



Wilford Rensselaer Holman

FORESTNEWS

W.R. Holman's Highway Through Del Monte Forest - by Neal Hotelling

Del Monte Forest Property Owners
a non-profit California Corporation

April - June 2018

Did you ever wonder how Highway 68 came to weave through the route of 17-Mile Drive without having any actual access to Del Monte Forest? Nothing happens in a vacuum. If Pacific Improvement Company hadn't built the

large, but short lived Pacific Grove Hotel in 1887, the story likely would have been different. The next year 4-year-old Wilford Rensselaer Holman (1884-1981) moved to Pacific Grove. His father, Rensselaer Luther Holman, founded a dry goods shop there in 1891. His sons took it over in 1905, but Clarence soon left for Aromas, and W. R. Holman became the sole proprietor in 1909 and proceeded to grow the business.

In 1915, Pacific Improvement Company hired Samuel F.B. Morse to manage and liquidate their vast holdings, including those on the Monterey Peninsula. He decided Hotel Del Monte could be improved to attract a buyer, but not the Pacific Grove Hotel. *"I decided that the Pacific Grove Hotel could never make money. It was antiquated, old fashioned, situated in an area where liberty at that time was not complete to say the least, and it was apparent at once that it would be wise for the Company to cease operations. When the decision was made to close, I quite bluntly informed the City Council that we would be glad to have the city acquire the hotel at a nominal figure, but that if they didn't want it, we proposed to tear it down."*

When the City declined, Morse had it dismantled, salvaging the lumber.

Seeing an opportunity, W.R. Holman bought the large downtown hotel block in March 1918, before it could be subdivided. He opened a new

two-story department store there in 1924, that became the largest department store between Los Angeles and San Francisco. Holman's provided everything for everyone. To reach Pacific Grove, however, the growing Carmel community had to go over the hill into Monterey, and then around the coast to Pacific Grove.

Holman first began pushing the county for a road between Pacific Grove and Carmel in 1923. Holman led a campaign that culminated in delivering to the County Supervisors a petition signed by 3,150 people desiring a direct right-of-way between Pacific Grove and Carmel. Supervisor Roberts fought the idea, so Holman led the campaign to defeat him.

In April 1928, frustrated that the county was still slow to act, Holman advocated to the City the State Acquisition and Improvement Act, sponsored by Everett Mattoon in 1925. The Mattoon Act, as it became known, provided for expedited approvals of new roads, funded by bonds to be paid back by "benefiting" property owners. It essentially allowed two cities separated by unincorporated lands, to take the land between them needed to build a new road. The Pacific Grove City Council unanimously voted to create a direct route through the heart of Del Monte Forest.



Construction crew,
W.R. Holman Highway



DMFPO Semiannual Meeting



Sunday, May 20, 2018, 2:00 to 4:00 pm

The Inn at Spanish Bay, St. Andrew's Room

**With Fire Prevention & Planning Chief, Mark Mancini
Pebble Beach Fire Department / CAL FIRE**

A presentation comparing the Santa Rosa Fire in 2017 and 50 years earlier in 1964, and whether this could happen in Pebble Beach. Become familiar with the similarities and differences in our urban/wildland area and steps you can take to help prevent and be prepared in the event of fire.

And

Mr. David Stivers, President of Pebble Beach Company, will speak about public safety, capital projects and upcoming events leading into the Pebble Beach Company Centennial.

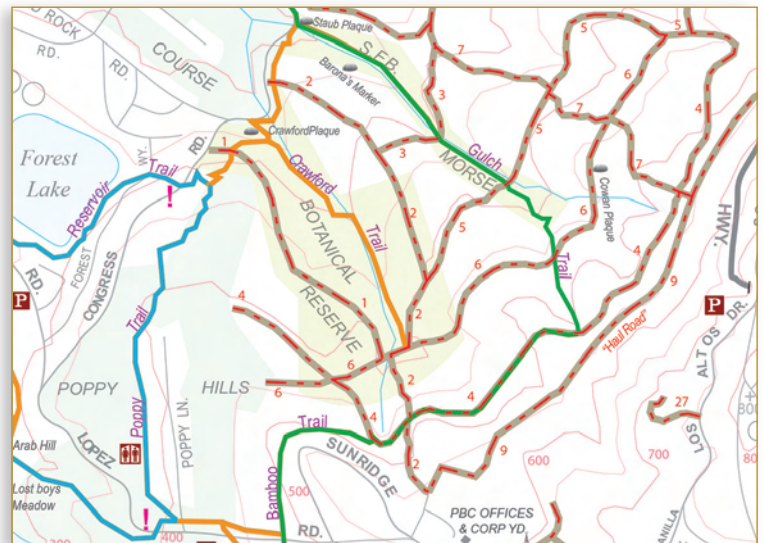
DMFPO 2018 Members are Invited • Enjoy Refreshments and Hors d'oeuvres



Reopening of Green Trail in the SFB Morse Botanical Reserve

- by Don Eastman, Member of the Board of Directors of the Del Monte Forest Conservancy

The Del Monte Forest Conservancy is pleased to announce that on Earth Day, April 22, 2018, at 12 noon, there will be a reopening of a recently redirected and renovated portion of the Green Trail that runs on Conservancy property through the SFB Morse Botanical Reserve. The Conservancy is planning a small celebration to honor the ribbon cutting. Property owners will be advised in early April, and Conservancy donors will be notified in a spring mailing. If you would like to attend the celebration, send an email with your contact information to dmfc@delmonteforestconservancy.org. Specific directions will be provided.



After many years of natural erosion and use by pedestrians/equestrians, the old trail deteriorated. Despite maintenance efforts and erosion control, the trail was considered a safety risk. To address the issue, the trail was moved to the opposite side of the creek at a higher elevation to avoid winter flooding. In 2017 the Conservancy was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District to assist in clearing and grading the northerly rerouting of the trail. Additional funding to complete the project was provided by the Conservancy and

a \$1,000 grant from the Josephine Bunn Fund of the Community Foundation for Monterey County. Work began in the summer of 2017 and continued through the winter. The new trail will remain closed during the rest of the rainy season, allowing the surface to harden. The alignment now affords a more solid, less hazardous trail with lower erosion potential. The Green Trail provides spectacular glimpses of meadows and Manzanita thickets, with a unique mix of Monterey Pine, Bishop Pine, and a host of native plant species that make the SFB Morse Botanical Reserve such a wonderful environmental resource.

"We are unalterably opposed," was the immediate response from Morse and the Company he created in 1919 to develop the residential-resort community. "We will take it all the way to the national Supreme Court if necessary." Carmel was also opposed, favoring, as did the Company, a county design that would route traffic to the top of Carmel Hill and join the main road. "If a road is built conforming to the [County] route...Pacific Grove can count on the heartiest support [from the Company]."

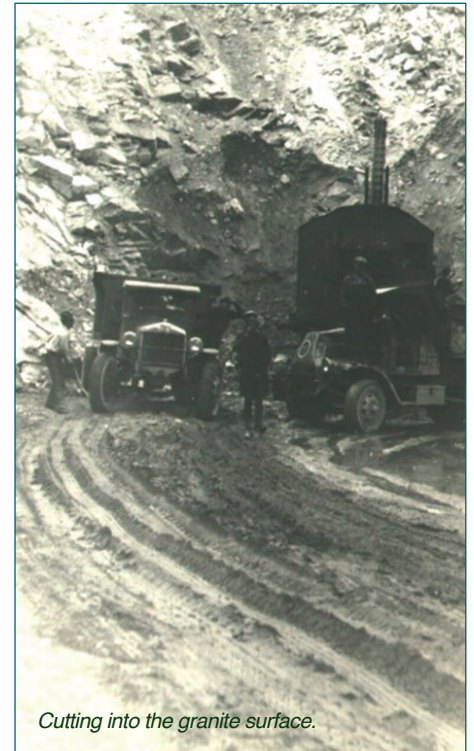
Cutting through a direct route would have destroyed many of Morse's plans. The county route went through the undeveloped upper Del Monte Forest and allowed for overpasses where the Company maintained its private roads.

The Pacific Grove action certainly got things moving. In May, the City and Company met with County engineers to talk out the issues. A key point was that the County would pay for the preferred route, while the City would bear the cost if they insisted on their route. The Pacific Grove City Council approved the county route at their June 1928 meeting. After nearly a year of further review, construction started in June 1929. Beginning at the top of the hill, the crew worked their way down the hill, cutting into the granite surface to assure that nowhere would the grade exceed six-percent. Work was completed, and the new route opened in November 1930.

Despite the Great Depression, Holman's store thrived, and he added a third floor with a roof-top solarium in the early 1930s. W. R. Holman was considered the father of the roadway, and on January 19, 1972, Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 8, co-authored by Assemblyman Bob Wood and Senator Donald Grunsky named "that portion of State Highway Route 68 from the City of Pacific Grove to the top of Carmel Hill, the W.R. Holman Highway." ☞



The City of Pacific Grove conceded to the County-paid route.



Cutting into the granite surface.

"A Table Affair" May 31st at The Inn at Spanish Bay

The 15th Annual "A Table Affair" will take place on Thursday, May 31 from 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. at the Main Ballroom, The Inn at Spanish Bay. Come and enjoy a light hearted event in delightful surroundings. Bring friends and stroll amongst the 50 imaginatively designed table arrangements created by both individuals and non-profit organizations. Also, plan to stop by "The Bow Wow" Boutique! There is no admission charge for the event and reservations are not required. Complimentary refreshments are provided and there will be a no-host bar.

Averil Nero will be very happy to answer any questions or inquiries regarding "A Table Affair-2018." Please call (831) 644-0833 or e-mail acnero@comcast.net.



Hello Darkness, My Old Friend

By Katherine Spitz, DMFPO Board Member

We are so lucky here in the Del Monte Forest. We can still see the night sky of stars through a frame of the oaks, pines and cypresses in our forest. Simon and Garfunkel wrote “Hello darkness, my old friend.” When it comes to the night sky, darkness is indeed a friend. A friend to our health, the health of our earth and the health of the birds and all animals.



Our eyes require the contrast of a dark sky in order to see the stars. Artificial lights have unintentionally created a bright glow in the sky that has the perceived affect of dimming the stars. Millions of people across the globe may never see a truly starry sky or observe the Milky Way.

But light pollution is not just about the stars. It negatively affects our health and has serious consequences on the environment. Natural seasonal and diurnal cycles are critical for the circadian rhythms of life.

According to the International Dark Sky Association, light pollution takes three forms: light trespass; glare; and sky glow. Light trespass is intrusive light shining from one property onto another (the neighbor’s flood lights shining into your bedroom); glare is the bright light from a small source (such as a light bulb) and causes eye discomfort and temporary blindness (simply put, if you can see the light bulb, it’s creating glare); sky glow is the brightness in the night sky. All these forms of light pollution have created night conditions that alter the environment in detrimental ways.

Proper lighting is really a matter of being neighborly. Just as we prefer not to have our neighbors make loud disturbing noises, we prefer not to have their lights shine into our homes and bedrooms. A sleep deprived neighbor is a cranky neighbor indeed! If you are that unfortunate sleep deprived resident, talk to your neighbor, as they may not be aware their lighting is affecting you, or that we have a

“Dark Sky” ordinance regulating lighting. DarkSky.org has a list of suggestions for this conversation, and links to acceptable fixtures. If you have spoken to the neighbor without success, you can contact the Pebble Beach Security Office or (831)624-0123 at the Pebble Beach Architectural Review Board to discuss the lighting nuisance.

What can we do to protect a dark sky in the Del Monte Forest? Monterey County’s “Design Guidelines for Exterior Lighting” promotes unobtrusive lighting that eliminates off-site, sky directed glare, and requires light to be directed to specifically intended areas (normally the walking surface). Flood light bulbs, traditional glass lanterns, globes with visible light bulbs, sconces aiming light up and down, tree uplights—all these fixtures are non compliant. Acceptable fixtures are those that fully shield the light bulb “to ensure that the light cascades down.” The guidelines can be found on the Monterey County website (<http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showdocument?id=10740>)

Lighting designers use a few techniques to create memorable dark sky compliant scenarios: First, exterior fixtures are located so the source of the light (the light bulb) is hidden. Lights are placed with the intention of lighting paths, plantings, and walls. Instead of uplighting trees, place fixtures in trees to aim light down from the branches creating a magical moonlighting effect. Use timers or remember to turn your lights off so they are on only when you need them, it’s energy saving and nighttime friendly. When you replace fixtures, tell the contractors and electricians to select nighttime friendly fixtures—be a good neighbor!

Let’s work together to protect the magical night sky in Pebble Beach so we can continue to see the stars, and be stewards of our own environment.



A Shore Thing

Story by Gina Gianfala
Photo by Marge Brigadier

It is a beautiful winter day in Monterey, blue skies, mild weather and just a bit of wind. An inviting time for a walk along the shore. Quiet, with few people around. I hear a cry somewhere, yeew, yeew and wonder if that is a young animal in distress. Oh my, I spy a sea otter pup wrapped in kelp making this sound calling for mom! As luck would have it, mom pops up very quickly; she was diving to look for shellfish for dinner. Swimming on her back mom scoops baby up onto her belly and off they paddle away.



What could be more tender and endearing than a sea otter mom and pup! That little critter floats like a cork in the water. With the incredibly dense fur and tiny size it cannot dive to procure its own food. That's why mom wraps her pup in kelp so it will not drift away. Mom takes care of her pup for 6-8 months and provides lessons in diving, what to eat and most important, proper grooming. Although mature sea otters have pups year round, they are predominantly born in January through March.

In addition to cuteness, sea otters are crucial to the health of kelp forests, which in turn provide an irreplaceable nursery and protection for countless marine critters. Since otters consume kelp-eating abalone and sea urchins, reliable historical evidence demonstrates that in absence of sea otters to control these voracious kelp eaters, the kelp forest will literally disappear.

We are so very lucky to have these universally appealing animals grace our shores. Not so long ago, California (Southern) Sea Otters were thought to be extinct. Sea otters have the thickest fur of any mammals and because of that were once hunted to near extinction. Luckily, a small group of about 50 sea otters did survive and were not discovered until the 1930's off the coast of Big Sur. They have now

repopulated a small portion of their previous range. You can most easily spot sea otters between Cambria and Santa Cruz with a few outliers extending to San Francisco.

Surveys are conducted annually of the sea otter population, which now numbers about 3,000. They have experienced some difficulty in recovering as food is limited and shark attacks are now more frequent. You can help the recovery of sea otters by keeping a safe distance. When sea otters are disturbed they will dive, wasting precious energy and sometimes losing sight of their pups. Kayakers should be especially careful to keep at least 100 feet away, or 10 kayak lengths, from any marine mammals. If you see a sea otter in distress please call the Sea Otter Hotline at (831) 648-4829.

So, keep your eyes on the water, looks can be deceiving: is that kelp or a sea otter???

- Gina Gianfala is a Pebble Beach resident and Bay Net volunteer

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U.S. Amateur Golf Championship
August 13th -19th, 2018
Pebble Beach

Volunteers are needed to help—
and to host a player (and guest) in
their home during the tournament.

For more information on how to
volunteer, visit the DMFPO
website home page.

Visit <http://www.dmfpo.org> for dates and times of events and meetings

BEHOLD, THE CLASS OF 2018 – Jeff Froke, Ph.D.

The Buck 'n' Doe rut of Fall is felled, a Winter that mildly gestated has parted, and at last, Spring has sprung—*along with a new batch of Fawns*. All's right in the world for our local herd of Black-tailed Deer!

The big moments will take place around the 1st week of May, and the newborns whose mothers will have grown them in utero for roughly 200 days, will debut at around 8 pounds. For 2 weeks from birth, fawns will lay hidden almost motionlessly in dappled glens amidst the forested parcels, out-of-the-way golf woods, and preserves that stitch together our community's patchwork of habitat.



After 5 weeks, the spotted sprites will start weaning from mother's milk, after another 10 will move to the big kids' table, there to browse sweet turf and wild grasses, flowering shrubs, lace-lichen, seasonal acorns, berries, and, of course, the profusive cornucopia that flows from our own yards and gardens. Life is good - share!

Drive carefully this spring, summer, fall and next winter:

Rutting bucks don't have the sense to heed anything but the objects of their affection, and does are preoccupied with their fawns, those dearest young deer that enjoy lichen and acorn treats from the middle of the road as much as in the wilder yonder.