

Old Del Monte (Cont'd)

professional score Pete has seen is a 66.

There has been a lot of history developed over the years. Back when the course was attached to Hotel Del Monte, the course would often see notables such as the Rockefellers and Howard Hughes. Probably the most amazing incident was when Ken Venturi went AWOL from Fort Ord, played Del Monte, and set the course record of 62 that still stands today.

Del Monte is owned and operated by the Pebble Beach Company. It still hosts the tour players at the Pebble Beach Invitational in November each year. The California State Amateur, which originated at Del Monte many years ago, is also still being contested over the storied links.

Superintendent Pete Bibber is nearly as legendary. Born in and raised in Harpswell Maine, Pete worked as an offset pressman in the US Army before turning toward golf. Pete was first hired by Roger Larson as a mechanic/greenskeeper at Spyglass Hill. After about eight years, he was made assistant to Bill Spence. In 1976, he was transferred to Del Monte as Superintendent. He has honorably filled that role for 23 years.

Pete enjoys fishing, hunting, the outdoors, and the environment. He and his significant other Brenda, have two mean dogs used for bear hunting (maybe I can get them admitted to the next Cal game!) He does a lot of volunteer work which includes serving on the board of the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, he is the Parks Commissioner for District 4 of Monterey County Parks, Treasurer for the Parks Foundation of Monterey County, and serves on the board of the Marina Coast Water District. He's also a past president of the GCSANC and served on the GCSAA Conference and Show committee in Anaheim.

Pete was very gracious in hosting the GCSANC for the last event of 1999. Seeing Pete again and all the history he's nurtured at Old Del Monte will be a fitting end to the century. /

Quick Quote

The difference between a genius and a lunatic is that the genius has proof.

—Dominique Bouchard—

In Memory of Al Deschene

By Ken Schwark

The GCSANC and I lost a dear friend on October 4, 1999. Al Deschene and I go back close to 21 years. Al was my neighbor in Richmond up off Hilltop Drive. We spent many afternoons playing golf together after work. He had always mentioned that he would love to get into the golf business, but an entry level position just wouldn't make ends meet for him and his family.

One day I was working at the Tony Lema Golf Course and the pro approached me with the idea of running the whole facility with him. I gladly jumped at the idea and I immediately called Al to see if he would like to be my assistant. He was a manager where he was working and had very good people skills. He was very interested in the position, but knew nothing about agronomy. I told him the deal to take over the course, if it were to happen, would be over a year away. During this time he could come down on weekends and learn how to cut greens, tees, fairways, cups, etc. He could schedule time off when we aerified greens to learn how that procedure was done. I had him take correspondence courses with Purdue University, and read all of the agronomy books I had. The rest of his training would be acquired on the job.

Al faithfully came down to the course to learn on his weekends. He was genuinely inspired to get into the business. He studied everything I could give him. After a year and a half, I learned the pro and I weren't going to get the contract at Tony Lema. I told Al and he was extremely disappointed. Just a few weeks after that, Al suffered a major heart attack. He was laid up for a year recovering. Once he returned to work, he was let go. I helped him find a job with the Envirojet Company. He started injecting greens. Through that job he was put in contact with Mike Farmen from Farmload Distributors, who was the Floratine distributor. Mike hired Al and sent him back to Tennessee where he was given extensive training on all of the Floratine products. Al came back and started from scratch with his own business. His wife was working full time and he worked as much as he could when he felt good.

Al was a warrior. Half of his heart was dead. The muscle on the left side of his heart didn't receive blood

See "Al Deschene" on Page 7

One Superintendent's Xmas Wish List

By Terry Grasso

All my tee shots were downwind
 All my putts were uphill, straight in, and 10ft. or less
 All four pars were less than 350 yards
 I had a scramble pairing with Mike Garvale, Scott Lewis, and Mike Ligon
 I wouldn't have to trash so many incomplete GCSANC scorecards
 The Eucalyptus beetle would take residency at Hillsborough
 My GM would go on a LONG vacation
 My Green Committee Chairman would go with him
 My commute was 10 minutes or less
 Toll takers might actually smile
 My crew would be awake at 6:00am
 There were no houses around my golf course
 Drainage, drainage, and more drainage
 I had John Grant's stress
 More vendors would make appointments
 More superintendents would come to monthly meetings
 Everyone in the GCSANC has happy holidays and a prosperous New Year

Al Deschene (Cont'd)

for 10 days. He felt ill often due to his lack of circulation. But he was the truest friend anyone could ask for. He was there when you needed anything. He was the type of guy that would not only give you his shirt but also his coat if you needed it. He never spoke badly of anyone. I feel honored to have had such a great friend.

Al left his wife Pam, his daughter Aubry (15), and his son Chace (12). Because of his heart condition, Al was never able to secure life insurance. The family is now trying desperately to make ends meet. If anyone would like to help the family in this time of need, we are asking you to send a gift of any amount to: Pam Deschene, 3397 MacDonald St., Napa, CA 94558. Your gifts and time are very much appreciated. Thank you. ✍

PDI On The Web: Read All About It

If you've recently visited GCSAA Online's discussion forums, you've probably seen something about the Professional Development Initiative. But if you're wondering what it all really means, be sure to visit the special PDI section in the members only area of the site. In this section, you'll find a copy of the materials presented at the chapter delegates meeting, frequently asked questions, and a schedule of upcoming presentations at chapter meetings. New features will also be added as the PDI develops.

Did You Know?

California: Gov. Davis vetoed a bill that would have required 72 hour pre-notification of school pesticide applications, including use of products such as Raid and Lysol. The veto is good news for pesticide users — activists use school notification measures as the first step toward a complete ban of all pesticide uses.

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