

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE by John Engen, CGCS, Butte Creek C.C., Chico

For those of you who did not make it to Tahoe Donner meeting in Truckee-- you missed an excellent superintendents meeting.

Many thanks go to Dick Tokos and the Sierra Nevada Golf Course Superintendents Association for organizing everything so well. After the weather was so bad for 3 weeks it turned out to be a perfect day for golf. The golf course was beautiful nestled in an among the pines. I know what a challenge it is to build a golf course in that Truckee rock pile. Joint meeting such as this are good in many ways. Meeting old friends that have moved to another area, discussing the difference in problems such as Monterey and Reno, even the pesticide regulations which seem to be quite different in Nevada than those in California.

The educational portion of the meeting was presented by Dr. Wally Miller, University of Nevada. Dr. Miller spoke about a new material called "Rozol" that is being used for ground squirrel control. Dr. Miller discussed and showed some slides on fertilizer trials they have been working on in the Reno area which was quite interesting.

Be sure and check with the Agricultural Commissioner in your area before applying any chemical.

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ASILOMAR INSTITUTE - JANUARY 9-14, 1977 - Bill Davis, University of California, Davis, will be mailing notices of the Golf Course Institute very soon. Each year this program has attracted more participants so register early so you can be included.

The Institute will be held January 9th thru the 14th, 1977 to give superintendents the advantage of the slow season to attend. Seek out a fellow superintendent who has attended and get his opinion on the benefits of this week long education program. Do Not hesitate to ask your club officials because a big majority of them have knowledge of it through the regional TARP meetings and I'm sure will approve your request to attend and financial assistance.

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YOUR HOST SUPERINTENDENT - Steve Carlton is a fourth generation Californian born in San Francisco on August 24, 1946. Happy Birthday Steve. He has a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy from the University of California, Davis in 1968 and did graduate work in Turf in 1972. He started in the cut flower business growing Gerbera Daisies in 1969 and 1970. He worked at Pebble Beach and Spyglass Hill and Del Monte C.C. in 1971-72 during the Crosby and United States Open. He was assistant superintendent at Almaden G & CC, San Jose 1973-74 with Bob Ford. He has been Superintendent at Carmel Valley Golf & C.C. for two years.

Carmel Valley Golf and Country Club, which just celebrated its 12th year, is a good example of a successful non-proprietary private club. It was built and organized by the same team that still manages it today. There are no committees, and Steve Carlton, the golf course superintendent, reports directly to the President, Ed Haber. The staff, remaining constant, does not have the same problem as most clubs that have changing Boards of Directors every year or two. Golf Course equipment, for example can be bought without waiting for any committee decision.

The Club recently was the site of the USGA Senior Amateur Championship, and is particularly noted for its 10 lakes, which have been made into game bird sanctuaries. Also on the grounds, and owned by the Club, is Quail Lodge, the only resort hotel in California with the Mobil 5 Star Award.

Because of Quail Lodge, there are a great many celebrities who play golf at the Club, and during the Crosby Pro-Am such players as Gary Player, Arnold Palmer, Johnny Miller, Doug Sanders, David Graham and Bob Charles have played the course.

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Members of the Sierra Nevada GCSA are invited to attend the meeting at Carmel Valley Golf & Country Club.

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PROGRAM - Mr. Tom Simmons, representative from Mission Insurance Company, who carry compensation coverage on a large number of clubs will speak on safety practices on the course which can reduce accidents. Mr. Simmons has had a great amount of experience with golf course accidents so his message should be of interest to all.

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It was good to see Bill Mayo, who is a charter member of GCSAof Northern California back in 1932, and George Finnin a member since 1953 retiring in 1974. Both live in the Reno area.

Steve Flatt, Wilcox Oaks is buiding a new 9 which is under construction now.

Griff Taylor, Kelly Ridge Golf Links, is repairing damage done by recent rains.

Del Rio Golf & C.C., Modesto, Cliff Wagoner, Superintendent, hosted the United States Golf Association Junior Girls Championship.

The following week Del Paso Country Club, Sacramento, Tom Unruh, Superintendent, hosted the United States Golf Association Womens Amateur Championship tournament.