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

## Pasatiempo Offers History and Challenge

**P**asatiempo 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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## Research Report (Cont'd)

apply to some of the questions we have locally. In cooperation with the Sunnyvale Municipal Golf Course, Dr. Harivandi has established bentgrass varieties. Under the direction of Curtis Black and Chris Gose, the staff at Sunnyvale has maintained the plots for mowing height, fertility and moisture levels. All of the cultural work is performed by the Sunnyvale staff as part of their regular maintenance program. In addition to their volunteer efforts, vendors in the local area have helped with donations and discounts for supplies and materials.

The results of the Bentgrass trials were published in 1995. The completion of the Trials has allowed Dr. Harivandi to use the plots for new research. Current research on the plots involves the use of reclaimed water. Data will be analyzed comparing salt, sodium and chloride levels in the soil with those found in the water source. In addition monitoring will be done monthly for Quality, Color and Density as well as Poa Infestation. These tests are expected to last three years.

Dr. Harivandi also has a number of turf related tests underway at the Santa Clara Field Station. Testing currently being performed includes:

- Characteristics and herbicide tolerance of hard fescue varieties
- Nitrogen and Iron effects on tall fescue
- Zoysiagrass cultivar comparison
- Buffalograss cultivar comparison which includes tolerances to post emergent

### Web Sites:

GCSAA Home Page - <http://www.GCSAA.ORG>

Michigan State University. - <http://www.LIB.MSU.EDU/TGIF>

[www.GCSAA.ORG](http://www.GCSAA.ORG). The USGA has a listing of completed research topics published in the 1995 Turfgrass & Environmental Research Summary. Call Golf House at (908) 234-2300 for information on receiving a copy. Michigan State University has an informational network that can be utilized for a fee. Information on that service can be found at (517) 353-7209. They also have information available on their Home Page, <http://www.LIB.MSU.EDU/TGIF>.

The USGA also has site visits available by staff Agronomists. This service

is provided for a fee and can be very valuable when trying to document problems for presentations to your membership or Board of Directors. The Western Region Office for USGA can be reached at (714) 457-9464. Last and certainly not least, we all have a professional network that allows us to pick up the phone, call another superintendent and ask for their help, confirm a recommendation or just look for some moral support.

pesticides

- Crabgrass management study

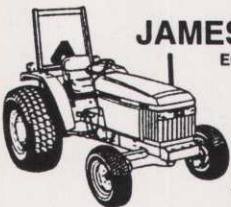
National research can also be accessed through a number of sources. GCSAA has information available through both the Research Department and Information Services. There is work being done currently to update the GCSAA database and information should be available in the coming months on the GCSAA Home Page. Check out their Home Page at <http://>

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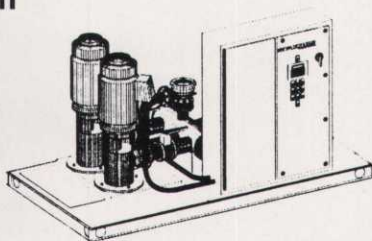
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