

Visit us on line at [www.capitolamuseum.org](http://www.capitolamuseum.org)

The Capitola Historical Museum is indeed Capitola's attic. We need to be sure our treasures are preserved for everyone. Our hats are off to Craig French and Redtree Properties for contributing to the effort!

Editor's note: Congratulations to Craig French who was recently voted Capitola's Man of the Year for 2011.

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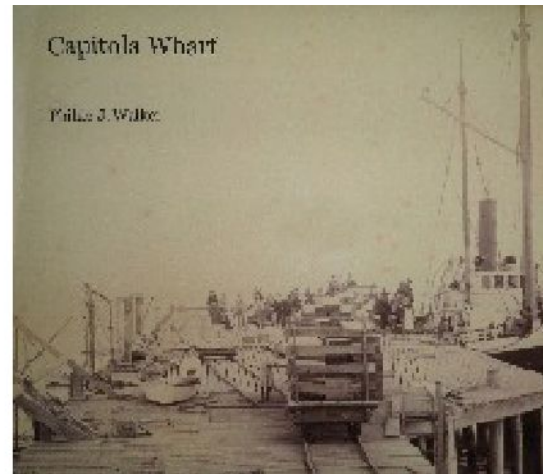
## Book Review: Capitola Wharf

The Capitola Wharf, the village's oldest structure, has always been a favorite landmark. Phil Walker, former Capitola Mayor and Capitola Historical Museum founder, has collected stories and photographs for many years and recently completed a book.

Capitola Wharf is a 160-page,

small format, coffee table publication, illustrated with historical photos collected by Phil and his son, Rex. Included are rare images of schooners, freighters, launches, lateen-rigged sailboats, and other vessels that frequented Capitola since its days as Soquel Landing.

The author introduces some of the wharf's best remembered personalities, including the fishermen of the Italian fishing colony, Captain George Mitchell, Tom Lindsay and the "Three Pelicans"—Red Adams, Tom Shanahan, and Paul White. The book is dedicated to "all the old Pelicans who have roosted on the Capitola Wharf." Walker's text covers the history of the wharf through the 1960s. It features narration based both upon research and the voices of longtime Capitola residents who share their favorite wharf memories. The book, available through [blurb.com](http://blurb.com), will be a valued treasure for all collectors of Capitola history.



## Every Museum Needs a Friend

### Donor Spotlight on Marvin Jensen

Every museum needs a friend. Marvin Jensen is just that. He has given us many images over the years, including the George Vogt photograph that adorns the cover of the museum's book "The Grand Hotel Capitola." Marvin recently donated a painting of the Lent house painted by his father-in-law George Washington in the late 1960s.

Marvin's roots in Capitola can be traced back to Harry and Mary Wade who traveled west with The Death Valley Wagon Train in 1849. Although he married into that family, Marvin himself was born and raised in San Francisco and started coming to Capitola in 1950. He opened a structural engineering firm here with Washington in 1970.

The home on Prospect Avenue that he and his children still own is on one of three lots that were purchased by his in-laws in 1905. Two of those properties still belong to the original families 106 years later.



Marvin donated this oil painting of the Lent house recently. It was painted in the late 1960s by his father in law, George Washington, who lived down the street at 1430 Prospect Avenue.

The majority of items that Marvin shares with the museum and with the community are photographs taken by George Vogt. George, who died in 1936, worked at Mt. Hamilton and he took many photos from Lick Observatory in the late 1800s. The Vogt collection also includes many images taken during the aftermath of the San Francisco earthquake in 1906.

One of the reasons the images are so vivid is that they were captured in large format with a big bellows camera. The negatives are 5x7 or 6x8. Marvin recalls having the honor of using that very same camera to take photos years after George Vogt passed on.

The Capitola Historical Museum is lucky to have someone like Marvin donating these images that capture time so we can preserve them forever and share them with the community.

Visit our new exhibit, Capitola History—It's About Time, during open hours 12 to 4 p.m., Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

**New Acquisitions**—Additions to the museum's archives were kindly given by the following:

- Norm Davis—stone litho photo of Capitola
- William Glover—child's "Capitola" rental swimsuit (just like one photo-featured in the new exhibit!) and wooden sign from the "Watson" cabin on Riverview
- Catherine Kerr—serving tray (c1912) from the Ivy Cottage Saloon on Wharf Rd. that served Capitola from the 1890s until Prohibition and several copies of photos
- John Nicol—several historical photos
- Don Ramie, Fremont Graphic Artist—donated his time to create our new masthead for this newsletter
- Stan Stevens—copies of several photos, two volumes of letters of Coleman and C.B. Younger archives, and electronic Hihn records from the Hihn-Younger archives



#### Blast from the Past:

The Capitola Wharf was once much longer than it is today. Winter storms took more than 35 feet off the end of the wharf in February 1983. Waves broke clean over the wharf deck, blowing out the windows of the restaurant building and 'fire hosing' out through the front door. Most of the debris was deposited on Capitola Beach. The rest went down-coast towards New Brighton beach and beyond. The tip of the wharf was cleverly rebuilt using steel batter piles and shaped like a boat's "prow" to help deflect future storm waves and flotsam.



## Volunteer Spotlight: David Shoaf

Welcome back to one of our former board members and a past president of the museum board. David Shoaf has been a resident of Capitola for the better part of 15 years. In that time, he has been a consistent volunteer at many events such as the Art and Wine Festival and many beach cleanups.



“One thing that volunteering does is allow you to feel that you have put down roots in a community,” says David. There was a moment when he knew there was more to volunteering than just picking up trash on a beach. “When I arrived in Capitola in the mid-’90s, I wandered down to the village one Sunday afternoon in September only to find a bunch of gaily-decorated floats in the creek. I had no idea that Capitola threw all sorts of fun civic events like that.”

Fast forward some months later and David was on the Capitola Begonia Festival board where he served as vice president for almost seven years. “We did all sorts of fundraisers and dealt with many issues that could have derailed one of Capitola’s most historic festivals. That’s the nature of volunteering: Do what you love!”

“Another good thing about volunteering is that you can choose the kinds of things you do that match your interest.” Back when the Capitola Theater still existed, David was on the board of the Bay Shore Lyric Opera. David built sets and handled many logistical issues for the group that staged classical operas. “I got invited to sing but I didn’t really feel that was my strong point. I’m far better with a hammer and nails.”

Currently David is a board member of the Jazz Society of Santa Cruz County and plays saxophone at many venues around Santa Cruz with his Little Big Band. He also plays in the Cabrillo Big Bands. “Here again, I love to play music and I have found volunteering activities that allow me to express myself and to have fun doing it!”

“We are glad to have David step up again to be a board member of the Capitola Historical Museum,” said Carolyn Swift. “In the past he’s demonstrated that he knows how to get things done and we are glad to have him back.”

Currently, David works as a consultant with NetApp, a network storage vendor in Sunnyvale where he helps develop product definition and requirements.

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## Acknowledgments

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