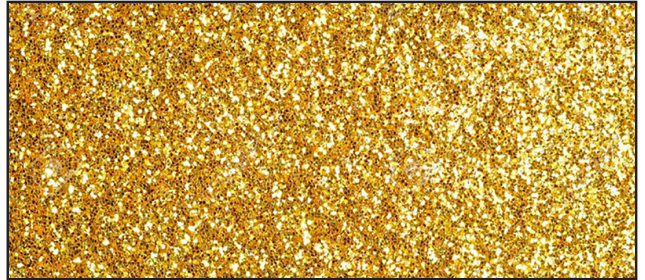


RANCHO BODEGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Rancho Bodega Snippets

by Susan Teel - 2014

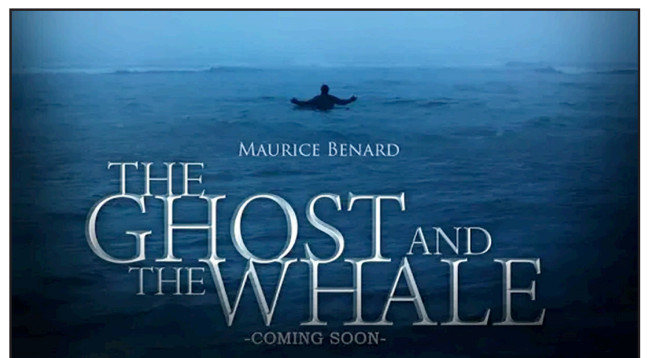
While I was reading through the large binder containing numerous articles that were written by Ruth Burke, I found one article that I found to be particularly interesting. Ruth wrote, "Gold in them thar hills" about the 1856 gold rush down by the Port. She references from a January 25 article, Mr. Swartz of Bodega Port exhibited about ½ oz. of gold dust taken from the Bodega Mines.



We are told that the gold dust to be uncommonly pure and worth \$19.00 per oz. It appears free from all particles of quartz and we doubt not that its rusty color is attributable to the earth in which it is found, it being a red gravel and clay cement. Mr. Swartz assures us that gold is found in every instance after the first two or three feet, and that the pay dirt is several feet deep.? The mines may have been located on Bodega Head. Those who were in the county at the time recollect the intense excitement that occurred by this discovery. Gold was found, but not in payable quantities; the great difficulty being a lack of water. The salt water from the Pacific Ocean, right on the doorsteps of the mines, would float the gold and could not be used for washing.

Ruth writes, On September 10, 1858, a body was found on the shore near Salmon Creek. On it were two purses with five and three-quarters ounces of coarse gold dust and two small black rocks containing gold. The body might have come from a wrecked vessel that had run aground around on Pt. Reyes. On September 17, three more bodies washed up, all with gold found upon them?.

A new movie, "The Ghost and the Whale" was filmed using locations on the Sonoma Coast, namely some of the same locales in Bodega and Bodega Bay that Alfred Hitchcock used when he filmed, "The Birds" in 1963. The movie recently premiered in Los Angeles and the trailer may be viewed on the Internet. Currently, there is no information when the movie may be released to theaters.



The story is about Joseph Hawthorne, a bi-polar man who went off to sea with the love of his life and returned back to the sleepy town of Bodega alone. His wife Annabel Lee "disappearance and his subsequent exoneration creates a divided mystery amongst the town and moreover her bloodthirsty family." One year later, acclaimed journalist Ed Hale has been called to Bodega to cover Joseph" mysterious and still untold story. By this time, Joseph has relapsed into an untreatable state, alternating between hysterical mania and crippling melancholia. Often times, Joseph will seek sanctuary down by the water with his only friend, a massive Gray Whale. Ed enlists the help of a gregarious townsman and wanna be writer, Mitch Captree, to help write the story. Ten years later, one of Annabel's brothers, the diabolical Jack Lee returns home from prison to wreak his revenge for the death of his sister. Will Ed and Joseph survive long enough to unveil the truth before the Lee family buries both of them?