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Indian royalty make grand impression at Concours

■ Owners draw more attention than their cars

By MARY SCHLEY and PAUL MILLER

THE ‘MAHARAJA Cars’ gathered Sunday on the edge of the 18th Fairway at Pebble Beach were supposed to be the attraction. But anyone who stopped gawking for a minute at the Rolls-Royces and Bugattis that once belonged to Indian royalty to talk to the people who own them today found that the owners were even more fascinating than their vehicles.

A 1932 Rolls known as the Star of India, for example, commissioned by a man named Thakore Saheb Dharmendrasinhji Jadeja, then ruler of the principality of Rajkot, was resplendent with its gleaming saffron and chrome coachwork and sumptuous upholstery. Nearby, a man in a neatly tailored uniform and wearing an impressive woven turban kept a close eye on the car and the crowd that admired it.

He turned out to be the great-grandson of the man who ordered the Rolls, and he’s the man who lives in a palace in Rajkot today. He beamed when he talked about the car.

“My great-grandfather ordered this car and used it for official duties,” said Yuvraj Saheb Mandhata-sinh Jadeja. “Unfortunately, my grandfather sold the car in 1968, and it’s been out of India ever since.” He enthusiastically told of buying the Rolls-Royce at auction for 577,000 Euros two years



Their uniforms were exotic and they were obviously wealthy, but there was nothing intimidating about the friendliness shown by Yuvraj Saheb Mandhata-sinh Jadeja (above) and the Maharana Arvind Singh Mewar at Sunday’s Concours.



PHOTOS/PAUL MILLER (LEFT), COURTESY PEBBLE BEACH CONCOURS D’ELEGANCE (ABOVE)

ago, and how he would soon be returning the car to India.

“It makes me very proud to take it back home,” he said. Nearby, a pale blue 1924 Rolls-Royce was obviously the property of another very distinguished Indian gentleman in a

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Famous for preserving land, state agency to sell piece of Big Sur

By CHRIS COUNTS

SINCE IT was established in 1976, the California Coastal Conservancy has helped preserve more than 300,000 acres of park lands and open space. But now the state land conservation agency is doing the opposite by selling a piece of Big Sur real estate for development.

An announcement on the home page of the coastal conservancy’s website (www.scc.ca.gov) offers a few details about the 100-acre property, which is located just south of Carmel Highlands on the Victorine Ranch.

“The property extends from coastal bluffs fronting Highway 1 to gentle marine terraces up and over a 1,300-foot ridge of the Santa Lucia Mountains and down to the verdant

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Escalade lands in surf, runaway Ram careens into house

By MARY SCHLEY

A MAN was hospitalized late Thursday morning after allegedly driving drunk and crashing his Cadillac Escalade into the surf near Spyglass Hill and Cypress Point golf courses.

And earlier in the week, a butcher at Bruno’s was airlifted to a trauma center after his runaway pickup truck careened down Carpenter Street, narrowly missing trees and flying

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PHOTOS/STEVE RANA (ABOVE), MARY SCHLEY (TOP)

The driver of a pickup truck was seriously injured Saturday when it careened down Carpenter Street and crashed into a house (above). A driver police say was drunk managed to end up in the ocean off 17 Mile Drive Thursday (top).

FELONY CHARGES FILED IN SEASIDE CAT ABUSE

By KELLY NIX

A SEASIDE mother and her daughter were charged with a series of felonies and misdemeanors this week for the cat-hoarding case in which SPCA officers discovered 51 cats liv-

ing in horrendous conditions and 113 dead kittens.

Donna Johnson was charged with three felony counts of cruelty to animals and three misdemeanor charges of animal neglect, while her mother, Maggie Johnson, was charged with the three misdemeanors, according to Monterey County Deputy District Attorney Marie Aronson.

“The maximum for each felony violation of [cruelty to animals] is three years in jail,” Aronson told The Pine Cone. “Each misdemeanor violation of [animal neglect] is punishable by six months in jail.”

On July 24, SPCA for Monterey County humane officers found and seized 51 cats from a house on Noche Buena Street in Seaside occupied by Maggie Johnson and recovered the carcasses of 113 dead kittens on that property, and a nearby apartment that Donna Johnson rented. All of the cats needed some degree of medical attention, and they did not have adequate food and water.

Four cats underwent emergency surgery at the SPCA

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National Geographic’s Ventana Wilderness map had 250 errors

■ Recalled after locals gave it a look

By CHRIS COUNTS

FAMOUS FOR its lavishly illustrated articles and meticulous cartography, National Geographic magazine recently produced a map detailing hundreds of miles of hiking trails located in Big Sur. But after a local hiker pointed out the map’s many errors to some of the employees at the REI sporting goods store in Marina — where the map was being sold — it was recalled.

The hiker, Jack Glendening of Salinas, was surprised by

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Among the numerous errors on a new National Geographic map of Big Sur, popular backcountry campgrounds such as Barlow Flats and Sykes were shown miles from their actual locations.

Shopping center evacuated after crew ruptures gas line

By MARY SCHLEY

A CALIFORNIA American Water crew struck a high-flow gas line with a small backhoe Tuesday morning, forcing the evacuation of a couple hundred people from Carmel Plaza and other nearby businesses, and shutting down the area for more than an hour, according to Monterey Fire Capt. Lou Valdez.

The leak was reported by a passerby who walked to the firehouse on Sixth Avenue, about a block away from the rupture, at 10:40 a.m. Aug. 21. “Someone came to the door and told us there was a leak at Mission and Ocean,” Valdez said.

Without far to go, the engine was on scene about two minutes later, and firefighters went to work shutting down the area with the help of Carmel police officers and building official John Hanson. While firefighters’ monitors indicated only slight gas readings within a 15-foot radius, they decided to evacuate the entire shopping center, which covers the block surrounded by Ocean Avenue, Junipero Street, Seventh

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