

# A PASSEL OF PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T SAY EVERYTHING YOU THINK THEY SAID

IT CAN be very difficult to tell truth from fiction — even when you're dealing with quotes everybody knows. How often have you heard President Abraham Lincoln credited with saying, "A house divided against itself cannot stand," as a plea for unity amid the American Civil War?

While Lincoln did say those words, he

the summer folks play seems to have too much walking for a good game and just enough game to spoil a good walk." While not exact, it is very similar. Did he originate the thought? Maybe. Wilson, by the way, moved to Carmel in 1910 and made his home in the Highlands until his death in 1939.

We may never know the originator of the thought that golf spoils a good walk, but I'm inclined to accept that Gladstone was the source.

Another famous golf saying frequently misquoted and misattributed is that "Pebble Beach is the greatest meeting of land and water." You may have also seen the phrase with "felicitous" in place of "greatest."

### Great imagination

The source of the "felicitous" version is Bing Crosby, whose quote appeared in numerous newspapers covering the 1976 Crosby Pro-Am. Just prior to that event, Dwayne Netland published his book, "The Crosby: Greatest Show in Golf." Crosby wrote the prologue for the book, which included, "Robert Louis Stevenson is said to have described the Monterey Peninsula as 'the most felicitous meeting of land and sea in creation.'"

Crosby was not the first to claim that the words came from Stevenson. The earliest misattribution to him I could find was in a January 1966 syndicated column, "Notes and Sketches from Paul Brown's Inquisitive Pen." Brown's column states, "Robert Louis Stevenson, in his famous 'Treasure Island,' described California's Monterey Peninsula as 'the greatest meeting place of land and water in the world.'" But Brown was using his imagination. Treasure Island, the 1883 novel by Robert Louis Stevenson, is set in the Atlantic and does not even mention Monterey, California or the Pacific Ocean. It also doesn't contain the word,

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## History Beat

By NEAL HOTELLING

said them in 1858 during an unsuccessful campaign for the United States Senate. He used them to warn about the division slavery was creating in America, but it wasn't until 1861 that he became president and the Civil War began. More significantly, Lincoln was actually quoting the Bible — specifically, a statement attributed to Jesus at Matthew 12:25.

Another famous misattribution is that Mark Twain declared, "Golf is a good walk spoiled." The problem is, there's no evidence Twain ever said these words. The earliest association of the quote with Twain was in the August 1948 Saturday Evening Post — 38 years after Twain died. Readers Digest repeated the quote and the attribution in its December 1948 issue, crediting the Post.

### Spoiling a walk

Not only is it impossible to prove Twain said the words, I offer the St. Louis Post-Dispatch of Jan. 10, 1943, to show that he didn't. In the newspaper, Columnist E. E. Edgar credits England's former prime minister William Gladstone with the golf quote. In the same column, Edgar did quote Twain, but on Shakespeare, not on golf.

Well before even that reference, Harry Leon Wilson wrote "The Boss of Little Arcady," a 1905 novel that includes the following line: "This new game of golf that

# Soul to fill a wilderness, joy to fit within a childlike heart

DURING THE pandemic, with art festivals, shows, and openings canceled, and much of her social life on hold, Anjelica Colliard unexpectedly rekindled a relationship with a long-lost friend — her inner child.

In recent weeks and months, the Cachagua native found herself becoming reac-

quainted with the barefoot girl who chased pollywogs in the creek behind her house, romped unfettered along the Carmel River, and explored the Ventana Wilderness around Tassajara, where her older brother still lives.

## Carmel's Artists

By DENNIS TAYLOR

quainted with the barefoot girl who chased pollywogs in the creek behind her house, romped unfettered along the Carmel River, and explored the Ventana Wilderness around Tassajara, where her older brother still lives.

"My siblings, Marc and Noelle, were almost grown by the time I came along, so my folks were like, 'Go outside, do your thing ... just go do something!'" Colliard remembered. "I was free to wander — they never worried about me at all — and my dad was always saying, 'Would you ever want to be anywhere else?' I loved being in nature, in the wilderness, so no, I never did. I think I'm only now beginning to fully appreciate all of that."

Her colorful, edgy, diverse, often-whimsical art has felt more playful of late Colliard said, as she finds herself coping with solitude by freeing her mind.

### 'Creative joy'

"In normal times, I'm constantly getting ready for some event and show, keeping up with the demands of whatever happens to be next on the schedule," she said. "With all of those things canceled, I'm actually moving into a new space, making new types of work, reassessing what my practice is, as opposed to focusing on making stuff that I think will sell."

"It's been incredible not to have any of that going on, because it has allowed me to relearn what my creative joy is, discovering a lot of things about myself that I never really had an answer to before."

The UC Berkeley graduate (Bachelor of Fine Arts in practice of art, specializing in printmaking, and a bachelor's in French language) has lived for six years in East Oakland's Fruitvale neighborhood, where she and a musician (her partner) share a house large enough to accommodate two separate studios. In hers, she creates paintings and drawings, does printmaking, wearable art, ceramics, and one-of-a-kind books featuring her own art, alongside the work of collaborating artists.

Colliard's most impressive works — certainly in terms of sheer size — are three stunning

murals she painted at Bay Area businesses. ■ A gray-and-white mural entitled "Between the Leaves," 13 feet tall, adorns 60 feet of wall space at the Classic Cars West Gallery in Oakland. She painted that one in four days in November of 2017.

■ In 2019, she created a bright, fantastical floral piece, a digital drawing that was printed on a 100-foot-long curtain that wraps around the Palm Room, an auditorium on Townsend Street in San Francisco. The patterns on the curtain never repeat.

■ A third mural, "Tiny Splendor and Friends," is a whimsical rendering painted in 2018, also at Classic Cars West.

### The courtroom artist

Colliard's art talents became evident at Carmel High (Class of '08), when she took part in Lyceum's Mock Trial competition as the team's courtroom artist, won the county championship, and qualified for state.

As a junior, she won a scholarship to study for a month with the pre-college program at the California College of the Arts, where her big sister, Joelle (CHS '92) had studied architecture 16 years earlier.

"Carmel High was pretty small, and didn't offer a wide selection of art classes, but we had really good teachers," she said. "Mrs. [Maggie] Bevier was so dedicated that I took her classes every year, and when I was a senior, she actually worked with me after school for several months in what amounted to an Advanced Placement class that Carmel High didn't offer. She helped me create a portfolio for AP Art."

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PHOTO/SUDI WACHSPRESS

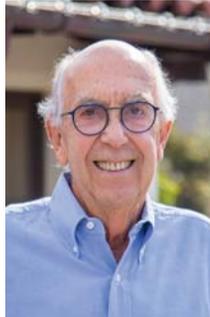
Cachagua native Anjelica Colliard, a Carmel High product, has established a diverse and eclectic art career in Oakland.



PHOTO/JULIAN P. GRAHAM, PEBBLE BEACH CO. LAGORIO ARCHIVE

Point Lobos, as seen in the distance from the 4th Hole of Pebble Beach Golf Links during the 1929 U.S. Amateur.

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# HISTORY

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“felicitous” or even the word, “meeting.”

Is it a coincidence that Brown’s January 1966 column was written just as Del Monte Properties Co. was beginning to promote the new Spyglass Hill Golf Course which opened for play in March 1966? The company directly tied the new course Stevenson’s “Treasure Island,” naming the holes for places and people from the classic adventure tale and emphasizing the belief that the sand dunes and thickets of the golf course grounds inspired Stevenson’s descriptions.

However, given the romantic connection of Stevenson to the Monterey Peninsula, writers continue to credit him. Long before, with the encouragement of S.F.B. Morse, golf writers substituted “Pebble Beach” for “Monterey Peninsula.” Morse, however, was circumspect as to the source of the quote.

In his unpublished memoirs, Morse wrote: “The artist (whom I will refer to herein in no other way, although many, of course, know whom I mean) made the best statement of all, a statement which we have used frequently in advertising. He said that it was ‘the greatest meeting of land and water in existence.’”

Long-timers on the Peninsula did of course know whom he meant, as did golf writers familiar with the program from the 1929 U. S. Amateur at Pebble Beach.

### Repeated truth

Glenna Collett was America’s top woman golfer in 1929. She had won the U.S. Women’s Amateur in 1922, 1925 and 1928, and again in 1929 and 1930. She spent several months at Pebble Beach in 1929 and considered making it her home. She was prevailed upon to write an article about Pebble Beach for the program and in it she provided the correct attribution. “Point Lobos,” she wrote, “to be seen in the distance from any point on the Pebble Beach course, is called by Francis McComas ‘The greatest meeting of land and water in the world.’”

This phrasing, for the first time, put

“Pebble Beach” and “greatest meeting of land and water” in the same sentence. So, even though McComas said it about Point Lobos, it was all the encouragement Morse needed to repurpose the sentiment for marketing purposes.

In the years since, it has been written and said so many times that Pebble Beach Co. can (and does) truthfully say today that, “As many have said, ‘Pebble Beach is the greatest meeting of land and water in the world.’”

The debate whether the scenery in Stevenson’s 1883 book, “Treasure Island,” is based on his memories of walking the hills and coastline of the Monterey Peninsula during his three-month stay in 1879 is more than a century old. Stevenson never claimed it, but others close to him did, most notably, Katharine D. Osbourne, the wife of Stevenson’s stepson. In 1911, she published an illustrated biography of her father-in-law’s time in here, “Robert Louis Stevenson in California.”

### Playing ‘telephone’

In it, she wrote, “Several years later, when Stevenson was writing ‘Treasure Island,’ he drew on Monterey scenery for his description of the island where the doubloons of Flint and his pirate companions were buried. It was in just such a place as these sandhills that Jim Hawkins found himself on leaving his mutinous shipmates whom he followed ashore.

It was in just such a thicket of live oaks, growing low along the sand like brambles, the boughs curiously twisted, the foliage compact like thatch, that he crawled and squatted when he heard the voices of the pirates near him and raised his head to an aperture among the leaves to see Long John Silver strike down with his crutch one of his shipmates who had refused to join in his plan of murder.”

I’m convinced. Clearly the legends of history are built on the retelling of tales. Like the old game of “telephone,” sometimes the re-telling includes changes, inadvertent or otherwise. But other times, the tales turn out to be true.

Neal Hotelling has been researching and writing about Monterey County history for more than three decades. His email is [nbhotelling@msn.com](mailto:nbhotelling@msn.com).

# ARTIST

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Colliard said her folks — like most parents — doubted that art would be a legitimate career path and encouraged her to have a Plan B. “So I kind of forced myself to do other things, but didn’t like any of them,” she said.

### Talented sub-community

Jobs were scarce in 2012, when she graduated from UC Berkeley, but Colliard found one she liked as a commercial screen printer, then moved to Oakland and nestled into that city’s vibrant artist community.

# LIVES

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be happy.

After two years and some additional traveling, Latta said he realized that he couldn’t return to his old life. “It was too common, too confining. And when I asked myself what I wanted to do, only one word came back: ‘sailing.’”

But sailing can be expensive — and he no longer had his high-income advertising career to keep him and his boat afloat.

Remembering Africa, Latta’s solution was to live modestly. He moved onto his boat to keep expenses low and took a job at West Marine, a boating company, where he got a discount on the equipment for his grandest adventure yet.

Soon after his 65th birthday, Latta set sail from Moss Landing, planning never to return, to sail into the horizon, going only where the waves and wind carried him.

And from 2001 to 2015, they took him to spectacular places, including up and down the coast of Mexico and around the Sea of Cortez. “I was having the time of my life, exploring remote beaches, docking in secluded coves, diving in waters abundant in colorful marine life, and trekking through lush jungles.”

The adventure very nearly ended not long after it began, however.

There, among other things, she co-founded the Good Omen Market, a once-a-year art marketplace that, since 2016, has bloomed from about 20 artists to more than 80.

“It has become a wonderful little sub-community of really talented individuals,” she said. “I can look around my home at all of the wares that came from Good Omen, and it gives me a lot of joy to know who made each beautiful object.”

During the pandemic, Colliard has worked as a public health safety officer, charged with helping people navigate through their emotions and fears about Covid-19.

Images of Colliard’s artwork and additional information can be found on her website at [anjelicacolliard.com](http://anjelicacolliard.com).

Latta was alone in the Sea of Cortez in 2002 when his 22-foot boat was badly damaged in heavy seas. He writhed in pain on the deck, certain he had broken his spine. “I had lost all hope,” he said.

He decided to shoot himself, penned a note to his son, and donned his storm garb with a hoodie to prevent the blood from spattering. “I slipped the gun in my mouth, had my finger on the trigger — and then something happened. I remember suddenly saying to myself, ‘What are you doing, Mike? This is so stupid!’”

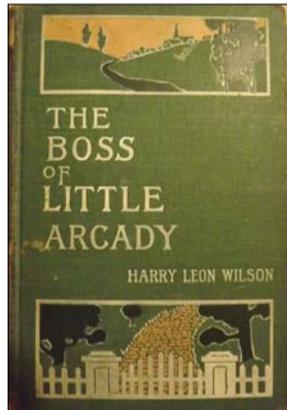
The next morning, he spotted land — Mazatlán, Mexico. When he was rushed to a hospital, he learned his back wasn’t broken, only severely bruised. “That was a big relief,” Latta said, “because it meant that I could sail again.”

### Where he belongs

But by 2015, when Latta hit 80, he had to face the fact that his traveling days were behind him. “Sailing takes a lot out of you, and it was getting dangerous out there.”

Luckily for Latta, a berth opened up at the Monterey Harbor, permitting him to dock his boat and live in the marina.

He rarely leaves the harbor anymore. “My sailing days are over,” he said wistfully. “But the ocean is still a part of me. My father is in that ocean. That’s where he died, and that’s where I want to be scattered one day. It’s where I belong — amid the waves and wind.”



Carmel’s Harry Leon Wilson (left), a prolific author, found time to enjoy golf at Pebble Beach, despite a declaration in his 1905 book “Boss of Arcady” (above) that golf has “just enough game to spoil a good walk.”

PHOTO/(LEFT) JULIAN P. GRAHAM, PEBBLE BEACH CO. LAGORIO ARCHIVE, (ABOVE) EBAY

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