

# THRU THE GREEN



August, 1997

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

— Committed to Responsible Turfgrass Management —



## The Way It Was . . . .

May 1933 - A group of members of the Northern California Greenkeepers' Association, together with representatives of golf course machinery, sprinklers, seed, etc., companies, at the Millbrae Golf Club near San Francisco. Left to right: Sam Smith (Millbrae), D.E. Graves of the H.V. Carter Company, Lee Salet (El Camino), Bob Anderson (Sequoyah), G. Buckner of the Buckner Manufacturing Company, Will Rogers (Contra Costa), H. Stahohann (Lake Merced), Louie Galleti (Claremont), E.W. Van Gorder (Stanford), T.D. McFarlane (California), Ed McEnroe (San Francisco), Dan Gormley (Sequoyah), Kenneth Cooper (Vallejo), Bob Dutton (Orinda), Earl Morrill (Berkeley), Gus Winton of the H.V. Carter Company, George Santana (San Jose), J.G. Creighton of the Economy Sprinkler Company, E. Davis of the Seven Vincent Company, E.T. Smith (Crystal Springs), G. F. Bishop of the Bishop Company, and Manuel Coelbo (Menlo).

Imagine the setting, for that is what an appreciation of history requires. Twenty men calling themselves greenskeepers sharing a passion and a vision for the profession they loved, gathered for the first time on **June 6, 1932**. The place was the Presidio Golf Club in San Francisco. It was there that Will Rogers was elected the temporary chairman of the Northern California Greenskeepers Association.

By July of the same year, a Board of Directors was in place, bylaws were passed and dues were set at 50¢ per month. Issues regarding public relations were already a concern as evidenced by the Board directing Ellis Van Gorder in September, to send a letter to Owen Marrick of the San

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## Fort Ord's Theis To Host 65th Year Event

Our host, Leonard Theis knew it wasn't going to be easy when he accepted the position as Golf Course Superintendent at Fort Ord's Black Horse and Bayonet Courses last year. Both courses, which were purchased from the Army by the City of Seaside, and operated by BSL Golf Corp., were in need of a major renovation. Since Theis assumed his position late last fall, it has been one project after another, a challenge he readily accepts. Recently completed were the construction of cart paths and major tree work. Still to come are tee and bunker renovation and modifications to the irrigation systems. Theis doesn't anticipate being able to focus completely on "routine" maintenance of the courses until winter

when most of the projects will have been completed.

Most superintendents would shy away from hosting a monthly event with so much going on, but not Theis. He is looking forward to the event and the opportunity to play host at the GCSANC 65th Anniversary on August 11th.

A former Director for the GCSANC, Theis has spent most of his life on a golf course taking his first swings at the age of two. His father who served as the Golf Pro and Superintendent at a course in Ohio, introduced him to the game and he learned well, currently playing to a 4 handicap. Theis, who earned his degree from U.C. Davis, has

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