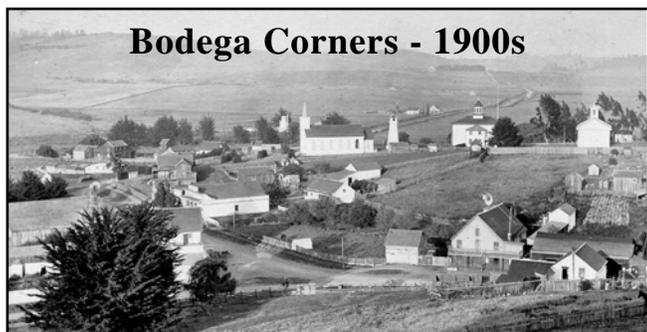


RANCHO BODEGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Honorina Tuomey - *Preservation of the Coastline*

Imagine the Sonoma Coast beaches in the 1860s, just after the Bear Flag Revolt, when the State of California was just settling into existence. It was here that Honorina Tuomey was born, in 1866, on Buckhorn Ranch on Coleman Valley Road, and here she made her mark by assuring our beautiful coastline was preserved as a part of California State Parks.

It took the efforts of many Sonoma County residents, including Howard McCaughey, the unofficial “mayor” of the coastal communities, to have our coastline declared a park. However in 1928 it was Honorina Tuomey who was named official adviser to the CA State Parks Commission. She recommended that the Bodega Bay area be included in the State Park system, as well as, the following sites: 1) the Russian ranch, on Salmon Creek Rd outside the town of Bodega; 2) the redwood grove then known as Joy Woods on Fitzpatrick Lane; 3) Fort Ross; 4) Mount Saint Helena; 5) General M.G. Vallejo Estate in Sonoma; 6) the Petrified Forest outside Calistoga; 7) Russian Gulch on the ocean coast and 8) the south border of the Gualala River for some distance back from the ocean to the north border for an equal distance, a Mendocino County project. As we can see, her efforts were valued.



Not only did she preserve sites for the future, Honorina celebrated significant historical events that unfolded around her. A friend to many historical figures in her day, including Luther Burbank, the daughters of General Vallejo and Jasper O’Farrell. In the 1920s she placed several markers, including one in Santa Rosa at the site where two members of the Bear Flag party were killed in 1846, a second in the town of Bodega at the site of a Russian farm and, at the site of the adobe house of Capt. Stephen Smith, the first owner of Rancho Bodega.

A school teacher, Honorina taught art and vocal music at the Sebastopol Elementary School, was the principal for 10 years at the Marshall Grammar School in Green Valley, and returned for two final years of teaching at Potter School, where Honorina had gone to school as a child, the school in Bodega used 40 years later in the movie, “The Birds”. She retired in 1921 at the age of 55.

Living in a house in Bodega owned by her friends, Annie and Ben Joy, Honorina’s retirement was anything but sedentary. In 1925, she organized a festival, called “Discovery Days”, the predecessor of today’s **Fisherman’s Festival**, honoring the 150th anniversary of the discovery of Bodega Bay by Spanish explorer Don Juan Francisco Bodega y Quadra. As one of our first Northern California historians, she wrote the following books: *History of Sonoma County, 2 huge volumes (1926)* and *History of the Mission, Presidio and Pueblo of Sonoma*, co-authored with Luisa Vallejo Emparan, the daughter of General Vallejo (1934). Sadly, Honorina suffered a nervous breakdown in 1935 and was hospitalized at Napa State Hospital until her death in 1938 at the age of 72. Honorina’s archives are at the Sonoma County Museum. *by Robin Rudderow - 2013* ■

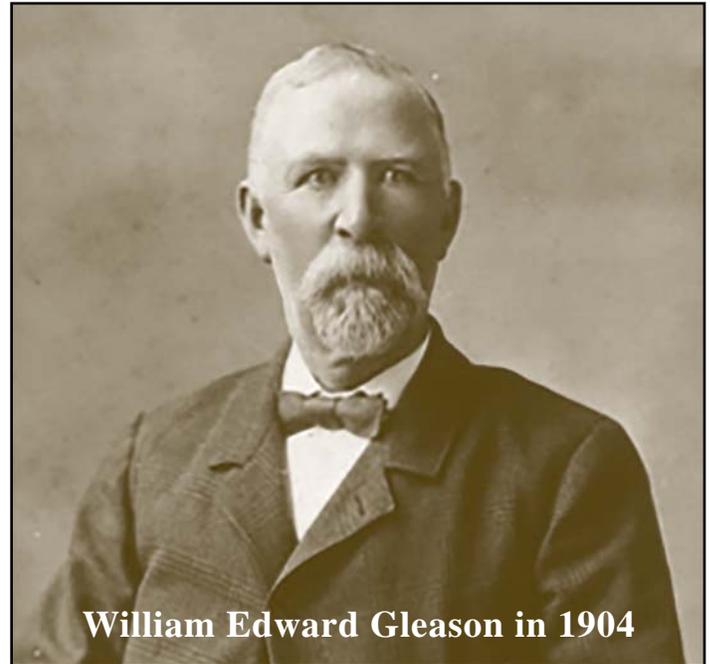
FROM THE ARCHIVES

William Edward Gleason 1839-1906

William Gleason was born in County Clare, Ireland on 1839. William was the son of Michael and Honoria O'Brien Gleason. William immigrated to the United States with his parents in 1844.

He married Ann Melahan in 1864 and they had eight children. William can be found in California voter registration in 1867 in Bodega Township in Sonoma County. It is believed that William settled on what became known as Gleason Dairy Ranch in either the late 1850's or early 1860's. His wife, Ann passed away in 1882.

William married Bridget McGee in January 1884. William and Bridget had seven children. William, Bridget and some of their children moved to the old 615 acres Platt Ranch outside Bodega Corners, in the early 1890's.

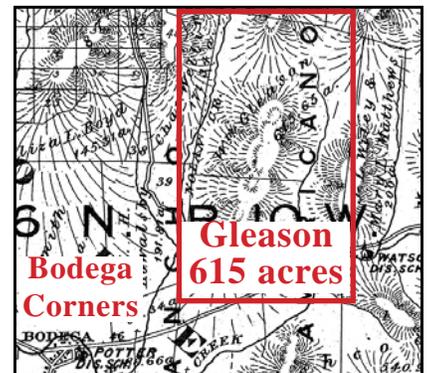


Gleason Dairy Ranch



Gleason Dairy Ranch was located at 6000 Highway One, north of Sereno del Mar along the Sonoma Coast and was registered as a Sonoma County Historic Landmark, #119, in 1982. The ranch is now owned by Philip and Roberta Ballard. The ocean side of Highway One was named Gleason Beach, after William Edward Gleason, who owned the coastal 175 acres in the late 1800s. William passed in 1906.

By 1910, William's son, David Gleason moved the Dairy Ranch inland near Bodega Corners, (across the road from the Watson School). Later it was operated by Tony & Barbara (Gleason) Prebilich



and great great grand daughters Nancy Prebilich and Cindy Holland. Sadly in 2013, forced by economic hardship, the ranch was sold. (onherownfilm.com) ■



GLEASON BEACH

Gleason Beach Realignment of Highway 1

Gleason Beach lies along the Sonoma coastline, midway between the community of Bodega Bay and the Russian River, where CA State Route Highway One travels along the bluffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Coastal erosion resulting from factors such as wave action, sea level rise, surface water runoff from surrounding land uses, and groundwater intrusion contributed to rapid bluff erosion over the last few decades. Caltrans has conducted emergency repairs along this stretch of Highway 1 since the early 2000s. To keep State Route One open and operating in a safe manner, Caltrans is realigning a half-mile stretch of Highway One 400 feet east of the current alignment.

The project includes a new 850-foot-long bridge that has a separated pedestrian sidewalk over the Scotty Creek floodplain. The current highway will be repurposed to become a portion of the California Coastal Trail with parking spaces to improve public access to the beach. The existing culvert over Scotty Creek will be removed. The culvert currently poses a barrier to the migration of state and federally listed freshwater salmon and steelhead. ■



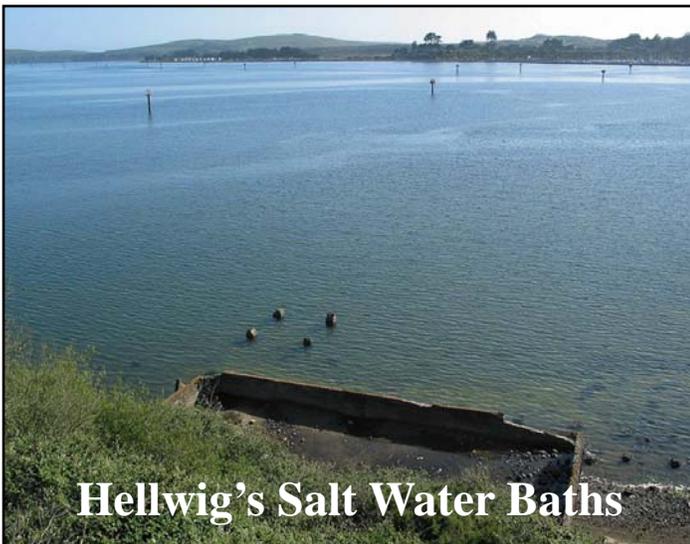
FROM THE ARCHIVES



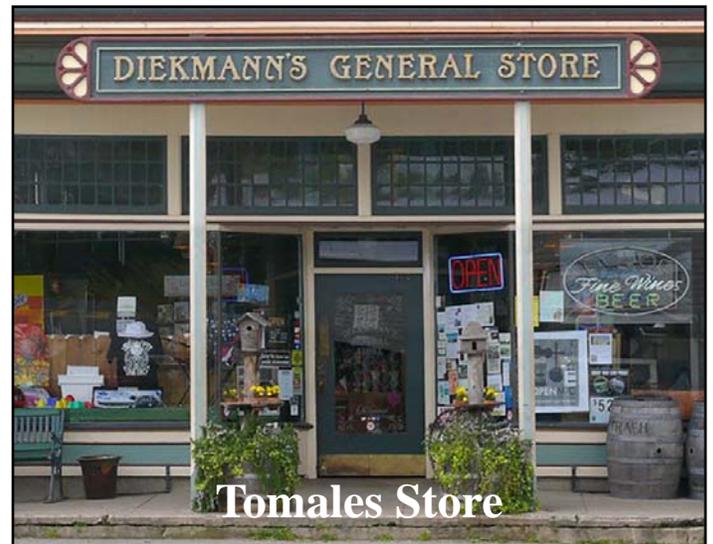
The Bay Store (later, Hellwig's and Diekmann's)

This picture was taken in the early 1920s and has a sign that reads 'Salt Water Baths'. The view from Diekmann's parking lot still shows the old swimming tank remains. The water was from the Bay, pumped into a tank, and then heated with a steam boiler. There were bath houses on the north side of the pool. Wide stairs went down from the store to the swimming pool.

Ted and Pansy Ichtertz and their son, Claire, operated the Bay Store and Post Office that was in the same building until 1939, when George and Helen Hellwig bought the Bay Store. Helen became Postmaster. Mail would get mixed up with another town named Bay, so in 1941, Helen had the Post Office name officially changed to Bodega Bay. She retired in 1965 and Shirley Ames became Postmaster.



Hellwig's Salt Water Baths



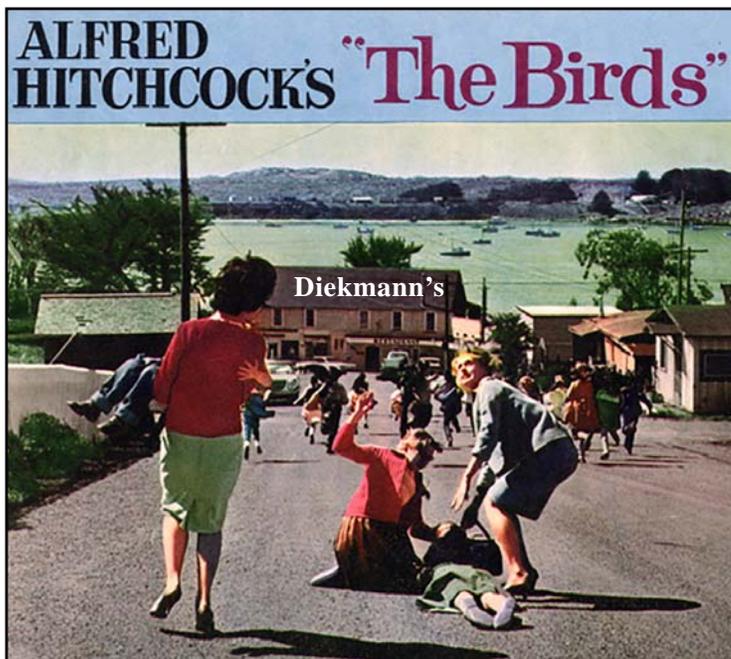
Tomales Store

FROM THE ARCHIVES



View of Hellwig's general store and service station in Bodega Bay. The Bay Hotel, Bar and Grill is seen on the right and two Union Oil gas pumps are seen in front of the general store.

The Bay Hotel, Bar and Grill were operated by Glenice Carpenter's parents Harold and Frieda Ames and was the center of social gatherings. The women would gather around the old oil stove in the lobby with their knitting etc, and the men would pull up chairs from the dining room and play pinochle. The hotel operated the bar, called *The Blue Room* because of the blue glass windows. The dance hall just to the north would have dances and the patrons would walk down to the bar for refreshments. The "juke box" played and dancing was allowed in the lobby.



The Diekmann brothers operated grocery stores in Sonoma County (Santa Rosa, Bodega Bay) and in Marin County (Tomales). Two have survived, Tomales and Bodega Bay.

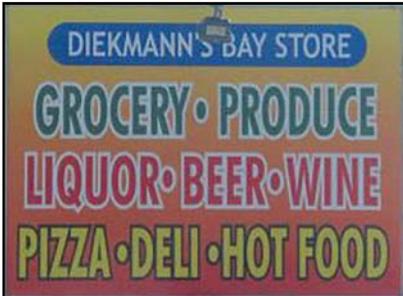
After World War Two, Walter Diekmann purchased the Tomales store in 1948. Herman operated the Bodega Bay store in 1950 and William operated the Santa Rosa store at 405 Mendocino Avenue.

The Tomales store was operated by Walter until his death in 1972, when his daughter and son managed the store until it's sale in the 2000s. The Bodega Bay store was operated by Herman until his death in 1985 and Etta his wife and sold in 2007.

FACES PROJECT OF BODEGA BAY

Today's Diekmann's Bay Store

Locals love pizza from Diekmann's in Bodega Bay. Their kids often order plain cheese with garlic sauce instead of tomato, while adults get their garlic chicken. They make them from scratch with all fresh ingredients and you can really taste the difference. We are not alone, their pizzas are wildly popular here in town.



No, Diekmann's is not a pizza parlor, it's actually an old-fashioned market and deli with a rich history here in Bodega Bay. In fact, it's kind of like what they used to call a General Store. The Bay Store became Diekmann's when hardworking German immigrants, Herman and Etta Diekmann bought the store. Etta is remembered as the strong, outstanding business woman who ran the store. Here you'll find a wide assortment of groceries, fishing tackle, camping supplies, hardware, gifts, beer, wine, deli sandwiches, burgers, and of course, fresh baked pizza!

Current owners Gary and Balli (Gurpreet Singh and Baljinder Kaur) co-own Diekmann's Bay Store and Fisherman's Cove. Born in India, both came to the United States when they were 16. They purchased the store in 2007 and carry on the tradition by providing warm, friendly and helpful service to locals and visitors alike.

Today, recent remodels created additional space for quality products. Gary's intention is to support the local community by providing everything we need to avoid a trip to town with a new, robust selection of fresh produce and more organic groceries.



Our sincere thanks to our Advertisers, Supporters, Donors & new members



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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

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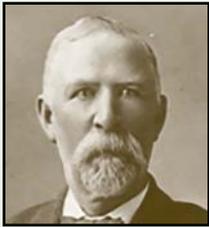
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www.RanchoBodega.org

IN THIS ISSUE

William Gleason



William Gleason was born in County Clare, Ireland in 1839. He passed away in 1906 in Sonoma County. He came to the US in 1844. He married twice and had fifteen children.

Bay Store (Hellwig's & Diekmann's)



Hellwig's Bay store and the Bay Hotel, Bar and Grill is seen on the right and two Union Oil gas pumps are seen in front of the general store.

WINTER EVENTS

Bodega Bay Grange Crab Cioppino. January 15, 2023 Bodega Bay Grange Hall, 1370 Bodega Avenue. Annual gatherings include our legendary Crab Cioppino event, serving all-you-can eat feasts, including our famous Crab Cioppino, cold-marianted crab, green salad, garlic bread, ice cream & cookies. Choose your seating time: 12:00 noon, 1:30 pm, 3:00 pm or 4:30 pm. \$80 per person (<https://bodegabaygrange.org/cioppino-2/>)

Explore and Observe Tidepools During the King Tides, Shell Beach, Sonoma County, Jan. 21, 3pm-5pm, Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods If you've been wondering what sea levels will look like as the climate changes, head to the Sonoma Coast during a king tide. After the king tide (the highest tide of the year), you will see a corresponding low tide. You will have a great time exploring the tide pools and observing tide pool creatures. (<https://www.coastal.ca.gov/kingtides/>)

Chowder Day Is Back for 2023! Bodega Bay January 28, 2023 It's the 20th Annual Chowder Day. Tastings will be at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Complete Your Tasting By 3 p.m. Tickets are On Sale as of December 1, 2022. Tickets are limited to 1500 people. Tickets \$25 (<https://www.visitbodegabayca.com/chowder-day>)

33rd Annual Great Sonoma Crab and Wine Fest, February 4, 2023 Sonoma County Fairgrounds – Hall of Flowers & Grace Pavilion, 4:00 PM Reception & Silent Auction, 6:00 PM Crab Feed Dinner & Live Auction. The premier Crab and Wine event in the North Bay Area! Over 2,000 supporters from the agriculture and business communities gather to support local agricultural education programs and advocacy. Combined with a reception featuring premier Sonoma County beer, wine and spirits, live music, and an impressive silent and live auction, the Great Sonoma Crab & Wine Fest makes for one of the year's best events and an evening you don't want to miss! Proceeds benefit Sonoma County Farm Bureau's agricultural education activities. (<https://sonomafb.org/crab-feed/>)

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