

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by John Engen, CGCS, Butte Creek C.C., Chico

Thank goodness for September 15th. In the valley most superintendents look forward to the middle of September. The summer problems seem to subside with the cool nights and shorter days. The puffiness of the Penncross greens disappears, the localized dry spots don't need to be hand watered 3 times per day, crabgrass starts to turn red and purple and members compliment you on finally getting the watergrass sprayed, etc.

Now is a good time to evaluate the summer problems and start thinking about what we can do between now and spring to make next summer more bearable. Maybe we should budget a little more and go in with another half rate of crabgrass control or start our verticutting earlier in the spring.

Many things can be done in the next few months - move sprinklers that are not positioned right for better water control, repair that pump that gives problems every year, maybe an extra top dressing or aerifying and so on. Now is the time to prepare for next year.

As I travel around the North State attending meetings, I see many unique ideas superintendents have come up with. I would like to see a Handy Hint Corner in our "Thru the Green" publication each month. How about sending in your ideas. I'll start it.

HANDY HINT CORNER

How about P.V.C. pipe for out of bound stakes? You don't have to paint them white if you use white P.V.C.

Tired of typing flags all the time - use hog rings. Or if you don't want them that permanent use pipe cleaners.

Build utility vehicles out of old V.W.'s. I've sure seen some good ones.

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DIABLO COUNTRY CLUB by Byron Lewis, Green Chairman

Diablo Country Club, situated at the foot of Mt. Diablo in Contra Costa County, emerged as a golf course in 1917. Prior to that time, in fact, since 1859 it served as a horse farm, race track, pure bred stock farm and vacation spot for the notables of that era. At one time the farm was composed of some 6,000 acres but over the years was reduced to its present adequate size of 127 acres.

Over the last 10 years a number of improvements have taken place at Diablo Our water is furnished by East Bay Water District, which even this year has been able to provide a reasonable supply. A toro irrigation system was installed by Ken Pierce in December 1974 which has contributed a great

deal to the proper conditioning of the course. Last but not least Sohan Singh came to us as our Golf Course Superintendent in January 1972.

Sohan was born in the Fiji Islands and has spent the larger part of his working life associated with various golf clubs. From 1963 to 1968 he was employed at the El Macero Club; from 1968 to the end of 1971 he was assistant at Sequoyah Country Club in Oakland, Since January 1972 Sohan has been the Superintendent at Diablo. The excellent condition of our course speaks well for his ability and perseverance. We hope you have an opportunity to enjoy the facility on October 13.

Incidentally, members of our grounds crew belong to the Operating Engineers Union, Local No. 3 with the current hourly rate averaging \$6.82 plus fringe benefits.

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GCSAA'S 50th Anniversary by Clifford A. Wagoner, CGCS, Del Rio, Modesto

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America celebrated their 50th Anniversary on September 13, 1976 at Sylvania C. C. in Toledo, Ohio. For those present it was a real treat to see equipment used for golf course maintenance since and including horse drawn mowers. Six Charter members and 16 past Presidents were honored. Eleven GCSAA members were recipients of the outstanding service awards.

The Monday afternoon program consisted of recognizing the Charter members and the unveiling of a plaque placed on a rock at the entrance to Sylvania C.C. commemorating the place that GCSAA was founded September 13, 1926.

Following the formal program the equipment was demonstrated. Many of those in attendance could remember driving horses and Fordson tractors, pushing hand green mowers and swinging scythes. It was very interesting to see the progress that has been made in maintenance equipment. An exhibition like this makes one appreciate the contribution industry has made to help us with our work.

Arnold Palmer was the guest speaker at the banquet. He emphasized the need for all of us to support the game of golf because of the competition from other sports. He suggested we might look at the records of our politicians to determine if they play the game. Arnold Palmer's father was a golf course superintendent so he could relate very well to our profession.

California was represented by Past Presidents Walter Boysen, William Johnson and myself.

The GCSAA tournament was played on September 14 & 15 at Sylvania and Glengarry Country Clubs with a field of 181 players. It rained on the second day and play was held up but everyone was able to finish.

The nominating committee met on Tuesday, September 14, 1976 to select the

slate for February 1977.

The courses were in good condition in spite of the dry summer.

Thanks to Paul Mechling, Golf Course Superintendent at Sylvania C.C. for his work in making this 50th Anniversary celebration a success.

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THINGS TO THINK ABOUT by Bob Livesey, Editor

Safety of employed persons working with pesticides. -- As the club representative it is the superintendents responsibility to establish an Instruction, Training, and Supervision program. Many of us say, we do not have the time to do this. Forget it, we have to take the time. This is part of our job, and the law requires it. Every superintendent should have as part of his library, Title 3 of the California Administrative Code. Also be on the mailing list of the California Department of Agriculture. This will bring the update and changes to Title 3.

Education is one of the keys to success. If we are to maintain our professionalism, we must keep ourselves informed in every aspect of our industry.

SAFETY MEETINGS - How often do we get our workers together and cover some item of safety? After the meeting at Carmel Valley, and hearing what Tom Simmons and Bill Berryessa had to say, it was time to start thinking about it.

How many went through the packet that was put out by Bill Berryessa? There are many things in it we can use. The Safety Meeting Report for one. With the records that we are required to keep this one fits in well. I have talked with our insurance carrier about this and was told that a report such as this was required by some carriers and will be by others as time goes by.

How many have seen the Record keeping and Reporting guide line booklet before this past meeting? Many have, but is it in a drawer under a bunch of old score cards. Get it out, read it and follow it. An embarrassing situation could be avoided with Cal OSHA. The more we can have our workers watch out for unsafe acts and equipment the better off we will be.

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STEVE CARLTON, Carmel Valley Golf & C.C., Carmel writes

In today's complex world our jobs as golf course superintendents are becoming more and more difficult. One of our most recent problems has been the pesticide advisors license now required by the State of California EPA and that's not the last we will hear about environmental protection. It is something we will all have to be very involved with and it will help if we

are prepared to answer environmental questions.

To build a new golf course today an environmental impact report (EIR) is required before counties will issue the necessary use and building permits. These reports have to include information on location, climate, geology, seismicity, soils, wildlife and vegetation affected, water supplies, drainage, erosion potential, visual impact (how it will look), noise, how automobile traffic will be affected, air quality, affect on sewage and utilities in the area, etc. Any negative statements in the report have to be answered by motivating factors or the project is sure to be denied a use permit by the county.

How does this affect a course already in existence? Well, first of all, for any redesign or construction project in the future you may be required to make up an environmental impact report. Many areas now require and EIR to drill a new well. Even to continue operation of a course in an urban area you may be required to answer environmental questions like what amounts of pesticide residues and leached nutrients enter ground water and sewer systems near your course.

To consider environmental questions about your course you will need a lot of information. Good sources for this information are (1) the planning department in your county, (2) your farm advisor's office and extension specialists at the university, (3) USGA agronomists, (4) existing environmental impact reports (on file with the county) and (5) your own records.

Think about the environmental impacts of your course as it exists now and consider how they will change in the future. Be prepared with the information before someone else asks for it.

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CALIFORNIA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS' INSTITUTE

A mailing was made by Bill Davis, Environmental Horticulturist, Dept. of Environmental Horticulture, University of California, Davis, CA 95616, on the upcoming California Golf Course Institute to all Golf Course Superintendents. If you have not received your notification contact Bill Davis.

The overall objective of this 1977 California Golf Course Superintendents' Institute to be held January 9 through 14 at Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, California is to provide superintendents with a better understanding of all the components of golf course design so they can maximize the golfing quality of their courses. A professional superintendents should be able to recognize a good design from a poor one. His management programs should maximize the golfing potential of his course. He should also be recognized as a key resource person when remodeling, renovation or expansion of his course is contemplated. It will not be

the intent of this Institute to turn superintendents into golf course designers.

There are many ways an Institute of this type could be developed to achieve its objectives. We have chosen to break up the golf course into separate units and have each speaker discuss his assigned topics in depth. Small group discussions will be held following each two or three presentations. The groups will be led by Cooperative Extension staff to insure better understanding and participation by all those attending the Institute. An exam for those superintendents wanting University Extension units will be developed

We are sure this Institute will be an educational experience of exceptional value for all superintendents who attend. There is no educational program of this nature which exceeds the Institute. You and your club will benefit from your attendance. Send in your application today.

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1977 DUES ARE NOW PAYABLE - - - - ATTENTION CLASS B & D MEMBERS
Read your bylaws and see if you qualify for a higher classification
Now is the time to update your membership

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