

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LOS ALTOS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

The Los Altos Golf & Country Club can trace its beauty and fascinating beginnings from the Spanish American heritage of Santa Clara Valley. Four flags have flown over the Club area--first the flag of Spain, then that of Republican Mexico, and now the California State flag and the Stars and Stripes.

It was in 1839 that Governor Alvarado rewarded a Sergeant Mesa, hero in the campaigns against the Ohlones Indians, with a square league of land in the Santa Clara Valley. This became the Rancho San Antonio. Sergeant Mesa built an adobe house near the present El Monte Station. In 1853 the ranch was taken over by the Dana Bros., who owned it until 1860. At that time the land was divided and sold in three parcels.

The first parcel was the St. Joseph College site; the second included that area where the Pink Horse Ranch and Ford School are now located. The third parcel was bought by a Mr. Hale, who established the famous Hale Cattle Ranch on the land. After Mr. Hale's death the property was sold at an auction in March 1902. An advertisement for the sale stated that this was "fine fruit and wheat land." Lots sold for around \$40 and \$60 an acre.

The chief purchaser was the University of Santa Clara, which planned to use their 700-acre tract as a new site for the college. However, the plans were dropped and the University sold its holdings in 1923.

1923! Old-Timers will recognize that as the birth date of the Los Altos Golf & Country Club.

The Club's Articles of Incorporation are dated October 29, 1923. The newly organized group bought the land, set aside 155 acres for Club use, and subdivided the rest for homes.

According to the Articles of Incorporation the Club was organized "to furnish pleasure, happiness and health to all its members. Pecuniary profit is not its object."

Tom Nicoll (also served on the Northern California Greenskeeper Association which is now GCSA of Northern California back in 1932) was the first Golf Pro and the architect of the Club's facilities. Work on the course and buildings began in September, 1924 and was completed in May, 1925. The present barn located near the 15th tee was already there. It was once the scene of round-ups on the old Hale Cattle Ranch.

Five presidents guided the club through the first eight years from 1923 to 1931. The second 8 years was under one president and saw improvements including a swimming pool and tennis courts.

Because of wartime conditions in 1942 the membership dropped and the Club became in debt. The bank attempted to purchase the Club grounds for commercial use. A good portion of the golf course was sold and the 18 holes reduced to 9 holes. Fortunately the members came forward and

loaned money and even worked on tractors on the course; others did janitorial services; wives served lunches to golfers.

In 1944 things began to pick up. The membership increased over the next few years until it reached its present closed membership of 400. Facilities were enlarged and improved, so they now include a new Golf Pro Shop, new Tennis Shop and Tennis Courts, modern swimming pools, and an automatic sprinkling system on the Golf Course. The Clubhouse also has been "added to" and modernized since the war years.

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Carl Wick, Farm Advisor, Oroville reports "TURFGRASS PESTS" recently updated and back in print is available for \$5.00 Make check to "Regents of the University of California" and MAIL to Agricultural Sciences Publications, University of California, 1422 Harbour Way South, Richmond, CA 94804, OR from your local Extension Office.

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WANTED - GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT - Vallejo Golf Club, P. O. Box 5207, Vallejo, CA 94590 Contact William H. Creig, Secretary 707 642-0247 Position includes supervision of three courses, two 18 holes and one 9 hole Salary negotiable.

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WANTED Turf grass consultant for Bay Area thoroughbred race track. Experience with athletic grass maintenance necessary. Call 415 574-RACE and ask for Diane Frey.

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GRADY SIMRIL, Nominating Chairman and his committee Jack Jagur, Richard Lavine, Mulkh Raj and Leonard Walsh announce the following persons who are running for office

PRESIDENT - James D. Ross

Vice President - Kenneth A. Sakai, Grady L. Simril

SECRETARY-TREASURER - Thomas E. Thatcher, Clifford A. Wagoner

Board of Directors - Steve Carlton, Allan C. Mooser, Frank Olivera,

James G. Prusa, Norman L. Stewart, Thomas M. Unruh

Two to be elected

Persons elected to these offices are privileged to attend all monthly Board meetings so that policies of the Association may be established and to consider matters relating to its welfare.

NOMINATED PERSONS APPROVAL required for nominations made from the floor.

No official proceeding shall be held unless a quorum is present. Remember Membership and Meeting by-law changes to be voted upon also.

VOTERS are members with Class A, Class A-Life and Class B, Class E (retired members who were voting in their previous classification).