

RANCHO BODEGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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DID YOU KNOW?

During World War II, the coastal system of radar stations was part of a serious effort to fend off any incursions by any enemy. Protection of the coast – of the country – was of paramount importance. The Jenner radar site was located on the south side of the river, directly opposite the town of Jenner, that was on the north side. (Penny Island is in the middle of the river, directly below the radar station). The folk-tale, the byword, about this radar station was that it was camouflaged to look like a little village with white picket fences and wooden flowers painted in bright colors.

*Contribute Articles for our
Newsletter, contact us at:*

**Rancho Bodega
Historical Society**

PO Box 1027
Bodega Bay CA 94923

Susan Teel, President
teelsus@gmail.com
707-322-4113



photo: Western Sonoma
County Historical Society

Smith Family at the Yacht Club

Please join us for this memorable event, as we meet the descendants of the Smith Brothers at the Bodega Harbour Yacht Club, site of the former Smith Brothers Fishery, to share with us photos and stories of their family's history in Bodega Bay.

William "Bill" Smith, was the son of Captain Stephen Smith, founder of Rancho Bodega, and Tsupu, a Coast Miwok woman who worked on the rancho. Bill married Rosalie Charles, a full blooded Coast Miwok and they had eleven children. Their family operated the Smith Brothers Fishery, which was the biggest fishing operation in town. We are thrilled to have members of the Smith family join us to shed light on earlier days in Bodega Bay.

**Bodega Harbour Yacht Club
565 Smith Brothers Road
Bodega Bay CA**

**Friday October 13, 2017
10:00 am to noon**

Coffee and Pastries available

**\$10.00 per person
Reservations required
contact Susan at:
teelsus@gmail.com
707-322-4113**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Come to the Rancho Bodega Historical Society Open House

**Saturday September 23, 2017
10 AM. to 2 PM**

RBHS is located behind the Bodega Bay Elementary School
1200 Canon Street, Bodega Bay.

Explore our wonderful archives: fascinating books, file folders full of historical surprises, maps and DVDs about historic people and places in the area. Historical photos on display, informative booklets and articles for sale.

FACES OF BODEGA BAY

A joint project by John Hershey, photographer and the Rancho Bodega Historical Society

Faces of Bodega Bay is a photojournalistic record of the people of our town: school kids, surfers, shop owners, fishermen, restaurant workers; the whole gamut of people who live and work in Bodega Bay and make it the wonderful community that it is.

These “environmental portraits” portray the subjects in their natural environment, capturing their character and telling their story through their surroundings.

The project started with a photo shoot of the crab boat, the Annabelle. The Anello family and crew (Moose & Diego) graciously granted John Hershey access to the full operation, starting with the boat at Spud Point Marina, going out to the ocean to pull the crab pots, and back to the marina to unload the crab.

See photos at <www.jhersheyphoto.com> by clicking the “Crab Fishing” tab on the navigation bar at the top of the page. Paired with each portrait will be a short biography of the subject to document who they are and their connection to Bodega Bay. As with the records made by early Sonoma County residents, this photojournal of who we are now is being created as a legacy for future generations. A local exhibit of the project is targeted for 2018.

We’ll need lots of help with this project and hope that you will join in. We need: portrait subjects, assistance with photoshoots, writers to interview the subjects and capture their stories in words.

Please contact:

John Hershey, photographer hersheyj@mac.com



The Annabelle - Spud Point Crab Company



Diego throws the buoys out as Moose reels in a pot



Live crab ready for sale



Moose, Diego, and Tony sort out the catch from Tony's custom-designed crab tank

A brief history of the Fishing Industry in Bodega Bay

It all began with the Smith family, descendants of Capt. Stephen Smith, the 1840's grantee of the Bodega Rancho and their Coast Miwok mother named Tsupu (also known as Maria Checka). Captain Smith's and Tsupu's son William (Bill) Smith was born in 1843. He married Rosalie Charles and they had 12 children. Mark Linares, their second great-grandchild wrote their story.

By the turn of the 20th century William Smith was fishing from small boats off the sand spit now known as Doran Beach. He sold his catch from a truck and his small fish market on the 300th block of Santa Rosa's Fourth Street. In 1919, Williams six sons, the "Smith Brothers" bought the first drag boats into the Bay and contracted to sell fish in San Francisco establishing themselves as the first true commercial fishermen in Bodega Bay.

It was in August 1844 when Captain Stephen Smith successfully petitioned the Mexican Governor of California, Manuel Micheltorena to grant him 35,487 acres of land. Captain Smith purchased the buildings from John Sutter, who had purchased Fort Ross from the Russians. Smith's Bodega Rancho stretched from the Russian River along the coast south to Estero Americano. Captain Smith owned a small vessel called the Fayaway, which he sailed between the Port of Bodega and San Francisco. In 1849 the passenger fare was \$14. Bodega Bay was Smith's shipping port which helped develop the area into a commercial fishing port.

In the early 1900's with the help of his Coast Miwok family William Smith founded the commercial fishing industry in Bodega Bay. William Smith purchased land along the bay from the Dorans for a place for his fishing business and home. The family home was located where the Bodega Coast Inn now stands, next to the post office. Their business lasted until the early 1970s. The Smith Brothers wharf and warehouse was the first in Bodega Bay. Smith Brothers Road is named in honor of the brothers. The Smith Brothers wharf was where the Bodega Harbour Yacht Club is currently located diagonally across from the Bodega Bay Post Office.

For years Bill Smith continued selling his catch in Sonoma County making a fair living for his family. As his children reached maturity they too became involved in the business. In 1911 five of the Smith brothers went to fish in Alaska. In just one season they earned enough to buy two 50-foot trawlers from the Boat Works in Sausalito, named Smith Brothers #1 and #2. The brothers began selling their catch at the fish market they operated on Fourth Street in Santa Rosa.

Salmon Discovered. It was sometime around the "Great War" World War I when Bill's sons discovered large runs of salmon at Bodega Bay. Up until then salmon fishing was farther north at Fort Bragg but during the war fisherman were too short-handed to go that far. Discovering salmon caused a tremendous surge of fishing in Bodega Bay.

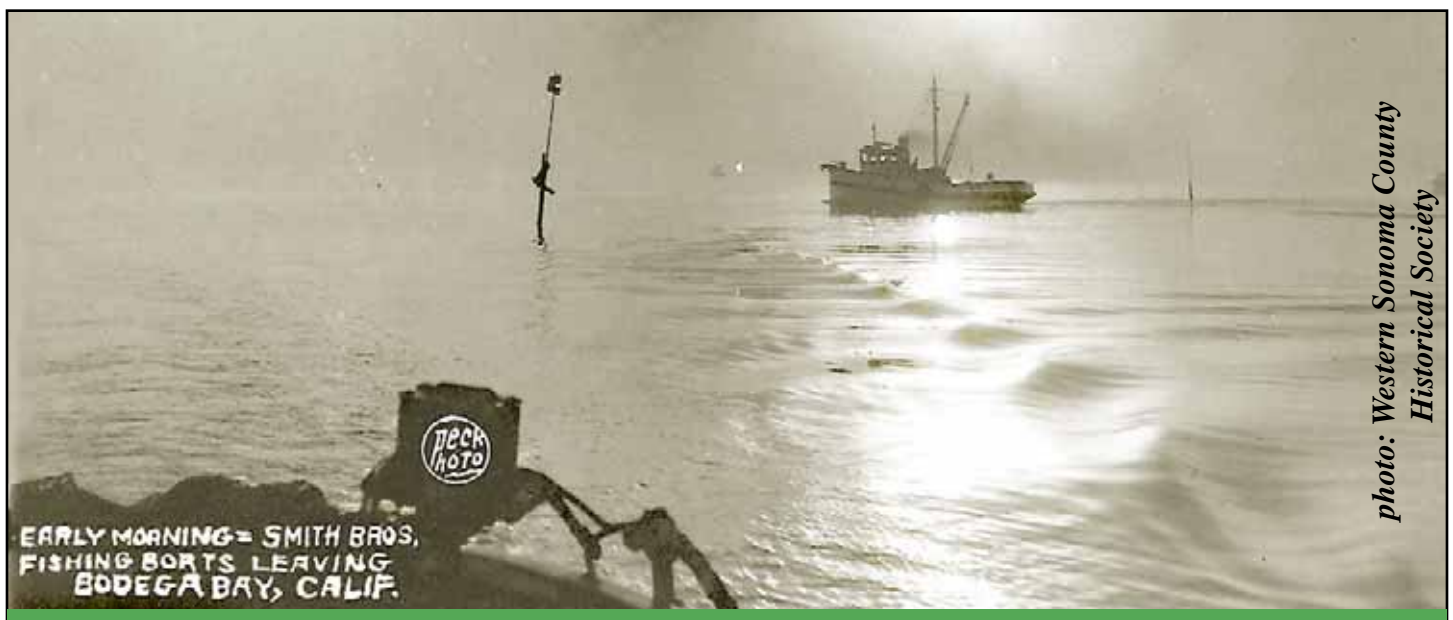


photo: Western Sonoma County
Historical Society

Sometime before 1927 according to Young (Pinky) Smith, the Smith Brothers Fishery was incorporated with five of the working brothers. They were joined by boats skippered by Bobby Friscia and the Cacacci brothers. The port was more mud flat than water. There was no real town just a community known simply as Bay with a schoolhouse and a few houses. By the 1930s the Smith brothers had the largest fleet in the bay and were doing business with Paladini, the San Francisco fish firm. The Smith Brothers' fleet would take fifty or seventy boxes of salmon or bottom fish per day. After more than 70 years as a fisherman Bill Smith passed away on November 9, 1936. The business Bill started prospered and his sons continued running the Smith Brothers Fishery.

Bill Smith Jr. recalled the "old days" when the brothers were just boys and their father started the commercial fishing industry. He said that his family had been fishing in Bodega Bay "almost ever since there's been a bay here." Adding "There's a lot more to commercial fishing than just going out with an empty boat and coming back with one filled with fish or crabs. There's a lot of work bringing it to the table." (Press Democrat article by reporter Mike Pardee, 1951)

The "golden age of the fishing industry begins." The 1940's were when Dungeness crab became part of the fishery. Although the Smith family had netted crabs in the bay and ocean for years, the crab industry was really born during World War II. The early 1940s brought forth quick freezing techniques. Changes in technology turned the crab industry into a new line of work for fishermen and women. By 1943, "the fishing industry at Bodega Bay had shore-side installations valued at \$230,000 and locally owned boats valued in excess of half a million dollars." (Sylvia Thalman)

During the Second World War, commercial boats were exempt from fuel rationing. Glenice Ames Carpenter wrote an article for the Rancho Bodega Historical Society's newsletter. "During this time, the fishing boats were engaged in catching soup fin sharks because their liver was valuable for vitamins. Catching sharks for livers brought a boom to Bodega Bay's fishing industry." But when synthetic vitamins began to be commercially produced, "Many fishermen were left with a shed full of nets and nothing to fish." Glenice Carpenter's husband Earl Carpenter fished for a half a century from Bodega Bay. Earl said "The Smith brothers made enough money from shark fishing to build their wharf." The fleet numbered about a dozen when the Carpenters arrived in 1942 and increased with the dredging of the channel in the early 1940's, when the "golden age of the fishing industry began." The Smith Brothers Fishery continued with the five Smith brothers. When two of the brothers passed away the Fishery closed in 1963. The three remaining brothers fished until 1970 or so.

The Golden Age of Commercial fishing is well, over. Unfortunately salmon fishing took a turn for the worse in 1989 when human alteration and damage to streams and rivers where Coho salmon spawn took its toll on the fish population. This turn of events sent many a fisherman looking for other employment while those that remained looked for short-term relief and long-term solutions. In the spring of 1995, Salmon fishing prospects began to look good again, but the previous few years tempered the optimism with caution. It recognized that the health of the fishing industry is too fragile to take for granted. In the recent years salmon fishing has decreased drastically due to restrictions by the California Department of Fish and Game, warmer waters and a seven-year record breaking drought that ended in 2017. Restrictions and Marine Conservation Reserves are in place to help prevent the extinction of the Wild King (Coho) Salmon.

Fishermen sought other species of fish and sea life such as crabs and sea urchins to make their living. Then in 2015 and 2016, Domoic Acid, a neurotoxin, severely curtailed the crab fisheries. Nonetheless the fishing industry remains an important part of today's Bodega Bay with crab, rockfish and sole fisheries of major importance. A sea urchin industry developed to serve the Japanese market where the spiny creature's roe is considered a delicacy. And our recreational fishing industry the local fishermen's eateries continue to thrive.

Editors' note: This article was first published July 12, 2013. For this edition of the Rancho Bodega Historical Society newsletter the editors added an introductory paragraph, as well as, a timeline to aid the reader's understanding.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Come to the Rancho Bodega Historical Society Open House

Saturday September 23, 2017

10 am to 2 pm

RBHS is located behind the
Bodega Bay Elementary School
1200 Canon Street, Bodega Bay

The Rancho Bodega Historical Society would like to thank the Bodega Bay Community Association (BBCA) for selling RBHS Nesting Doll sets and Illustrated History Books at the Farmer's Market every Sunday. The cooperation of Bodega Bay non-profit groups make Bodega Bay a friendly place to visit and a great place to live!

Meet the Descendants of the Smith Brothers at the Bodega Harbour Yacht Club

Friday October 13, 2017

10:00 am to noon

**Bodega Harbour Yacht Club
565 Smith Brothers Road
Bodega Bay CA**

Coffee and Pastries available

**\$10.00 per person - Reservations and
payment in advance required
contact Susan Teel at 707-322-4113
or <teelsus@gmail.com>**

Dinner with the Winemakers

Bay View Restaurant & Lounge - Inn at the Tides in Bodega Bay



The Inn at the Tides

The intimate and relaxed setting of The Bay View Restaurant & Lounge is the ideal backdrop for our monthly "Dinner with the Winemaker" series. It's the perfect opportunity to talk one-on-one with winemakers and winery executives while enjoying a variety of award-winning wines and locally grown foods.

No-Host Reception: 6:30 pm, Dinner: 7:00 pm. Reservations: email: chris@innatthetides.com or call 707.875.2751

September 29, 2017

October 20, 2017

HARTFORD FAMILY WINERY

CAROL SHELTON WINES



BODEGA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

2017 FUNDRAISING EVENT SCHEDULE
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WWW.BODEGAFIRE.ORG | 707-876-9438

Saturday October 7st, 5-8pm

Polenta and Beef Stew Dinner

Friday & Saturday November 24-25th, 10am-5pm

Christmas Crafts Faire

Cruising the Coast...

A Beachy Car Show



Live Music with

Pickled Beats!

BBQ – Tiki Bar – Pink
Flamingos – Flip Flops

Mustangs, Corvettes, VWVans-
Woodies-Cool Trucks and other
neat Beach Rides...

**Saturday,
September 16th**

10 am to 2 pm

\$5 Admission



A fun Fundraiser for the Bodega Bay Community Center

Car show location: 2255 Highway 1, Bodega Bay

For more information: 875-9609 or bbcommunityassoc@comcast.net

UPCOMING EVENTS



John and Mary Louise Riley Seminar Series Summer 2017

www.bml.ucdavis.edu

707-875-2211

September 6 Wednesday

Kakani Katija, Principal Engineer, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute “*The house that snot built: How new technology reveals the structure and function of giant larvacean mucus houses*”

September 8 FRIDAY

Brady O’Donnell, M.S. Candidate, Graduate Program in Geology, University of California, Davis “*Carbon sequestration in Northeast Pacific seagrass meadows: How and why it varies*”

September 13 Wednesday

Xavier Flores Vidal, Physical Oceanographer, Instituto de Investigaciones Oceanologicas, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California “*Small scale variability of Todos Santos Bay and the adjacent oceanic system in Baja California Mexico; as measured by the Mexican High Frequency Radars Network*”

Seminars begin at 4:00 pm in the BML Lecture Hall

Join us for coffee and cookies at 3:45 p.m. in the Great Hall

Bodega Bay Community Farmers Market Memorial Day Sunday thru October

Sundays 10:00 am to 2:00 pm • Behind the Community Center

Formed to provide residents of Bodega Bay and surrounding communities with fresh, locally grown products and to provide farmers with a venue to sell their farm fresh products directly to the consumers.

Memorial Day until the end of October the open-air BBCFM thrives behind the Bodega Bay Community Center at the north end of town. We offer the freshest, locally grown produce specializing in heirloom and gourmet varieties of fruits and vegetables, beef, goat, duck, pork, poultry and fish. Also available are eggs, (duck and chicken), artisan breads, premium goat and cow cheeses. Try the honeys, salsa, hummus, jams and jellies. We offer hot food each week to tickle your palette.

We always have live music with picnic tables for hanging out listening to the band, a large space for dancing if your happy feet need to move.

Come to the Bodega Bay Community Farmers Market to connect with the people who produce our food, meet old friends, make news and become a part of our friendly local community.

2255 Highway 1, P.O. Box 33 - Bodega Bay, CA 94923
(707) 875-9609 - bbcommunityassoc@comcast.net



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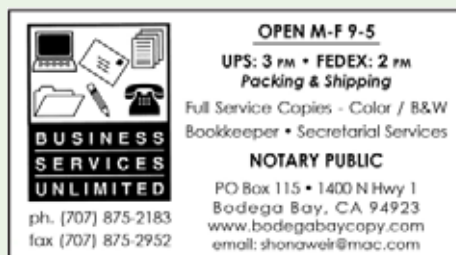


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