

RANCHO BODEGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DID YOU KNOW?

The Casino in Bodega



Frequent the Casino Bar and Grill in Bodega and you'll gain a sense of the place that goes far beyond its wildly popular and affordable gourmet meals scratched up on a hamburger grill. There's even more to it than the tasty well drinks, the at-your-service-but-don't-cross-me bartenders, the strange little stage that hangs over the bar and the ancient 7-Up sign out front.

A play on the surname "Casini," the Casino has operated at least since 1939. Evelyn and her late husband Art Casini (who passed in 1983), who was informally known as the Mayor of Bodega, bought it from his brother in July 1949. Evelyn has continued on, unable to retire from her "living room."

The Casino Bar and Grill is at 17000 Bodega Highway, Bodega. They're open seven days a week for dinner. They're also open Saturdays and Sundays for breakfast.

Bodega Bay Grange Crab Cioppino "Seafood Receptions" (then 1969 & now 2022)



A telephoto lens caught this crab connoisseur in a moment of hearty enjoyment at the Bodega Bay Grange annual crab cioppino Sunday.

3,000 for dinner at Bodega Bay

An unbelievable 13,400 pounds of crab were served to more than 3,000 paying customers from all over the state at Sunday's crab cioppino at Bodega Bay.

Considering that the average crab weighs about two and one-half pounds, the average person ate more than two crabs.

The hearty eaters, some armed with fells of paper towels, nutcrackers, pliers and bibs supplied by the Bodega Bay Grange, sponsors of the annual feed, paid \$3.75 each for the privilege of taking in all they could eat of what is undoubtedly both the messiest and the most enjoyable dinner to be found anywhere for the price.

In addition to both crab cioppino and seasoned cold crab, the Grange served 600 loaves of garlic bread and an undetermined amount of salad.

Some of the \$5,000 worth of crab came from Bodega and some was shipped from Crescent City and Eureka especially for the event. According to Mrs. Ray Ruebel, publicity chairman, no one harbor could ever fill an order for 13,400 pounds of fresh crab.

Over 100 local residents, many of whom are not members of the Grange, volunteered their assistance in preparing and serving the food.

The annual cioppino pays operating expenses for the Bodega Bay Grange, makes possible a welfare fund in the community, and finances an annual scholarship for a student at Tomales high school, which serves the coastal area.

Since 1954, for 67 years, Bodega Bay Grange members and community have served up the best-tasting and arguably the most fun Crab Cioppino event. In 2021 we canceled our event due to COVID. Sadly, for 2022, we must postpone again to comply with local regulations and safety concerns related to COVID.

We are optimistic that 2023 will be one heck of a Grange Crab Cioppino reunion. After all, we miss you! And we have the traditions of our forefathers to carry forward.

In 1969, some 3000 folks came to our humble, member-built Grange Hall to feast on Crab Cioppino! 13,400 pounds of crab was purchased at 37 cents a pound, and guests paid \$3.75 each.

Some things never change: we still use the same recipes and still use the proceeds from our event to fund scholarships to local students and for maintenance of the hall, which is used for town hall meetings, church services, Red Cross shelter and a food pantry. If you would like to support our existence and programs, please send a check to: Bodega Bay Grange, PO Box 152, Bodega Bay CA 94923 or use Paypal, bbgrange777@att.net. Thanks very much and we look forward to seeing you in January 2023!