



## THE DOUGLAS SCHOOL IN PEBBLE BEACH

THE HISTORY OF ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON SCHOOL

- CAROLE EHRHARDT



My grandmother, Grace Parsons Douglas, opened the Douglas School for Girls in Pebble Beach in 1928.

Raised and educated in New England, Grace married Ernest Douglas, an organist, composer, organ designer, choir master, and avid musician. He trained in Europe under the tutelage of numerous prominent musicians.



next town. This was but one sign of her independence as a woman in the 1890s.

Ernest accepted a position with St. Paul's Cathedral, requiring a move to Los Angeles. They had four daughters. To ensure that her daughters received a good

education, Grace began teaching at Westlake School for Girls, across the street from their home.



*Photos courtesy of Julian P. Graham*

When growing up on the East Coast, she, along with friends and family, went camping. There were no camps for girls on the West Coast at that time. Ernest would take his choir boys camping in the Sierras each summer. Grace asked when he would be taking the girls camping, and was told that girls did not go camping. This did not sit well with her.

A friend suggested the Monterey area might be a good camp site. Soon, she rented a beach cottage behind a sand dune in Pacific Grove. Camp opened in the summer of 1925 with 8 girls. They swam in the ocean, learned archery, and rode horses throughout the area. Next summer, 28 girls enrolled, and Grace realized she needed a property of her own.




Before moving to California, Grace and Ernest honeymooned in England, bicycling to, what seemed to Grace like, "every cathedral in the countryside." She finally got fed up with organs, and told her husband she would put her bicycle on the train, and meet him at the



She approached Sam Morse, and after some initial resistance, he agreed to sell her land on Forest Lake Road. Grace received a generous loan from her good friend, Florence Janss. She bought the land and built a camp and a school. Opened in 1928, it offered kindergarten through twelfth grade for boarding and day students. In addition to building school rooms, she added a stable and a rifle range surrounded by a western fort-like structure. This was a hit with the boys who began to attend the school in 1930.

Students enjoyed tennis, swimming, golf, archery and fencing. Horses were a big part of the program with polo, jumping, and equitation, taught by Richard Collins. Grace was elected president of the Women's Polo Association, and the girl's polo team was often tops in the nation.



In 1946, Grace purchased land in the Carmel Valley to build a new summer camp. The Carmel Valley camp opened in 1949 as Douglas Ranch Camps. In 1952, she sold Douglas School. It became the Del Monte School for Boys, later Stevenson School. Camp in the valley continued through 2012, attended by many generations of families from all over the world. 

Initially, students swam in the ocean, but soon all were using the Beach Club pool on a regular basis. The pool at the Del Monte Hotel was often used for swim meets.

Students came from all over the United States including Hawaii. Somehow, families found the school. Grace had a magnetic personality, once people met her, they seldom forgot her. She continued learning all her life, teaching and inspiring others.

Articles in papers across the nation mentioned the school and student's activities. It was a bit like the social pages in old newspapers. When I review the lists of her friends, families of her students, and campers, they look like a mini list of "who's who" in America.



*After some target practice, students evaluate their archery skills.*



## UPDATE ON DEL MONTE FOREST FIRE DEFENSE

- Don Eastman, Del Monte Forest Conservancy Board of Directors

Fire protection is always a top agenda item for the Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC) and much has been accomplished this year to defend against the threat of fire. Exceptional coordination with the Fire Defense Plan of the Pebble Beach Community Services District and their CalFire component has led to an unusually large amount of fuel reduction and dangerous tree removal on open space owned by DMFC. At the end of May 2022, all of the Fire Defense Plan projects scheduled in January had been completed. This Fall the CalFire road grader will be utilized to improve fire roads so that emergency vehicle access is maintained. The goats continued their fuel reduction efforts during June and July. CalFire's chainsaw training program removed dangerous trees near Indian Village as a learning exercise.

### FIRE DEFENSE PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2022:

**Across from and below the Carmel Hill Fire Station**

**From Ford Meadow to homes on upper Pescadero Canyon**

**Along Sunridge Road**

**On both sides of Shepherd's Knoll condominiums (essentially fire defense for CHOMP)**

**Along Scenic Drive to the Ocean Pines condominiums**


**On Haul Road and up to the Skyline condominiums**

**Rip Van Winkle Park**

[www.delmonteforestconservancy.org](http://www.delmonteforestconservancy.org)



Perhaps the most visible and vulnerable area to be treated was the east side of Pescadero Canyon along Highway 68 from the fire station near the Highway 68 gate to the end of the route approaching the Carmel gate. Driving south, a vast majority of the land on the left is owned by DMFC. A significant portion of the property is difficult to access, hazardous for fire, in dire need of fuel reduction, dangerous tree removal and general clean-up. Considerable assistance was provided by Pebble Beach Company in these efforts. Several private companies were hired on a contract basis to participate.

As this year draws to a close, DMFC representatives are continuing to coordinate with personnel from the Pebble Beach Community Services District and CalFire for on-going fire protection efforts under the Fire Defense Plan. 

## DRONES AND THE FOREST - A SHORT HISTORY

- Hy Rothstein, Del Monte Forest Property Owners Board of Directors

Drones have become ubiquitous as a result of improved technology and the cost of obtaining that technology decreasing. The concept of drones dates back to 1849, when Austria attacked Venice using unmanned balloons carrying explosives. Fortunately for the Venetians, only one bomb found its mark as most of the balloons were blown off-course by winds. It is this kind of innovative thinking that would drive drone development over the coming centuries.

The first true pilotless vehicles were developed during the First World War. During World War II, the Americans and the British produced several radio-controlled aircraft used for target practice and training. In Vietnam, reconnaissance drones were deployed on a large scale, in new roles such as decoys in combat, launching missiles against fixed targets and dropping leaflets for psychological operations.

Perhaps their most controversial use is by the military after the 9/11 terrorist attacks for reconnaissance, surveillance, and targeted strikes. The United States military has significantly increased its use of drones not only for finding and targeting its enemies but for surveillance in areas where troops are unable to go without increased risk.

The use of drones in contemporary conflicts has raised ethical questions. But there is another ethical dimension rarely discussed.

In Vietnam, more than 6,000 U.S. airmen were killed or were missing or captured during reconnaissance missions. At the same time, 3,435 drone reconnaissance missions were flown with no loss of life. In other words, why needlessly send a pilot in harms way when a drone can fly the mission?



*Photo National Geographic*


While drones were initially used mostly for military purposes, new and innovative uses for drones have emerged. For Del Monte Forest residents, drones are becoming an important tool to detect and fight wildfires and for search and rescue operations. The CalFire drone program, led by Jennifer Valdez and Josh Silveira, is in its early stages. CalFire personnel are learning through formal and informal training and experimentation. As a result, CalFire is discovering the possibilities for how drones can increase local capabilities effectively, efficiently, at low cost, and safely. For example, CalFire now has a robust water rescue capability. However, the challenge is often locating the person in the water. A drone can be launched in minutes to search and confirm the location of a swimmer in distress and guide the rescue team to its target. The drone can identify potential dangers such as sharks so the rescue team can plan accordingly. Soon, drones will be able to quickly deliver life vests to swimmers in trouble to facilitate a rescue.

*Continued next page*



The potential for drones to help prevent and effectively respond to fires is another critical emerging capability. Drones can survey the Forest and identify areas where excessive downed trees exist that would fuel a fire. Proactively eliminating the causes of wildfires is better than having to react to a fire. But drones will play an important role in reacting too. They can pinpoint the path of the fire and survey homes to identify structural issues relevant to fighting the fire. Drones will be able to share on-scene information with other first responders to better manage a crisis. Monitoring controlled burns is yet another important capability to ensure safe

management of Forest land. CalFire's drones have also been used to locate elderly individuals who have wandered off and lost children.

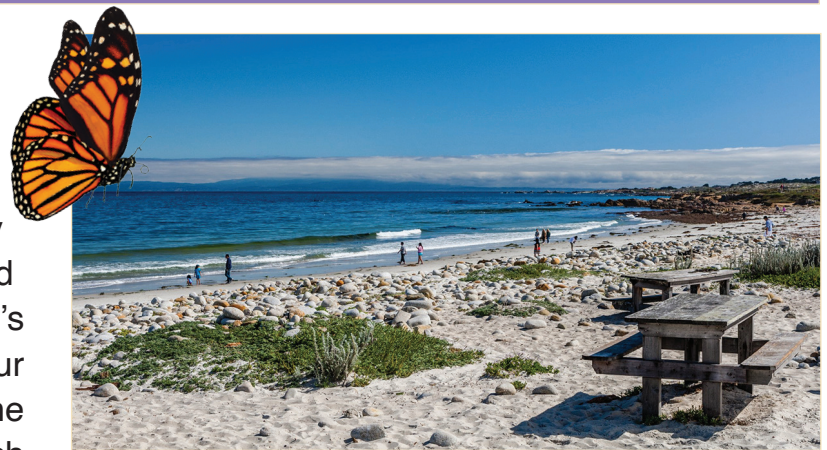
With all their potential, the growing use of drones has also raised important questions. While some claim that drones are a threat to privacy and safety, others believe that this is outweighed by their potential to be used for the better. Whatever the opinions are, the use of drones will increase as they become smarter and more capable, and as innovators find better, cheaper, and safer ways to meet the needs of Forest residents. 

### AUTUMN PICNIC AT SPANISH BAY BEACH

- Maxine Carlson, Award Winning Pebble Beach Author

I am feeling blessed to have lived in Pebble Beach for over fifty years. Before that, we have a long family history within the Del Monte Forest. My grandfather, Salvatore Cardinali was a popular bartender at the Monterey Peninsula Country Club. As a matter of fact, "old timers" at MPCC can still get a drink from "Cardi's Bar." In a previous DMFPO article I shared our family legacy with the original construction for the platform of the famed Lone Cypress. With such a history here, friends and neighbors are often asking me for tips regarding all things involving Pebble Beach. Del Monte Forest property owner members are well aware local residents enjoy the fabulous fog free days of fall. Locals know that the fall season is prime outdoor time.

Regarding my personal advice on a favorite fall picnic location, I often share, "if the explorers found that Spanish Bay Beach was a pristine camping location, it's probably a prime spot for a picnic." Spanish Bay Beach, in my experience, has much less wind, clear skies and uncrowded beaches during the autumn season. As a matter of fact, the day after Thanksgiving we often make turkey sandwiches (on homemade cranberry



bread) for a Spanish Bay picnic. It's become a cherished fall tradition.

According to the Del Monte Forest 17-Mile Drive marker, "Spanish explorers camped here in 1769. They were trying to find Monterey Bay based on a description from 1602, but it took them a year. This beautiful beach was named Spanish Bay Beach after their early visit."

I encourage my fellow Del Monte Forest neighbors to enjoy our pleasant fall California days with a cool salad for a picnic lunch. Layered salads inside a mason jar are a family staple, and we hope that you and your family enjoy your time outdoors exploring Spanish Bay Beach this fall season.

## HOME SECURITY TIPS WHILE AWAY

- Peter Brown, Director of Security, Pebble Beach Company

### A MONTH OR MORE BEFORE DEPARTURE

- Repair broken doors and windows.
- Install good-quality locking devices on all exterior doors and windows.
- Test/service burglar alarm system, if applicable.
- Test security lights, timers, or photoelectric sensors.
- Arrange for trusted people to:
  - Manage trash bins, if applicable, pick up mail, newspapers, other circulars from your driveway, entry area and yard. Did you know that you can file a stop delivery notice with most delivery businesses while you're away?
  - Feed your pets.
  - Turn lights on and off if they are not on a timer or photoelectric sensor.
  - If you have a burglar alarm, teach your trusted person how to operate the alarm, including how to set and disable the alarm as needed.
  - Leave a key and the phone number where you can be reached with your emergency contact person. The key should not be left in or near your own home, even in what you believe to be a hidden location.



PEBBLE BEACH  
COMPANY

### A DAY OR TWO PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

- Mow the lawn and trim shrubbery.
- Store all ladders, tools, lawn equipment, etc., in a locked storage shed or garage.
- Secure all valuables.
- Walk around the house and secure everything.
- Notify trusted neighbors of your departure. Let them know how long you will be gone and whether or not anyone should be expected, including gardeners, repairmen, etc.

### THE DAY OF DEPARTURE

- Manage gas and water appliances appropriately.
- Turn down the volume of your telephone ringer and answering machine so that they cannot be heard from outside the house.
- Unplug small appliances such as fans, toasters and electric coffee pots.
- Set timers to turn lights on during evening hours.
- Make sure all windows and doors are locked.
- If you leave your car in the driveway, make sure the it is locked and no items are left visible inside.
- Bolt the garage door on the inside or unplug electric garage-door opener.
- Conduct one last walk around the house to make sure everything is secure.

### WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR HOME OR CAR IS BROKEN INTO

Immediately after a break-in you're likely to feel confused, angry and scared. It is natural that you feel like you've lost something: peace of mind.

- Stay calm, remember to try not to touch anything until a Law Enforcement officer tells you it is okay to do so.
- File a report with the Monterey County Sheriff's Department.
- Contact the Pebble Beach Security Department.
- Save any camera footage and write down any details that may assist in the investigation.
- Details as small as color, make, taillights of a vehicle will help in an investigation.



Walking along the path at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, you arrive at Bird Island. It is a very busy rookery. The cormorants are nesting, some young chicks are demanding food from their parents and the occasional pelican is in their midst.

Today is a sunny day in early June. Walking a bit further, you can spot another bird. This bird is about the same size as a cormorant, with an equally long neck tucked into its shoulders. It sports a dark black back and crown, white underside, light gray on the wings, a sharp black bill and yellow legs. The eye is a distinctive red with black pupils. It has long white plumes on the back of its head, this is a breeding adult! You're in luck, there are eight of them nearby and two eggs in one nest!

The Black-crowned Night-Heron is a medium sized bird, fondly abbreviated to BCNH by hardcore birders. Found in most of the US and Central America, it also inhabits all other continents except Australia and Antarctica. Fortunately for us it graces our coastline year-round. Their preferred habitat includes swamps, streams, rivers, marshes which provide fish, crustaceans, frogs and small mammals.

The male chooses the nest site, then lures the female with a song and dance display: rocking foot to foot, bowing, and raising the long plumes on its head. Although they nest in colonies in



Photo Gina Gianfala

swampy areas, at Point Lobos they seem to prefer steep rocks. It is a precarious nest location, but provides some safety from predators.

Females lay 3-5 eggs, greenish-blue in color, with an incubation period of 24-26 days. Both mom and dad tend the nest, feeding the young. The chicks will leave the nest within a month staying in the area and learn to fly at six weeks.

Because of their preferred habitat, the BCNH is an indicator of overall environmental health.

Water pollution through contaminated runoff and loss of wetland habitat are the main threats.

Enjoy your nature walk, smell the ocean air, view beautiful sights and be sure to bring binoculars!



Photo Jerry Loomis



**Del Monte Forest  
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*a non-profit  
California Corporation*

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**Events:** Jacqueline Fobes

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## DEL MONTE FOREST PROPERTY OWNERS

A NON-PROFIT CALIFORNIA CORPORATION

3101 Forest Lake Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953  
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### 2022 DMFC Community Appreciation Event

Sunday, October 9, 2022  
2:00PM to 4:00PM

Indian Village Picnic Grounds  
The Dunes Road, Pebble Beach



Enjoy wine and elegant small bites in the beautiful Del Monte Forest while you are serenaded by singer/songwriter Johan Sotelo, a finalist on Mexico's La Voz (THE VOICE).

Email [dmfc@delmonteforestconservancy.org](mailto:dmfc@delmonteforestconservancy.org) if you have questions about this event

Want to get published in the *ForestNews*? Submit a one-paragraph proposal to [office@dmfpo.org](mailto:office@dmfpo.org) on a topic of general reader interest.

## DEL MONTE FOREST PROPERTY OWNERS Semiannual Meeting



Sunday, October 30, 2022  
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
Inn at Spanish Bay  
Main Ballroom

Neal Hotelling  
Pebble Beach Company Historian

Neal Hotelling was an employee of Pebble Beach Company for 27 years and has been the Pebble Beach Company Historian since 1995. He has written articles for 35 editions of Forest News, providing information about various aspects of Pebble Beach history. With the upcoming U.S. Women's Open Championship in Pebble Beach July 2023, Hotelling will recount the rich history of past women's golf championships at the resort, beginning with tournaments contested more than a century ago.

*This event is for 2022 DMFPO MEMBERS ONLY*

## DMFPO HOSTS FLU SHOT CLINIC

### Open to the Public

flu ends with u  
GET VACCINATED.

Pebble Beach Community Services District  
Forest Lake and Lopez Roads, Pebble Beach

Thursday, October 6, 2022 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Flu vaccine available to ages 3 and above

- Quadrivalent Flu Shot (over age 2)
- Flu Mist (ages 2-49)
- High Dose (over age 65)- covered by Medicare
- Flu Blok (egg-free, over age 18)

Other vaccines available:

- Pneumonia (over age 65) – covered by Medicare
- COVID new Bivalent Boosters Pfizer and Moderna (12 and older, 2 months after the last vaccines or initial series)

VNA accepts Medicare, Aspire, Coastal TPA, credit or check for Flu Vaccines and all insurance carriers for COVID vaccines

Medicare Part B billing available - flu & pneumonia

**\*\*\*must present card at time of clinic\*\*\***



Central Coast  
Visiting Nurses Association Community Services

