

THRU THE GREEN

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

JANUARY 1995

THE MEETING PLACE

January 16, 1995
Crow Canyon
Country Club
Host Superintendent:
Ernie Martin

The Course: Crow Canyon is a private 18-hole course located off Crow Canyon Road in beautiful Danville. It boasts a membership of over 600. Built by Broadmoore homes in 1976, in the middle of the drought, it is surrounded by a housing development. It was sold to Club Corp. of America after the last house was sold in the development. Club Corp. of America still owns and operates the club today.

The course was designed

by Ted Robinson who incorporated a unique feature in the design of the course. He made it a winter course by sloping most of the fairways and roughs to the cartpaths. He then swailed the paths to carry the water off the course. It was a truly great design which has worked flawlessly over the past 18 years. A track record backs it up: it has never had to shut down due to rain.

The course itself has never had a redesign. Except for lengthening of the tees, no modifications have been done to it. After the tee lengthening, the course plays to 5900 yards. **Ernie Martin**, who has been the only superintendent there since it opened, says it's a very challenging 5900 yards. The roughs and fairways are bluegrass with the greens being 75% poa. That was mostly due to trying to bring the course in during the drought. He was happy if anything green would grow during that time.

Crow Canyon has a Toro Vari-time II irrigation system which is still original equipment. When they started to drill for a well, they brought out a water witcher. He went around with a divining rod and marked 5 places to drill. All 5 produced very little water. Ernie said it

was funny that after the drought ended a few years later, he noticed every place the witcher staked, there was a natural spring. Those were all areas he had to install drains.

The Superintendent: Ernie Martin is a local boy. Born and raised in Pleasanton, he graduated from Amador high school. He and his wife, Julie, a nurse, have two daughters, Susie and JoAnn. Both have long since flown the nest. He doesn't have any real hobbies except golf, which he plays to an 18 handicap. He is a member of both the local and national superintendents associations.

Ernie has been the

superintendent at Crow Canyon for 18 years. He reports directly to the club manager. He started out at Castlewood CC at age 17 under George Finnin and worked his way up through the ranks. After leaving Castlewood he went to help in the construction of the nine-hole course Pleasanton Fairways. He stayed there a few years and then saw his chance when he heard they were going to build Crow Canyon. He was given the job and has been here ever since. When I asked him where he would like to be 10 years from now, he said above ground smelling the roses right here.

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Christmas in the City

by Leon Snethen

Our annual Christmas Party was held on December 4 at the Marriott Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. It all started with the social hour at 6:00 followed by dinner at 7:00 with the choice of salmon or filet mignon.

Mr. and Mrs. Santa made their appearance and distributed gifts and table decorations. The gifts included mens' and ladies' watches, Cross pens, electronic memo pads, Dom Perignon champagne, gift baskets and a lot more.

Dancing was to the E-Z Street Band who played a variety of jazz classics and old standards from the 50's and 60's.

Thanks go to Bob and Joyce Whittaker who helped pick out the gifts but were unable to attend and to my wife Karen for helping to spend the money and wrap the presents.

I hope a good time was had by all and I wish you a very merry holiday season.

See page 4 for more on the party and tournament.