

## **JACK BUTTLE**

### **THE LONG SERVING HEAD OF DEL MONTE FOREST SECURITY**

*- by Neal Hotelling*

Jack Buttle was just a toddler when his family moved to Pacific Grove in the late 1890s. His father, Walter, was an engineer for the Southern Pacific Railroad, and later managed the railroad's round house near Lovers Point, where the mobile home park is today.

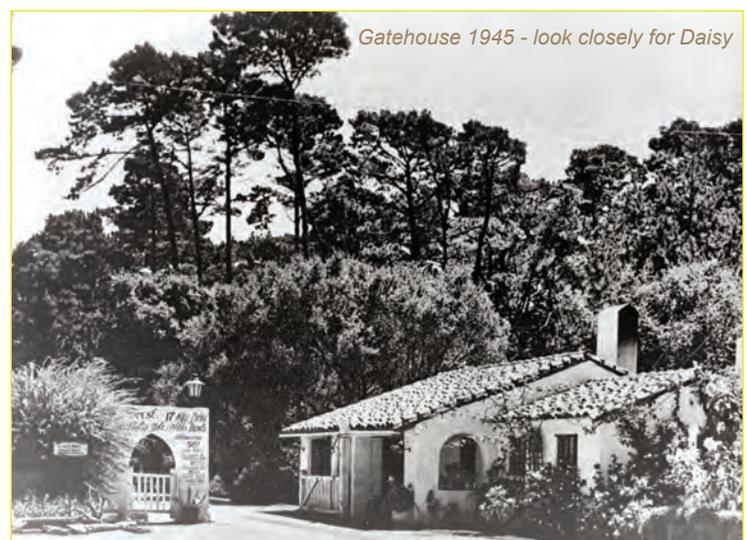
When S.F.B. Morse formed Del Monte Properties Co. in 1919, with a plan for increasing residential development in Del Monte Forest, he saw a need for a security patrol and hired 22-year-old Buttle to do the job, initially as a deputized U.S. Ranger and later a deputy county sheriff. Buttle remained on the job for 41 years overseeing the growing community, and growing the security staff, until he retired in 1960.

When he began his career with the company, 30-year-old Daisy Hitchcock was a gatekeeper, living at the Pacific Grove gatehouse with her two children, Mildred (13) and James (11). The father of her children was Isaac Hitchcock. His father, Joseph, had been hired by Pacific Improvement Company in 1894 to manage Del Monte Forest. Joseph's father came to Monterey with Commodore Sloat in 1846, and married into a family whose ancestors included Juan Onesimo, one of the Rumsen natives that helped build the Carmel mission. Jack and Daisy married in 1920 and they lived together at the gatehouse throughout his career.

In the mid-1920s, when Morse decided to support Mediterranean-style architecture, he replaced the old, wooden gatehouse with a new gatehouse home for the Buttlés – the building known as “The Adobe” which has been remodeled some and today houses the Human Resources team of Pebble Beach Company.

My career with the company began in this building in 1991 when it housed the Golf division and I was golf operations manager. I had a photo enlargement made for my office of an image of the Adobe that was published in the 1945 WPA Guide to the Monterey Peninsula. Local artist Sam Colburn (1909-1993) stopped in one day to be sure we knew the Adobe had been the gatehouse. He was pleased to see my early photograph, and pointed out a detail I had missed; Daisy, whom he knew, was sitting out front in her rocking chair.

While Daisy staffed the gate – not as busy as today, but believe it or not, on Memorial Day Weekend 1926 they recorded more than 2,000 cars coming through the Pacific Grove Gate – Jack dealt with the bigger challenges. In addition to writing traffic tickets and clearing accidents, some with fatalities, Buttle kept an eye on the residents and their homes. He knew every resident, and if he didn't see one for a few days, he would go to their home and check on them. He also dealt with lost pets and occasional rescues and drownings when visitors were washed off the rocks.



*Gatehouse 1945 - look closely for Daisy*



Forest residents and visitors to Pebble Beach have long admired the Casita de Lemos (“Gingerbread House”) on The Dunes Road. This historic landmark was lovingly restored by the Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC) in 2014. Just east of the Casita at the end of The Dunes Road lies one of the best kept secrets in Pebble Beach, the DMFC’s Indian Village Picnic Grounds.

Indian Village is a 20 acre parcel consisting of mature pine forest which surrounds a park-like clearing. The property was acquired in 1980 using donations from Del Monte Forest residents. Over the years, DMFC has worked closely with the Pebble Beach Community Services District (PBCSD) and the Del Monte Forest Property Owners (DMFPO) to maintain the picnic facilities. The original wooden tables were replaced with permanent cement tables that surround a central fire pit. Other improvements were made to provide the site with water, power and restrooms.

Historically a stream ran through the property and Native Americans thought the waters had curative powers. Evidence has shown the property to be an Indian midden site (dumping ground) adjoining other nearby midden sites in the Del Monte Forest. Thus, the area name given many generations ago—Indian Village.

Today, the Picnic Grounds showcase DMFC’s efforts to restore a native population of *Potentilla Hickmani*, a rare and endangered species of cinquefoil that was discovered on the site.

Indian Village sustained significant damage during the 2019 winter storm season. Thirty large trees were blown down. The site was covered with large amounts of small timber and other forest debris. This fall, clean up from the storm damage was completed with help from Cal Fire, the Pebble Beach Company, and a professional tree service.

Removal of fallen trees and brush was accomplished in three phases. As a first step, the access road and other public areas were cleared. A large Monterey Pine was uprooted near the entrance to Indian Village, damaging the fence and blocking the road. Second, Cal Fire Crews worked several shifts to clear brush and smaller timber from visible areas. Third, a professional tree service worked several days to fell dead and damaged trees, clearing the property of large timber that had fallen.

Indian Village is available for rent by reservation to those who are sponsored by a Del Monte Forest property owner. It is often used for events such as weddings, other family celebrations, and for group, company or corporate gatherings. Call (831) 373-1274 for rental arrangements.



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Dear Property Owner,

January 2020

The Board of Directors wishes each and every property owner a healthy and happy New Year. The New Year offers many opportunities, one of which is to join the Del Monte Forest Property Owners (“DMFPO”). You are encouraged to take full advantage of the benefits offered by this organization at a very reasonable cost of \$50 annually.

The annual dues fund the quarterly Forest News publication updating you on current issues. Our members receive invitations to Sunday afternoon seminars featuring interesting speakers, and semiannual meetings in May and November held at The Inn at Spanish Bay. These meetings offer not only a chance to learn about current events impacting Pebble Beach, but also to enjoy wine and appetizers while socializing with other property owners.

As a member of this organization, you can receive assistance with neighborhood issues such as noisy parties, unsightly debris, road conditions, or public safety to name a few. The DMFPO is the only entity providing this type of comprehensive service in Del Monte Forest.

Directors on the DMFPO board are property owners from all walks of life. They take pride in volunteering to accomplish DMFPO goals by serving on committees and boards of numerous other Peninsula/County organizations and are aware of what most impacts those living in the Forest. I think you will agree there are many benefits of being a supporting member! If you are interested in serving on a DMFPO committee or on the board please contact the office at (831) 373-1618 or office@dmfpo.org for further information.

We look forward to a productive year serving you and wish you a prosperous New Year,

Ned Van Roekel, President

On behalf of the Del Monte Forest Property Owners Board of Directors

*Del Monte Forest Property Owners January – December 2020 Membership Dues..... \$50.00*

*As you send in your \$50 annual dues, please be sure to provide the information requested on the flap of the enclosed remittance envelope. If you prefer to pay by credit card, go to the DMFPO website “Membership” menu for on-line renewal at <http://www.dmfpo.org>.*

From 1929-31 there was a rash of burglaries at Pebble Beach, where the thieves left valuable belongings, but stole radio parts. Buttle noted an unknown vehicle at an estate and jotted down the license number. When a theft was later confirmed, the license plate led them to the youths, who admitted their guilt.

By 1950, Buttle was not only deputy sheriff, he was chief of forestry. His team included two patrolmen – one for day and one for night, 14 gate keepers to manage the four gates 24-7, and 16 laborers in the forestry division. Jack would oversee the team from “No. 72” his faithful Ford pick-up, usually accompanied by his pair of black and white shepherd dogs.

For special events, he managed the parking and traffic plans as well as the flow of traffic. Even in the 1950s the two big annual events – the Crosby Pro-Am and the Pebble Beach Road Races – each drew more than 30,000 fans and required assistance of other deputies and the CHP. During his 41-year career, he also managed traffic for a half-dozen USGA championships.

One of the highlights of his long career came in August 1956, when he helped lead the local security detail for a presidential visit. After attending the Republican National Convention in San Francisco, President Eisenhower came to Pebble Beach with his wife, Mamie, for four days of relaxation. Eisenhower had his Secret Service team, but appreciated the local officers supplied by Monterey County Sheriff Jack McCoy that benefited from Buttle’s local knowledge of the forest. The president personally met, shook hands, and took pictures with each of the officers before leaving town.

Buttle retired on August 1, 1960 due to his health. Daisy Buttle, then 71, continued on as the gatekeeper, allowing the Buttles to stay in the Adobe. Five months later, Jack died of a heart attack. Captain Gene Trenner, who had managed the sheriff substation in Monterey, was the next head of security. Two years later, the company decided to end deputized security. Otis Kadani, who had been named chief of forestry upon Buttle’s retirement, added security management to his job title.

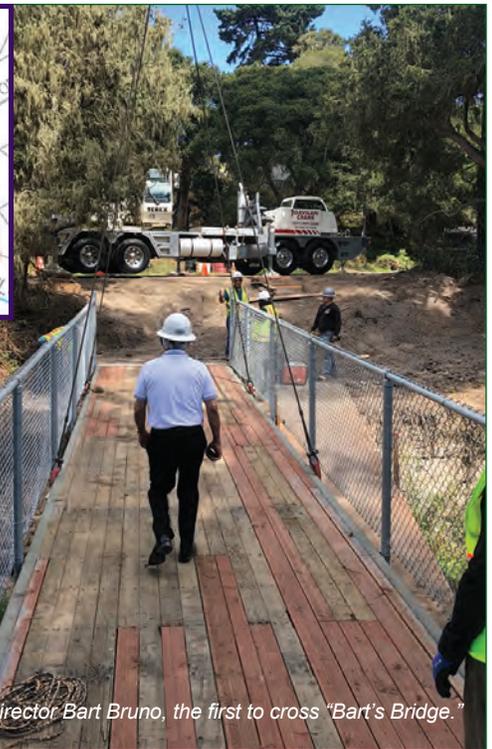
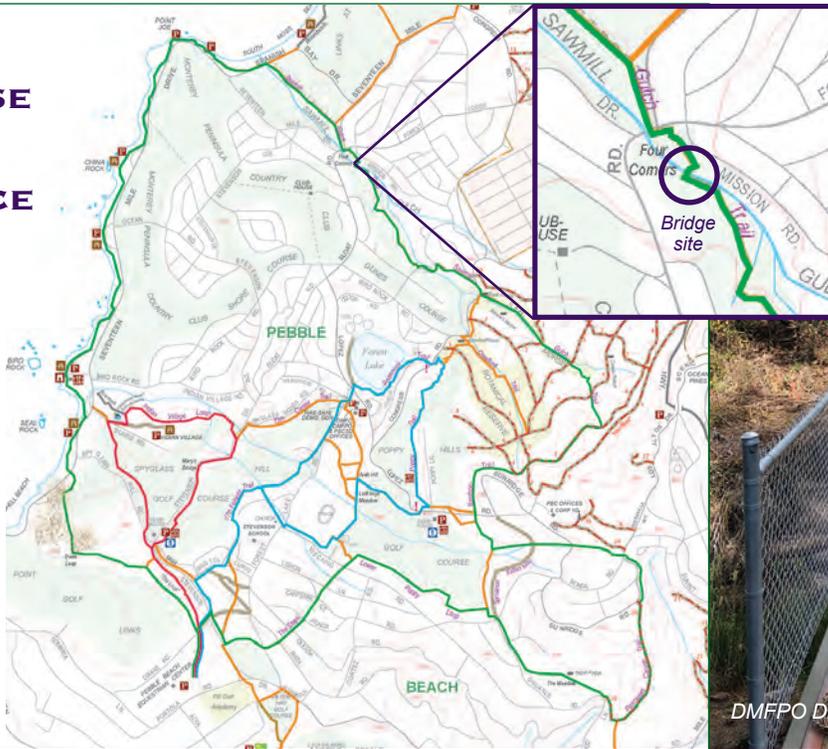


Jack Buttle - Julian P. Graham photo / Pebble Beach Company Lagorio Archives

Daisy stayed on the gate until 1964, when she moved in with her widowed sister on Laine Street in Monterey. Rather than retire in her 70s, Daisy simply started a new career as a realtor. She stayed active until her death in 1979 at the age of 90. Few people, besides Morse himself, had such long active roles in the foundational decades of Pebble Beach as Jack and Daisy Buttle. 

# AN EXERCISE IN PATIENCE

The Del Monte Forest Hiking and Equestrian Trails Map. The Green Trail Loop is by far the longest circuit of trail in Pebble Beach at 10.5 miles. The Blue Trail Loop follows at 4.8 miles, and the Red Trail Loop at 3.0 miles. Orange and gold designations are connector trails or footpaths.



DMFPO Director Bart Bruno, the first to cross "Bart's Bridge."

In July 2017, members of the Del Monte Forest Property Owners (DMFPO) Hiking and Equestrian Trails Committee (HETC) discussed the break in the Green Trail over Sawmill Gulch where an old bridge had washed out and overgrowth made it impassible. Director Bruno envisioned clearing the vegetation and installing a flatbed trailer bridge across the divide. Pebble Beach Company (PBC) (Mark Stillwell) and Monterey Peninsula Country Club (MPCC) (Michael Bowhay, Robert Zoller) offered to help with funding. Director Bruno's company, Monterey Peninsula Engineering (MPE) donated funds and the trailer bed. All agreed obtaining a permit for a "temporary trailer bed bridge" seemed minor. Both PBC and MPCC agreed in March 2018 to participate with DMFPO in the project. In May 2018, preliminary plans were drafted and submitted to Monterey County for approval. County review with requests

for information, including whether the bridge was designed to handle a "snow load," continued through October 2018. The plans were at last approved at a cost of \$14,200 (actual construction costs were \$33,000). The wet winter of 2018-2019 caused bank erosion that made relocation and redesign necessary. Donations from DMFPO members and MPE covered the extra costs. In April 2019, MPCC put the project on hold over concerns of Fish and Game inspection issues with a previous MPCC project in the same area. In September 2019 the go-ahead was given. MPCC's contractor, DLM Construction began bridge construction. Vegetation along the trail was cleared at the direction of Shawn Casey, PBC. The project was completed in October, 27 months from the time its concept was first envisioned. That section of the Green Trail is now connected and in use by hikers and equestrians.



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**You can submit your 2020 membership dues via the DMFPO website at <http://dmfpo.org>**

**FANSHELL DUNES RESTORATION – 2020 VOLUNTEER DAYS**

Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC) will be hosting a series of volunteer days to perform dune habitat restoration. Fanshell Dunes is located on 17-mile drive overlooking Fanshell Beach just north of the Cypress Point Golf Course in Pebble Beach. The 2020 volunteer days are:

- Saturday, January 25      10:00am to 1:00pm
- Saturday, February 22    10:00am to 1:00pm
- Saturday, March 28        10:00am to 1:00pm

Volunteers can sign-up for one or more sessions to help with weed removal and transplanting seedlings of native species via the Eventbrite app or by visiting the website at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com). Enter “Fanshell Dunes 2020 Volunteer Days” in the search bar or use the URL: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fanshell-dunes-restoration-2020-volunteer-days-tickets-85304222225>

Coffee, mid-morning snacks, soft drinks, and water will be available by 9:30am. Lunch will be served. Volunteers should wear sturdy clothing—garden gloves will be provided.

Children at least 10 years of age are welcome to participate if accompanied by an adult and can earn community service credit.

For more information, please contact us at [dmfc@delmonteforestconservancy.org](mailto:dmfc@delmonteforestconservancy.org).

