

YOUR HOST SUPERINTENDENT

Clifford Wagoner, Golf Course Superintendent and Executive Manager began his experience in golf at Del Rio in 1946 during the construction of the course. He worked as Assistant to Ed Silva until 1950 when he went to Modesto Muni Course as Golf Course Superintendent. In 1952 he moved to Sunnyside CC in Fresno as Superintendent. He left Sunnyside in 1954 and returned to Del Rio to serve as Golf Course Superintendent and in 1974 took on the job of Executive Manager along with the Superintendent duties.

He joined GCSA of Northern California in 1951 and was elected to the Board of Directors in 1953. He has served either on the Board or as an officer 26 years of that time. He was president for 3 terms in the years of 1959, 1965 and 1967. He was elected to the Executive Committee of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in 1968 and was president in 1973. He was a member of the USGA Green Section Committee for 12 years. He has served on the TARP (Turfgrass Adaptive Research Program) committee since 1969 when the program began.

DEL RIO GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB was built in 1946. William Bell, Sr. was the architect. Ed Silva was the Golf Course Superintendent. Cliff Wagoner helped construct the course and remained on the crew as Assistant Superintendent. The course was opened for play in 1947. There are 461 proprietary members.

Only three greens have been rebuilt since its inception - No. 5, 12 and 15. The reason for rebuilding them was to improve the drainage. The native trees were the valley oaks all others were planted. The cedars were transplanted from the Sierras. Both the Coast Redwoods and Sequoia Redwoods do very well here. The Monterey Pines that were planted in the early fifties are giving up so they will be replaced with more desirable species.

The course length from regular tees is 6500 yards and can be lengthened to 6800 yards for championship play. The policy of the club is to maintain the course in its original physical condition as much as possible. Any changes must be approved by the Board of Directors. That eliminates the over anxious green chairman from taking out traps, adding new ones or any other personal idea he may have.

In 1961 work began on a new sprinkler system. The schedule was to do 3 holes per year so it could be done on a pay as we go basis. It was completed in 1967 at a cost to the club, including a third well, of \$120 000.00. Cliff designed the system and it was installed by the crew. The first year Moody valves and controllers were used with 1284 Buckner sprinklers. The balance was with Buckner valves controllers and 1360 Buckner cam driven sprinklers. Most of the original equipment with the exception of the Moody controllers is still being used and is working very good.