

Yount Surf Shop Blue Plaque Recognition at the MAH  
(Museum of Art and History) on 05/11/2019



Kim Stoner wearing a Yount t-shirt with the Yount Surfboards Blue Plaque at the Museum of Art and History event

5/10/2019

## Coast Lines

### SANTA CRUZ

#### Blue Plaque awards set for Saturday

Join friends, family, local history buffs and neighbors to celebrate the 2019 Blue Plaque Awardees from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday at the Museum of Art & History, 705 Front St. Blue Plaques are awarded to structures in Santa Cruz County that are at least 50 years old and hold historic significance. From banks to iconic Victorian-era houses there's always more to discover around every corner. Hear about the interesting research and personal stories related to the Blue Plaque recipients. In addition to Watsonville's Buddhist Temple, the year's highlights include two early surf shops: Yount Surfboards and Johnny Rice Surfboards. A certificate of appreciation will be presented to the Beach Flats Community Garden for preserving history and culture. The Santa Cruz Historic Preservation Commission will also recognize four individuals for exceptional stewardship of historically unique homes.

Santa Cruz Sentinel notice of Blue Plaque awards event



Street view of the old former Yount Surf Shop location on Soquel Ave.



Side view of old former Yount Surf Shop



Close up of Blue Plaque mounted on building

## **Yount Surfboards history - by Geoffrey Dunn**

One of the most popular and talented early surfboard shapers in Santa was Gale Yount, a 1962 graduate of Santa Cruz High, who began shaping boards in his parents' Eastside home when he was just 15.

Yount's operation was a family affair. His brother Darrell also helped him shape boards, while his father, Arthur, a postman, glued all of his stringers in the family garage. Other shapers who worked for Yount included Bill Holden, the legendary George Olson and Jim Foley. (Yount's older brother Dick was a well-known musician as a member of the Tikis and, later, Harpers Bizarre).

The company's definitive logo—shaped like a football and proclaiming Surfboards by Yount—was designed by local artist Jim Phillips.

A respected waterman as well as a basketball aficionado (he played varsity hoops at Santa Cruz High), the tall and lanky Yount started his operation in his family's Pennsylvania Ave. garage. Soon after he graduated from high school, Yount sponsored the West Wind Surfing Club (of Capitola) that included a host of young local surfers, including Jimmy Dinsmore, Mike and Ronnie Machado, Rick Karleen, Billy Jones, Mark Angell (later to become a famous shaper in his own right), and club president David Adams.

Gale Yount himself was one of the best early board men in the region. In the 1964 Begonia Festival paddle race, judged by Jack O'Neill, Yount came in third. Later that year he came in second place in the first annual surf contest between the Santa Cruz Surfing Association and West Wind, held at Steamer Lane. The following year, in a rematch between the two clubs, he tied for first.

In 1963, Yount expanded his surfboard operations to an abandoned workshop on Soquel Ave, near the juncture of 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Two years later Doug Haut took over Yount's Eastside operation, while Yount himself joined the Coast Guard, shipping off to Groton, Connecticut, never to return. In July of 1966 an ad appeared in the classified section of the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* selling "4 Yount Surfboards," ranging in price from "\$95 to \$150." It was a closeout sale; Surfboards by Yount were no more.

After completing his tour of duty in the Coast Guard, Yount eventually opened up a widely respected yacht repair company on the Connecticut coast. He became known for the mirror-like finishes of his paint and fiberglass work. He died in 1990, at the age of 46, after a long bout with lymphoma.

Yount surfboards are now coveted collector's items. One of his rare boards can be seen on display at Cowell's Surf Shop, located at 30 Front Street, by the beach in Santa Cruz. Also, one of his boards is displayed in the Santa Cruz Surfing Museum at Lighthouse Point.



SURFBOARDS BY YOUNT

324 Pennsylvania Avenue  
2701 Soquel Avenue

SANTA CRUZ

- PRICE LIST -

Under 8' 10" .....	\$ 95
Over 8' 10" to 9' 10" .....	100
Over 9' 10" to 10' 6" .....	105
Over 10' 6" to 12' .....	120

- CONSTRUCTION -

HIGH DENSITY POLYURETHANE FOAM  
3/4" REDWOOD STRINGER OR 1" BALSA STRINGER  
INSET GLASS, OR WOOD FIN WITH BEAD  
CHOICE OF DOUBLE 10 oz. CLOTH  
DOUBLE 8½ oz. CLOTH  
OR ANY COMBINATION OF THE TWO

- EXTRAS -

COLOR STRIPES .....	\$ 1.50/a Stripe
COLOR TAPE OFF .....	5.00/a Side
STRINGERS REQUIRING EXTRA CUT ...	5.00
STRINGERS NOT REQUIRING EXTRA CUT.	4.00
EXTRA BALSA .....	2.00/an Inch
REDWOOD TAIL BLOCK .....	3.00
CLARK FOAM Available .....	

1964 - Yount price list



1964 - Yount Surf Shop on Soquel Ave.



1964 – Gayle Yount shaping a surfboard inside his shop on Soquel Ave.



Classic Yount Surfboard



Logo glassed in the deck of the above page surfboard photo



Yount Surfboards sticker

Photos and images in this Yount Surfboards history summary were provided by Kim Stoner, Don Iglesias, and Geoffrey Dunn.





1964 - Gale Yount surfing Steamer Lane point surf break

Wed., Sept. 30, 1964

### New Taste Pecue Sauce

1½ teaspoon salt  
 ¼ teaspoon pepper  
 ¼ teaspoon dry mustard  
 ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper  
 1 bay leaf  
 2 cloves garlic, crushed  
 Combine all ingredients in saucepan; simmer 15 minutes.

"Pancake Tuesday" is an old British name for Shrove Tuesday.

These surfers conquered their waves and the admiration of the judges in a contest involving members of the Santa Cruz Surfing association and the West Wind Surf club of Capitola, Friday afternoon

off Lighthouse point. Shown here are the top winners, from left, Steve Scofield, first place trophy; Gale Yount, second; Dave Adams, third; and Robbie Biddle, fourth. The West Winds collected the highest number of points.

### Winners In Surfing Contest

### Santa Cruz Surfers Beat Capitola Unit

The first of a semi-annual surfing contest between the Santa Cruz Surfing association and the West Wind Surf club of Capitola, was held Friday in Steamer lane off Lighthouse point.

Capturing the first meet was the Santa Cruz group with 38 points, some 10 points above their rivals.

Judges were Scott Ferguson, David Kerr and Ed Dalbesio and refereeing the event was veteran surfer Sam Reid.

Winners were as follows: Steve Scofield, first and the trophy; Gale Yount, second; Dave Adams, third; Robbie Biddle, fourth.

Dave Thomas and Harold Duke tied for fifth; Ray Dalbesio and Bob Judd tied for sixth; Jeff Locke, seventh; Craig Troop, eighth; Rick Carleen and Barry Hanby tied for ninth and Tom Hickenbottom, tenth.

Seven stars appeared in the first national flag of the Confederate States of America.

Santa Cruz Sentinel article 9/30/1964 - Gale Yount (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) places 2<sup>nd</sup> in Surf Contest at Steamer Lane