

NOTICIAS del PUERTO de MONTEREY

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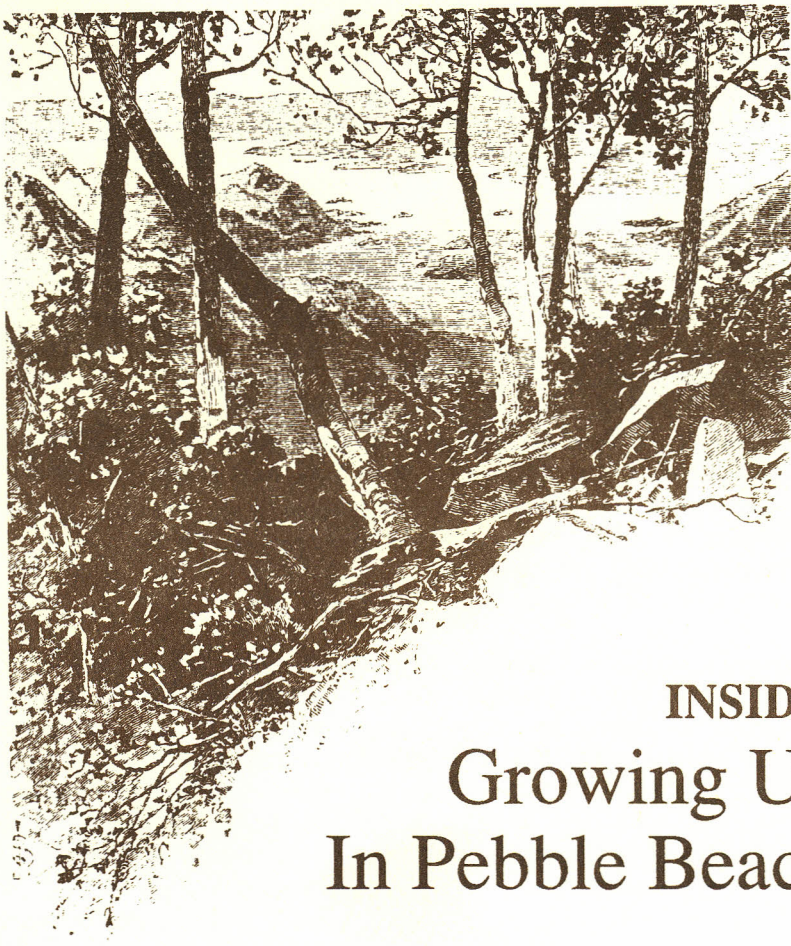
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**INSIDE:
Growing Up
In Pebble Beach**

Growing Up In Pebble Beach

By Bonnie Gartshore

A storyteller might imagine wisps of dense fog adding mystery to Monterey and a hint of darkness to come on that September night in 1852 when a man and his two sons disembarked from the steamer Tennessee after a long journey in search of a milder climate that might improve the younger boy's health.

The man was John C. Gore, and his son's health improved markedly during some weeks in a rented house "near the old Fort" leading Gore to look around for a property to buy.

His purchase of the 4,400-acre Rancho Pescadero made him an early resident of what is now Pebble Beach. He and his sons lived there for nearly eight years —years which are ignored in most histories of Pebble Beach. They were very important in the lives of two growing boys, John Jr. and Arthur, who reveled in the beauty of the setting and the beautiful relationship they had with their father as he taught them languages, writing, history, music, geography, algebra, literature—and how to bake bread. But the ugliness of frontier greed and treachery challenged this beauty and the three left Pescadero in the midst of a court battle for title to the property, a battle which lasted for more than 70 years.

A descendant of the younger son, John Gore of Pacific Grove, and his wife, Lee Atha, have diaries, letters and court documents that tell the story of those idyllic years and their aftermath. The couple has been generous in giving talks about the three Gores and Pescadero to a number of local groups.

The one reference to John C. Gore that is sometimes quoted in stories about Pebble Beach comes from government surveyor William Brewer who described him in 1860 (without ever meeting him) as "an eccentric, misanthropic, curious man who lived in solitude and tried to educate two boys ..." The boys' diaries and their subsequent careers in the medical and engineering professions indicate that he did educate them. And the reader must remember that Brewer got his information about Gore from the very people who were trying to get the property away from him.

Brewer might have done well to seek further information about this man whose occupation was listed in his obituary as "gentleman." Born in Boston on Jan. 18, 1806, Gore was drawn to the anti-slavery movement as a young man. It proved to be a handicap when he was appointed to West Point, where pro-slavery and pro-Southern feelings ran so high that he left at the end of his first term. Illness prevented Gore from joining an exploring expedition which was to leave St. Louis in 1827, so he turned toward Europe, living in Florence, Italy, with other American artists and art students. He was on the threshold of a

promising career as a painter when illness struck again; this time he vowed to return to America, marry, and begin a career of service to his country. He began writing for "The Liberator", a publication of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, married Mary James, and when she died in 1843 leaving him with two small sons, he became responsible for their education.

On his new property near Monterey, Gore built a two-story log house near Stillwater Cove and set out a routine of study and work for the two boys, then aged 13 and 10. They also had the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the ranch where the transplanted New Englanders delighted in finding the ground covered with flowers in January, not snow. Gore wrote stories for Alta California, sketched and painted and played music. He also tried his hand at inventions, including a harpoon for catching whales.

The Gores watched Captain John P. Davenport, then based in Monterey, chase whales and called on his help when a whale died on their beach. They explored Point Lobos and the ruins of Carmel Mission, young Arthur writing eloquently about these outings in his diary which also served as writing practice. He also wrote of the everyday chores of mopping the floor, washing windows, chopping wood and riding to Monterey to get the mail and buy provisions. On one Indian Summer day in October 1857, Arthur wrote: "Very hot. The thermometer rose to 94 degrees on the shady side of the house. Kept still and as cool as we could. Father mended his coat and I wrote off part of my Spanish exercises and Bon (his name for his brother, John) studied his algebra."

The Gores had few visitors, there being few people around to share Gore's political and cultural interests. The sentiment in Monterey at that time was primarily pro-slavery and Gore was outspoken about his abolitionist feelings. One day Arthur wrote, "Mr. Chad came here and spent most of the day with us. We gave him some minced fish and potatoes, that I suppose must pass for fish cakes, some tomato sauce and baked squash. We gave him some music, duets and plain tunes. Father and I played the duets."

Arthur wrote on another day about how they secured food and about some surprise visitors. The three had gone out in the boat and caught three fish which John scaled. Arthur washed the kitchen floor and their father skinned a rabbit and plucked two quail, which they had shot the previous day. He wrote "a party (wagon full) of people appeared at our bars upon which Father and Brother cleaned out upstairs to put on their best clothes, but instead of stopping as we expected, they drove directly past and proceeded to the end of our fence whither Father and Bon followed them. The carriage stopped at the end of the fence and they all got out and pretended to be, or were, looking for shells. We then saddled our horses so as when they were ready to show them the road. When they got outside the bars they wanted some water and Brother went back to the house and got some for them. We showed them the road to Monterey and then went to Point Cypress and from thence a roundabout way home."



View of Pebble Beach in more bucolic days.

Three days later he added, "We learned that the Spaniards who came over here on Saturday last were two Vallejo brothers, Mrs. Leese and her two daughters."

Gore had purchased the ranch from Maria Romie in probate court after her husband, John Romie, died leaving the property to his widow and heirs. Romie had bought the ranch in 1840 from the widow of Fabian Barreto to whom the league of land had been granted by the Mexican government in 1836, approved by the Mexican Assembly on May 22, 1840. In 1857 ownership of the ranch was confirmed to Gore by the Supreme Court of the United States, but by then Jacob Leese was grazing sheep on part of the land without permission, people were felling trees and selling the lumber on other parts, again without permission, and Chinese fishermen were at Cypress Point (with permission) fishing. The family spent a lot of time patrolling the ranch, putting up signs warning trespassers and filing complaints about the unauthorized activity.

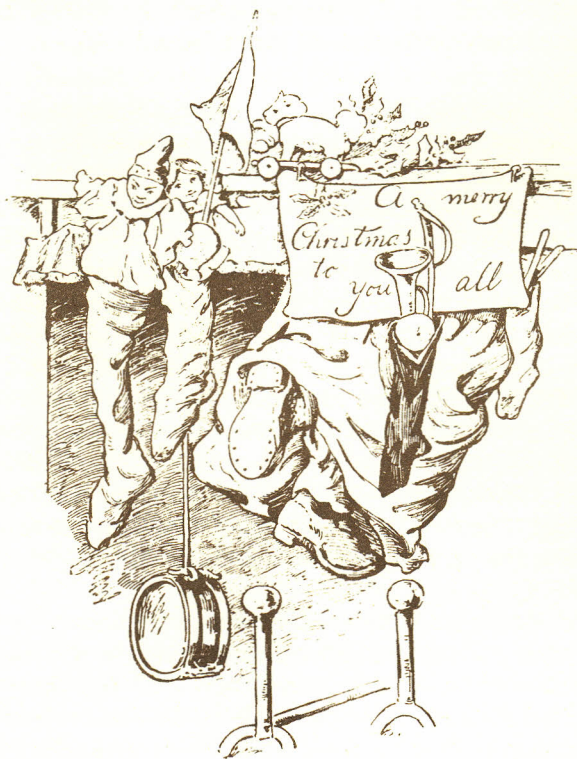
By 1860 David Jacks was determined to add Pescadero to his other land holdings, paying a Dr. Callaghan \$20 to obtain a deed from the widow of Fabian Barretto and her second husband. The court set aside the deed for fraud and decreed the title belonged to Gore but his troubles had just begun. Disillusioned with Monterey and knowing that his sons were ready for college, he sought to sell the ranch or trade it for an estate of identical value in the East.

The tangled tale of Jacks' far-reaching bribery and treachery and his

shrewd legal moves in a time of slow communication and travel would make a book. In 1863 Jacks got title by default at a hearing in San Francisco, notice of which never reached the Gores who were by this time living in Jamaica Plain, West Roxbury, Mass. A patent signed by President Andrew Johnson was issued to David Jacks but was not recorded until July 30, 1880, by the Pacific Improvement Co.

By then Gore was dead having died in 1867. His son, John, had moved back to California to pursue the case for restoration of title, taking it to the Supreme Court in 1906, the same year he died. The case was revived in the 1930s by the family of Dr. Arthur Gore, who had settled in Alameda. Del Monte Properties, successor to the Pacific Improvement Co., gave the family some land. By this time, Samuel F.B. Morse reigned at Pebble Beach and the Gores were forgotten.

Unlike the picture of today's users of tennis courts and manicured fairways, a storyteller might envision a wilder landscape, with the ghosts of the Gores looking for whales and deer or encountering a grizzly bear—with two small boys growing up in an atmosphere of love and beauty that any family might envy.



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