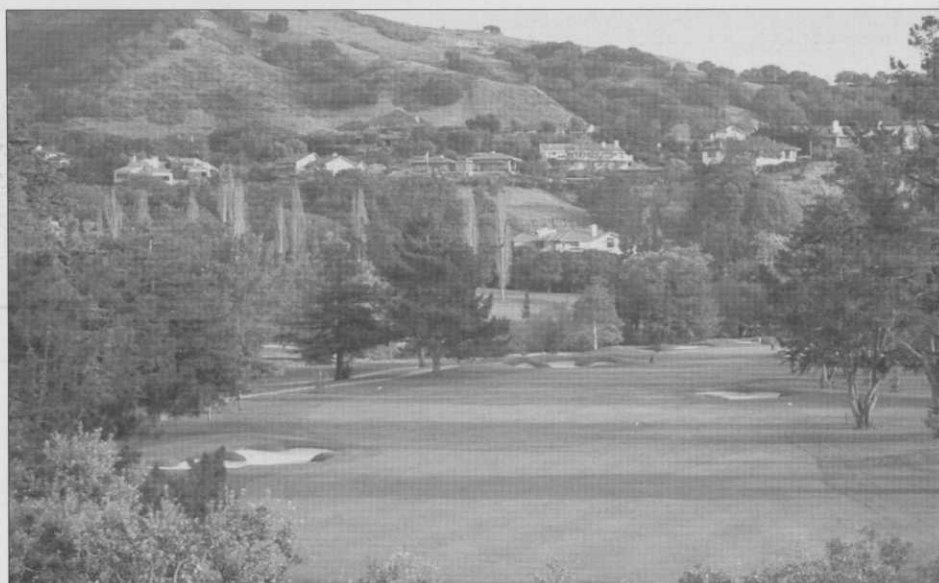




P.J. SPELLMAN II and Corral de Tierra COUNTRY CLUB

By Ken Williams

Nestled in the foothills of John Steinbeck country and out of the foggy conditions of the coast, lies Salinas' first private golf course, Corral de Tierra C.C. Built in the late 1950's by architect Bob Baldock, Corral officially opened on St. Patrick's Day, 1959. The first Head Greenkeeper was Roy King. Currently the Superintendent is P.J. Spellman II, our host for the GCSANC Holiday Golf Event.



Nestled in the foothills lies Salinas's first private golf course, Corral de Tierra built in the 1950's.

construction. With no rain until Jan. 17th, the majority of the cut/fill process had been completed. All that was left was to transform the 4th hole from a benign 150 yard par three to a dramatic 200 yarder tucked around the newly excavated irrigation lake. This work was a change from the original plans and came as result of a membership vote on the 16th. The change has been viewed favorably as the hole has become one of Corral's signature holes. Although the tees will be up for the Holiday Tournament, it will still be very challenging.

Corral's Superintendent, brought him and his family back to the Monterey Peninsula. P.J. lives in Pacific Grove with his beautiful wife Tina and two sons, Orion & Jacob.

P.J. is currently serving as a Director for the GCSANC, where he has been a member since 1988. He hasn't yet decided whether or not to move up the ranks. For now, the challenges of work, committees and life in general are plenty for him to juggle.

*P.J. Spellman II, Happy Holidays everyone!
I looks forward to seeing everyone at the event.*

P.J. started his "greenkeeping" career with the Pebble Beach Co. He spent six years with the company, his time being split at both Pebble Beach and Spyglass Hill.

He moved on to Poppy Hills during the construction phase in 1985 and was promoted to the Assistant Superintendent position just before the course opened in June of '86. During his tenure at Poppy, he attained his Certification from Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School. The second year's tuition was paid by a scholarship received from GCSANC, of which he is very grateful.

In 1997 he and his family moved to the Sierra foothills where he started his first Superintendent position at Gold Creek Golf Resort (later renamed Apple Mt.). Although they loved living in the beautiful and majestic foothills, the opportunity for P.J. to become



Assistant; Rick Smith, Supt.; P.J. Spellman II with Mickey the goose dog and Assistant; Julio Cervantes

P.J. arrived at Corral in the fall of 1999. At that time, the back nine had been recently remodeled with new tees, bunkers and a new 16th green under the supervision of Rich Scholes and architect J. Michael Poellet. P.J.'s job was to continue the grow-in process, manage the salt build up in the old push up greens, get accustomed to his staff and prepare for Phase II of the renovation project; the front nine. This was a bit of a challenge for a guy who had never worked anywhere other than public or resort courses. In addition, P.J. found himself attending Green Committee meetings and reporting to the Board of Directors each month. Needless to say, it was a growing experience.

In January 2000, Phase II of the renovation project began with perfect conditions for



One of Corral de Tierra Country Club's signature holes.