

**75 YEARS**



## **GCSANC 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SEQUOYAH COUNTRY CLUB, OCTOBER 15, 2007**

*By Barbara Mikel*

As another year passes into history, this particular year was truly historic. The Golf Course Superintendents of Northern California celebrated its 75th birthday and Sequoyah Country Club was the site of the birthday party. Sharing this special event with our membership was GCSAA President, Rickie Heine, CGCS, GCSAA Director and GCSANC Past President, Patrick Finlen, CGCS and Bob Murphy. Murphy, known for many years as the "Voice of Stanford Sports", was presented with an honorary GCSANC membership.

Sequoyah CC was a great host for the event. We are very appreciative of the hospitality provided by Sequoyah Superintendent, Terry Grasso and Club Manager, Tom Schunn.

At the event, the group previewed an excellent commemorative video documenting the association's history. (The video is being prepared for membership distribution.) Over 100 guests also viewed maintenance implements, golf equipment and other historical items associated with the GCSANC. One item of particular interest was a hand greens mower, provided by Leonard Walsh. It was used at the Olympic Club around 1900, having been given to Leonard by John Fleming's father, Jack.

Adrian Bertens, Hydro Engineering, provided a wooden irrigation pipe installed around 1910 unearthed at Lake Merced Country Club in 1999. Another interesting item was a greens aerification auger from the 1950's. It was also used at Lake Merced CC and provided interesting testimony to the ingenuity of superintendents. The aerification technique used a piece of plywood with holes (in a grid pattern) laid on green. The auger drilled thru each hole into green to make an aerification hole. When holes are drilled through all the holes in board, the board is then moved repeating the process. Adrian also provided a tee marker from Castlewood CC 1950's, an 'Orr' brand sprinkler, "one of the oldest impact sprinklers" and a 1926 'Rocker jet' sprinkler.

Turf Star's Gene Warne provided 30" 'Park Special' mower from late 30's to early 40's. He also had historical Toro catalogues that were special to review from an equipment and marketing standpoint. Historic Buckner sprinklers and valves were on loan from Don Kuhl. And HV Carter Company provided a 1928 walking greens mower and other historical equipment.

Past President, Jim Ross brought photos of California Golf Course Superintendents presenting money to GCSAA for scholarships, photos of Jim and Al Braga, winners of the first Superintendent-Professional Tournament held in 1980 at The Villages Golf and Country Club. Jim also brought his collection of "Scotts Turf Talk" magazines (first issue dated 1928) given to him by outgoing superintendent and GCSANC Past President, Vern Conklin. Vern handed them over on Jim's arrival in 1963 at his first superintendent job at La Rinconada Country Club.

Sean Tully, Assistant Superintendent at The Meadow Club; provided extensive historical material on golf course design and construction in the Northern California area, including materials that were incorporated into the production of the 75th anniversary video. And there was Rick Lund, golf historian, who traveled from Auburn, California to share his extensive and treasured golf memorabilia.

Following the meeting, the celebration was concluded with attendees playing 18 holes of golf, albeit under rain threatening conditions. It was a fitting way to end a wonderful day of remembrance.