

KNOW YOUR HOST SUPERINTENDENT ... by Lee Huang

Your host superintendent will be the author of this monthly information sheet, and so it is with pleasure that I can now tell you all a bunch of fat lies about myself. So here goes--for purpose of writing, I will refer to myself as if I am writing my regular feature about another superintendent.

Lee has something in common with some of the superintendents which we find on the West Coast. Like so many of his colleagues, he is not a native of the State. And like some of them, he came a long ways to get here. He was born in Indonesia, which at that time was still a colony of the Netherlands, known as the Dutch East Indies. His father was a merchant, and there were two brothers beside Lee to round off his family. He was the middle or number two son. As was customary then, those students who could afford to go to the University usually were sent to Holland to complete their studies. However, when Lee was in the second grade of high school, the Second World War was in progress, and the Japanese Army invaded the Islands. And so, until the end of the war, there wasn't even any school to go to. After the war ended an accelerated school was started, and 4 years work was completed in 2 years. By that time, Lee's father decided for him and his older brother to go to the US for advanced studies since the universities in Holland were still suffering severely from the aftermath of the war. In 1947 Lee and his brother Bill migrated to the US to complete their studies. Since the colleges were crowded with returning GI's, Lee ended up back in high school. This gave him a chance to increase his technical vocabulary in English, and gave him a better chance of entering college. High school meant a prep school in Cheshire, Connecticut near Yale University. But after one winter in the New England States, and a bout with the grip (flue), Lee migrated to California. His tropical blood found this much more to his liking. University in California was Davis, where he obtained a degree in Agronomy. The original plan was to return to Indonesia to work in the sugar industry, but Indonesia was rapidly deteriorating, especially for those of Chinese extraction, and so Lee decided to stay here. He went to Hawaii to learn more about sugar, and found himself at the University of Hawaii taking courses in Tropical Soils towards a M.S. which he obtained in due time. He also gained a wife, Helen, who was a native-born Hawaiian. A son was born in 1955, and at that time Lee accepted a job with a firm in Brazil as a technical consultant in the development of a farm. The enterprise proved to be a disaster, and Lee came back to California, this time as an immigrant. A series of jobs followed, mostly in the research field as a laboratory technician. Not finding a future in that field, he branched out into automobile selling, then landscape selling, then owner and operator of a retail nursery store, and finally as a landscape contractor. He finally was hired by the retirement community of Rossmor in Walnut Creek.

as assistant superintendent of maintenance for the model area, and then moved to the East Bay Regional Park District as the superintendent of the Tilden Golf Course. This was his initiation into golf course management. After 3½ years with them, he obtained the position of Superintendent of the Walnut Creek Golf Course, which is his present status.

As mentioned before, his wife's name is Helen, and they now have two more daughters beside their son Glenn. Glenn is 16, Hillary is 14, and the youngest, Cheryl is 12. They reside in Walnut Creek.

W A L N U T C R E E K G O L F C O U R S E - The Walnut Creek Course is new. Most of you had the opportunity to play it last March. It is a regulation 18 hole, playing 6,500 yds. from the regulation tees. It can be stretched to 7,200 yds. The course was constructed in 1968. Bob Graves was the architect, and it is still in the process of being groomed to completion. As in all new courses, there are often a lot of things which can be improved upon, and our target date for completion of all construction is the end of 1973.

In spite of the lack of finish which marks a complete course, the course has proven to be very popular. Last fiscal year it played 65,000 rounds of golf. The projection is for an increase as our plans call for a continuous car path throughout the course.

The course is unique in the Diablo Valley on account of its soil type, which makes this course the only one not built on adobe. It is quick drying, which makes it suitable for winter play. We mow even in winter when most other units on other courses are put away or overhauled. We often have to water as early as mid-February, since the soil is such a drying type. Much of the popularity of the course is also due to the beautiful location, overlooking the Valley, and the magnificent clubhouse which is rather unusual for a municipal course. It contains the Boundary Oaks Restaurant, a first-class restaurant, catering to the golfer and non-golfer alike. All in all, the course has a great future, and will prove to be one of the most popular courses in the area. Your host hopes you will enjoy the program and the course. Be sure to reserve your starting time with the Pro Shop.

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It was with great sadness that we learned of Larry Keck's wife's passing. Apparently she had been seriously ill for some time, and the end was not unexpected. However, it is always sad to lose someone who has been close to you for that long. We all wish to express our sympathy to Larry in his loss. The Board of Directors of the Association has voted to set a small token gift of \$15.00, which Larry asked to be donated to the Diabetes Foundation in his wife's memory.

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Dr. John Madison of U.C. Davis announced that he has some fine young students who are interested in working on a golf course for the