



Lights...Camera...Action

By Emmy Moore Minister

Over the past few months GCSANC Members and Staff were in the limelight as guests on Voice of the Valley Television Show. While the show was on location in Pebble Beach, CA, Association Manager Barbara Mikel was interviewed about the GCSANC and its primary mission. She provided an excellent overview of the organization and its purpose. Mikel also took the time to recognize GCSANC Board Member Bob Costa, CGCS, the most recent recipient of the Golf Course Superintendent of the Year Award. She also spoke about the GCSANC's donation to the 9-11 relief efforts, locally as well as nationally. GCSANC Affiliate Members Gary Davis with the City of Salinas and Ron Taborski of Hollister, CA, also got a chance to share some thoughts while the cameras were rolling at Pebble Beach.

Inside studio shows brought together GCSANC Member Alan Andreasen, CGCS and PGA General Manager Alan Campos discussing the new Los Lagos Golf Course in San Jose, CA. They also spoke about the Rancho Del Pueblo Golf Course, another City of San Jose course they are involved with on a daily basis.

Also appearing on the set of Voice of the Valley Television Show was GCSANC President Jeff Shafer from the Course at Wentle Vineyards. Joining Jeff was Devin Meheen, PGA Director of Golf, and Carolyn Wentle, President of Wentle Vineyards. Shafer got a chance to share some thoughts about his course as well as his vision for the GCSANC.

Previous guests on Voice of the Valley Television Show have included GCSANC Members Paul Dias, CGCS and Dave Davies, CGCS with Palo Alto Municipal Golf Course. Others that received name recognition on the show for their dedicated

work in the profession were GCSANC Members Greg Sherwood of Sea Ranch Golf Links, Chester Manni of Bodega Harbour Golf Links, and Edwin Bale, CGCS of Northwood Golf Club. Public Service Announcements supplied from the GCSAA are also airing in conjunction with the television show.

Voice of the Valley, now in its 10th year, is a cable access television program that airs on Wednesday evenings at eight o'clock on channel 15-A in San Jose, CA. The show also airs on a variety of other nights in Campbell, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Atherton, Stanford, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, Belmont, Woodside, Hillsborough, Burlingame, Millbrae, San Mateo, Foster City, San Bruno, Woodland, Davis, and portions of Cupertino. Check your local TV guide for specific air times. /

The Value of Preserving History

By Gary K. Carls CGCS

Over the past several years I have come to have a much greater understanding of the importance of history in our lives. Whether it is your personal history, that of an association or the history of your club they can all play an important role in many of the decisions we make in our jobs. Many of us have maintained a personal historical record in our heads of the things we have done that have worked well or have been failures. By maintaining this history in our minds we have learned to be better superintendents. Understanding and appreciating the value of history can help make us all more successful in our careers.

Having been privileged to have a copy of the GCSANC 65-year history, it becomes much easier to understand the old statement "history repeats itself." It is amazing to see how many issues of today were concerns in the past. Issues such as water, staffing, chemical use, meeting participation, education and the image of the superintendent are all recurring themes throughout the history of our association. We all have made considerable efforts in these areas yet they remain concerns to the superintendent today, as they were 60 and 70 years ago. Does this

mean things have not changed in all these years? Certainly not, but we still work with nature and its ever changing character. New products have come along to help us do a better job or be more efficient in our work, but we will never be able to conquer "mother nature." Other facets of our job have also changed and made our work more challenging. Player expectations have grown enormously over the past twenty years and we take it as our personal challenge to meet those expectations. The expectations at my course may be different than those at yours, but we also are probably working with different tools to meet those expectations. Understanding that these challenges have always been there and will continue to be, is a key to remaining successful in this business.

In the past few years I have heard a lot more superintendents speaking about the history of their courses and clubs. I think this allows them a greater appreciation of what the intent of the original course designer was and allows them the opportunity to maintain their course to this intent. I think we all have been guilty at some point in our careers of thinking we could design a better hole than what we were given to work with. By understanding the original design I think we

can see how many of our current problems may be the result of changes that were not properly thought out in the time between the original plans and today. As different committees, superintendents or members have tried to leave their mark on the course, history may have been changed, often times not for the better. In most cases, I think a well-designed course from 70 years ago is still a good design. Maintaining the course to the original intent may be the key. Learning more about the history of your course may be one of the best things you can do to understand how to best maintain your course. If you have a set of original plans look them over and try and envision what the architect was trying accomplish and how he wanted the course to play and how your maintenance practices affect that intent. Can you alter your practices in a way that will make the course play more like the original design? In our area, we are blessed with golf courses designed by some of the greatest architects of all time. I don't think equipment advances will ever make these pieces of history obsolete, but trying to maintain them in a manner they were not designed for might. Try and preserve the history and learn from it whenever possible. The results may surprise you. /