

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by John Engen, CGCS, Butte Creek C.C., Chico

Thank goodness for September 15th. In the valley most superintendents look forward to the middle of September. The summer problems seem to subside with the cool nights and shorter days. The puffiness of the Penncross greens disappears, the localized dry spots don't need to be hand watered 3 times per day, crabgrass starts to turn red and purple and members compliment you on finally getting the watergrass sprayed, etc.

Now is a good time to evaluate the summer problems and start thinking about what we can do between now and spring to make next summer more bearable. Maybe we should budget a little more and go in with another half rate of crabgrass control or start our verticutting earlier in the spring.

Many things can be done in the next few months - move sprinklers that are not positioned right for better water control, repair that pump that gives problems every year, maybe an extra top dressing or aerifying and so on. Now is the time to prepare for next year.

As I travel around the North State attending meetings, I see many unique ideas superintendents have come up with. I would like to see a Handy Hint Corner in our "Thru the Green" publication each month. How about sending in your ideas. I'll start it.

HANDY HINT CORNER

How about P.V.C. pipe for out of bound stakes? You don't have to paint them white if you use white P.V.C.

Tired of typing flags all the time - use hog rings. Or if you don't want them that permanent use pipe cleaners.

Build utility vehicles out of old V.W.'s. I've sure seen some good ones.

#####

DIABLO COUNTRY CLUB by Byron Lewis, Green Chairman

Diablo Country Club, situated at the foot of Mt. Diablo in Contra Costa County, emerged as a golf course in 1917. Prior to that time, in fact, since 1859 it served as a horse farm, race track, pure bred stock farm and vacation spot for the notables of that era. At one time the farm was composed of some 6,000 acres but over the years was reduced to its present adequate size of 127 acres.

Over the last 10 years a number of improvements have taken place at Diablo. Our water is furnished by East Bay Water District, which even this year has been able to provide a reasonable supply. A toro irrigation system was installed by Ken Pierce in December 1974 which has contributed a great

deal to the proper conditioning of the course. Last but not least Sohan Singh came to us as our Golf Course Superintendent in January 1972.

Sohan was born in the Fiji Islands and has spent the larger part of his working life associated with various golf clubs. From 1963 to 1968 he was employed at the El Macero Club; from 1968 to the end of 1971 he was assistant at Sequoyah Country Club in Oakland, Since January 1972 Sohan has been the Superintendent at Diablo. The excellent condition of our course speaks well for his ability and perseverance. We hope you have an opportunity to enjoy the facility on October 13.

Incidentally, members of our grounds crew belong to the Operating Engineers Union, Local No. 3 with the current hourly rate averaging \$6.82 plus fringe benefits.

#####

GCSAA'S 50th Anniversary by Clifford A. Wagoner, CGCS, Del Rio, Modesto

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America celebrated their 50th Anniversary on September 13, 1976 at Sylvania C. C. in Toledo, Ohio. For those present it was a real treat to see equipment used for golf course maintenance since and including horse drawn mowers. Six Charter members and 16 past Presidents were honored. Eleven GCSAA members were recipients of the outstanding service awards.

The Monday afternoon program consisted of recognizing the Charter members and the unveiling of a plaque placed on a rock at the entrance to Sylvania C.C. commemorating the place that GCSAA was founded September 13, 1926.

Following the formal program the equipment was demonstrated. Many of those in attendance could remember driving horses and Fordson tractors, pushing hand green mowers and swinging scythes. It was very interesting to see the progress that has been made in maintenance equipment. An exhibition like this makes one appreciate the contribution industry has made to help us with our work.

Arnold Palmer was the guest speaker at the banquet. He emphasized the need for all of us to support the game of golf because of the competition from other sports. He suggested we might look at the records of our politicians to determine if they play the game. Arnold Palmer's father was a golf course superintendent so he could relate very well to our profession.

California was represented by Past Presidents Walter Boysen, William Johnson and myself.

The GCSAA tournament was played on September 14 & 15 at Sylvania and Glengarry Country Clubs with a field of 181 players. It rained on the second day and play was held up but everyone was able to finish.

The nominating committee met on Tuesday, September 14, 1976 to select the