

P.B. Co. offers 200 artworks via online auction

By CHRIS COUNTS

AN IMPRESSIVE collection of art that once adorned the walls at the Pebble Beach Lodge, the Beach Club and other P.B. Co. buildings, including pieces by iconic painter Francis McComas, will be auctioned off Thursday by the Abell Auction Co.

The live auction, which starts at 10 a.m. May 9, includes watercolors, abstract paintings, posters and an assortment of photographs of famous people dating back to the early 20th century.

Highlights include a Polynesian painting by McComas that appears in the background of the 1956 film, “Julie,” with Doris Day and Louis Jourdan.

The movie includes scenes that were filmed at the Beach Club — and the painting was long displayed there.

There’s also a large

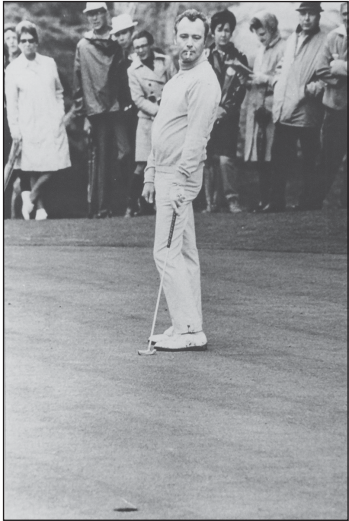
Polynesian triptych that was painted by McComas’ wife, Gene, and was originally displayed in the dining room at the Lodge.

Noted literary figure and expatriate Gertrude Stein called the piece “the finest art I have seen since coming to America” when she visited the United States in 1935.

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A painting of Polynesia by Francis McComas (above) that appears in the background of the 1956 film, “Julie,” will be auctioned May 9 online, along with almost 200 items that were once displayed in Pebble Beach resorts, including an emblematic photograph of the actor Jack Lemmon (right).



Carmel seeks changes to law removing parking spaces

■ P.G., Monterey working on compliance

By MARY SCHLEY and KELLY NIX

WITH PUBLIC works crews in Pacific Grove and Monterey focused on implementing a new state law requiring the elimination of parking spaces within 20 feet of crosswalks, Carmel officials are trying to get the law casually known as the Daylighting Bill changed. Assembly Bill 413 took effect Jan. 1 and bans parking spaces near intersections so drivers can more easily see pedestrians and cyclists, but that means the loss of valuable real estate in a town where parking is already at a premium.

Carmel city administrator Chip Rerig said the traffic safety committee comprising assistant city administrator Brandon Swanson (who is also serving in his previous post as planning director for the time being), public works director Bob Harary and Police Chief Paul Tomasi will meet to discuss the new law later this month.

“I’ve been working with local city managers by lobbying the bill author — Alex Lee of Milpitas — to consider amendments,” Rerig said Wednesday. “No progress to date, unfortunately.”

Reviewing projects first

He said he and other Monterey Peninsula leaders are proposing exemptions for cities with populations under 50,000 and for unmarked crosswalks, and allowing 10-minute parking in the areas that are supposed to be clear. “Those types of ideas,” Rerig said.

City of Monterey officials, however, announced this

week that they’d begun implementing AB 413 earlier this year.

“Daylighting is considered best practice and is a frequently used tool in cities across the country,” said engineering assistant Marissa Garcia. “Cars parked close to the corners of intersections can block the field of vision for drivers, obscuring the corners where pedestrians are waiting to cross the street and making it more difficult

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Fines, citations for landlords who shun rental registry

By MARY SCHLEY

JUST UNDER 60 percent of an estimated 7,800 rentals in the City of Monterey have been listed in the mandatory registry that went online at the beginning of the year, and nearly a quarter of those filed for exemptions, according to officials. This month, the city will start cracking down on landlords who have yet to comply, though housing manager Anastacia Wyatt said the 57 percent compliance rate exceeds that reported by other cities that have created similar registries.

“Additional units continue to be submitted daily, and every major property management company operating in the City of Monterey has participated to some extent,” she said. The housing department offered weekly workshops from Feb. 8 through April 18 to help property owners and managers register their rentals.

Preservationist asks council to stop Hofsas hotel project

■ Says an EIR is needed

By MARY SCHLEY

CARRIE THEIS and her family’s proposal to replace their aging San Carlos Street hotel with a new one should not have been approved by the Carmel Planning Commission last month, according to Neal Kruse, founder of the anti-modern Carmel Preservation Association. An opponent of the concept since its debut more than a year ago and the only person to speak against it at the April 10 hearing in which 18 others, including neighbors, expressed support, Kruse is asking the city council to overrule the commission’s unanimous decision.

“The issue of this appeal is the failure of the planning commission to adequately assess the environmental impacts of the proposed project,” reads the document sent by Kruse and attorney Zan Henson April 24 — just before the deadline for filing such an objection.

Right or wrong?

The planning department concluded the hotel project is exempt from environmental review under state law because it’s considered “infill development.” The new Carmel Legacy Hotel designed by architect Eric Miller will have the same number of rooms as the Hofsas House does, but in lower buildings, and the plans include a lounge, a restaurant, a bakery/café, a pool, a fitness center and a spa, all for hotel guests only. The property is bordered by several hotels and some residences.

In his appeal, Kruse argues that the project “is surrounded by residential dwellings” that will suffer the impacts of construction — including noise, dust, toxins and traffic — and the amount of excavation required for

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The journey was the goal

■ World’s shortest European vacation

By PAUL MILLER

TWENTY-FOUR YEARS ago, not long after I’d taken over as Pine Cone publisher, one of our reporters was working on a story that needed some aerial photographs. I decided to take the pictures myself, which meant I had to charter a light plane out of Monterey airport.

I don’t remember what the story was, or what pictures I took, but I remember the charter flight very well, because when I called Del Monte Aviation to make the arrangements, they asked me, “Is it OK if your pilot is 18 years old?”

I was a bit taken aback, but my answer was, “Sure, if he’s good enough.”

The young man I flew with that day, Anton Salameh,

is now a captain for United Airlines and a few weeks ago was picked by the carrier to take command of its biggest airplane, the Boeing 777, on its longest and most glamorous routes to places like Auckland, Beijing and Rome — quite an accomplishment for a kid from Monterey who started out taking people like me on one-hour photo flights



to Big Sur and Point Lobos.

“My ambition to be a pilot started off when I was really young,” Salameh said. “We used to travel a lot when I was growing up, and my favorite part of every trip was the airplane.”

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PHOTOS/(LEFT) PAUL MILLER, (ABOVE) ANTON SALAMEH

(Left) Anton Salameh (at left), Allen Short and Marilyn Terry ready their Boeing 777 for departure from SFO Saturday. Two days later, a different 777 (above) is prepared for the trip home from Munich.