

# RANCHO BODEGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Around Bodega Harbor

by Susan Teel - 2013

**Porto Bodega** was an early resort and wooden pier for smaller boats from before 1900 at the mouth of Johnson's Gulch. Many additions later, it was Shaw's Marina and now Porto Bodega. Bay Flat Road ran between the marina and the cabins before the construction of Westshore Road. The construction of Westshore Road was completed by PG&E during their attempt to build a nuclear power plant on the land known as Campbell Cove.

**Diekmann's Bay Store**, the original store at the bottom of the hill in "The Birds" movie, sat where the present store parking deck is now located at the foot of Taylor Street. It burned in 1963, just after the post office moved from this site to near Windy Lane. It was a one-storey store/gas station that grew to rooms upstairs (1930's, because of the prohibition law), a bigger bar, called the Blue Room because of its blue glass windows, and a hardware store on the south (1940s). The rectangular concrete form on the mud flats was an oil fired, steam heated salt water swimming pool with wide wooden steps descending from the store in the 1920's. (Glenice Carpenter.)



**The Bodega Bay Creamery** was a working creamery before 1900, receiving and shipping dairy products to San Francisco. It was incorporated on July 12, 1912, and continued as such until 1916, when it merged with the Bodega Creamery. Together they were called the Bodega Cooperative Creamery. (George & Nancy Foot.) There are tales of a profitable bootlegging business from 1919 to 1933 when Canadian whiskey was brought up under the building and repackaged in milk cans for shipment down to San Francisco. Gun battles in the bay were to have occurred, but apparently the operation succeeded until the repeal of prohibition in 1933.

**The Brown/Slade House** was built in 1914 by Babe Wood's uncle, Peter Slusser, as a one-story upstairs house with the boat ways building in the water. The water tower seen from the highway is a visual landmark. (Janice Slade & Ruth Burke.)

**The Meredith/Eureka Fish Company** was a large building built in the early 1940's, concurrent with the dredging, by Lloyd Turnacliff. It processed abalone, then bottom fish, crab, shrimp, salmon and albacore. Shark and cod also crossed this wharf before the synthetic Vitamin A replaced that need. Lloyd tells of processed fish being sent out to the Navy ships anchored in the harbor during WW II in trade for cigarettes. Recently sea urchins were brought through this many gabled building, indicating some additions. (Lloyd Turnacliff & others.)



## AROUND BODEGA BAY

**Louie's/The Tides** is a commercial wharf. It is the site of the beginning of the Bodega Bay tourist industry, as early as 1926 with a refreshment stand, called the "Coast Camp". Louis Asman owned the wharf and started the party boat industry. Mitch and Wanda Zankich built the restaurant on the water after a 1960's fire. The Tides Wharf Restaurant and Gift Shop have been extensively remodeled since the Zankich building. Robert Bugatto expanded across the highway in the 1980s. Located there now is the Inn at the Tides Restaurant and Motel.



**Lucas Wharf** was a coffee shop on Highway 1 that was removed in the 1970's with a remodeling permit. This required an eight year effort to build the present restaurant. The wharf building was probably built in the 1940's.

**The Smith Brothers/Bodega Harbour Yacht Club** was built in the 1940's on the site of the earlier Smith Brother's wharves on old Port Road. This is possibly the oldest wharf site on the harbor. The one-story wharf and dock were removed in 1971 and Bodega Harbour remodeled the two-story warehouse and office building to its present form. The channel doesn't go this far, therefore, there are no yachts. (Editor's note: Anyone know why it is called the Yacht Club?)

**The Gaffney Ranch** home was built by Miles Gaffney, father of the Gaffney brothers, who bought the Gaffney ranch from Tyler Curtis on March 17, 1864. The house stood on the shore near the cypress at the UC Davis Marine Laboratory Housing entrance drive. It was the site of the destination across the harbor in the movie, "The Birds", but much was covered in stage construction. (The Marine Lab is open for public tours on Fridays from 2:00-4:00 PM.)

**Spud Point Marina**, with its protective breakwater, was built in the 1980's. By law, 80% of the berthing is reserved for commercial fishermen. Some say that Spud Point got its name from Bodega Red potatoes floating in the eddy at the point. Others say it may be because so many spuds were shipped from the area to San Francisco. The first settlers in the area in any number were Irish who came at the time of the worst of the potato famines. Mason's Marina was built after the Westshore Road was built.

**The Marin** was a 200 foot barge that was purchased in the 1920's by the Meredith Fisheries. The lower deck was used for the receiving of salmon, and the ship was refitted with a pilothouse, crew's quarters, mess room and galley. The barge was anchored near where Mason's Marina is today. In the late 1950's the barge was dislodged by a storm. There was talk of converting the barge into a restaurant predicated on PG&E's plan to build a nuclear power plant on the headlands. A few years later, the road out to Bodega Head was built and the boat became permanently landlocked, and neither the PG&E plants nor the restaurant ever materialized. The Marin continues to deteriorate and is overgrown with vegetation and collapsing into itself. (Roberta Paskos)

