



*photo by David Gentry*

## Del Monte Trophy Race Group 70th Anniversary of the Pebble Beach Road Races

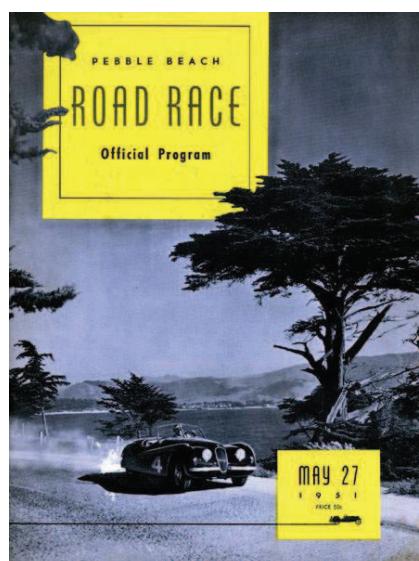
— story by Marcus Bucknell

2021 is the 70th Anniversary celebration year of the Pebble Beach Road Races and the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. COVID-19 put paid to celebrating in 2020... bring on August 2021 on the Monterey Peninsula, with all the energies and love of those who know about one of the most endearing and surprising of world motor racing developments.

Both the Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion at WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca and the world-renowned Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance are cooperating with the natural heirs to the Pebble Beach race cars, the Del Monte Trophy Race Group. The cars' drivers and owners, co-ordinated by one of the driver-owners Rob Manson and his team, work together both at the races – taking place Aug. 12-15, 2021, at Laguna Seca – and also with Monterey Car Week and Pebble Beach.

The Del Monte Trophy was held on the twisty, leafy, and very narrow town roads in Pebble Beach, California, from 1950-1956. For just \$15, you too could compete in the Pebble Beach Road Races; Jaguars, MGs, Allards and Ferraris confronted the California V8 and straight-6 specials from Baldwin, Manning, Kurtis, Cannon, Hagemann, Parkinson and Tatum... and these valuable continue to race. The infancy of American road racing in the years following World War II was often a semi-pro or amateur affair, but the 1950 event gained credibility when 23-year-old Phil Hill won the first running. Hill would win the Pebble Beach Road Races twice – in 1950 and 1953 – before becoming the first American to claim the Formula One World Drivers' Championship in 1961. Carroll Shelby added

cache to the legacy of the Pebble Beach Road Races by winning the final edition in 1956. Shelby would eventually capture the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 1959, and ultimately designed Shelby Mustangs.



### What's planned for the anniversary?

Our DMTRG cars are the historic racing connection between modern day Pebble Beach and the Reunion. We want to ensure that everyone in the Group who wants to participate can join us for the Celebration.

There will be large commemorative displays of the Del Monte cars both at the Concours and the Reunion. These consist of five panels with art photos and text that present the Road Races in their historical context. The artwork and graphics are by noted digital artist, David Gentry, and the period race photos are taken from the Julian P. Graham Pebble Beach Co./Lagorio

Archives. The Concours and the Reunion organizers are pleased with the initiative and are supporting it with sponsorship and logistics. Principal sponsor as of June 24 is the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance.

A major element of these two exhibits will be the presence for the five Del Monte Trophy/ Feature Race winning cars. The Concours and the Del Monte Trophy Race Group has gathered all five winners for a Special Exhibition Class. They will also be featured in other activities during Car Week. On our race Saturday they will be at Laguna Seca in front of the Anniversary Exhibit.

The cars of the 1947-1955 Del Monte Race Group 4A will play a key role in the Reunion's Celebration. Those that actually participated in the Pebble Beach Road Races will participate directly and virtually in several activities. In the second week of June the Concours organizers held a film shoot with 5 of our cars (photo below) doing (slow) laps around the original Pebble Beach race circuit in the Forest. The footage will be used in the coming weeks for various promotional efforts.

At the Reunion on race Saturday, the 1949 Parkinson Jaguar and the 1950 Cannon Mk.1 Specials will join the Phil Hill XK-120 Jaguar for photos and interviews. These cars were the top three finishers of the 1950 Feature race.

As in past years, DMTRG will be organizing our dedicated Del Monte Trophy Race Group paddock lane and activity. It will be linked with graphic panels to the main Celebration Display in the Exhibition/ Drivers Lounge area. Ours are the sports cars that pioneered European-style road racing 70 years ago and we'll make a big effort to use the Celebration to show them off.