



# Summer of '42: Then and Now

by Dave Friedman

Reviewed by Larry R. Wagner

Having just completed a photo documentation and book, *Mendocino County Mobile Memento*, for the Skunk Train, I found Friedman's collections of photos in his book, *Summer of '42*, fascinating. *Summer of '42* is one of the best, if not the best, coming-of-age flicks ever made. Anyone who has seen '42 will never forget the raging hormones of Hermie, Oscy and Benjie in their quest for losing their innocence with local high school girls or the bittersweet moments of Hermie with Dorothy after the death of her husband in World War II.

Dave Friedman was Still Photographer for the filming of the movie here in Mendocino. His book is a documentation of the making of *Summer of '42*. Many of the photos were taken while the cameras were rolling, capturing actual moments we saw on screen. Others are photos of the filming sites showing the cameras and lighting, snaps of the cast between shoots, or scenes used in the picture.

I enjoyed the book on three levels. First, Friedman's photography is first class. Some in color (though faded with time) and some in black and white are works of art in themselves. His portraits of Dorothy (Jennifer O'Neil) are particularly noteworthy. Jennifer did for *Summer of '42* what Julie Christie as Lara did for *Dr. Zhivago*.

Second, the photos he has included and his suc-

cinct descriptions of where and how the shots were taken and where they fit in the movie bring the film vividly back to mind. The movie is set on Nantucket's Packett Island where author Herman Raucher was the real life Hermie. Interesting that Mendocino can pass itself off as New England, but I doubt many viewers suspected. Most of the settings were buildings in Mendocino with just the décor changed to make them authentically 1942 (the film was shot in 1970). Only Dorothy's home on the Headlands (for some reason Friedman calls the area the Highlands) was a set that was torn down after the filming.

Third, it is always fascinating to see where the movie was shot and how those areas have or have not changed over the forty years since the filming. I suspect a lot of people will buy this book and use it as a tour guide for a walk around Mendocino. Most of the buildings are still there – some still painted the same color. The Mendocino Hotel, Mendocino Jams and Jellies, the Art Center and the building that houses Artists Co-op are just a few of the sites used.

The book is carried by the Mendocino Art Center's gallery shop.

*From August 5 – 29, the Main Gallery exhibit at the Mendocino Art Center will be a retrospective of Dave Friedman's Summer of '42 photographs.*