

# THRU THE GREEN



December, 1999

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

## Pete Bibber and Old Del Monte Golf Course Legends of the Monterey Peninsula

by Ken Williams, CGCS

The story of Old Del Monte goes back to 1897 when Charles Maud sat down in a large oak grove (Spanish for Del Monte.) He was joined by two of his best friends from Scotland, a new friend from the old country and a bottle of the finest malt that could be found. By the time they finished the bottle, they had a design for the golf course and a plan.

The course went along largely unchanged from Maud's design until 1974 when the 7<sup>th</sup> green was rebuilt for agronomic purposes. Four more greens were rebuilt to a sand base to accommodate the 1992 US Open. The turf from the greens was used to

grass four of the new greens at Pebble Beach. This was to insure that all Pebble's greens would match for tournament play. This past March, Mike Oliphant rebuilt and enlarged the first green to California specs.

There is a certain uniqueness about Del Monte. The course is built upon 101 acres that consist of 18 holes and three beautiful native areas. The course has four relatively short par 4's and the overall yardage is consistent with courses from that era. It is not long by today's standards, but it is definitely challenging. The best

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## Pine Pitch Canker Inoculum Found in Imported Pine Straw

The California Department of Forestry has discovered an incidental importation of pitch canker disease into California. In September, the CDF routinely inspected imported pine straw bales destined for the Truckee area. They were primarily looking for evidence of the imported fire ant. But needle samples taken from the interior of the unopened bales were found to harbor the Pine Pitch Canker fungus. The needle samples, processed by the Department of Food and Agriculture's plant pathology labs,

were analyzed using sterile media culture. Every sample tested produced the pine pitch canker fungus. The bales also contained pieces of cones, branches and soil – all substrate that probably contain the fungus. According to CDF Pathologist Dave Adams, sales of southeast states' origin pine needles to California locations represents a potentially significant means of disease entry into the State.

The implication is that viable pitch canker fungus has been delivered

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## NorCalendar

Dec. 10  
Holiday Meeting, Del Monte GC,  
Monterey Beach Hotel

Jan. 5, 6, 2000  
GCSAA Seminars  
Sustainable GC Landscape Design  
Lake & Aquatic Plant Management

January 18<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Meeting at  
Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course

February 14-20  
GCSAA Conference & Show

March 6  
Stanford GC - Etonic  
"Enhancing Your Job  
& Securing Your Future"

March 23  
USGA/NCGA at Castlewood CC

April 10  
Media Forum at Coyote Creek

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