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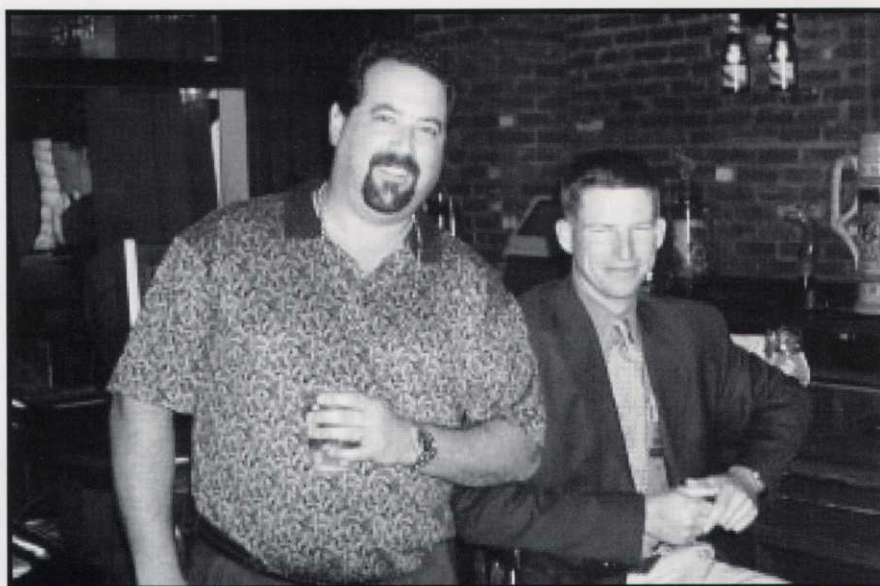
The California Hospitality Suite at Universal Studios "Pat O'Brien's, in Orlando, FL was a great success.

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*Sal Sorbello and Thomas Bastis at the California Hospitality Room in Orlando.*

## Myrtle Wagoner, The First Lady of GCSANC

By Gary K. Carls CGCS

One of the keys to any successful association is having key staff to run the day-to-day portion of the operations. For the last 45 years, we at GCSANC have been blessed with two chapter executive secretaries that have kept numerous Boards of Directors on course. Currently Barbara Mikel fills the role, but the lady who started the great tradition was Myrtle Wagoner.

In 1941 Myrtle married Cliff Wagoner and in the next six years they had two children, Shirley and Darryl. Today she has two grandkids and two great grandchildren. Like many women of the time, Myrtle was able to stay home and raise the children

while Cliff was off earning the family income. Myrtle liked to sew and often took sewing classes to further develop her skills. When Cliff got more involved with the local superintendent chapter, Myrtle would regularly attend chapter meetings. When collecting money for meals at chapter functions became a problem, Myrtle volunteered to help. That was the beginning of her long association with GCSANC.

Over the years, Myrtle's role with GCSANC continued to evolve as the chapter grew larger. She first became an official employee of GCSANC in 1960 and by 1965 was making a whopping \$600 per year in addition to a \$100 bonus for 1964. In 1968

Myrtle was given an attaché case and the title of Executive Secretary. She did her 1st edition of the newsletter in September 1971. In 1974 she was given free lunches and her pay was all the way up to \$1750 per year.

Those of us who joined the association in those times were fortunate to have Myrtle at the helm. She always made it a point to know everyone by name. She felt it was an important part of her job to know the members. I was always amazed at how well Myrtle seemed to know everyone when I had a hard time remembering just a few new names from month to month.

Cliff describes their years together as, "a

See "Myrtle Wagoner" page 6



## Myrtle Wagoner (Cont'd)

great example of teamwork” and a their relationship together as “complimentary.” Cliff played little golf and Myrtle only tried a few times. They had many other things to do that didn’t really allow much time for golf. As Cliff advanced in his career, Myrtle was always there to help in whatever way she could. She would help out in the office at Del Rio CC when staff was a little short handed. When Cliff was given the assignment to develop the Certification Program at the GCSAA, Myrtle was the one that typed all of the correspondence required in the process. When Cliff was working on some projects in Africa after his retirement from Del Rio CC, Myrtle would help out by typing reports for him. Although she didn’t ski much, she joined the Modesto Ski Club in 1963 because Cliff enjoyed skiing and she would often just go along on the trips and watch the others ski. She also helped maintain the reservations for their ski lodge. She and Cliff also joined the local Model A club in 1980 and enjoy taking trips and

participating in the various group functions.

Myrtle enjoys traveling, so it wasn’t all work all the time. She has enjoyed traveling to the many places she and Cliff have been able to go because of his work or involvement with GCSAA. They have made visits to all 50 states and 8 provinces in Canada. She has attended 45 GCSAA Conferences with Cliff over the years and is looking forward to many more.

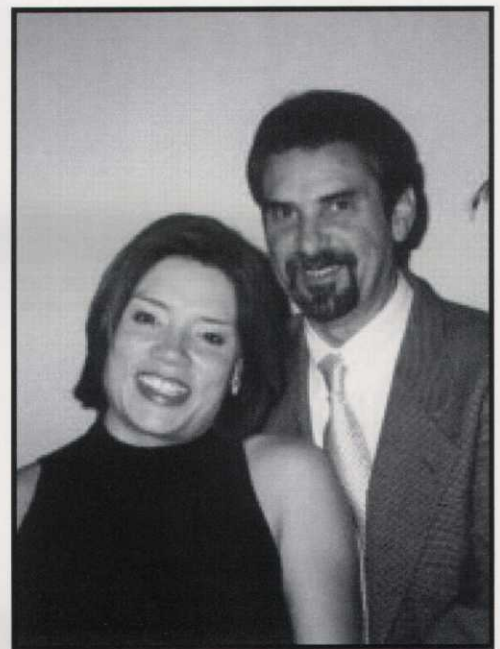
Myrtle officially retired in 1989 and was given a “Special Distinguished Service Award” from GCSANC. That doesn’t mean she has stopped working on behalf of GCSANC. As part of the GCSANC 65th Anniversary in 1997 she and Cliff compiled a historical record of the chapter. This included both a scrapbook and a written compilation of all the chapter records that were available since 1932. She was also a key member of the planning for the 65th Anniversary meeting that was held at Bayonet/Blackhorse in 1997 that included historical displays and showcased the history

of our chapter. In 2000, the chapter donated a copy of the scrapbook to GCSAA for their historical collection. Myrtle and Cliff drove their Model A, on which they have logged over 70,000 miles, back to Lawrence, Kansas to deliver the scrapbook.

Myrtle set the standard for what a chapter Executive Secretary should be. Her dedication to GCSANC and its members help make the chapter what it is today. Even in retirement she and Cliff continue to be actively involved with the chapter and she still seems to remember all the names of those of us who joined while she was working for the chapter. It’s always nice to talk with her when she attends a meeting and get her insight in the direction the association is going. If I didn’t know better I would think she was still working for all of us. Thank you Myrtle, for all your hard work over the years and we look forward to your assistance in planning the 75th Anniversary in a few more years. ↗



*(Left to right) Having a great time at the 2002 California Golf Writers Dinner at the Links at Spanish Bay are Vice President Bob Lopic, Affiliate Member Don Naumann, and Secretary/Treasurer Patrick Finlen. They were in attendance that evening as fellow GCSANC Member Bob Costa, was honored as Golf Superintendent of the Year by the California Golf Writers Association.*



*Bob and Anita Costa at the Awards Banquet.*