

MEET YOUR FELLOW SUPERINTENDENT - by Bob Livesey, CGCS  
Plaza Golf Course, Visalia



Mike Clark



Gale Love

MICHAEL CLARK, CGCS, OAKMONT GOLF COURSE, SANTA ROSA

Mike worked as a crew of one at the Fairgrounds Golf Course in Santa Rosa under the golf professional. This was his first taste of golf course maintenance. In 1964 Mike went to work on golf course construction at Oakmont under Fred May. In 1966 when Fred moved on to the Bay Area, Mike was offered the position of superintendent. Since that time he has added 9 holes and now is working on another nine, which will bring him to a 36 hole layout.

Mike is Past President of GCSANC (1975), a Class A member of National. He became a Certified Golf Course Superintendent in 1973. He, his wife Gloria and 2 sons live in Kenwood, California

GALE LOVE, CONTRA COSTA COUNTRY CLUB, PLEASANT HILL

Gale is a graduate of the Ohio State University. He caddied as a youth in Ohio and took up golf seriously while living in San Jose in the early Sixties. After a career in the Army, Gale studied turf and then began his new career by working on the crew at the university golf courses. Later he went to Cleveland where he was an assistant to Charlie Tadge for three years. He and the family welcomed the opportunity to return to the West. Gale has been at Contra Costa since May 1978. He is a member of the National and is a firm believer in a strong, forceful professional organization. Gale and his wife Margot and their son and daughter live in Martinez.

THEFT - by Bob Livesey, CGCS Plaza Golf Course, Visalia

Golf courses and parks, also contractors, related to the landscape industry have learned over the years to contend with the petty theft and vandalism situations. Plants, sprinkler heads and small tools were items that could be replaced, and the theft of these items was looked on as something that couldn't be helped.

Until now, that is.

Nationally, it is estimated that somewhere between \$720 million to \$724 million have been lost to theft, vandalism and the like. So far this year in California the problem has reached epidemic proportions.

What do we do, and how do we cope with this type of situation? In the metropolitan areas, most of the golf courses and parks are fenced. Some municipalities have on-site patrols from dusk to dawn. Other areas split their people to where there are personnel on duty from daylight to dark, and a waterman to cover the night-time hours.

Not too long ago the theft and vandalism were confined mostly to the more populated areas. Now it has spread to the suburban and rural sections of the state. The California Landscape and Irrigation Council has posted a \$1000 reward for the arrest and conviction of persons engaged in such acts. This has helped deter some of the problems.

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ACTION NEEDED FOR EXTENSION SERVICES - There has been increasing conversation in our industry lately concerning the plight of the UCCE in light of Prop 13, but very little done about it. The sad fact is that it's not only the UCCE and our own Prop 13 that are causing problems - it goes all the way to the Federal Government. In looking at the national picture, more than 1,000 extension personnel are losing their jobs each year due to budget cuts.

This situation is now being reviewed by a National Agricultural Research and Extension Users Advisory Board. It began preparation of a report to the President and the Secretary of Agriculture at a meeting on July 10. Unfortunately, this Board is currently made up of 21 appointees representing environmental interest groups, agricultural production, and nutrition with no representation for the turf and ornamental horticulture industries. We can be quite sure that they will be pursuing their own special interests with no thought of the non-agricultural Green Industries. In order to avoid, or at least lessen, the impact of further cuts in extension services falling on those specialists serving our industry rather than the strictly agriculturists, it is imperative to make our feelings and positions known NOW while this report, scheduled for completion in September and submission in October, is still being formulated. We must point out not only the tremendous service the extension turf and landscape

specialists perform in helping improve the environment through research and assistance to improve industry practices and efficiency, but also that the President is destroying his own budget if he discontinues programs that will generate more tax revenue through increased efficiency and output.

This should be done NOW. Send your personal views on this issue to: James Meyers, Executive Secretary, National Agricultural Research and Extension Users Advisory Board, Room 349-A, U. S. Department of Agriculture Washington, DC 20250. Enough letters for our side of the case CAN have an influence on this report. When you write, you might also consider sending copies to your Congressmen and to the UCCE office so that they will also be aware of your views.

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THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TURFGRASS COUNCIL in conjunction with the University of California Cooperative Extension, has announced the program for the 1979 IRRIGATION SEMINAR. This program is to be held Wednesday, October 3rd, at Goodman Hall, Jack London Square in Oakland, California.

The theme for this years seminar will be "Irrigation for Energy Efficiency". The program will feature concurrent sessions during the afternoon with Johns-Manville, Rain Bird and Toro presenting in-service repair training during one session and various speakers presenting management lectures in the other session.

Mr. Andy Bertoni of W. A. Cleary Company, New Jersey will be featured as the keynote luncheon speaker, with his presentation on "The Humorous Side of Our Industry".

Another full capacity attendance is expected and early, pre-registration is recommended. Registration will be \$10.00 for N.C.T.C. and other Turfgrass Councils' members and \$15.00 for all others. An additional \$2.00 will be charged for door registration.

For further information contact Seminar Chairman Jim Prusa at 408 426-5911 or write to N.C.T.C., P. O. Box 268, Lafayette, CA 94549

THRU THE GREEN EDITOR

KEN SAKAI

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CONTACT Rich Lavine - Castlewood Country Club

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KEN'S NOTES, Ken Sakai, Riverside Golf Course, Coyote

I would like to thank Gordon Brinkworth and San Jose Country Club for their hospitality in hosting our August meeting. Everyone should have enjoyed themselves as they received a chance to play a truly fine test of golf. I missed everyone, but hope to see all at Lake Chabot.

CONGRATULATIONS to Tom Lindsay (formerly with Moyer Chemical) on the birth of his daughter, Margaret.

Also to Merle Russill on his retirement.

Thanks to Steve Carlton and Bob Tipton for their articles.

Recently Bob Tipton advertised in THRU THE GREEN for an assistant superintendent and was quite pleased to have 4 excellent applicants. His number 2, 3, and 4 choices were all excellent, dedicated family men. He would like to see these men reach their ambitions so thought a line <sup>in</sup> the newsletter about his success might help them secure a position as an assistant or lead man. He recommends using THRU THE GREEN as an excellent way to let qualified people know of openings.

Steve Carlton sent the article in about Merle Russill and Cliff Wagoner condensed. We are glad to see this type of recognition for the golf course superintendent.

The Sunday Edition of the July 29, 1979 issue of the Peninsula Herald newspaper ran a two column article on Merle Russill's 24 years at Fort Ord Golf Course.

Merle is described as a quiet man who was responsible for the development of the Bayonet into a championship layout. Sports writer John Hallisey praises him as the person responsible for making the Fort Ord golf complex truly great. Merle was born in Eastern Oregon and moved to Watsonville where he attended high school. His golf course experience began at Montebello Muni in the Los Angeles area in 1946. In April of 1955 he went to work at Fort Ord shortly after the first course had been built. Merle's tree planting program contributed to the reputation of the courses difficulty. He admitted that Monterey pines were not as good as choice for trees as the Cypress

Merle retired as Golf Course Superintendent on August 1, 1979. In his retirement he and his wife Trudi plan to play golf and ride their horses

He said "I have enjoyed myself for 24 years, really enjoyed my work here. There have been times when it gets irritating, but overall, it's been an enjoyable period of my life. I wouldn't take a million for it." We all wish him a long and enjoyable retirement.

Ed Stocke is now located at Santa Rosa Golf and Country Club.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America membership directory goes to print the first of October. All changes must be made so if Any NATIONAL MEMBER is unhappy with the way his name appears in the directory, he should contact GCSAA Headquarters, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, KS 66044 as soon as possible

NEW HAZARD ADDED TO THE GAME OF GOLF - at least for golfers in Maryland If you happen to kill a Canadian goose out of season with a putter, you could be fined as much as \$500.00 and spend six months in jail. Sounds absurd, but this actually happened to Dr. Sherman A. Thomas at the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland.

Dr. Thomas' story is that he hit the bird with an approach shot and killed it with his putter to put it out of its misery. However, a witness has another story. Word has it that the goose happened to honk just as Thomas was putting and in a fit of rage Dr. Thomas attacked it with his putter.

The law, which prohibits the hunting of migratory birds, lists many illegal ways of killing the birds out of season, but the case might get thrown out of court because Kurt Schmoke, the Federal prosecutor in the Thomas matter, said: "no one has been able to turn up a putter case before."

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