

The Best Laid Plans

Not all of Morse's ideas worked out as intended.

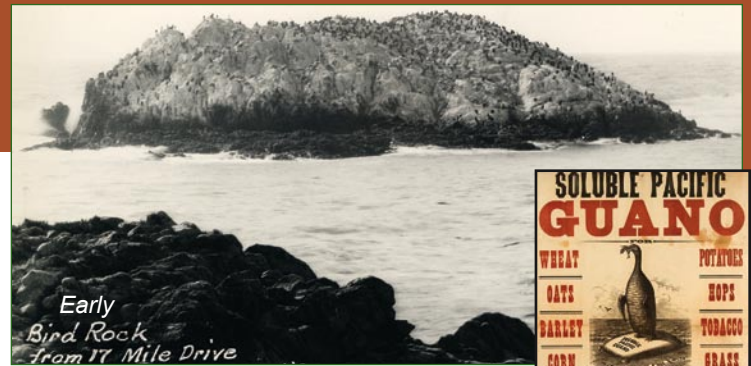
- by Neal Hotelling

When Samuel F.B. Morse (1885-1969) formed Del Monte Properties Company and acquired the "Del Monte Unit" in February 1919, in addition to the nearly 20,000 acres of real estate, the corporate assets included:

- Hotel Del Monte (1880/1888) and the Del Monte Golf Course (1897);
- 17-Mile Drive (1881);
- the Del Monte Polo Fields, stables, and racetrack (restored and reopened near the hotel in 1917);
- the Del Monte Bathhouse, pier and boardwalk (1887), just north of Monterey's Wharf #2, on Del Monte Beach;
- the newly opened course and lodge at Pebble Beach (known then as Del Monte Lodge and Del Monte's second course at Pebble Beach);
- the water system servicing the peninsula cities, including Pacific Grove Reservoir (1883), Forest Lake Reservoir (1888), the original dam on Carmel River (1883) and the San Clemente Dam nearing completion;
- the power and telephone company created to service the company's developments in Monterey, Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach; and
- a relatively simple sand mining operation at Spanish Bay with its seemingly ever-renewable resource, which the early railroad owners began exploiting in the 1880s.



Samuel F. B. Morse (1885 - 1969)



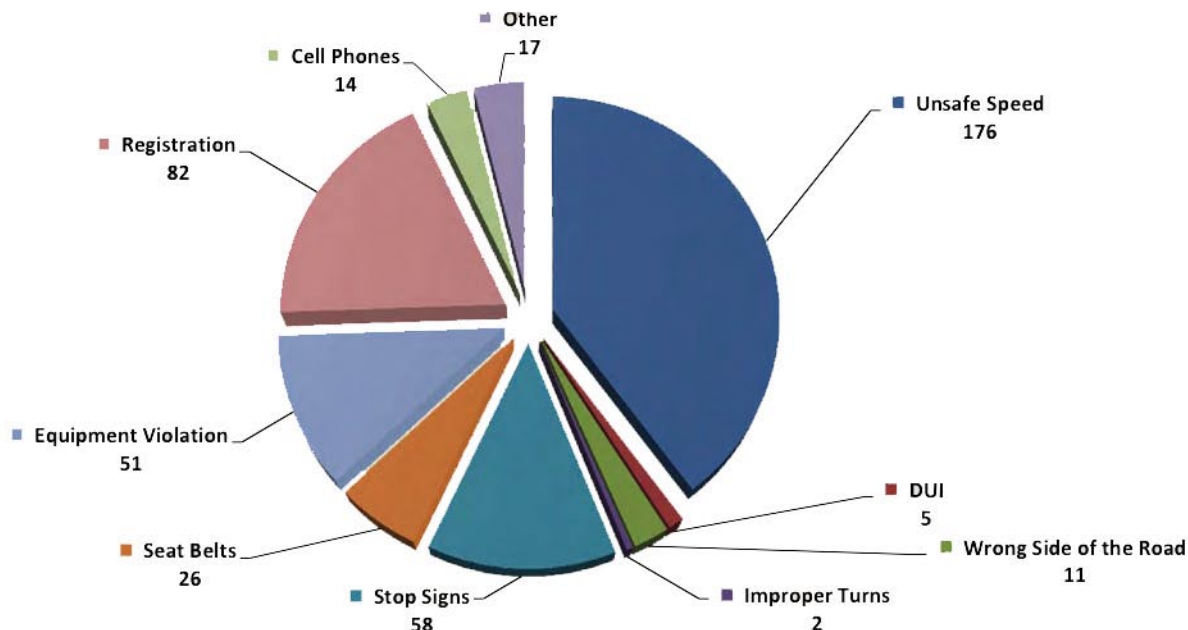
Morse, still in his 30s, already had considerable experience with developing diversified assets, including power and water. He later gained expertise in sand and expanded the mining operation at Spanish Bay.

He seemed to have a golden touch and could make money with nearly every endeavor. This was perhaps exemplified when he needed fertilizer to improve the soil and turf on Pebble Beach Golf Links. Where many developers might have purchased fertilizer, Morse negotiated to have the U.S. Army pay Del Monte Properties Company to service and remove the manure from the stables of the cavalry outpost at the Presidio of Monterey, and then blended the manure with green waste to solve his need for fertilizer and create another marketable resource.

Perhaps this success led him to one of his rare failures – guano harvesting from Bird Rock. Bird Rock was much whiter in those days than today. Seabirds, like the cormorants, pelicans and sea gulls had been calling Bird Rock home for decades, if not centuries, and their droppings were thick on the rock. Morse envisioned, that like the sand, this nitrogen-rich fertilizer was another renewable resource from nature.

(Continued on page 3)

Citation Breakdown (One Year Period) January 2014 - December 2014



Calls for Service Crime Report Statistics January - December 2014 Beat Area: 6Z-DMF / Pebble Beach

MONTH:	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS	
False Burglar Alarms	20	24	24	31	42	23	19	18	23	23	24	45	2014	2013
													316	259
Disturbing the Peace	1	5	2	2	6	1	3	4	7	5	0	1	37	26
Burglary	8	1	2	3	1	4	1	4	3	2	0	0	29	29
Thefts	5	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	4	2	2	0	25	37
Vandalism/Malicious Mischief	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	5	14
TOTALS	34	32	29	38	51	30	26	30	37	33	26	46	412	365

Source for top two reports: California Highway Patrol for Pebble Beach Community Services District; Bottom report: Monterey County Sheriff's Office for DMFPO Traffic & Safety Committee



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About 1930, Morse placed Jack Buttle (1896-1961) in charge of the operation. Buttle was one of Morse's key staffers; he and his wife Daisy lived in the Pacific Grove gate house – the adobe that now serves as the company's Human Resources office. Daisy collected the tolls while Jack patrolled the roads and managed operations within Del Monte Forest.

They rigged a bucket and pulley system from the rock to the shore. Former Del Monte Forest resident Charles "Bud" Giles (1920-2008), was just a boy at the time, and in a 1998 interview he provided to me his first-hand account of the operation.

"I was down there with Mr. Morse and Jack Buttle at Bird Rock when they had run a cable across to the top of Bird Rock...the fertilizer was four to five inches deep on the rock, and the Japanese men would go out in the rowboat to the rock and then they had this cable across with this bucket and they'd put the fertilizer into that bucket and they would pull it to shore."

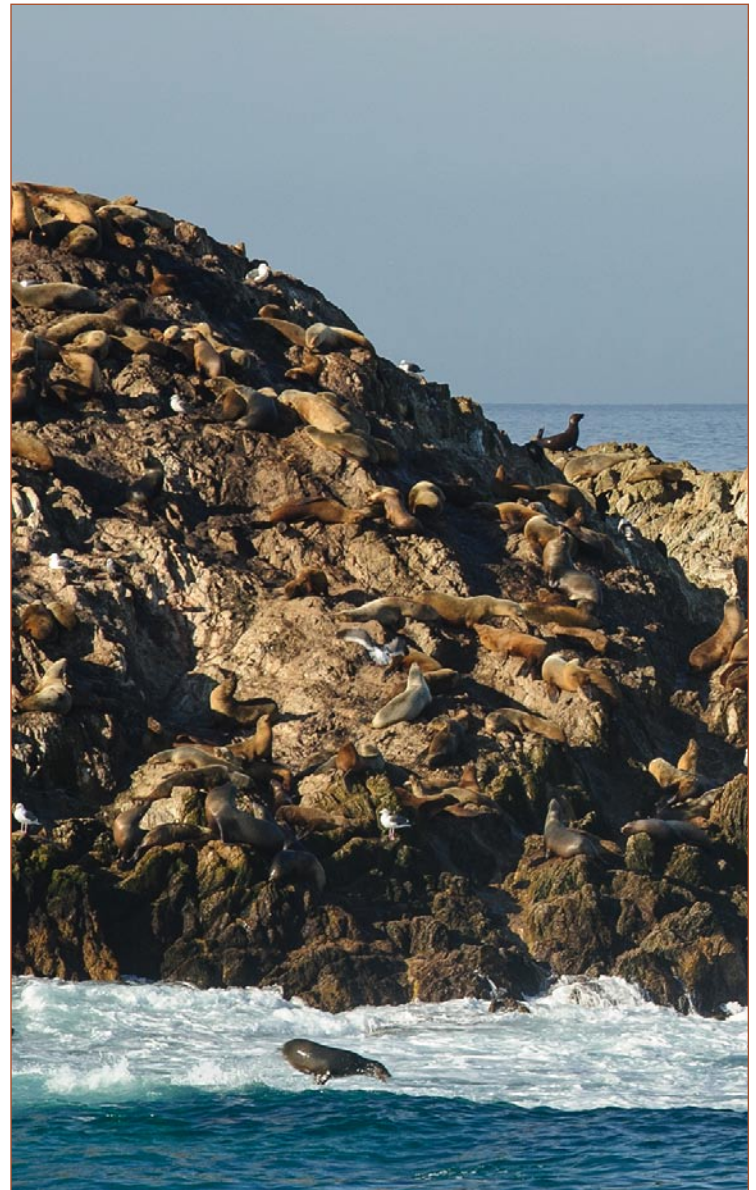
At Jack Buttle's invitation, Giles got an even closer look.

"I got in that bucket and they pulled me out to the top of Bird Rock. And the minute I got to the top of Bird Rock I was waving to them. Then I came back in that same bucket. I don't know if they had it filled with bird droppings or not. But anyhow, I came back in that."

While the workers successfully harvested a large quantity of fertilizer from that early episode, the renewability of the resource did not work out as planned. It seems Morse was not the only resident of the peninsula area that appreciated repurposing resources. Nearby, on the aptly named, but smaller Seal Rock, lived a colony of California sea lions. With the larger rock now cleared of layers of guano, they relocated to

new quarters on Bird Rock. They apparently spread the word and the colony grew. While the birds did not go away, from then on they had to share the space with the larger pinnipeds. The continual movement of the sea lions up and down the rock, prevented the guano from building up for future harvesting.

It was a good lesson for Morse, that when mankind exploits nature, there are sometimes unintended consequences. While he continued to be a developer for the rest of his long life, this experience helped shape his concepts of conservation that he blended into his development plans. ☺



The sea lions now inhabit "Bird" Rock since the bird guano was removed by Morse.

"A Table Affair" 2015 - A Year of Remembrance - Averil Nero

This year marks three very important anniversaries. The 70th Anniversary of the end of World War II, the 62nd Anniversary of the end of the Korean War and the 40th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. In addition to honoring the veterans of these wars, we must remember those who are serving in current conflicts. The beneficiary of "A Table Affair - 2015" will be Operation Freedom Paws, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation located in Gilroy, that empowers physically and psychologically challenged veterans to live a quality life by training their own dogs and certifying them as service dog teams.



Plan to attend the 12th Annual "A Table Affair" to be held from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Conference Center, The Lodge, Pebble Beach on Thursday, April 23, 2015. Please come to view 38 imaginatively designed table creations, visit with friends, enjoy light refreshments while supporting a truly worthy cause. No reservations are required and there is no admission charge. Donations are requested, and will be gratefully received at the event by representatives of Operation Freedom Paws. One hundred percent of all donations will go to this beneficiary and are tax deductible.

For further information contact Averil Nero at (831) 644-0833 or by e-mail: acnero@comcast.net

Pebble Beach Riding and Trails - Sharing the Roads of the Del Monte Forest

One of the hidden treasures of Pebble Beach is the nearly 27 miles of bridle and hiking trails that lace through the Del Monte Forest. While many of the trails remain as they were nearly a century ago, "suburbanization" and other development have altered the fabric of the forest and meant the loss of almost three-quarters of the original trail system laid out by SFB Morse. Traversing busy roads and intersections or riding parallel to the pavement has become a necessary challenge for those on horseback.

California Vehicle Code 21759 states "[t]he driver of any vehicle approaching...any ridden animal...shall exercise proper control of his vehicle and shall reduce speed or stop as may appear necessary or as may be signalled or otherwise requested by any person driving, riding or in charge of the animal...in order to avoid frightening and to safeguard the animal...

and to insure the safety of any person driving or riding the animal..."

Equestrians, motorists and bicyclists need to proceed with awareness, respect, and cooperation on the roads they share. Equestrians must keep an eye and ear out for vehicles, attempt to avoid potential dangers and signal their intentions to drivers. Drivers should, in turn, grant a courteous berth to horses and riders. Bicyclists are reminded that they are not allowed on the trails in the Forest.

The Pebble Beach Riding and Trails Association was founded in 1987 to encourage the preservation and enjoyment of the Del Monte Forest trail system. Annual dues are \$15. If you would like further information regarding PBRTA or would like to become a member, contact Kelly Getreu: kgetreu@comcast.net - Thea Montella



Douglas Iris

Nature Notes from the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History

In the early 1830s, somewhere near Monterey, David Douglas collected the first botanical specimens of what is now known as the Douglas iris (*Iris douglasiana*). This species is the most extensive of all California irises, ranging in a narrow coastal band from Santa Barbara County through central Oregon.

The Douglas iris blooms in colors ranging from pale cream to deep purple, marked with yellow and white blazes. The flowers' color range is caused by genetic mixing (hybridization) with other iris species. Some iris hybrids have resulted from crossing naturally in the wild; many others have been hybridized in the nursery trade.

Of course, genetic mixing occurs through the plants' sexual reproduction. But when you see a large clump of iris, that patch probably reproduced asexually through runners (rhizomes). It's a clone, and may be hundreds of years old.

An unusual white Douglas iris grows in the native plant garden of the PG Museum of Natural History. According to Vern Yadon, Director Emeritus of the Museum, he collected the plant



*Brother Alfred Brousseau © 1995
Saint Mary's College of California*

decades ago from the Del Monte Forest. A resident showed him a white iris patch growing near the end of Congress Rd, in a place now covered by paving. This white iris as a kind of albino (known as "albiflora"), resulting from the expression of a recessive gene.

If you are interested in seeing the myriad colors wildflowers display, don't miss the 55th annual Wildflower Show held April 17-19 at the Museum.

- Annie Holdren



DMFC Receives Welcomed Grant Funding - Lynn Carmichael

The Conservancy, with great appreciation, has received a grant from

The Wendy P. McCaw Foundation, along with a matching amount from a local private donor.

For a number of years, the Conservancy has tried to protect Pescadero Canyon off of 17 Mile Drive from erosion due to water runoff from Carmel land above with limited funds and minimal success. In particular, there is now a deep canyon gully



that continues to erode and damage surrounding vegetation and protected trees in this beautiful part of the Del Monte Forest. This new funding will help the Conservancy repair this area, protect it from further damage, and restore it to its original condition.

The Del Monte Forest Conservancy is dedicated to protecting Conservancy lands and easements that provide habitat for rare and endangered species of plants within the forest and promoting good stewardship among those of us who enjoy living in this amazing area of natural wonder.

The Conservancy would like to encourage residents to learn more about its important mission by visiting the web site at:

<http://www.delmonteforestconservancy.org>.



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The article below describes the
information to be presented at the
DMFPO Semiannual Meeting
May 17, 2015

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Inn at Spanish Bay.

All 2015 DMFPO members welcome!
Soda, wine, and hor d'oeuvres provided.

Please let us know if your address has changed, or if you've sold your home: office@dmfpo.org

DMFPO Semiannual Meeting Sunday May 17th

All 2015 DMFPO members are invited to hear



Monterey Peninsula Country Club

 **GreenWaste Recovery**
a brighter shade of green



Roundabout

Sunday, May 17, 2015

The Inn at Spanish Bay 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

MPCC: Information will be presented on the renovation of the Shore Course. Originally designed by Robert Baldock in 1960, the Shore has 6,956 yards and is a par 72. It is naturally contoured playing through coastal grasslands and rolling sand dunes. Last updated in 2003, the current renovation will improve even more on the previous stunning designs.

GreenWaste Recovery Inc.: Come hear about the changeover from Waste Management Inc. garbage collection services to GreenWaste Recovery beginning July 1, 2015. The presenter will guide you through the enhancements and relatively minor changes you can expect in your current garbage service.

Hwy 68 Roundabout Project: Speakers from the various agencies involved in the project will give the latest on design completion, construction scheduling and emergency vehicle routes during any lane closures. Your written questions on this and the other two topics will be fielded after all presentations are complete. Reception to follow with soda, wine and hor d'oeuvres.

For more details, visit <http://www.dmfpo.org>