

# THRU THE GREEN

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## 1991 SUPERINTENDENT /PRO TOURNAMENT

This years prestigious Superintendent/Pro Golf Tournament was held at the very private and conservative San Francisco Golf Club.

The field for this years tournament was 144 strong, which meant two foursomes per tee and made for a 5 1/2 hour round of golf. The patient golfer would undoubtedly prevail.

The weather for this years event was typical for the San Francisco coastal area. We tee'd off around one o'clock into what promised to be a beautiful day, partly cloudy with mild temperatures. About halfway through the round, that old familiar San Francisco fog moved in with a blast of cool pacific ocean air that started the mercury dropping.

But the weather did not stop anyone. As a matter of fact, not even a canceled plane flight could stop the likes of Joe Tompkins and his party from Fresno's Sunnyside Golf Club. The Tournament coordinator received a phone message about an hour before the tournament start time stating that the

Sunnyside Golf Club contingent was delayed due to a flight cancellation. However, they had chartered a plane, rented a limousine and would make their appointed start—which they did. (Someone was heard wondering out loud what part of his course maintenance budget THAT was coming from....)

The San Francisco Golf Club has been maintained over the decades as a pure golf club, with no pools or tennis courts to dilute its purpose. It's pure golf, and, maybe, a game of dominoes. As one of the caddies was heard to reminisce, "the general saying here is, -fast play and dominoes, dominoes being an opportunity to win back what may have been lost on the course."

San Francisco Golf Club is the only California golf course designed by A.W. Tillinghast, who did most of his work in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The year was 1917 when the San Francisco Golf Club was constructed on the edge of a State Historic Landmark, the site of the Brodareck-Terry Duel. This was the last

official "duel to the death" in California, which settled an argument between a state senator and a circuit court judge over the Civil War.. The #7 hole that skirts the Landmark is aptly nicknamed "The Duel" and was the course designers favorite par three golf hole. In 1950 Harold Sampson, then pro at Burlingame Golf Club, did some remodeling of holes 13,14,& 15 to accommodate the freeway. However, the course remains predominately a "Terrible Tillie" design.

Another interesting aspect of this course is the requirement to employ a caddy, which is pure old-fashioned golf. I wasn't sure if having witness's along was such a good idea, but they did promise not to laugh. Actually, the caddies are an invaluable aid to golf at San Francisco Golf Club. They provide, among other things, yardage information from memory.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



**Ken Sakai**  
shire Trophy Winner

**Mike Garvale**  
GCSANC President

**Steve Good**  
Tournament Chairman

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Golf Course Supt.  
Institute . . .  
Page 2, 3

Study Session. . .  
Page 4

Supt./Pro Results. .  
Page 6