



Dick Viergever reports on THE CRASH AT SUNNYVALE - April 12, 1973

It's spooky enough to witness a collision between two large airplanes at a distance of three or four hundred yards and a height of not more than a couple of hundred feet; but when they crash on your golf course, it takes a while for it to register. You just don't believe it.

It was nothing short of miraculous that no golfers were killed or injured since the course was crowded. Figures show about 250 people played that day and the crash occurred at around 2:45 in the afternoon. There was a couple on the eleventh green -- maybe forty yards from the twelfth tee where the planes landed -- and to say they were frightened would be a pretty mild statement. One foursome was on the ninth fairway forty or fifty yards away and were able to get to the planes before they were completely enveloped in flames. They even attempted to break through the glass in one of the cabins with their golf clubs before the fire got too hot.

Damage to the course was quite heavy -- estimated at around thirty thousand dollars. Most of this was caused by emergency vehicles driving over the course. There were several hundred of these vehicles on the course during the night -- fire fighting equipment, ambulances, police, security people and others and five greens were driven over many times. The eleventh green was used as a parking area for ambulances at one time. Damage to the immediate crash area was limited to an exceedingly small spot when one considers that two large airplanes crashed and burned there.

Soil will have to be removed from 10,000 to 20,000 square feet because of saturation with jet fuel and fire fighting chemicals. Most of this will be resodded. Most of the work will be contracted in the interest of expediting completion.

The course was closed on the following day which was Friday and re-opened for the week end with one temporary green and one temporary tee. All greens were back in play within a week although a couple of them were a little rough in spots.

Dick Viergever, CGCS

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TARP COMMITTEE MEETING, California Golf Club, South San Francisco  
by Clifford A. Wagoner, CGCS

The Turfgrass Adaptive Research Program was held on April 11, 1973. Present Were Dr. C. H. Blackstone, Otis Hallin, Bob Hanna, Bill Davis, Roger Larson and Clifford Wagoner.

Bill Davis reviewed some of the benefits of the past years program. There has been a major increase of turf activity at state and county level in Extension. Also interest is increasing from club officials and superintendents. It was emphasized that the program is one of education and not consulting and is not in competition with the United States Golf Association visiting service. It was agreed by all in attendance that both TARP and USGA should be supported. The USGA is supporting a research program on top dressing which is being carried out on the experimental green at Davis and GCSA of America has agreed to provide funds for film for educational purposes.

Major projects completed by TARP are:

The Evaluation of Sands and the Publication  
The Experimental green and production of a film  
The drainage installed at Haggin Oaks and production of a film  
The field testing of several greens for water application and infiltration rates and production of slide sets  
Two series of sectional meetings to update club officials and superintendents on the information gained from the program  
Several talks given to GCSANC meetings  
The Institute at Asilomar March 1973 - Proceedings will be printed and distributed to attendees. Copies will be available at a small charge for those who did not attend. Slides were produced and will be available for showing.

The spin offs from this program far exceed the benefits which are listed.

Available in most counties in Northern California is a person on the Extension staff which has some degree of assignment in turf. The more the superintendents and clubs call on these men the more the powers to be will recognize our industry.