



17TH GREEN
ROSSMOOR GOLF COURSE

George C. Dye Sr., Superintendent

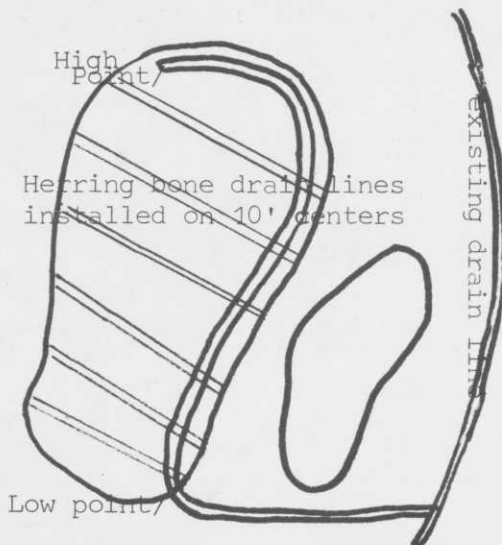
If you would like to see a startled Green Superintendent, you should have seen the expression on my face the day I drove up to the 17th green on my round, and saw a 25 ton water truck on its side in the middle of the putting surface.

A tank truck from the construction area about 1/2 mile above 17 had a brake failure and could not stop at the water tank where they fill up and rolled down the grade to the end of the street above the green where it could not turn, hit the curb was airborne for about 150' before it landed in the middle of the green. The driver landed in the fairway 130' in front of the green--needless to say he spent a couple of weeks in the hospital.

We rebuilt the green, 6000 sq ft. We removed the existing putting surface and top soil down 12" graded this surface the same as the putting surface was going to be, then designed our drainage system into this subgrade. The trenches in the subgrade were dug 10" deep on 10' centers. We then put in 2' of 1/4 x 1/2" washed river gravel, installed 3" corrugated flexible drain line on top of gravel then filled the trench to the top. Then filled the basin with Antioch sand recommended by U.C. Extension service. Now we wait 6 to 8 months for our putting surface to mature.

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Once there was a golfer who was so used to cheating that when he made a hole-in-one he wrote down a zero



KNOW YOUR HOST SUPERINTENDENT by Lee Huang

FERNIE ESPINOZA was born in Yuma, Arizona in 1929. He moved to Imperial Valley at the age of 7. Then he moved to Modesto area in 1946 After he finished high school he went to work as a truck driver for a produce company. After that he and his family started in the strawberry farming business. Then he got married and went into strawberry farming himself. The idea wasn't so good; he went broke so he went back to driving a truck which he had to give up for reasons of health around 196 That is the time he met Cliff Wagoner and started working for him as a maintenance man at Del Rio Country Club. He stayed until 1965 and during that time Cliff gave him many opportunities to increase his technical knowledge. He also attended Modesto Junior College courses in turfgrass management. His first job as a superintendent in 1965 was at the Spring Creek Golf Course in Ripon. He started in the construction stage and stayed with them until '68. In 1968 he was visited by the management of Valley Hi Country Club who offered him the job at their golf course.

At present he is living with his wife Eva at their new house in South Sacramento with 4 of his 6 children. The two oldest are married. They are his oldest daughter Eleonora, and his son Fernie, Jr. who incidentally works for his Dad at Valley Hi and who also is the father of his only grandson Fernie "III" who is 8 months old. The rest of the family is Larry 17, Ruben 14, Debbie 12, and David 11.

V A L L E Y H I C O U N T R Y C L U B was constructed in 1961. The architect was William Bell. The course covers 132 acres and is very unique in that all the acreage is in Seaside Bent. This choice of grass has given a great deal of problems because the native soil is very dense red clay. The Seaside Bent grass does not have the ability to penetrate this clay. In the summer the soil bakes so hard that aeration plugs can be hammered back into the soil without breaking. The soil is underlain by a hard pan layer which in places is 2" from the surface and often 4 feet deep. This has given rise to problems with the installation of the irrigation system. A hydraulically controlled Toro system was used; but because of the shallowness of the soil plenty of the lines are within 2" of the surface. Consequently Fernie cannot aerify his fairways because of the danger of puncturing the lines.

In order to plant trees they had to auger a hole and then enlarge it with dynamite. His attempts to change the grass to bermuda have not met with approval from the members who do not like dormant bermuda on the fairway. The course is otherwise very well laid out and Fernie hopes the Association members will enjoy themselves playing the course.

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"Tact is the ability to describe others as they see themselves."