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The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California
— Committed to Responsible Turfgrass Management —

Pasatiempo Offers History and Challenge

Pasatiempo was a great dream of an extraordinary woman, Marion Hollins. Her idea conceived in 1927 as she sat astride her bay gelding on a rise above the Santa Cruz hills overlooking ancient ranch land, was to build nothing less than one of the great golf courses in the United States.

Her hiring of Alister MacKenzie, with whom she had recently worked at the Cypress Point Club, was the beginning of the fulfillment of her dream. MacKenzie, who a few years ago was rated the top architect in the world, spent two years preparing the links; upon completion, he built his home along the sixth fairway, and upon his death his ashes were spread on its lawns.

His design reflected that of a links course, and in its early years was distinguished by hard fairways and extensive bunkering. Water, was in such short supply that the greens, like their British counterparts, required bump and run approaches.

In the 1930's when the course played to a par 74, Pasatiempo was widely considered to be the toughest test of golf in northern California. Today's players may be taken aback by the scores of bunkers they will encounter during a round. Perhaps the knowledge that 80 additional traps dotted the grounds when Bobby Jones played in the first foursome on opening day in 1929 will provide a measure of comfort.

With its past rooted deep in history, the responsibility of preserving the tradition of Pasatiempo is no small task. Who better to meet the challenge than one of northern California's most respected superintendents, Dean Gump. Dean's soft spoken and low key style have long earned him the respect of his peers. His talents as a superintendent were validated in 1989 when he received the GCSANC Turfgrass Excellence Award.

His arrival at Pasatiempo dates back to 1981. A graduate of Cal Poly Pomona in 1976, Dean's indoctrination in the golf business was as the Assistant Superintendent

to Dave Fleming, at Singing Hills Golf Club in El Cajon. There, Dean quickly learned the art of design and construction, as many of the 54 holes were rebuilt due to extensive flood damage.

His early construction experience has proven to be of great value throughout his career. During his 15 years as superintendent at Pasatiempo, Dean has directed the renovation of the bunkers, and recently the levelling of the tee surfaces. Those along the Monterey Peninsula recognize the name, Dean Gump, as being synonymous with the sand channel drainage system. Dean has been somewhat of a pioneer in his use of the system and speaks highly of its success. Always considered to be a leading edge superintendent, among his many accomplishments at Pasatiempo, Dean has installed a recycle waste water system at this maintenance facility and is working towards achieving certification in the Audubon Sanctuary Program. ♦

Research Report

By: Dave Davies

We have all been approached at some time during our careers to try a product or material which we are not familiar with. The local postal representative brings a fresh supply of information on a daily basis designed to enlighten us and improve our daily work performance. With all of this information, how can we have questions or problems or problems at our facilities? Well, we all know that answers don't come about as readily as the questions, and reliable information is worth its weight in gold when you are trying to solve a problem. Reliable research data is difficult to get and more difficult to apply to a different site with varying environmental characteristics from those at the test site.

We have a small advantage in Northern California. Dr. Ali Harivandi, PhD, from the U.C. Cooperative Extension has a number of research projects underway in Santa Clara Valley that

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