

# RANCHO BODEGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Bodega Bay Inspirations

by Susan Teel - 2013

The Alfred Hitchcock movie, “The Birds”, is not the only artistically-inspired creation featuring the lovely coastal fishing town of Bodega Bay.

There is a website <http://www.gcmrr.com> that features a brief fictional story, and pictures, featuring sets of model railroads, of the history and people of Bodega Bay. It was written by Jan Webber, a professor of art at Mississippi State University for twenty-five years. After a thirty year hiatus, Mr. Webber started building model railroads again. Here are a few excerpts from his fictional story.

The, “Bodega Bay R.R. & Navigation Co.”, the story of the Bodega Bay circa 1886-1940 begins with the following. “The young man leaned against the bow railing of an old wooden lumber schooner and stared at the island-like mass of land that rose out of the sea before him. “It looks like a cake” he thought; “A cake with green icing”. This is how John Bell Simpson first saw Bodega Bay, California. It was late summer, 1886; he was twenty years old. To the left, an old pier badly in need of repair jutted out into the flat water. It was the only sign of man. It was to this pier that the schooner tied up. John Bell Simpson stepped off, and here he stayed until his death in 1940.” “The Land. The community of Bodega Bay was actually located at the end of a narrow peninsula on the north end of Bodega Bay, California. Rocky bluffs and steep hills topped with coastal redwoods were the dominant feature of the landscape. Viewed from a certain perspective it actually did look like a cake.”

The book, “the Beatles, the Bible, and Bodega Bay”, by Ken Mansfield, former US manager of Apple Records, was written in 2000. In the book, Mr. Mansfield alternates chapters between his Beatles memories of the past. Most taking place from his idyllic home in Bodega Bay. Mr. Mansfield states, “Now that the sun and the greater part of my daredevil determinations are simultaneously sinking slowly into the western horizon, I ask the reader to look at these times in a complete framework of what ultimately our lives are all about. If I had any concept then about the whole picture, I would have probably planned things a little differently.” Might the same be said of some of us?

The Bell Memorial honoring Nicholas Green, a young boy murdered in Italy, whose parents donated his organs to a Nation where organ donation was very rare. The Italians were so inspired this generosity that they commissioned and built a children’s bell tower at the Marinelli foundry, which has been making bells for the papacy for a thousand years. Nicholas’ name and the names of the seven donor recipients are on the bell tower. After shipment to the United States it was assembled on its present-day location behind the Bodega Bay Community Center in Bodega Bay.

