

Carmel loses inimitable luminary in Denny LeVett

■ Hotel owner, showman was 87

By MARY SCHLEY

‘THERE ARE only two types of people in the world: Those who met Denny and remember him, and those who never met him,’ observed former city councilman Bobby Richards, who worked alongside Denny LeVett for more



PHOTO/MICHAEL TROUTMAN, DMT IMAGING

Denny LeVett could often be found in one of his collectible cars, impeccably dressed and accompanied by at least a few of his four poodles.

than 20 years. “Nobody ever says, ‘I think I met Denny, but I’m not sure.’”

LeVett, who died Monday at the age of 87, was just that memorable, whether it be for his real estate prowess, his distinctive way of dressing, his philanthropy, his community spirit, his sometimes bawdy jokes, his extensive collections of cars and guns, or his way of lighting up a room. “He was Mr. Carmel,” said attorney and Carmel resident Tony Lombardo, a longtime friend.

Indeed, the impressions LeVett left on the city are plentiful and deep, from co-owning the historic Cypress Inn with the late actress, Doris Day, and operating several other local boutique inns, to building and renovating numerous homes, playing a large role in the business community, or being involved in city politics — and supporting many local causes, including animal welfare and children’s charities. Many of his friends said they are heartbroken that he’s gone.

‘Gave his all’

“When he was engaged in something, he gave it his all. He was a person who fully engaged, and that’s how he made such a big impact,” said Paul Bruno, CFO and principal of Monterey Peninsula Engineering and a member of the Lincoln Club of Northern California, to which LeVett also belonged for many years. “He didn’t just lend his name, he lent his brain, his expertise and of course his personality, which made everything fun.”

The Lincoln Club is a group that supports limited government and fiscal responsibility, putting it right of center,

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State agency to consider county’s ADU plan

By CHRIS COUNTS

TO COMPLY with a state law that makes it easier to build additional housing on lots where it already exists, Monterey County has loosened its regulations for allowing accessory dwelling units. The state’s top coastal watchdog agency, the California Coastal Commission, plans to weigh in on the county’s plan Friday in Redondo Beach — and, not surprisingly, some want more oversight for creating such housing while others are happy to have less.

Previously, county rules made it difficult for anyone to build an accessory dwelling unit. According to a coastal commission staff report, they were restricted in “various ways, including through blanket prohibitions, through

large lot requirements, and through numeric caps.”

Coastal commission staff, which for decades staunchly opposed most new development along the coast, suggested there was some justification for the county’s past stance.

‘Resource constraints’

The previous approach was, “in part, due to bona fide resource constraints,” the report indicates. “It is also a vestige of a time when ADUs were not seen as the type of development that should be encouraged, unlike today,

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\$3M home in valley to be used for senior dogs

By CHRIS COUNTS

FOR MORE than a decade, Peace of Mind Dog Rescue has struggled to find property to house senior pets in need of adoption. Recently, the group made an offer on what its leaders determined was “a perfect site” for such a facility at 8 El Caminito in Carmel Valley. The property is in escrow, but will its neighbors accept it?

The move by the group comes more than a decade after Monterey County Planning Commissioner Martha Diehl tried to establish the Carmel Canine Sports Center on 45 acres at 8100 Valley Greens Drive in 2014. The county board of supervisors later turned down the project after residents rallied against it.

Four-legged tenants

The facility that Peace of Mind Dog Rescue wants to establish will be smaller, but homes are located nearby. Slated to be purchased for a little less than its \$3 million asking price, the property features 3,614 square feet of living space and a four-car garage on about a half-acre. It’s a short stroll from the shops, galleries and restaurants of Carmel Valley Village.

According to executive director Carie Broecker, the facility would provide 20 senior dogs with “round-the-clock care, comfort and companionship.”

“The dogs will be in a cage-free environment,” she explained. “Somebody will be with them 24/7.”

Council votes for street addresses

■ 100-year tradition comes to end with unanimous decision

By MARY SCHLEY

TO A round of applause from the audience, the Carmel City Council made history Tuesday night with a unanimous vote to create a standardized system of street addresses in town. The move comes after decades of debate over whether to maintain the tradition of not having house numbers and followed a citizen group’s exhaustive effort to research the issue.

It also marked a profound shift in the tenor of the debate, with hardly anyone arguing in favor of retaining traditional directional addresses and no one on the council objecting, either.

Led by councilman Bob Delves and assisted by administrative analyst Emily Garay, a committee that included residents Nancy Twomey, Kevin Ruess and Paula Hazdovac spent six months researching all aspects of conventional address systems, from whether they’re legally required at all, to what it would take to implement one and who’d be responsible for what.

Changing times

When it was settled in the early 1900s, Carmel was sparsely populated, and poetic names on the town’s cottages sufficed for those heading to a neighbor’s house or having milk delivered. The quirky tradition of solely relying on directional addresses — Camino Real 3 SE of Ocean, for example — persisted as the city and its population grew, and was eventually codified, with the Carmel Municipal Code stating, “Buildings and parcels shall be identified by a description of parcel location relative to the nearest cross-street intersection as determined by the community planning and building department.”

And for decades, residents have argued, often strenuously, over whether to hold onto that unique practice or change with the times, especially as demands for verification of physical addresses and the use of technology to do so have increased. At a recent town meeting, for instance, two women sparred over their experiences: One claimed

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Prop 50 ballots drop as campaign for Congress heats up

CALIFORNIA VOTERS — all 23 million of them — received single-issue ballots in the mail this week for Proposition 50, the state’s special election on redistricting. It’s rare to have a statewide contest with just one item to vote on, but it gives the public the chance to focus solely on the campaigns for and against the issue.

Capitol Access

By CAITLIN CONRAD

Prop 50 would replace California’s congressional map, drawn by the state’s independent commission, with a map drawn by Democrats with the intention of flipping five seats in their favor. The redistricting is intended to counteract efforts by Republicans in other states to capture

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PHOTO/ZILLOW

This home near Carmel Valley Village on nearly half an acre could one day house 20 senior dogs.