

Lawrence L. Lloyd and his wife Barbara



Larry is a native of the Napa Valley. He has worked on the Silverado Golf Course and took the superintendents job at age 21 on the Pajaro Valley Golf Course in Watsonville. In 1965 Larry went to work for Nick Lombardo at Del Monte Country Club. After 3 years Nick added the Fig Garden Golf Course in Fresno and put Larry in charge of both courses. Pajara Valley Golf Course was added to the chain as a lease property and Larry became a junior partner in the enterprise. The firm decided to build a new course in Carmel Valley known as Rancho Canada.

R A N C H O C A N A D A - Larry reports this information is old, but it is correct even at this time. This course is a 36 hole lay-out, designed by golf course architect Robert Dean Putnam of Fresno. Building was started in 1969 and the course opened for play in April 1970. The 'West' course is rated the third toughest course on the Peninsula. Rated 72.3. The length is 6,835 yards.

Larry Lloyd was the contractor on this project and states all equipment was rented by the hour. Three-quarter yards of dirt were moved. The sprinkler system is completely automatic. For the system Larry chose a Toro Moist-O-Matic system, consisting of hydraulic controllers, and all valve-in head gear-driven heads. The system includes 72 satellite controllers and 8 master controllers. Fifty-two miles of pipe were laid underground to service 2300 heads. Five hundred and forty thousand lineal feet of hydraulic tubing was used to activate the heads. The system is

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capable of irrigating 230 acres of turf in one night, throwing out 1,000,000 gallons of water. To supply this water, there are 4 wells, capable of delivering 650 gpm at 100 psi. The main pump is equipped with a variable speed turbine to meet fluctuating demands.

In order to build the greens and save money in the process, a local sand was used which was found in an old sandbar right in the middle of the course. The sand had all the graduations in the world including some awfully big rocks. The greens were made out of 100% of this sand without any amendments or drainage. The cover was Seaside Bent. In all, there is about 300,000 sq. ft. of greens surface. Two of the greens, however, are 22,000 sq. ft. monsters.

Fairways are a mixture of Chewings Fescue, Creeping Red Fescue, Highland Bent, and Common Kentucky Blue.

Since the course lays in the main drain channel of the canyons beyond, 5 bridges were constructed. The longest one 275 ft. long, and strong enough to support a load of carts parked end-to-end across the whole bridge. Each bridge is designed to withstand the onslaught of bad weather and washouts, and will not collapse. This is important, since in 1969 the devastating rains swept through that area and washed away 7 acres of land, which had to be brought back in by mechanical means. Three hundred tons of rocks in nylon netting now protect the riverbanks from washouts.

This past winter the Carmel River overflowed its banks for the first time since 1969. It was again devastating to the effect that we had approximately 50 to 55 acres that was covered with 4" to 4½ ft of mud and silt. Both courses were under water and closed for a total of 10 days. The West course was closed on and off for a period of 2 months. Our own crews with our own equipment did all the repairs and renovations. We lost a total of 5 greens and about 35 large trees, approximately 750 ft. of river bank was destroyed. The water was going over the bridges -- completely covered and they did not collapse.

In 1969 the East course was dedicated by the National Golf Foundation as the ten thousandth golf course to open for play in the United States. The East course was opened 45 days after the West course.

In January 1978 Laguna Seca Golf Club was acquired and added to the chain of management courses.

