

THE CROCKERS

by Charles Osborne

Of the Big Four railroad barons (Huntington, Hopkins, Stanford and Crocker) only the Crocker family kept a presence in California. The family has been civic minded, socially active and extensively involved in various businesses. They also didn't mind putting on a great party. They built grand homes in San Francisco, Hillsborough, New York City and elsewhere, but their preferred seaside vacation homes were in Pebble Beach. When they came here they brought the cream of San Francisco society with them.



*Railroad Baron Charles Crocker
1822-1888*

It started in 1880 when Charles Crocker bought up most of the land on the Monterey Peninsula and secured the water rights to the Carmel River. It was Crocker's idea to build a luxury resort hotel complete with a 9,000 acre private park that we now call the Del Monte Forest. Crocker made these acquisitions through the Pacific Improvement Company, a partnership holding company of the Big Four that continued until 1965. His Partners (The Associates) referred to the building of the hotel as "Charlie's Pet." One grumpy resident, writer R. L. Stevenson, fled the area when he heard the news. He did not want to be "located near a great caravansary."

The story of the siting of the great caravansary is as follows... Crocker came down to Monterey, then a sleepy fishing village, and toured the area in carriages with several friends. They

started in the morning. It was foggy and damp on the western coastal side, but they went all around the peninsula ending up back in Monterey where the sun had finally broken through. His servants set up a grand picnic, complete with a big lunch and lots of wine. At the end Crocker stood up, thumped his cane on the ground and said "We will build the hotel here and call it Del Monte."



*William Henry Crocker 1861-1937
started Crocker Bank... hired
S.F.B. Morse to run the P.I.C.*

Crocker immensely enjoyed coming to the peninsula, and at one point on a wager he swam in the bay balancing a cake on his head. He died in the hotel in 1888 and his youngest son W.H. "Will" Crocker, founder of Crocker Bank, took over running the family's business interests including the Pacific Improvement Company (PIC). In 1915 he appointed S.F.B. "Sam" Morse to run the PIC.

Morse changed the plans for the Forest from a typical seaside resort at the time (small lots with lots of small houses), to make it a playground for the rich and famous. Among his first customers were the children of W.H. Crocker, WW (Bill) and Charles, as well as his ward and nephew Templeton Crocker. His daughter Helen bought property in Carmel Valley, and built her villa there, now called Stonepine.



*Templeton Crocker
1884-1948 on his yacht
Zaca. He introduced his Yale
classmate, S.F. B. Morse to
the Crockers.*



DMFPO Sunday Afternoon Seminar

July 28, 2019 • 1 PM – 3 PM

Community Services District, Forest Lake / Lopez Roads

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) is a federally protected marine area offshore of California's central coast. It was designated in 1992 and established for resource, protection, research, education and public use.

We are happy to have Lisa Emanuelson, Volunteer Monitoring Coordinator give an overview of MBNMS and speak about its commitment to promote ocean literacy and conservation.

Lisa brings 20 years of educational and programmatic experience to the water quality program. She teaches at the Ocean Discovery Center, has taught at the Catalina Island Marine Institute, and has seven years of experience working on the MBNMS Education Team.



A SHORE THING

Story by Gina Gianfala, a Pebble Beach resident and Bay Net volunteer

“Ja-cob, ja-cob, wake-up, wake-up.” Do you recognize this bird call? Along with its distinctive call there are many facets of the Acorn Woodpecker that make this bird so interesting. It is a very social bird, living in groups of up to four or more breeding males and as many as three breeding females. If you add the immature birds and chicks to the count that can add up to quite an extended ménage! A family of woodpeckers is known as a “bushel.” The birds cooperate in raising the young and in gathering, storing, and guarding their food supply. The woodpecker stores its food in holes drilled in utility poles, the bark of dead limbs, and tree trunks, called “granaries,” for future consumption. When the bird drills into a live tree it only goes as far as the bark. It doesn’t touch the pulp of the tree, so the tree remains unharmed. In addition to acorns, this bird enjoys other types of nuts, fruit, sap, and flower nectar as well as flying insects.



Photo by Gina Gianfala

Acorn Woodpeckers have striking features: a patterned black and white coat, white rump, black chest, streaked black lower breast and white belly. The head pattern sports a bright red crown. You can tell the boys from the girls by their unique head plumage. The adult males have a white forehead

that touches the red crown, while the female has black plumage between the white forehead and the red crown, appearing as if she were wearing a black headband. This bird was highly prized by the Ohlone Indians for adorning their ceremonial baskets with the red feathers.

Woodpeckers are yearlong residents in Monterey; their range extends from southern Washington through California, east to Colorado, and onto Texas. They are also found in Central America. Now, can you tell from the photos which is male and which is female?



Photo by Paul Fenwick

Will's sons and nephew built showplace homes along the coast. Templeton built, but never lived in what was then referred to as "The Marble Palace," a copy of a Byzantine Era Travertine monastery designed by George Washington Smith with marble columns from Italy, a lavish interior complete with a bathtub carved out of a single block of black marble with solid gold fixtures, and a swimming pool that filled from ocean waves. When he divorced his wife Helene Irwin (daughter of sugar king William G. Irwin) she got the palace, and Templeton built a large house on Del Ciervo overlooking Carmel Bay.




Next door to the Marble Palace was Bill Crocker's home Villa Amici, the scene of many parties from the 1920's on. Nearby Charles built his house, Vidya Vista, named from a Sanskrit noun meaning "world beyond care," and Vista of course means "view." It was designed by architect Arthur

Brown, Jr. As these large homes were built during prohibition they each had secret rooms set up as cocktail lounges.

The Marble Palace has gone through many ownerships. This was described in Neal Hotelling's piece in a prior Forest News article. Villa Amici has also had many owners since the '20s. In my childhood, a family named Canavero lived there, and the Marble Palace stood empty. Vidya Vista has stayed in the family, but Templeton's home on Del Ciervo was sadly allowed to deteriorate and was eventually torn down. Three very large homes are being built on that property now. Helen Crocker Russell's HH Ranch is now a hotel called Stonepine, and is the only former Crocker residence in the area open to guests.

There are many tributes to the Crockers in Northern California. Here on the Monterey Peninsula there is the Crocker Grove near Cypress Point, Crocker Avenue in Pacific Grove and Crocker Dining Hall at Asilomar.

From Charles Crocker's first vision of Monterey as a resort through the introduction of Sam Morse to Pebble Beach, the family has had a significant impact on our peninsula. When Crocker bought out David Jacks it eliminated a greedy land baron, and when W.H. Crocker brought in Sam Morse he introduced a conservationist with great love for the land. 

Del Monte Forest Property Owners

a non-profit
California Corporation

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Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC) values our close partnership with the Del Monte Forest Property Owners (DMFPO) in helping us fulfill our mission to protect and maintain open space within the forest. The DMFC Board is comprised of volunteers who are resident property owners. Many of us are also DMFPO members.

DMFC has an exciting series of events and presentations scheduled for the summer and fall. In appreciation we are extending an invitation for DMFPO members to join us.

The Pebble Beach Community Services District will hold its annual Open House and Safety Day, July 20th from 10:00am - 2:00pm, just outside the main fire station on Forest Lake Road. Residents and guests who are curious about the role of the Conservancy in Del Monte Forest are encouraged to stop by our information table, ask questions, receive printed materials and learn about worthwhile activities performed by our organization for maintaining and conserving forest open space in perpetuity.

DMFC will host our 2nd Annual "Movies in the Forest" on Saturday, September 7th at the Conservancy's Indian Village picnic grounds. The movie to be shown will be announced in the next few weeks. Attendance is free and DMFC will provide popcorn and soft drinks. Gates will open at 6pm and the show will begin once darkness falls. Free parking is available on the picnic grounds. Limited seating is provided at the picnic tables or guests can bring portable chairs. Propane heaters will be available but a jacket or blanket is recommended. Last year's event was a terrific success and we are confident that this year will be even better.

Get out your dancing shoes and join us on Sunday, October 6th for our Annual Donor Event and Community Picnic at Indian Village picnic grounds. The fun starts at 2:30pm and ends at 5:00pm. DMFC will serve wine, beer and a sumptuous buffet. This year, we are pleased to announce that the John Michael Band will provide entertainment and music from the Frank Sinatra songbook. We can't think of a better way to enjoy a beautiful afternoon in the forest with family, friends and "Frank!"



*The John Michael Band
performing music from the
Frank Sinatra Songbook*



DMFC is pleased to be a participant in the annual Pebble Beach Fire Department Zombie Run and Emergency Preparedness Fair on Saturday, October 26th from 9am to Noon at the Pebble Beach Corporation Yard. The family friendly event is a great way to celebrate Halloween and learn methods for protecting your home and family in an emergency. Stop by and greet our board members at the DMFC information table.

For more information about DMFC events, please contact us at:

dmfc@delmonteforestconservancy.org



PEBBLE BEACH COMPANY 2019 ROAD MAINTENANCE AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM



The following drainage improvement projects are planned to be completed in 2019:

S.F.B. Morse Drive (above Congress Road intersection)

Sunridge Road Easement (4134 Sunridge to Crest Road)

Stevenson Road Easement (Spyglass Grill to #9 Cart Path)

Portola Road Easement (Padre Lane to Madre Lane)

Spruance Road Easement (Viscaino to Sonado Road)

Berm repair and installation (various locations)

The drainage work is subject to change based on adverse weather conditions, timing of local utility projects, and other unexpected conditions.

The following 2019 repaving projects have already been completed:

Carmel Gate to 17 Mile Drive

Whitman Lane (Palmero to Cul-de-sac)

Alva Lane (Cypress Drive to Palmero)

Cypress Drive (Palmero to the Beach Club parking lot)

17 Mile Drive (The Inn at Spanish Bay Entrance to Sunset Drive)

Road slurry sealed: **Whitman Place (Whitman Lane to Cart Path)**

- * The Forest has approximately 75 miles of roads.
- * Pebble Beach Company (PBC) uses a state-of-the-art road survey computer database to prioritize roads in need of maintenance.
- * For 2019, PBC has committed to spend about one million dollars on road maintenance projects and drainage improvements.
- * Pebble Beach Community Services District (PBCSD) continues to provide additional funding to repave/repair roads that are damaged as a result of its sewer and water line replacement projects, or undergrounding utility lines projects.
- * In addition to its annual contractor costs, PBC employs 4 full-time road maintenance employees at an annual cost of \$300,000. PBC's crew handles more routine road maintenance work such as patching, filling potholes, clearing drain lines, etc.
- * The PBC contact for road condition and maintenance is Shawn Casey, Vice President, Resource Management, 625-8435. Shawn has been with PBC for 40 years and is the person most knowledgeable about the Forest road system. Please feel free to contact his office with questions or to report conditions.



DEL MONTE FOREST PROPERTY OWNERS

A NON-PROFIT CALIFORNIA CORPORATION

3101 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Pebble Beach Community
Services District

Open House Safety Day and buffet

Saturday, July 20, 10am - 2pm

Pebble Beach Fire Station

Forest Lake and Lopez Roads

iTNMontereyCounty
Presents

Age Well Drive Smart

CHP Older Driver Program

Driving is Freedom
Join the CHP for the Keys to
Driving Safer and Driving Longer.

**OPEN
TO THE
PUBLIC**

This is a **FREE** Workshop
to help older drivers continue to drive safely.

Completion of this workshop may result in savings on your auto insurance*

**Pebble Beach Community Services
District Office**
3101 Forest Lake Drive, Pebble Beach, CA 93953
Reserve Your Place via email: office@dmfpo.org
Sunday, September 15th
1:00 to 3:00 pm

*Participants will receive a certificate of completion that may be accepted by their
auto insurance and result in a discounted premium.

iTNMontereyCounty **CHP** **MST** **DMV**
Dignified transportation for seniors MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT



Free Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Collection Event!

Saturday, October 19, 9 am - 2pm

PBCSD office parking lot

3101 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach
(intersection of Forest Lake and Lopez Roads)