

course. He stayed on as the superintendent for 5 years. In 1955 he returned to California as the assistant professional in Fort Ord. After only 4 months, he took over as the superintendent, the position he presently still holds. Merle's family consists of his wife Trudi, and daughters, Susan, Jennifer, and Juliana, one horse and two dogs. All these can be found around their residence in Del Rey Oaks.

The course itself at Fort Ord is unique in the sense that it is built entirely on sand as most courses are on the Monterey Peninsula. It is not as old a course as some, having been started in 1953, and finished by 1954. The course was designed and built by General Robert B. McClure (retired) with the assist of Boots Widener. It is a regulation 18, which plays around 6300 yards but this can be stretched to 7200 yards. A second course was built in 1964, with the front nine going in in 1964 and the back nine in 1970. This portion was designed and built by Merle. The funds generated for the building of this course comes from the recreational facilities of the soldiers stationed there. Even though it is a military base, the entire crew is civilian with an equivalent status as that of Civil Service. The present crew size is 14 men. Merle has one assistant superintendent and 2 full-time mechanics. In order to break the wind which can be rather persistent in that area, Merle engaged in an extensive tree planting program using over 5000 Monterey Pines and Cypresses.

The courses on Fort Ord, having been built during various periods, do not have the same sprinkler systems on all. Merle has tried to standardize them, and at present two heads predominate--the Valve-in-head Toros, and the Thompson 220 Challenger. By now Merle should have gained enough experience with these two heads so that anyone interested in knowing more about these two types under actual field conditions can ask Merle for his advice.

President Roger Larson has a request for all our members. In future meetings, please send in your reservation card promptly. If you are too late for some reason, pick up the phone and call the host super to let him know if you are coming or not. Also, if you have made a reservation, but find yourself unable to make it, notify. Many of the hosts have a problem in getting an idea of how many people will attend their meeting. They in turn have to communicate with the club manager to arrange for the food. When the menu they select calls for place settings, rather than a buffet luncheon, the superintendent has to guarantee a certain number. If there are more people than he had counted on, even with the 10% margin usually allowed, it can become very embarrassing to many people if there is not enough food. Conversely if far fewer people show up than were guaranteed, there will be a

lot of wasted food, and what is worse, the Association will be asked to pay for the guaranteed number, whether they are used or not. So, again, cooperate with this request:--Send in your card immediately upon receipt of the newsletter. If you can't make it, call your host and let him know.

POSITION WANTED: Many of us have had contact with Tom Unruh through his work with the Department of Environmental Horticulture of the University of California at Davis. He usually is assisting Bill Davis in some of Bill's research projects. Tom is now looking for a position as superintendent of an 18-hole golf course. Tom has had a widely varied background, with a lot of experiences working on golf courses and aiding or supervising construction projects on various golf courses. He holds a degree from the University of California at Davis in Park and Recreation Administration. Tom will send interested parties a resume upon request. In view of his background I feel that Tom will be a valuable asset to some lucky course. Contact him at work (916) 752-0412
Home (707) 745-3662

POSITION OPEN: For the adventurous at heart, there is an opening for a superintendent to take charge of an 18-hole golf course in Bangkok, Thailand. This is a legitimate offer, and not a joke on my part. All I know is that the course is a regulation 18, close to the Indian Ocean. The grass is Bermuda, and the irrigation system of the quick-coupler type. Anyone eager to meet pretty Thai girls, call John Dallis (415) 365-1336 or (208) 726-5178

BACK TO WORK: Last month through a snafu of the United States Mail Department, Myrtle Wagoner did not receive my carefully written monthly scandalsheet. One of the items I reported on was the illness of Smiling Jack Baker, the Assistant Chief at H. V. Carter, who has been a faithful supporter of the Association. Jack was in the hospital having some major surgery, and having a rough time with it. Anyway, I hear that old Jack has recovered and is back behind his desk. I certainly hope that he feels his old self shortly, and that we have the pleasure of seeing him again at our meetings. Welcome back to the old salt mines, Jack.

That is all, troups. See you all at Fort Ord.

Lee Huang