



June, 1996

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

A Tribute To The Old Timers

By Stephen L. Carlton, CGCS

In the past, some of the monthly superintendent's meetings that I most enjoyed were the ones which honored the "Old Timers" in the organization. Sometimes the meeting was just to honor old timers in general but more often than not the meeting was held to honor someone who was retiring after a long career as a golf course superintendent.

I have always enjoyed talking to the old timers and listening to their stories, but as I have matured and grown in this business I have come to realize that these people are a great source of knowledge and wisdom. Two things distinguish the exceptional old timers that I have had the pleasure to meet and be associated with over the past 25 years. First, they all have a great love, enthusiasm, and passion for their profession and the game of golf; and second they are willing and eager to share their knowledge with anyone who is interested. I would like to pay tribute to some old timers who have had a profound effect on my career.

The late **Jimmy Hines**, Professional Golfer - I met Jimmy in 1974 and he taught me the Strategy of The Game of Golf. It helped me to play better golf and it showed me how as a golf course superintendent I had a direct effect on how the golf course affected the golfers. I also admired Jimmy's optimism which was

typified when he and his wife Irene purchased a Lifetime Membership at Carmel Valley Ranch at the age of 75.

The late **John Roberts**, USGA Rules Official - I also met John in 1974 and he got me interested in the Rules of Golf. Knowledge of The Rules will make you a better golfer and a better superintendent. I still have the copy of the Rules of Golf which John used while officiating at the 1974 U.S. Open at Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, NY.

The late **P. J. Boatwright**, USGA Officer & Chairman of the Rules Committee - I first met Mr. Boatwright in 1972 at Pebble Beach Golf Links during the U.S. Open and then I had the pleasure of attending a USGA/PGA Rules of Golf Workshop taught by him in 1983. It was a special privilege to learn The Rules of Golf from the man who "wrote the Book". He was an imposing man who could only be described as a true gentleman.

William H. "Bill" Bengeyfield - retired National Director of the USGA Green Section. As a USGA Agronomist Bill visited me at many golf courses during my career and he taught me how to grow grass under all types of conditions. More importantly, he showed me how to get things done diplomatically.

Sherwood A. Moore - retired Golf Course Superintendent. In 1987 Sherwood called on me at El Macero Country Club in the capacity of a

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Environmental Principles for Golf Courses Unveiled

More than 100 representatives of golf and environmental organizations participated in the second annual Golf and the Environment Conference March 10-12 in Pinehurst N.C. The culmination of the meeting was the release of a booklet titled, "Environmental Principles for Golf Courses in the United States". The booklet is intended to guide the golf industry into the next century. A group of leading golf and environmental organizations jointly developed a set of principles, with staff members from GCSAA playing an active role. Topics include siting, designing, planning, constructing, maintaining and operating facilities.

The principles are intended to provide a framework for environmental responsibility, assisting in the development of goals for existing courses and managing issues associated with new courses. They are designed to educate the public and relevant decision makers about environmental responsibility, and to help set goals for environmental performance.

Copies of the booklets are available by contacting the Center for Resource Management at (801) 466-3600.

Forrest Arthur New Director

Forrest Arthur, Golf Course Superintendent at The Links at Spanish Bay, was appointed as Director to fill the spot vacated by Blake Swint, who was elected Vice President at the Annual Meeting. Welcome and congratulations, Forrest!

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A Tribute (Cont'd)

USGA Agronomist. His passion for the profession and his appreciation of innovation inspired me at a time when I was thinking of changing professions.

Frank Hannigan - retired USGA Executive Director. Frank taught me tournament set up during the 1975 USGA Senior Amateur Championship at Carmel Valley Golf & Country Club. He was the USGA Tournament Director at the time and we spent an entire week working together. I will always enjoy listening to Frank because he has spent a lifetime associated with the game of golf and he is a great storyteller.

The late **Leonard Feliciano**, Golf Course Superintendent at Pebble Beach Golf Links for 38 years - Leonard was an inspiration to me at the beginning of my career. He was the innovator who invented the Del Monte Rake which was the forerunner of today's verticutting equipment. After his retirement he was eager to share his knowledge and experience. Leonard's sons Larry and Gary carry on the family tradition as Golf Course Superintendents.

Clifford Wagoner, retired Golf Course Superintendent at Del Rio CC - Cliff taught me about professionalism. I remember getting into an argument with Cliff because I said that a golf course superintendent was just a farmer growing irrigated pasture. I will always have the ultimate respect for Cliff because he did not let that argument end a friendship that has endured over the years.

Tom Thatcher, retired Golf Course Superintendent at Stanford Golf Club - Tom taught me how to lower the height of cut and produce fast greens over 15 years ago before it was the popular thing to do.

The late **George Santana**, Golf Course Superintendent and Golf Course developer. I remember George telling me about how he built the #6 green at San Jose Country Club in the 1920's with a team of horses and a Fresno Scraper.

Roy King, retired Golf Course Superintendent at Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club - Roy taught me about excellence in turf management because his golf course was always immaculate and although he worked at Sharon Heights G & CC for 12 years he said that he did not like to work at a club for more than five years because he didn't want to get bored and lose his enthusiasm. His sons, Carl and Tim, both work in the golf profession.

Dr. John Madison, retired professor at U.C. Davis - I had the privilege of learning how to grow grass from the man who wrote

the book. John has a brilliant mind and a keen intellect. He taught me about the power of observation and how to "think like a grass plant". I would not have been successful in growing grass in different climates without his wisdom and philosophy.

William B. "Bill" Davis, retired U.C. Extension Specialist - Bill inspired me with his enthusiasm and innovation. Bill is a talker and you can learn a great deal from him if you have the patience to just sit and listen. He taught many of today's Northern California Superintendents through his dedication to Adaptive Research and Extension Education.

Robert E. "Bob" Hanna, retired NCGA Executive Director - Bob is a real gentleman and he taught me the importance of superintendents working with the NCGA and other organizations which 20 years later has become a popular idea with golf course superintendents.

Goeffery Cornish, Golf Course Architect - I learned about the history of golf course architecture from Goeff but my strongest impression is of his abiding love for the natural environment within which golf courses exist.

The late **Larry Lloyd**, Golf Course Superintendent at Rancho Cañada Golf Club - Larry invented and patented the Turf Groomer used extensively in turf management today. I was certainly inspired by someone who had time to maintain 36 holes of golf and invent new maintenance equipment in his spare time.

The late **Babe Brinkworth**, Toro Co. Manufacturers Representative - Babe taught me how to choose the right mower to do the job. He was also a great club fitter and refinisher who had a deep love for the game of golf.

George Frank, retired Service Manager for West Star Distributing - George taught me the importance of preventative maintenance and showed me many tricks on how to properly maintain the large investment in golf course maintenance equipment.

Jim Mercer, retired Golf Course Superintendent - I worked with Jim in 1979 on the construction of the La Quinta Hotel Golf and Tennis Resort. He was the man who helped me develop from a working superintendent into a professional superintendent.

To Jim and all the others I want to say **thank you!** Thank you for your help and thank you for being a friend. And to all the younger superintendents - next time you see an "Old Timer" why don't you say hello - you might just learn something.

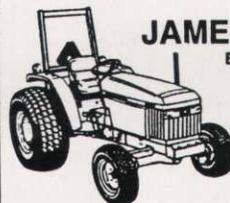
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