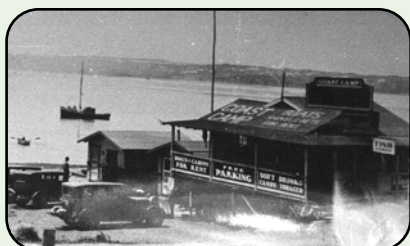


RANCHO BODEGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DID YOU KNOW? Coast Camp



Louie's Wharf was 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 "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 'High Tides' on the right and the 'Low Tides' in the background, offered Bodega Bay visitors a choice of chowder and fishing ambiance in 1963.



For nearly a century, the Wharf at the Tides has served local fishermen. Today, Bugatto's-family business continues the tradition adding the famous restaurant, beautiful gift shop, Italian specialty & retail fish market and 76 gas station.

Annie Mary Katherine Bridget Theresa Murphy Springer

by Eva Granahan - Sonoma County Gazette (March 21, 2023)

One year ago, we joyfully celebrated the local Aries' birthdays at our local treasure, The Casino. Annie (Mary Katherine Bridget Theresa) Murphy Springer turned 87 on Apr.13, last Easter weekend. She almost made it, by about a month, to her 88th birthday. Bold and fierce like her personality, she passed away suddenly on Mar. 10 from a very fast-acting leukemia.

Springer always loved gathering people together. Each year on her birthday weekend, she would have a potluck and insist on reverse gift-giving. She made a game of it, and everyone at her party would end up taking a gift home. She was actually planning her own "celebration of life" so she could participate in the festivities before she made her leave. Unfortunately, she was not able to stick around for this occasion.



Annie Springer is well-known in this community for her activism, organizational aid, legacy of Bodega's "Big Event," and much more. Her purple-tinted watercolor paintings are easily recognizable across the county, representing the Bodega area and beyond.

With the sad passing of Annie Murphy Springer we learned that her legacy extends beyond her wonderful art and passionate support of the Bodega community. RBHS was thrilled to learn that Annie left a financial legacy to the Rancho Bodega Historical Society. Her generous \$1,000 gift is so profoundly appreciated as an acknowledgment of the good work we do to further our mission to preserve and share the history of the Rancho Bodega area, as well as a challenge to use the funds in the best way possible to advance our mission. The RBHS Board welcomes suggestions of how Annie's gift can be used. Additionally, if you are interested in adding RBHS as a beneficiary of your estate plan and have questions about how this is arranged, please contact Robin Rudderow, RBHS@BodegaMoon.net. RBHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

ANNIE MURPHY SPRINGER

Annie Mary Katherine Bridget Theresa Murphy Springer

by Eva Granahan - Sonoma County Gazette (March 21, 2023)



Once the chief of the Bodega Volunteer Fire Department from 1979 to 1984, Springer helped the area through its worst-ever flood in January 1982 and remained a spokesperson for Bodega. She accomplished a lot in Northern California, working to create positive change in her communities. She retired into artistry. Throughout her life, she wore many different (purple) hats.

A fun fact about Springer is how her Irish temperament gained her honorary status with the Oakland Ramp Rats, the local motorcycle club, when she stood up to the Hells Angels gang that was threatening the minority community's efforts. She was a woman who fearlessly got what she wanted and stood up for what was right.

She was a near-lifetime neighbor who was ever-present, whimsical, artistic, playful, creative, and full of childlike joy. She is dearly missed by all of us who knew and loved her. Her artwork will undoubtedly be appreciated for countless years to come. By her side until the end was Diane Masura, who wrote a detailed obituary. You can find this and more at www.anniemurphyspringer.com.

My heart is heavy knowing Annie Springer has left us. She is done creating art, she will never again sing those boisterous tunes, she can't crack her suspenseful jokes, and her purple flair will dissipate. This loss will take time to process and recover from. We will remember her through memories and by looking at her beautiful artwork. She left quite a mark. ■

ANNIE MURPHY SPRINGER

All four grandparents from Tralee Ireland, Annie was born in Boston Massachusetts April 13, 1935. A graduate from Simmons College Boston in 1956, she taught a year in Goodland, Indiana while getting her Master's Degree from Purdue University in 1959. She obtained a life teaching credential from California Community College Hayward.

The Ford Foundation Model Project employed her as Program Developer for Native American, Black, and Hispanic community-based organizations. From 1968 to 1971 she was Training Chief for the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity and traveled all western states including Hawaii and Alaska with the Model Cities Program.

She settled in Bodega California with her beloved husband David Springer in 1971, designing and building their house together by hand. In 1979 she became one of three women Fire Chiefs in the nation and served while teaching management courses at Sonoma State University and at the National Fire Academy in Maryland and co-authoring currently-used courses and textbooks.

Annie wasn't all work and no play, however. She had a long-standing friendship with Duke Ellington. After retirement she became known for her watercolors and watercolor classes and she created a video series on PBS called "The Wonders of Watercolor" demonstrating plenaire painting at local sites.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Christo's 1976 Running Fence



The hamlet of Valley Ford hasn't changed much in the last four decades. There's more traffic, of course: It's located on scenic Highway 1, and Bodega Bay is just 8 miles to the west. But Dinucci's Italian Dinners is still there, serving the family-style meals that made its initial reputation more than a century ago. Local ranchers still come to the Valley Ford Market for coffee and the latest talk on lamb prices and government regulation. And the land itself seems immutable: The rolling pastures broken by eucalyptus windbreaks — speckled with fat sheep and sleek cattle — present a prospect as timeless as the nearby Pacific Ocean.

But something happened here over 40 years ago that changed everything. A discreet monument marking that event stands at the Valley Ford post office, a single, corroded metal pole 18 feet high, with a small commemorative plaque at its base. It was at this spot that "Running Fence" came through, completed on Sept. 10, 1976.

Christo and Jeanne-Claude ultimately enlisted 59 families whose properties fell within the proposed route of the fence. The ranchers and farmers weren't merely acquiescent, however; they had become committed partisans for the project. At the same time, news of the fence generated fierce push-back, primarily from environmentalists concerned about impacts on the land, and also from locals who were offended by promotion of the project as "art." They formed the Committee to Stop the Running Fence, and vowed to send Christo fleeing from Sonoma.

The upshot of the discord was a seemingly endless series of meetings convened by the California Coastal Commission, the Marin County Planning Commission and the Sonoma County Planning Commission. The process was rancorous and dragged on for more than three years. "I remember at one point somebody declaring that the fence was 'fascist art,'" said Brian Kahn, then a freshman Sonoma County Supervisor who had been newly appointed to fill a vacancy. "I didn't physically roll my eyes, but I rolled them internally. I was perplexed by the furor. The fence drew all these incredibly intense emotions that — from my perspective, at least — it didn't warrant. Politics and art don't mix well, and my bias has always been to let artists do what they want."

"But the fence came along just at a point when land-use policy was the primary matter of concern in the county, and it seemed to galvanize emotions on all sides of the issue. In a way I didn't realize at the time, it focused people on the landscape and the impact our land-use policies would have on the future of the county." But if opponents inveighed furiously against the project at the meetings, supporters — mainly ranchers and dairy farmers — spoke passionately in its favor. Christo seemed utterly serene. He spoke in defense of his art, and his disposition was always sunny; he never seemed worried, or even slightly anxious.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

“He said on more than one occasion that the process, all the meetings, the environmental impact studies, were part of his art,” said Barbara Gonnella, owner of the Union Hotel in Occidental. “And that was the absolute truth. If he hadn’t been able to build the fence in the end, I’m sure he would still have considered the project a success.” Gonnella hosted a screening of a film about “Running Fence” that was funded by the Smithsonian Museum of Modern Art. For Gonnella, the documentary had special resonance because it featured one of the last interviews with Jeanne-Claude before her death from a brain aneurysm in 2009.

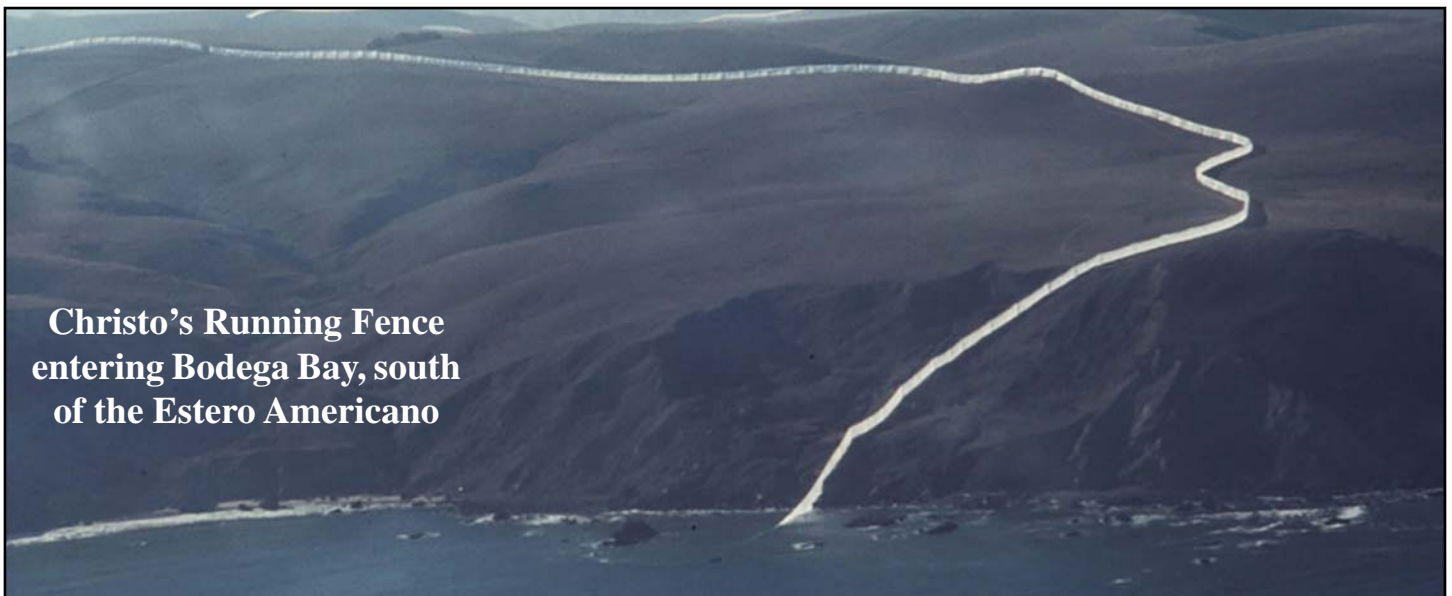
“By the 1990s, their work was a complete collaboration,” Gonnella said. “It was never just ‘Christo.’ It was always ‘Christo and Jeanne-Claude,’ and to me, that emphasized their connection with each other and humanity at large. Christo’s art incorporates the landscape and the people on it, and the relationships he builds with those people. “Our family is still in close contact with him. When our mother died, he was the first person to send flowers. When he’s in the area, he eats at the Union Hotel. He’s still part of our lives. His work still affects us. He still affects us.”

Ultimately, of course, the fence went up. Scores of volunteers laid out the route, sank the posts, strung the cables, hung the fabric. Christo was right there among them, wearing an OSHA-required hard hat, blissfully shouldering his share of the grunt labor.

The path the fence took across the gentle hills south of Valley Ford, now empty save for grass undulating in the wind and myriad grazing sheep. “I think I was the youngest volunteer on the installation”, said Barbara’s brother, Joe Pozzi. “It was an incredible experience, and then, two weeks after it went up (in 1976), we took it down. Two months later, you couldn’t tell it had been there. It changed people’s lives, and for the better.”

The Running Fence project not only brought Sonoma County to the attention of the world, it also, somehow, brought the people of Sonoma County together. “It was strange,” said Gonnella, “Once the fence started going up, once people could drive out and see this miraculous thing unfolding across the land, all the bitterness, all the protests, just kind of — stopped.” She paused, looking out a window. Her eyes were moist, and when she spoke again, her voice was charged with emotion. “I was only 17 then,” she said. “I loved living out in the west county. Everybody knew each other, most of the families were from the same region in northern Italy. But when the fence came, I got a sense of something bigger. The way it looked running across the hills, shimmering, changing colors in the light and the wind. I was so young, and it was so — so romantic. So incredibly romantic. I felt like my heart was going to burst.” -- *Glen Martin Sonoma Magazine 2020*

(<https://www.sonomamag.com/40-years-later-christos-running-fence-in-sonoma-marin/>)



**Christo's Running Fence
entering Bodega Bay, south
of the Estero Americano**

HIGHWAY ONE UPDATE



Traffic Advisory

Date: March 7, 2023
District: [District 4](#)
Contact: [Jeff Weiss](#)
Phone: (510) 715-8770

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans to Shift Traffic onto New Alignment on State Route 1 at Gleason Beach in Sonoma County

Traffic Switch Scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, 2023, weather permitting.

SONOMA COUNTY – As part of the Gleason Beach Roadway Realignment Project along Sonoma County's mid-coast, Caltrans will shift traffic on State Route 1 (SR-1) onto a newly built bridge and roadway after 8:00 PM Wednesday, March 8, 2023, weather permitting.

The new bridge and highway will bypass the existing SR-1 alignment, which rests upon rapidly eroding coastal bluffs threatening to undermine the existing highway.

Caltrans broke ground on the Gleason Beach Project on October 19, 2021 and is scheduled to complete the project in fall 2023.

The State Route 1 Gleason Beach Realignment Project will provide a long-term, sustainable solution that will keep State Route 1 open to the traveling public for many years. The roadway is a vital corridor for surrounding communities, tourists, emergency service providers, and others.

For more information about the Highway 1 Gleason Beach Project, go to:
<https://gleasonbeachrealignment.org/>

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Robin Rudderow
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Estate Planning
Wills & Trusts


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BECOME A MEMBER

Enjoy the history of Rancho Bodega. Please join us. Subscribe for a year and receive the RBHS newsletters, \$15 individual (\$20 family). Support the stories of Bodega Bay.
http://www.ranchobodega.org/membership_form.pdf

If you have artifacts or stories of Bodega Bay History to contribute to the Rancho Bodega Historical Society, please contact Robin Rudderow, our Archivist at RBHS@bodegamoon.net

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Patrick Buckman; Maureen Culpepper; Rodolfo Milito & Ginny Nichols; Nancy Otto; Shona Weir & Eric Crumley

THANK YOU TO OUR NEW DONORS

Angela Aloise; Susan & Steve Teel

THANK YOU TO OUR NEW SUPPORTERS

Gene Buvelot; Norma Jellison

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www.RanchoBodega.org

IN THIS ISSUE

Christo's Running Fence



Christo began a 42-month project to build a long, tall, white fabric fence from Cotati into Bodega Bay. It ran 24 miles over hill and dale for two weeks.

Annie Murphy Springer

From 1979 to 1984, as chief of the Bodega Volunteer Fire Department, she remained a spokesperson for Bodega working to create positive change in her community.



SUMMER EVENTS

ANNIE MURPHY SPRINGER MEMORIAL Saturday, July 1st 1 pm to 4 pm at McCaughey Hall, Bodega. You are invited to join family and friends for a Celebration of Annie's Life in Bodega for Remembrances, Memorabilia, and Art Sales [Purple attire recommended.] Donations accepted for Bodega Fire Department.

BODEGA BAY FARMERS MARKET. Bodega Bay Community Center, 2255 CA-1, Sun, 10 AM – 2 PM. Memorial Day until the end of October the open-air market thrives behind the Bodega Bay Community Center at the north end of town. Offering the freshest, locally grown produce specializing in organic, heirloom and gourmet varieties of fruits and vegetables, beef, goat, duck, pork, poultry and fish.

SNOOPY'S ICE SKATING LESSONS. Each eight-week Lesson Set, skaters progress through one Level within a Skating Track. At the end of a Lesson Set, skaters are evaluated to determine whether they pass their current Level or will need improvement and to repeat their current Level. The Tracks follow the curriculum set forth by Learn to Skate USA, endorsed by United States Figure Skating. For detailed curriculum, please contact: Snoopy's Home Ice: 1667 West Steele Lane, Santa Rosa, California 95403 or 707-546-7147.

BODEGA SEAFOOD, ART & WINE FESTIVAL. Watts Ranch 16855 Bodega Highway, Bodega CA, August 26 & 27 10:00 am - 6:00 pm. Features a beautiful art and fine craft marketplace, delicious food of all kinds, tastings with over 40 wineries and breweries, 3 stages of entertainment and fun kid's activities. A portion of the proceeds benefits Stewards of the Coast & Redwoods, the non-profit working in tandem with the California State Parks in the Russian River region, and the Bodega Volunteer Fire Department. \$20/\$15/&12 Adults/Seniors/Children

For more local events, visit our website. <<http://www.ranchobodega.org/events.html>>