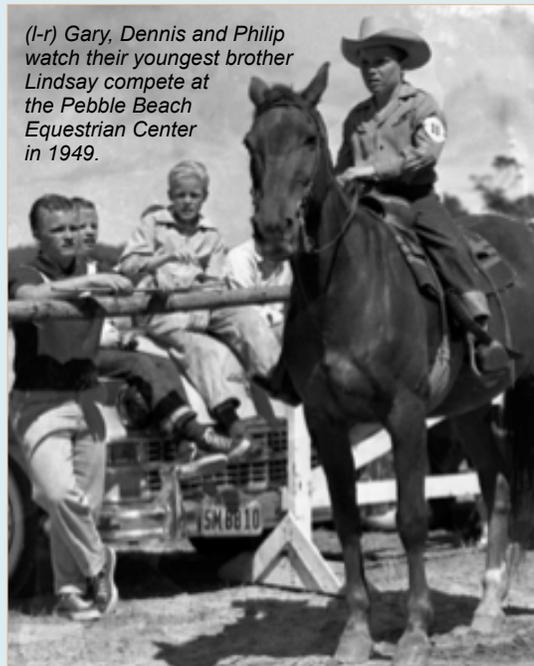


## When the Crosbys Lived at Pebble Beach - by Neal Hotelling



Bing and Dixie Lee Crosby attend a tennis tournament at Pebble Beach in 1948  
(All photos by Julian P. Graham, PBC Archives)



(l-r) Gary, Dennis and Philip watch their youngest brother Lindsay compete at the Pebble Beach Equestrian Center in 1949.

*"It was in 1949 and we were residing in Pebble Beach. It was Saturday. Linny was going to school in near-by Carmel. Gary and the twins were down from Bellarmine Academy in San Jose. I was in L.A. making a picture and Dixie was running the roost. The roost being a two-story modern California-type house overlooking the Pacific on the thirteenth hole of the Pebble Beach Golf Club." So wrote Bing Crosby in his 1953 book, **Call Me Lucky**.*

The home, often pointed out to visiting golfers by local caddies, no longer looks as it did when the Crosbys resided there. Linny, actually Lindsay Harry Chip Crosby, was 11 in 1949, the youngest of the four Crosby boys Bing had with his first wife, Dixie Lee. Gary, nearly five years older, was the eldest, and in between were the twins – Dennis and Philip – born a month after Gary's first birthday.



In 1942, Bing played second fiddle to his wife at Pebble Beach when Dixie Lee was made honorary captain of Company B's military police – "Dixie Lee's MPs." Four-year-old Lindsay was also on hand.

Bing and Dixie Lee had met in Hollywood and married in 1930, at a time when he was barely known and she was a successful actress. He would soon eclipse her to become the largest box office draw and recording star of the era – a career that allowed him to indulge his passion for sports that included fishing, baseball (he owned the Pittsburgh Pirates), horse racing (he owned a stable at Del Mar), and of course golf (which brought him to Pebble Beach).

While Bing Crosby will always be linked to the winter tournament he brought to Pebble Beach in 1947 and bore his name for more than 40 years, his ties to the area went deeper. In 1939, he astounded the gallery at the State Amateur with a 232-yard drive in the long drive contest; not enough to win, but still impressive. In 1941 he paired with Johnny Dawson to enter the International Team Championships of the Pacific.

*(Continued on page 3)*

Soon after the USGA canceled the 1942 U.S. Amateur scheduled for Pebble Beach, S.F.B. Morse began corresponding with Crosby about how to hold a pro-am.

It was in April 1944, that Crosby acquired the lot on the 13th hole next door to Jimmy Hatlo's "Wit's End." The Crosby house came later. A September 20, 1948 recap on the U.S. Women's Amateur reported the Crosby home was under construction and "the plumbing alone for the weekend place will cost \$50,000." Initially, it was more than a weekend place, as evidenced by Lindsay being a student at Carmel. The youngest Crosby also took riding lessons from Dick Collins at the equestrian center, while Dixie Lee became part of the social set, often staying at Pebble Beach while Bing traveled for his career.

During the annual pro-am, the Crosbys would make room for other golfers. Ken Venturi recalled being pulled from his San Jose State classroom in late 1951. The 20-year-old had won the State Amateur and received a personal invitation from Bing, who said, "you'll never find a room at this late date, so just stay with us." He did, and also bested the pros in the storm-shortened conditions with a 75-69 — 144; one stroke better than winning professional Jimmy Demaret.

That was Dixie's last year as hostess. She was staying at their Hollywood home in late 1952, when she died at the age of 40 following cancer surgery.

The boys came home from their schools and Bing, who was in Paris filming "Little Boy Lost," flew home to be with her at her passing. The home at Pebble Beach became Bing's refuge whenever his schedule would allow. He also loaned it to friends like Phil Harris.

Bing paired with Ben Hogan in the 1956 Crosby. With Hogan's damaged legs struggling in the rainy final round, Bing invited Hogan to call it a day when they reached his home at 13. Hogan opted to play out the round – the last time either played in the Crosby.



*Newly married Kathryn Crosby joined Bing at the 1958 Crosby Pro-Am*

In September 1956, following media foiled attempts at quiet weddings in both Idaho and Las Vegas, Bing welcomed 22-year-old actress Kathryn Grant as a guest in his Pebble Beach home. While Bing played golf, she went for a walk on the beach and decided these delays were perhaps a message. She returned to work in Los Angeles, refusing to take his calls. Bing persisted, and whisked her off to Las Vegas where they married in October 1957. They were soon raising a young family in Los Angeles; Harry was born in 1958, Mary in 1959 and Nathaniel in 1961.

*In July 1957, Bing Crosby opened his home and yard for a Monterey Symphony fundraiser.*



At the 1960 Crosby, Bing's older boys were invited to play and stay with them at the Pebble Beach home. It was the last time the clan gathered in the home. In July 1960, Bing put the

home on the market and it sold early in 1961. The Crosbys, of course, maintained their ties with Pebble Beach, using The Lodge as their headquarters on future visits. ☞

### Feeding Backyard Birds of Pebble Beach - by Dr. Jeff Froke

The very agreeable physician-naturalist, Charles C. Abbott wrote, *"the presence of birds at any time is magic in effect. They are magicians that transform every scene; make of every desert a garden of delights..."* (Days Out-of-Doors, 1889).

Indeed, there are legions of feathered enchanters performing marvelous acts throughout Pebble Beach, whether aloft overhead, adrift near-shore, skittering about the underbrush, or taking bows atop the woodland canopy that drapes our community. Enjoy the daily matinée and consider the following tidbits that would crystallize the magical spell in your own backyards and gardens.

Locally, I recommend that backyard bird feeding be limited to Fall through Winter and early Spring, generally October through March. At this time, the migratory visitors and resident songbirds crave carbohydrates for energy and warmth. Not so much the rest of the year when producing and providing for young birds shifts demands to higher protein foods, particularly insects. Besides, who has time to hang around the feeder when there are nests-full of chicks to raise?

To start with, *gulls need not apply* — our topic is healthful seeds that are cultivated (and regulated) as wild bird food in a fashion that jibes with natural lifestyles and nutritional strategies of more humble, unassuming songbirds, doves, and woodpeckers.

#### What to Feed Birds in Pebble Beach?

Forty years ago, my late friend and colleague, Dr. Aelred Geis, a maniacal biostatistician, devised a intensive study of the relative attractiveness of numerous seed types among a large cast of birds, coast to coast. For several years, our two mothers conducted the feeder observations



The Oak Titmouse is a devotee of Safflower Seeds.  
-Photos by Dr. Froke

in their respective backyards (his in Maryland, mine in California). In sum, we determined a west coast blend that would maximize consumption, minimize waste (uneaten seed was daily measured, bagged and shipped to Al's laboratory), and thereby optimize the expense of feeding California birds. Subsequently, I have amended the recommended seed mix for California birds, including those found at Pebble Beach bird-feeders. Look for high concentrations of the following ingredients in available packaged mixes, or blend your own from whole stock bought at good seed stores or online (e.g., Amazon).

Anyway, here's the scoop on the good stuff:

- Oil-type sunflower (Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Western Scrub Jay and Steller's Jay, California Quail, towhees)
- Safflower (obsessively favored by Oak Titmouse)
- Black-striped sunflower (highly popular across the board)
- White proso millet (Mourning Dove, Collared Dove, House Finch, California Towhee, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow)
- Nyger thistle (fed separately for Dark-backed and American Goldfinches, as well as Pine Siskin).

Conversely, common seeds in off-the-shelf mixes (they are fillers that are cheap to produce) are ignored or only poked about by our native birds, thusly adding substantially to the cost and mess of bird-feeding: Don't bother with German millet, flaxseed, rice, wheat, sorghum (milo).

Let Them Eat Cake — Suet cakes, which are available in stores and also can be made at home will draw in Common Flickers, Acorn Woodpeckers, chickadees and the very splendid Townsend's Warbler. To make suet at home, email me and I will send you my favorite recipe (address below).



Townsend Warblers will Winter at Pebble Beach



Hangin' with a Pine Siskin on a sackful of Nyger Thistle

*Dr. Jeff Froke has worked for 42 years as a professional ornithologist and for half of that time has lived in Pebble Beach with his wife, Martha. DMFPO members interested in the bird life of our community are invited to email Jeff with questions and observations: [jbf@birdrockpress.com](mailto:jbf@birdrockpress.com).*

### Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC) Donor Appreciation Event Held



On a beautiful Sunday in October at the Indian Village picnic grounds, the Del Monte Forest Conservancy presented a fourth annual donor appreciation event with complimentary music and wine. It was an afternoon filled with fun, food and music in a casual relaxed forest setting. The Trail Ride Band returned this year, composed of Peter Hicks on fiddle, along with Dave Ford and Andy Johnson playing guitar. Vicki Ward played accordion and Artemus Gordon joined in on bass. The musicians played a medley of cowboy, country, old time, and bluegrass.

This event was presented by the Conservancy's volunteer Board of Directors (Pebble Beach residents) and other volunteers in appreciation of the support received from the donors.

The mission of the Conservancy is maintenance and conservation of open space within the Del Monte Forest for the enjoyment of current and future generations. All property owners are encouraged to support this important mission.

Enjoy the Conservancy's on-line video featuring an educational, picturesque and inspirational walk through forest pines and habitats set to music at [www.delmonteforestconservancy.org](http://www.delmonteforestconservancy.org). You may also phone (831) 373-1293 for more information on the Conservancy. - Suha Kilic



The Trail Ride Band  
- Photo courtesy of Don Eastman

*Music in the Village*



**The Marine Mammal Center** - by Laura Sherr

The cries of a hungry harbor seal pup are a heart-wrenching “mah! mah!” as if it is calling out for his mother by name. Every spring at The Marine Mammal Center you’re likely to hear a whole chorus during feeding time as we care for dozens of orphaned pups.

For over 40 years, the Center has rescued marine mammals along the California coastline. Founded by volunteers, we’ve grown into a world-class scientific research and education facility, becoming a leader in advancing global ocean conservation.

In recent years, due to warming water temperatures, we’ve rescued record numbers of stranded seals and sea lions in Monterey County, and even Pebble Beach.

One unique rescue was performed by our Monterey Bay Operations team just below the ninth hole of the Pebble Beach Golf Links. The pup, aptly named Bogey, was separated from his mother and still had part of his umbilical cord attached—indicating that he was likely just a



few days old. Admitted to our hospital, Bogey was started on a regimen of electrolyte fluids mixed with a special milk formula. A standard course of vitamins and antibiotics were added to boost his fragile newborn immune system. Without the antibodies from his mother’s milk, Bogey and pups like him are at higher risk of illness.

Our veterinary experts use innovative techniques to treat and return patients to their ocean home. Just as importantly, we learn from the patients in our care and contribute to scientific understanding of the changing health of our ocean, taking action to address ocean threats.

After a few months in rehabilitation, Bogey was released at Point Reyes National Seashore.

The Marine Mammal Center thanks the Pebble Beach community for its support of the many harbor seal pups that are born here and share the beaches with residents. As we approach the spring pupping season, if you see a seal or sea lion pup on a beach that looks sick or injured,

please resist the urge to pick it up or get too close.

The best thing you can do for these animals is to call our 24-hour rescue hotline at 415-289-SEAL (7325) so that our experts can assess and rescue the animal if needed.

For more information on special release events in Pebble Beach and Monterey County as well as other ways to support the work of the Center, please contact Bess Touma at 415-289-7331 or [ToumaB@tmmc.org](mailto:ToumaB@tmmc.org).



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Do you have a tree issue? Contact Pebble Beach Company, Forestry Department, 625-8414, for tree-related information. Remember, no trees may be removed from any property without a tree permit from Pebble Beach Company. Native trees, including Coast Live Oak, Monterey Pine and Cypress, are especially protected. A permit may also be required from Monterey County.

*You can now submit your 2017 Membership Dues via the DMFPO website at <http://dmfpo.org>*

**Holman Highway 68 Roundabout Project Update** - by Grant Leonard  
TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

Construction of the Holman Highway Roundabout began in August 2016 and is well on its way to being completed by summer of 2017. Over the last four months, construction crews have been making progress on grading operations as well as constructing two large retaining walls which will have a rock face appearance. Other major accomplishments include:

- Re-configuring the intersection and installing a temporary signal which resulted in no additional delays from pre-construction conditions
- Reconstructing the southbound Highway 1 off-ramp ahead of schedule during the Veteran's Day Weekend
- Removing the unsafe left-turn out of Carmel Hill Professional Center to Highway 68
- Construction of two retaining walls with attractive aesthetic finish.
- Constructing improved underground drainage systems



In January, construction work will continue to be behind the concrete barriers, and no closures or detours are planned. However, the project is anticipated to have temporary lane closures and detours when crews start re-configuring the intersection near the entrance to 17 Mile Drive. This work is planned to begin in February after the AT&T Pro-Am.

Stay up to date on the project by signing up for email notifications, text message alerts, and by viewing the live construction camera at: <http://www.tamcmonterey.org/>