

Del Monte Forest Property Owners

a non-profit
California Corporation

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

DMFPO Seeking Board
Members for 2013
page 2

DMF Foundation Renamed
page 2

Flu Shot Clinics
page 4

Forest Roads Maintenance
page 5

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FORESTNEWS

Carberry Knoll and the Home Owner Behind the Name

Eighth in a series of articles on the history of
Del Monte Forest by **Neal Hotelling**



Carberry Plane - Photo courtesy of the Carberry Family

One of the sources cited by the late Professor Clark, in **Monterey County Place Names**. Professor Clark, however, provided little detail on the source of the name, stating only, "A hill in Del Monte Forest. Named for a landowner." Clark cites the earliest use on a 1928 map of Pebble Beach produced by R.V. Carey showing it as, "31+ acres on the S side of Sunridge Road." More specifically, Carberry Knoll is on the south side of Sunridge Road westerly from its intersection with Mora Lane.

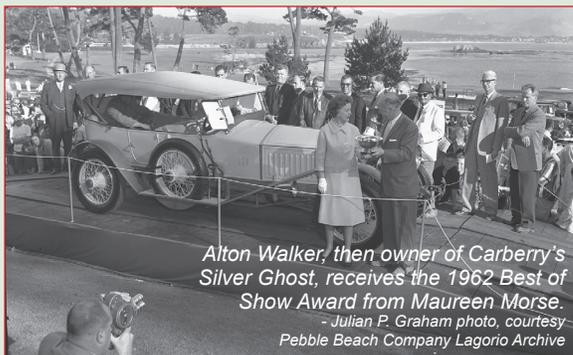
The story behind the name is actually quite interesting. Artist Jo Mora, who also called out Carberry Knoll on his 17-Mile Drive carte, likely knew Lord John Carbery, the early DMF home owner who sold his family castle in County Cork, Ireland and built a home at Pebble Beach. John Evans-Freke (1892-1970), the 10th Lord Carbery, became known as John Evans Carberry (adding an "r") upon coming to America.

John's 9-greats grandfather, Robert Freke, was auditor of the treasury under both Henry VIII and Elizabeth I of England. Robert's eldest son, William, moved to Ireland, purchased Rathbarry Castle on an 1100-acre estate in 1641 and renamed it Castle Freke. This was the ancestral family estate where John was later raised.

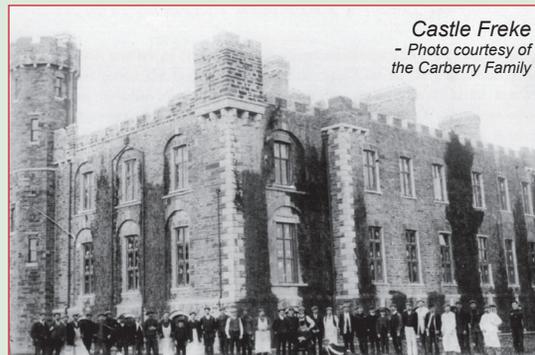
John's 3-greats grandmother, Grace Freke married John Evans, the 2nd son of the first Baron of Carbery. Their grandson, John Evans-Freke became the 6th Baron Carbery on the death of his father's cousin in 1807. With the old castle in disrepair, he built a new Castle Freke on the estate. The grand palace included a magnificent hall, a 75 x 30 foot saloon, 21 bedrooms and several apartments. A few generations later, John was just two years old, when his father, Algernon, became the 9th Baron Carbery, and then ascended to Baron himself at age six when his father died at age 29.

John lived a life of privilege at a time when the world was advancing quickly. He loved his cars and his airplanes, ordering a custom Rolls Royce Silver Ghost in 1913, the same year he married José Metcalf, whom he met on the slopes at St. Moritz. He was

an accomplished pilot, but made headlines in the summer of 1914 when he dumped his plane in the English Channel during an air race to Paris and back. When Great Britain entered WWI,



Alton Walker, then owner of Carberry's
Silver Ghost, receives the 1962 Best of
Show Award from Maureen Morse.
- Julian P. Graham photo, courtesy
Pebble Beach Company Lagorio Archive



Castle Freke
- Photo courtesy of
the Carberry Family

Continued on page 3



View from Carberry Knoll - Photo courtesy of Neal Hotelling

he volunteered, flying his own plane under the Irish Flag and dropping grenades from his open cockpit.

He was a man of the world. In 1915 he bought 650 acres in Kenya, then a British colony, to develop a coffee plantation. He and José accompanied his Rolls Royce to New York in late 1916 for an extended visit. As the war came to an end, John spent more time in Kenya, but José returned to London with their daughter Jo and obtained a divorce in 1919.

That July, John put Castle Freke up for sale and returned to America, intent on obtaining U.S. citizenship. The agent looking after his Rolls Royce put a note in the file dated July 3, 1919: *“Lord Carbery, having taken out naturalization in the United States has relinquished his British title. He should in the future be addressed as John Carbery, Esq.”*

He returned to Kenya where he met Maia Anderson, who had grown up in the colony. She was just 18 when she married John in January 1922. For their honeymoon, news reports indicated they were headed to California *“where Carbery has for some time been contemplating buying an estate at Monterey and building a home.”* They headed east on a steamship, arriving at Seattle on June 5, 1922, with a stated destination of Monterey, California.

It is unclear how Carbery heard about Pebble Beach, but the likely connection was G.M. Heckscher, a New York millionaire that bought Carbery’s Rolls Royce. Heckscher was a friend of S.F.B. Morse and an investor in Del Monte.

That summer John and Maia bought 31.765 acres on the hillside overlooking Carmel Bay. The view was reminiscent of his home in Ireland. They were attracted by not only the beauty of the area, but the lifestyle where fine cars and airplanes were common place, and even during prohibition, alcohol

was available. The Carberrys, both pilots, most certainly utilized the airfield that once shared space with the Pebble Beach Equestrian Center. Little is actually known of their life at Pebble Beach, but their home was designed by Mark Daniels (see Oct 2011 *ForestNews*)

Newspaper accounts of the 1920s, however, make it clear John and Maia split their time between Kenya and Pebble Beach and competed in air races around the globe. Current day relatives in London, including daughter Juanita, had no idea he had a home at Pebble Beach; merely that he traveled often from his base in Kenya. At Nairobi, on March 12, 1928, while training a student pilot, Maia’s plane crashed and she and the student were killed. Juanita was just a toddler and John was devastated.

John remarried in 1930. Juanita grew up in Kenya while her parents travelled. She was a teenager before she learned June Carberry was not her mother. As late as 1935, when John’s daughter Jo married in London, the New York Times referred to him as “John Evans Carberry of Del Monte.” Carberry deeded the property back to the company in 1936.

Reports indicate it briefly became the new site of the gambling parlor – a tradition that had begun with the Canary Cottage that once sat near the old fifth green of Pebble Beach Golf Links. This tradition ended when Jo Mora bought the Carberry home (with less acreage) in 1942. Much of the former Carberry acreage is in the area slated for permanent preservation under the new Del Monte Forest Land Use Plan.

Kenya remained Carberry’s home until he died in 1970. In 1941, the Carberrys were linked to the high-profile, unsolved Happy Valley murder of Josslyn Hay, the philandering 22nd Earl of Erroll. It was the subject of the 1983 book and 1987 film, *White Mischief*.

While John Carberry never returned to Pebble Beach, one of his once prized possessions did. His 1913 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost won Best of Show at the 1962 Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance, and returned again when it was sold in the 2006 Pebble Beach auction. ☺