

OUR HOST SUPERINTENDENT AND CLUB - Gurmit Sandhu - Orinda Country Club

Orinda Country Club was incorporated on June 17, 1924. The 159 acres occupied today by Orinda CC was once the part of a land grant given to the Castro family in 1841 and called "El Sobrante".

In 1922 Mr. E. I. de Laveaga began to develop the club. First he dammed the Lake Cascade with a waterfall spilling into the swimming pool, the lake water was to be used for irrigation. Only 5 holes were built and then 9 holes and finally 18 holes. The club was built last.

Orinda Country Club is a family type country club which provides activities for the whole family with 9 tennis courts, olympic size swimming pool and excellent dining and entertainment facilities for its 750 members. The golf course is a great challenge to both the professional and amateur golfer.

It will be very appropriate for me to mention the names of our two best known golf course superintendents in California and the United States of America--Elmer Border and Walter Boysen. They both worked for Orinda in the early years of their profession and later both of them served as President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

At present Mr. Church Ward is the General Manager of Orinda Country Club and chaired the Presidency of Country Club Managers Association of America. Mr. Ray Orr is our well liked Golf Professional. We all three have the best working relationship and excellent communications. Mr. Forrest Smith, the greatest Green Chairman keeps us busy, protects us and praises our work throughout the year.

I would also like to mention two more names of great superintendents who helped me to start in this wonderful business of golf course maintenance--Tom Caranci and Cliff Wagoner. I worked for Mr. Caranci as a golf course construction worker and as assistant superintendent in maintenance for golf course from 1959 to 1961. I learned a lot from him. He took me to Del Rio, Modesto to show me the super groomed golf course and also to join the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California in 1961. I met Mr. Wagoner for the first time and he second my application for membership. Since then Del Rio became my dream of golf course maintenance. I am still trying to fulfill this dream. I am sure some day I may succeed.

Hope to see you all on March 8th , don't forget to bring your clubs.

Gurmit Sandhu, Golf Course Superintendent, Orinda CC

JOB SECURITY - Bob Livesey, CGCS, President

Some time ago I wrote two short articles on job security. They covered very briefly things that a superintendent should do to insure himself and his Board Members that he is doing his job.

With some superintendents moving to new jobs (voluntarily and otherwise), a few things he should put in the back of his mind.

You must realize that most Board Members know nothing of the science of growing grass, but they think they do. On the other hand, the superintendent, in most cases is not a skilled player of the game of golf. He does not realize how one can get up in the game once he passed the beginner stage.

In theory, the game of golf is very simple. In practice it is not so simple, mostly a case of frustration.

The point is, the Board Member has a very narrow outlook on his involvement in the total picture. Because of this you have an almost impossible responsibility. If the course is not in top condition at all times, you will hear about it.

There are three areas that the Club officials should expect their superintendent to be tops in:

The first is in the area of planning. They should expect a detailed analysis of requirements for manpower, equipment, seed and fertilizers, chemicals and local problems. The superintendent must be able to put these details to the Club official in such a way that he understands them. Within this planning area, the superintendent must also be a combination purchasing agent, accountant, personnel man in addition to keeping his golf course in condition.

Secondly, the Board expects that adequate statistics and records be kept as a background to good planning. Most of the time these records will be kept for references only. There is always the problem of too much data, causing an overkill.

Thirdly, the Board expects results not excuses.

In summary, as Dr. Doug Brewer once said, with good records, good planning and good execution, you'll be around a longer than a temporary Board Member.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to present a slate of nominees consisting of one or more nominees for president and two or more nominees for each other office to be filled.

The following members of GCSA of Northern California have been appointed to the nominating committee Richard Viergever, Allan Mooser, Thomas Thatcher. Richard Viergever will chair the committee.

Paul Juberg is working as the Assistant Superintendent at Auburn Valley Golf Club, 8800 Auburn Valley Road, Auburn.

Word has just been received that William J. Yount, San Jose Country Club, San Jose passed away September 3, 1978. Our sympathy is extended to Mrs. Yount.

James G. Prusa, Pasatiempo Golf Course, Santa Cruz passed his Class B examination. Congratulations Jim.

More information will be forthcoming on TARP area meetings. Mark the date for your locality and plan to attend.

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| April 12 - Monterey Peninsula CC | June 19 - Sunnyside CC |
| May 1 - Baywood Golf & CC | June 20 - Del Rio Golf & CC |
| May 3 - Riverview Golf & CC | July 6 - Peninsula Golf & CC |
| May 15 - El Macero Golf & CC | July 10 - Marin CC |
| June 5 - Orinda CC | |

MAINTENANCE IS YOUR MOST IMPORTANT PRODUCT - Jack D. Baker, H.V.Carter Co
Maintenance covers a wide area of your operations as a Golf Course Superintendent. Obviously the maintenance of equipment is vitally important so as to eliminate problem areas during the season of heaviest traffic on your course. Many repairs can be eliminated in a preventative-maintenance program. Most equipment manufacturers regularly conduct service-training seminars treating with possible service conditions. If you are not presently taking advantage of these programs we would urge that you hasten to do so.

Repair parts prices are increasing in costs every year and if you can eliminate replacements by adopting preventative-maintenance practices this situation can be most effective. It has been mentioned here before,

but occasionally read those product service manuals - you will find helpful hints and information dealing with the subject.

Training servicing personnel adequately is in itself a contributing factor towards preventing costly repairs and replacements. Take advantage of these opportunities to learn more about the present-day equipment designed to make your maintenance operations more efficient.

NORM STEWART, 791 Wolfe Road, Sunnyvale, CA 94086 phone 408 738-1645 is taking names for the annual awards - Superintendent of the Year - Turfgrass Excellence - Class F Be sure that he gets the name of your nominee

ON MARCH 8, 1979 twenty-nine members of GCSA of Northern California will be recognized for the contribution they made to the Association. Those to be honored include two Charter members 11 past presidents, past board members and other members of the Association. This meeting has been in the planning stages for more than a year and has finally culminated. Orinda is a very appropriate location since some of our honored guests worked there. All of these men believed in the object of the Association. "The purpose of this Association shall be to unite the golf course superintendents of Northern California into a cooperative group for the collection, preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge, thereby effecting a more efficient and economical maintenance of golf courses and improving and enhancing the prestige and efficiency of its members."

We owe this group of dedicated members a great deal for forming and shaping one of the most active Chapters in the country. A good turnout for this meeting will let them know that we really appreciate what they have done for us.

THANKS to Paul Paulsen, Golf Course Superintendent, Roberta Cummings, Manager and Rick Rhoads, Professional for extending a great welcome to 120 members and guests who attended the February meeting. We were honored to have had Frank "Sandy" Tatum, President of the United States Golf Association as our speaker. This was a rare occasion and I'm sure everyone appreciated the hospitality of the San Francisco Golf Club and the words of wisdom from Mr. Tatum. Thank you everyone.

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA 50th International
Turfgrass Conference and Show, Atlanta, Georgia

Northern California was represented in Atlanta at the GCSA of America Conference by a large group of superintendents, their wives and several Class F members.

H. V Carter Company was presented by Jacobsen Manufacturing Company the dealer of the year award. Congratulations to Bert Graves and Jack Baker and staff.

President Bob Livesey was the voting delegate and attended the meetings which pertained to this function. Those elected include Charles Tadge, President; Mel Lucas, Vice President and Mike Bavier and Ed Dembnicki Directors. Lou Haines was reappointed secretary-treasurer for the 3rd term. David Holler, Rich Eichner, Jim Wyllie remained on the board as Directors and George Cleaver is Past President.

The educational sessions were very informative and the equipment show was really big. It was difficult to find time to view all the equipment. Center of interest seemed to be the hydraulic Toro and Jacobsen fairway mowers and the computerized irrigation equipment. Every conceivable piece of equipment, chemical and fertilizer was on display. Factory representatives were eager to discuss problems and suggestions for improving their equipment. A complaint to the right person really gets results.

Dick Viergever and George Santana attending the tournament. No scores were announced. Anyone interested contact them.

From all reports the ladies program was good. It offered a variety of tours which included an opportunity to view some of the old southern mansions. Optional tours included Stone Mountain Park and a visit to the Cyclorama. Both displayed some history of the South. Atlanta weather left something to be desired although one could be in an ice storm one day, snow, rain, sleet and even a little sun on other days.

No one can question the value of attending the GCSA of America annual conference with the selection of educational sessions, the opportunity to see all the equipment and supplies in the exhibit and opportunity to exchange ideas with golf course superintendents from the United States and 13 foreign countries. The 6,000 who attended were well rewarded for being there.

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