

THRU THE GREEN

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THRU THE GREEN

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dent's Association of
Northern California.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have just returned from Lake Tahoe where I attended the joint meeting with the Sierra Nevada GCSA. Congratulations for a job well done to Steve Siebel, golf course superintendent, for having the course in such great shape -- although that is the norm rather than the exception. Also, to the 12 SNGCSA Ryder Cup players who "took apart" our own "Nor Cal" players in the first "Ryder Cup Match" between the two associations. Thanks to Jim Ferrin, CGCS, and the entire SNGCSA for hosting the joint meeting. It certainly was an enjoyable day meeting, playing and interacting with those from SNGCSA. Also as part of the day's program was an interesting presentation by Armen Suny on preparing your course for

a major tournament. Mr. Suny is a former superintendent at Cherry Hills and Castle Pines both in Colorado; currently he is a golf course consultant.

Mr. Suny wrote an article in *The Seed Researcher* this past summer entitled "The Possible Future Of Golf Course Maintenance." Many of his futuristic ideas seemed bizarre at first viewing, but most seemed very credible once the cranium took over. For example, could the injection of gasses through a USGA-type drainage system in a putting green cause the green to be better? Could irrigation water temperature be adjusted to extend the cycle of seasonal grasses whether it be hot or cold? Will all weed control be done with Roundup? If Roundup-resistant grasses are devel-

oped, poa annua and all other weeds could easily be controlled. Apparently this is underway in agriculture crops already. Plant breeding brings other advancements to us, such as the seeds resistant to insects because of endophytes, not to mention developments in disease resistance.

It is mind boggling as one tries to think these thoughts through, but it just goes to show we must keep our minds open to potential new technological advances as we encounter the day-to-day successes and failures of our job.

I will be happy to send a copy of Mr. Suny's article to anyone who has not seen it.

See you on the tee,
Randy Gai, CGCS
President

Don't Miss These Important Workshops

GCSAA and GCSANC will hold joint seminars at the Hilton in Pleasanton on December 15 and 16

Dec. 15 - Turfgrass Stress Management
Dec. 16 - Maximizing Turfgrass Disease Control

Contact GCSAA for more information 800/472-7878. You should have received information and registration materials by now. If not, please contact GCSAA or GCSANC to request them.

Quote of the Month

Reprinted from GCSAA Government Relations Briefing

"Along with the growth of golf clubs has gone the improvement in architecture and conditions of turf. Maintenance methods and machinery which were accepted as the best even five years ago, are many of them obsolete today. Golfers expect the fairways of 1931 to be as perfect a turf surface as were the putting greens of twenty years ago. The demand for excellence of playing surface on golf courses nowadays is such that new methods have had to be found in order to maintain grass to withstand what Mother Nature never intended to ask of it."

From Golf Course Common Sense
by G.A. Farley
published in 1931

GCSAA's CONFERENCE AND SHOW HEADS TO SAN FRANCISCO

An estimated 15,000 to 16,000 golf industry professionals are expected to attend GCSAA's 66th International Golf Course Conference and Show, February 20-27, 1995, at the Moscone Center in San Francisco.

The week will include nearly 80 educational seminars, sessions and forums; a three-day trade show; a gala banquet; the association's annual meeting and election of officers; and the 1995 GCSAA Golf Championship.

Conference week opens with the annual GCSAA Golf Championship (see story this page).

Many of the educational and professional development needs of golf course superintendents will be covered in the 60 one- and two-day seminars that will be offered during the first four days of the conference, February 20-24. Seminars will address issues ranging from environmental responsibility to personal stress management.

Concurrent education sessions and special-interest

forums are also scheduled February 24-27.

Rocky Bleier, legendary running back for the Pittsburgh Steelers, will keynote the Opening Session on Thursday, February 23, at the San Francisco Marriott.

More than 650 companies that manufacture and distribute golf and turf industry products, supplies and services are expected to exhibit at the trade show, which will run February 25-27, at the Moscone Center. A record 671 exhibitors showcased their products and services during the 1994 show in Dallas.

A headline performance by recording artist Anne Murray will provide entertainment at the formal closing banquet on Monday, the 27th.

The highlight of that gala evening will be the presentation of the Old Tom Morris Award, GCSAA's highest honor. This year's award will be presented to turf industry giant, Dr. James Watson. Previous recipients of the award include Arnold Palmer, Bob Hope, Patty Berg and Byron Nelson.

The 1994 conference and show in Dallas drew 15,386 people. More than 1,300 of those attending were international visitors and guests, representing more than 50 countries and territories outside the United States.

MONTEREY TO HOST 1995 GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Five courses along our Monterey peninsula will host the 1995 GCSAA Golf Championship scheduled for February 20-21.

Presented in partnership with The Toro Company, the association's 45th championship will test a field of approximately 480 GCSAA members and affiliates.

The host courses for GCSAA's championship are The Golf Club at Quail Lodge, Old Del Monte Golf Course, Poppy Hills Golf Course, Rancho Canada Golf Club and The Bayonet.

The Golf Club at Quail Lodge, designed by Robert Muir Graves, was host to the

United States Golf Association's 1975 Senior Amateur and annually is the site of the California Women's State Amateur. The 6,515-yard layout plays to a par 71 and has a slope rating of 126. Dennis Kerr is the golf course superintendent.

Old Del Monte Golf Course, designed by Charles Maud, originally was a nine-hole layout that opened in 1985. Old Del Monte is reportedly the oldest golf course west of the Mississippi River. At par 72, it plays to 6,278 yards with a slope of 122. Pete Bibber is the golf course superintendent.

Poppy Hills Golf Course, designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. is owned and operated by the Northern California Golf Association and has been a part of the PGA Tour's AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am rotation since 1991. The par-72 venue plays to 6,863 yards and has a slope of 143. Manny Sousa is the golf course superintendent.

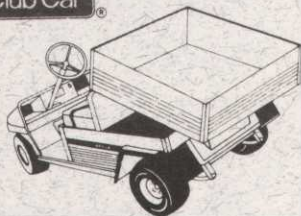
Rancho Canada Golf Club, designed by Robert Dean Putman, is character

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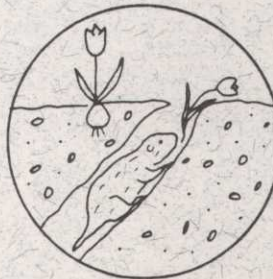
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Improper Planting Kills Trees

The Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories, with the cooperation of Bartlett IPM technicians and representatives in four different areas, excavated 363 trees which were planted by landscape firms within the past two years.

Of the trees surveyed, 93 percent were found to have excessive soil on the root collar or be mulched too heavily. Sixteen percent had materials against the trunk which were already starting to girdle the tree.

It was determined that the major cause of tree mortality on maintained landscapes could be the result of too deep or improper planting. Often, this problem can be traced back to the nursery, which piled soil against the trunk or transplanted too deeply. If the landscape professional or maintenance personnel piled soil or water-holding mulch against the trunk, the problem would be made worse. Mulch should not touch more than one inch of the trunk and, away from the trunk, depth should not exceed four inches. Yearly additions should be made only to maintain this four inch depth. Yearly removal and replacement defeats half the purpose of using mulch.

Source: New Horizons, Vol. 3, No. 5, 1992

GCSAA CONFERENCE

Continued from page 3

ized by large, fairly flat greens. Participants in GCSAA's championship will play the West Course, a 6,613-yard, par-72 layout with a slope of 126. Tim Greenwald is the golf course superintendent.

In anticipation of a large number of participants, a fifth course was added to

GCSAA's '95 tournament rotation. The Bayonet, designed by Gen. Robert McClure and located at Fort Ord, is a 7,000-yard, par-72 layout with a slope of 132. The military opened the Bayonet and its companion course on the base, The Black Horse, to the public play last year. Nick Moana is the golf course superintendent.

Tips from the USGA Congratulations! You Get to Keep Your Job... For Another Year

*by Paul Vermeulen
USGA Agronomist*

Most of the people Paul and I have visited this season have had a pretty good year overall. Despite some long spells of hot weather, there was not any widespread turf failure throughout the region. One course I visited seemed to be having a pretty good year, and the green chairman mentioned that everyone was pleased with the condition of the golf course. Then he said, "I guess we can let our superintendent keep his job for another year."

Although it was meant as a joke, this statement sent a chill down my spine. It reminded me how uncertain the superintendent's job can be at times. In most professions, good performance is rewarded with a promotion or pay increase. For golf course superintendents, a successful season is often attributed to good weather or luck. But, lose two square feet of turf on a putting green and you may be in jeopardy of losing your job. The pressure is tremendous! I can't think of any profession, other than coaching professional sports, where the person hired to make the decisions is scrutinized and second-guessed more often.

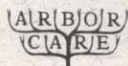
This year, it has been disappointing to see the angry faces of golfers, managers, and green chairmen along with the worried look of superintendents wondering if they are going to be fired because the bunkers are "too something" or the greens are not fast enough. As a result, some people in a position of authority feel that a new superintendent is the answer - I think a new attitude is the answer! After a long, stressful summer, it is important to remember that golf is a GAME. Most golfers recognize this fact, yet there is often a vocal minority that take golf too seriously and derive a perverse sense of pleasure by threatening the

Continued on page 7

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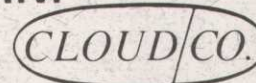
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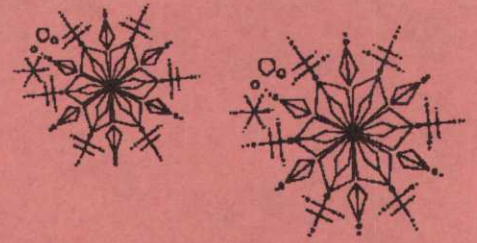
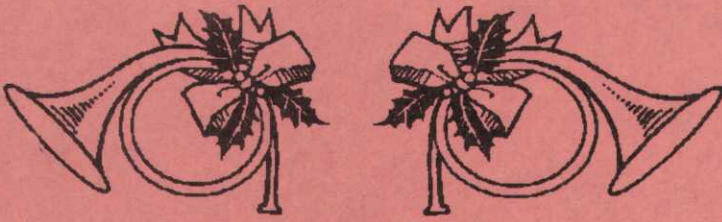
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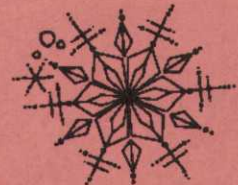
For example... You can select a Handknit sweater (\$15.00) and Mens silk bomber jackets (\$19.00)

DATE: Monday December 5, 1994

TIME: 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM

PLACE: S.F. Fishermans Wharf Marriott Hotel -

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CHRISTMAS UPDATE

Just a reminder about this year's format for the Christmas Party.

Sunday, December 4

Dinner dance at The Marriott Fisherman's Wharf.

- 6:00pm Cocktail Hour
- 7:00pm Dinner
- 8:00pm Visit by Mr. & Mrs. Santa
- 9:00-1:00am Dance to the sounds of E Z Street

Monday, December 5

The Larry Lloyd Memorial Golf Tournament at the Meadow Club

- 9:00am Check in
- 10:00am Shot Gun
- ?- Awards Reception following golf

You should have received your invitation by now.

Please note there has been a change to the room reservation deadline. The Marriott room rate deadline is November 13, 1994, not November 24th. The price is in effect for Saturday, Sunday and Monday. **Insist on it!** They seem to be having a problem with the reservationists honoring the rate.

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WELCOME TO THE GREEN

Welcome and congratulations to the following GCSANC members:

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Napa Valley CC
Superintendent

Dave Scattergoed
Country Club Sales
Inside Sales

AFFILIATES
(30 day wait)

Brian Massey
Target Specialty Products
Sales Rep

ASSOCIATES
(30 day wait)

David Skinner
Chabot Golf Course
Superintendent

Lennis Lehman
Reed Equipment
Sales Rep

RECLASSIFICATIONS

Darren Markus
Moffett Field GC
Superintendent
Class B to Class A
Passed Test

Willard Hayes
Automatic Rain Co.
President

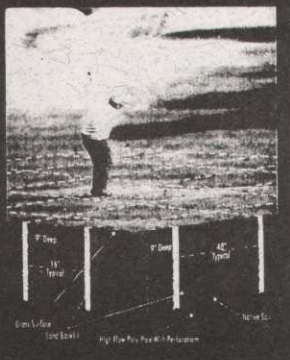
Kevin Smith
Moffett Field GC
Assistant Superintendent
Associate to Class B
Passed Test

David Ladd
City of Fairfield
Public Works Manager

Steven McKinney
Boething Treeland Farms
Golf Division

Robert Wisyanski
Diablo Creek Golf Course
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FYI

by Barbara Mikels

By now all of the dues renewal forms have been mailed. If you have yours ready to return make sure I get the questionnaire and your renewal check. You need both of these to renew your 1995 membership. Also note, this is due before January 1, 1995, or you are subject to a \$20.00 late fee. Make sure your accounting department checks the mailing address. I know it has been over a year since I moved my office but I still receive mail at the old address and the forwarding order will be expiring shortly.

Just a note about timely dues renewal...The dues renewal forms help us get your mail routed correctly and tell the board of directors what is new in your professional life. Have you become a superintendent since your last renewal? Were you promoted to assistant? We do not know about the changes in your life unless you let us know. This information is the basis of preparation of any and all changes so we can give you accurate information in the directory.

MEADOW CLUB

Continued from page 1

barn, members' lockers, and the mixed grills. This job started in April, 1994, and is expected to be completed in June, 1995.

The main clubhouse is not being replaced and the Pro Shop, cart barn and grill are in temporary structures.

The Superintendent

Dave Sexton, CGCS, has been the superintendent for the Meadow Club for thirteen years.

He got his start in the business by working at the Paso Robles Golf and Country Club while a student at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. After graduating with a B.S. degree in Ornamental Horticulture, he spent four years as the superintendent for the Ojai Valley Inn before moving on to the Meadow Club.

David has been married for over 20 years and has an eight year old daughter, Sasha, who has already taken up golf -- and will probably soon be beating her dad who has never really mastered this game, though he loves to play.

Naumann's Norcal News

Tim Sedgley has accepted the superintendent's position at Serrano Country Club in El Dorado Hills. This is a new club designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. and is being built by **Wadsworth Construction Co...** **Todd Norton** is the superintendent at Ruby Hill Country Club in the Livermore Valley. Todd was the assistant at T.P.C. in Scottsdale. Ruby Hill Country Club is designed by Jack Nicklaus and is being constructed by **Fairway Construction**. **Key Irrigation** is installing the irrigation system...**Stanford Golf Club** is completing the reconstruction of all 18 greens. Superintendent **Tom Thatcher** reports everything is going well and as planned. **John Harbottle** redesigned the greens to look as natural as possible. **Landscapes Unlimited** is doing the construction...**David Hays** has accepted the superintendent's position at Salinas Golf & Country Club. Dave was the assistant at Monterey Peninsula prior to his move. Dave is replacing Board Member **Bill Kissick** who moved to Roseville to build the Sun City Country Club and remain as superintendent.



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JOINT MEETING

Continued from page 1
 slaughtered the "Nor Cals" in the Ryder Cup Matches 23 to 13. The only highlight from Nor-Cal was Jeff Roberts winning low gross with a very good 74 over the difficult course. Dave Davies took low net.

He Par'd Indiana

Floyd S. Rood tackled the biggest course on record when he played the entire United States, coast to coast, in 1963 and '64. He teed off in the Pacific surf and finished at the Atlantic shore more than a year later. No one knows what par was, but Rood took 114,737 strokes to cover nearly 3,400 miles.

USGA

Continued from page 4
 superintendent's job. Mother Nature rarely makes life too easy for the superintendent and problems can always be anticipated somewhere on the golf course. Threatening the golf course superintendent with his job will not change this situation.

For superintendents, it is important to keep things in perspective and realize that the majority of golfers appreciate the condition of the golf course, even though they may not say it often enough. Hopefully, more golfers will come to realize that golf is not only a GAME -- it's also the superintendent's livelihood.

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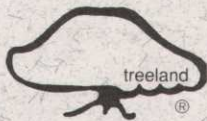
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