

OUR HOST SUPERINTENDENT AND CLUB - Gurmit Sandhu - Orinda Country Club

Orinda Country Club was incorporated on June 17, 1924. The 159 acres occupied today by Orinda CC was once the part of a land grant given to the Castro family in 1841 and called "El Sobrante".

In 1922 Mr. E. I. de Laveaga began to develop the club. First he dammed the Lake Cascade with a waterfall spilling into the swimming pool, the lake water was to be used for irrigation. Only 5 holes were built and then 9 holes and finally 18 holes. The club was built last.

Orinda Country Club is a family type country club which provides activities for the whole family with 9 tennis courts, olympic size swimming pool and excellent dining and entertainment facilities for its 750 members. The golf course is a great challenge to both the professional and amateur golfer.

It will be very appropriate for me to mention the names of our two best known golf course superintendents in California and the United States of America--Elmer Border and Walter Boysen. They both worked for Orinda in the early years of their profession and later both of them served as President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

At present Mr. Church Ward is the General Manager of Orinda Country Club and chaired the Presidency of Country Club Managers Association of America. Mr. Ray Orr is our well liked Golf Professional. We all three have the best working relationship and excellent communications. Mr. Forrest Smith, the greatest Green Chairman keeps us busy, protects us and praises our work throughout the year.

I would also like to mention two more names of great superintendents who helped me to start in this wonderful business of golf course maintenance--Tom Caranci and Cliff Wagoner. I worked for Mr. Caranci as a golf course construction worker and as assistant superintendent in maintenance for golf course from 1959 to 1961. I learned a lot from him. He took me to Del Rio, Modesto to show me the super groomed golf course and also to join the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California in 1961. I met Mr. Wagoner for the first time and he second my application for membership. Since then Del Rio became my dream of golf course maintenance. I am still trying to fulfill this dream. I am sure some day I may succeed.

Hope to see you all on March 8th , don't forget to bring your clubs.

Gurmit Sandhu, Golf Course Superintendent, Orinda CC