

CHARLES LEE TILDEN REGIONAL PARK GOLF COURSE

Tilden was formed because of the need for a course in Northern Alameda County to be near the University of California campus. Berkeley citizens and U.C. faculty and officials formed a group to build a public course in Wildcat Canyon.

The course was built in 1934 by the Works Progress Administration on parkland. The park was to supply the Superintendent. The whole project cost \$134,000.00

Tilden is beautifully situated in the Berkeley Hills, on the slopes and along the creeks of Wildcat Canyon, behind the campus of the University of California. It was literally carved out of the great forest of giant eucalyptus trees which covers much of these hills.

The course was opened for play on November 11, 1937, after eighteen months of construction. It was designed by the noted golf course architect, William Bell, and the construction was supervised by Richard E. Walpole, who later became District General Manager.

During the more than 40 years since the course opened, there has been a steady replacement of the eucalyptus trees with redwood, pines, and other evergreens. Not only has this added greatly to the natural beauty of the course, but it has also improved the condition of both the greens and the fairways. It was found that the eucalyptus trees absorbed too much of the water applied to the course, and also dropped oily leaves and bark, which hindered the growth of the turf and were objectionable to the players. This program of replacement, which must have seemed overwhelming at first, has been accelerated in recent years, so that most of the rows of trees separating the various fairways are now evergreens, and the eucalyptus trees are mainly restricted to groves at points where they do not harm the course, but make a scenic addition to it. The overall result of this program has been to develop a public course which can be compared favorably with any course, public or private, in the entire area, both in terms of its challenge to the golfer, and its scenic attractions.

Although neither a long course, nor one with especially narrow fairways, Tilden is a very sporty course of championship caliber. Its challenge has been skillfully developed by the use of the natural features, such as the trees, hills and valleys, and especially by Wildcat Creek and several of its tributaries cutting between and across the fairways at strategic points. For the most part, Tilden requires accurate placement of shots, rather than long hitting, for good scoring. For those who are inaccurate or careless, the trees, brush, and rough creekbeds offer a constant threat. There are very few artificial hazards, such as sandtraps, on the course. In all this time only five greens have been rebuilt.

Superintendent Grady L. Simril went to work on the course as a night waterman in 1949 under Walter Collins. He advanced to greenkeeper and then Assistant Superintendent under Ernie Hall and Lee Huang and in 1969 was made Superintendent.

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THE ANNUAL BUSINESS AND ELECTION MEETING was held April 6 at the Stockton Golf & Country Club. Once again we had to delay the start of the meeting for lack of a quorum. This problem has been with us for years; hopefully we can work to solve it.

Our new board for 1979 consists of

President - Grady Simril - East Bay Regional Parks, Berkeley
Vice President - Stan Burgess - Claremont CC, Oakland
Secretary-Treasurer - Bill Nigh - Dixon Landing G.C., Milpitas
Directors - Joe Andrade - Green Valley CC, Suisun

Ken Sakai - Riverside G.C., Coyote
Clifford Wagoner - Del Rio G & CC, Modesto

Past President - Bob Livesey, Plaza G. C., Visalia

Hold over Director - Leonard Walsh - Boulder Creek CC, Boulder Creek

Feel free to contact any board member about any idea you may have regarding your Association.

Other business was the presentation of our annual awards. A well deserved CONGRATULATIONS to the winners.

Superintendent of the Year- Roy King, Sharon Heights G & CC, Menlo Park
Excellence in Turfgrass - Mulkh Raj, Los Positas G.C., Livermore
Class F - Bill Goodridge, Best Products, Lathrop

After an excellent lunch - the first tee was open. Thanks to Kaz Maseba and Stockton G & CC for their gracious hospitality.

Hope to see you all at Tilden Park in May.

Ken Sakai

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Grady Simril announces the committees for 1979-1980

Membership - Stanley Burgess

Program - Clifford Wagoner, Leonard Walsh

Newsletter - Ken Sakai

Christmas Party - Robert Livesey, Bill Nigh

Awards - Bill Nigh

Golf - Joe Andrade

National Affairs - Robert Livesey, Clifford Wagoner

T.A.R.P. - Clifford Wagoner, Robert Livesey, Grady Simril

Federation - Robert Livesey, Clifford Wagoner, Grady Simril