

BILL GOODRIDGE tells us snuggled picturesquely in the rolling foothills about 1½ miles Southeast of Valley Springs and near Hogan Lake the new La Contenta Country Club is rapidly taking shape. The construction of the course itself will be completed this fall with the opening scheduled for spring of '74. Basically a championship course, it will boast 4 large lakes, parks, play grounds and picnic areas plus a planned subdivision community surrounding the course.

The Golf Course Superintendent for this new spectacular is none other than our old friend Bob Umland. A first class golf course superintendent turned salesman and now returned to his first love. Welcome home, Bob.

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LEE HUANG tells us George Finnan left Castlewood Country Club July 13. He is now in charge of construction of a 9 hole course on the Pleasanton fairgrounds. His foreman will succeed him at Castlewood.

C. W. "Chuck" Weatherton has been appointed to the position of parks services manager for the City of Oakland. He had been responsible for supervision of parks, recreation facilities, landscaped areas and golf courses. His first responsibility was construction of Lew Galbraith Golf Course.

Weatherton has served as president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association. He is a certified park manager of CPRS and has received the Certificate of Merit and Merit Award from the Northern California Turfgrass Council and the Merit Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association.

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GOLF NOTES - Howard Fisher, Mt. St. Helena Golf Club, Calistoga

For you golfers who haven't been out to the monthly meetings in the last three months, you have not only missed excellent meetings by the "Chico Kid", but outstanding golfing weather. I say the last 3 meetings because of the condition of the golf courses we've played.

Jack Jagur has El Macero in top shape. The golfer had to look for a bad lie. Jack, the course was superb.

Then, in June, we hit the high country with John Williams. The course was beautiful, the weather unbelievable. Besides, John had three young ladies working on the course. We all had trouble keeping the eye on the ball. Two Foursomes of "Hot Shots" played Edgewood from the back tees. Funny, I didn't hear any bragging on how they tore up the course. John, without your "Little Bug", you could never keep the course as nice as it is.

At our July meeting, we had another great golf course. Oakland had its typical fog. This was a tight picturesque golf course.

Every Par 3 was tricky to play. The Par 4's were nightmares for anyone who hooks or slices. They have so many trees at Claremont I thought we were in a tree farm. The golfer took advantage of Par at Claremont. As you know it's a supposedly short 18 at 68 Par and 5,490 yards. So howcome the low for the day was a 77? No one reported the high score. Stan, I personally congratulate you and your crew on a fine job. I hope we come back soon.

Hope to see many more of you at Carmel Valley. Dig out those rusty "ole" clubs and get to know every foot of our golf courses!

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IRRIGATION or IRRITATION ? That is the Question.

by Chic Cannon, Aqua Dial, Santa Clara

Irrigation in the western part of our country is very necessary in order to grow grass and most plant life. We do get a little rainfall, usually during the winter months to supplement the water requirement of our turf. However, if we are to keep the grass green all year around, it is necessary to have an adequate irrigation system.

Since flood irrigation is not too practical for most Golf Courses, even though some are doing just that, only with sprinklers; it seems necessary in many cases in order to get the water where needed. This method is not what a sprinkler system was intended to do.

PROPER DESIGN AND INSTALLATION IS THE KEY TO ELIMINATE THE "IRRITATION" FROM A SPRINKLER SYSTEM, WHETHER IT BE QUICK COUPLER MANUAL OR AUTOMATIC.

If only the owners or board of directors of Golf Courses could be convinced to invest a little more money in the planning and installing of a complete system - it would sure take the "Irritation out of Irrigation".

The benefits are so great that it not only reflects on the sprinkler coverage, but fertilization, for example, is made so much easier when uniform water coverage can be depended on to get the feed to the roots evenly as intended.

Even if a proper system cost 10% more, it is economically practical to do so. For example: \$150,000.00 investment in a sprinkler system, which is a bare minimum design, could be done for another \$15,000.00. This amount spread over 15 years amounts to an extra \$1,000.00 per year investment. Using a minimum design in the same 15 years could cost in labor and adding more sprinklers, etc., etc. an additional \$30,000.00 or \$2,000.00 a year extra cost.

Like the old Water Boy says: "It's not what you get wetter - it's how you water".