



The Way It Was (Cont'd)

April 18, 1950 Del Paso Country Club - Sacramento

would be provided to all members. A fine would be assessed for those who lost them (\$1.00) or failed to wear them (25¢). It was also noted that the GCSAA certification program was a reality. In October the layout and design for the newsletter was approved. The first of many Christmas parties was held at Rancho Cañada with a new format which included golf during the day and dinner in the evening.

In 1973, the Golf Course Superintendents Institute debuted with a five day event at Asilomar in Pacific Grove. Cliff Wagoner was elected president of the GCSAA and the Association established a dress code requiring a coat and tie at all meetings.

The annual awards were distributed for the first time in 1974. Winners were Cliff Wagoner, Superintendent of the Year, Gurmit Sandhu Excellence in Golf Turf and Joe Sheffield Merit Award.

1977 was a year to honor two long time members. Aubrey Babson a GCSANC since 1934 retired from La Rinconada CC. William Mayo charter member and host of the first meeting at the Presidio Golf Course on June 6, 1932 passed away in August.

The first Superintendent/Pro Tournament was held in 1978 at Sunol Valley CC. Paul Dias and Jim Ross finished first and

second respectively.

1979 saw the dissolution of the California Federation of Golf Course Superintendents and the retirement of Merle Russill after 24 years at Fort Ord.

A survey conducted in 1980 indicated that the average superintendent salary was \$21,665. Also that same year, the California Golf Course Superintendents Association was formed.

Walter Boysen retired from Sequoyah CC in 1983. Also Leonard Feliciano, a member since 1947 passed away.

The following year (1984) brought the passing of yet another of the Association's founding fathers, Ellis Van Gorder, who served as the President in 1935, 1952 and 1961.

1985 brought both joy and sadness. Cliff Wagoner received the Distinguished Service Award from the GCSAA, and long time Christmas party host, Rancho Cañada Superintendent and former boss, Larry Lloyd passed away. A perpetual trophy was established in his honor and awarded annually at the Christmas party. Later that year Cliff Wagoner retired from Del Rio CC where he had worked for 35 years.

September 1987 meeting was a tribute to Bill Davis who announced his retirement.

GCSANC and U.C. Cooperative Extension enter joint agreement to host the Golf Course Superintendents Institute. The event is scheduled at Spanish Bay in January, 1990.

1996 GCSANC signs affiliation agreement with GCSAA. Resulting bylaw changes requires dual membership effective July 1, 1997.

** This article written By Bob Costa, CGCS reflects a brief overview of the organization over the past 65 years. We wish to thank Cliff and Myrtle Wagoner for their contribution in compiling this historical information. We invite you to submit some memories of your own for print in future issues of Thru The Green.*

Did You Know?

It was reported in 1961 that pleas were made to the membership at virtually every meeting for the prompt return of the meeting registration notices and articles for the newsletter — some things never change.