

EDITOR

ROBERT J. COSTA, CGCS
408-373-3701

OFFICE

Barbara Mikel - Exec. Sec'y
550 Main St., Suite G
P.O. Box 3360
Diamond Springs, CA
95619
Phone: (916) 626-0931
Fax: (916) 626-5132

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THRU THE GREEN

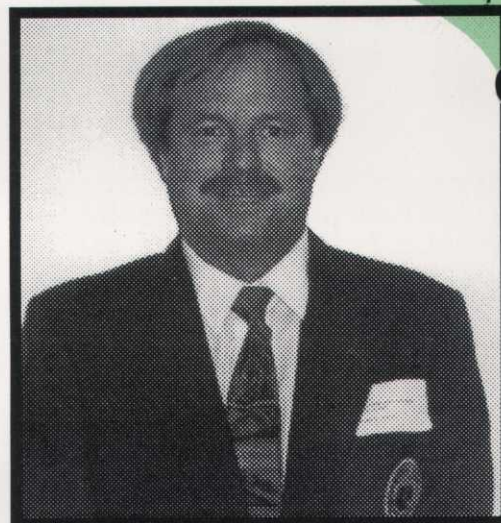
Published monthly by the
Golf Course Superintendent's
Association of
Northern California

From The President

1997 continues to be an exciting year for our industry. Golf equipment sales are up as club manufacturers try to supply the growing number of new players that flood our courses and practice facilities. I recently paid \$10.00 for a medium bucket of balls at an upscale public course and had to wait for a place to hit them. The new course construction boom continues. All of this growth presents excellent opportunities for Golf Course Superintendents and those that supply the golf industry.

For an existing course willing to undertake renovation projects, careful planning is a must. Contractors and Golf Course Architects have been in short supply. For those of us that utilize the services of consultants we must also contact and schedule visits in a timely manner. It may take weeks to have someone available to help solve one of our problems that need immediate attention. We are fortunate that our Association has affiliate members that travel our region and based on what they see at other courses may be able to give some immediate advice — most of it good.

I have utilized the U.S.G.A. Green Sections Agronomic Visit Services for years. Like many of you, I've also picked up a few tips from the articles Pat Gross from the USGA has written



for our newsletter. Other Superintendents go beyond the USGA and enjoy fewer sleepless nights with the help of others. Superintendents are expected to know it all. With so many different and changing conditions course to course, and with what little may really be known by so many, it's okay to seek a little help from qualified consultants who also have so much to gain from our thriving business.

Shorter daylight hours are on the way,

Blake

Office Notes

By: Barbara Mikel

Well this is August and naturally the only thing on your mind is Christmas holidays right? Well just a note to be sure to make your room reservations for the December Poppy Hills meeting at the Monterey Beach Hotel. New remodeled and oceanside rooms are available to the Association thru November 21, 1997 at discounted rates. See the "Calendar Section " for more details.

I must say this job gets more interesting by the year! June 26-30 I found myself in Lawrence, Kansas with a group of four golf course superintendent association managers for software and training provided by GCSAA. The visit was instructive, professional and friendly. The GCSAA staff couldn't have been more helpful and professional! I also found

Lawrence Kansas a refreshing change from other parts of Kansas--- not to say I don't like the other parts of Kansas-- I just find it difficult to navigate with no mountains for reference. We all came back with ideas we will be able to use and I suspect we were able to provide a few ideas for the GCSAA staff.

I got a call the other day from a new member wondering whether his membership card had been lost since he hadn't yet received it. I know you think there is a dark hole somewhere out there swallowing these things. I thought I might review the process. Once you are a member you probably don't need this information but if you are attesting the application of a soon to be member you might fill them in.

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The Hardest Thing To Do, Is

Mike Huck - Agronomist

It was last summer, either late August or early September, I received a phone call from a superintendent who had lost a few greens. Summer patch, Anthracnose, Pythium, you name it and their greens had some of it. He told me the green chairman wanted to deep tine aerify and overseed the greens, if for no other reason than "Just to show the membership that something was being done about the problem." I understood their reasoning but told him that under their circumstances the Verti-Drain would likely disrupt the surface and only make things worse.

"What about a heavy overseeding?" he asked. I knew that their daytime high temperatures were in excess of 100 degrees with nighttime lows and soil temperatures over 90 degrees. I told him they could bury their greens in bentgrass seed but they were not going

to get much germination or growth under those conditions. I added that what germination they might get would be extremely vulnerable to damping off and high temperature injury. In my opinion, they would just be throwing good money after bad.

"Could they sod?" he asked. I couldn't recommend that they spend a few thousand dollars on sod and try to manage a 1/2" root system under the temperatures they were experiencing, it would just be futile. The sod wouldn't tack down until it cooled off and then, what percentage might they lose to the heat? The superintendent agreed with my arguments but reminded me of the words of his green chairman — "We need to do something to show the membership we are addressing the problem." I told him the best thing they could possibly do was nothing at all; **nothing . . . until the growing envi-**

ronment became more favorable.

Referring to *Turfgrass Science and Culture*, we find that creeping bentgrass photosynthesis is optimum when air temperatures range between 70 and 85 degrees. Maximum leaf growth for cool-season grasses occurs between 60 and 80 degrees. Root production steadily slows as soil temperatures begin to exceed 60 degrees and comes to a halt near 90 degrees. Trying to establish bentgrass seed or sod outside of these ranges can be more than an uphill battle.

I personally know how difficult it is to watch turf die and there is nothing anyone wants more than to get those areas back into play as soon as possible. But, please realize that Mother Nature is in control at times and there isn't a slot one can do about high temperatures and humidity when they occur. Remember That trying to establish bentgrass seed or sod when air and soil temperatures

Continued on Page 5, Column 1

Life is short.

SOD IT!

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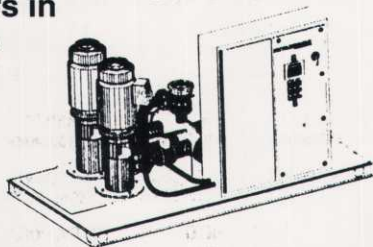
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65 Years — A Look Back

Letter Written and mailed to Green Chairman at the Clubs in Northern California

August 4, 1953

We take this means of informing you of the activities of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California, so that you will know of its purposes and objectives.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association is a cooperative organization for the collection, preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge, thereby effecting more efficient and economical maintenance of golf courses. To this end we meet the second Tuesday of each month at different courses. The host superintendent conducts the visitors on a tour of the course, explaining his practices and getting the views of the visiting superintendents.

We have a guest speaker at the luncheon meeting that follows the tour. These speakers are chosen for their background and reputations for knowledge on specific subjects that have to do with golf courses. The University of California Agricultural Extension Service has agreed to supply, upon request, a speaker on any subject that we would care to discuss at that particular time of the year.

In addition, we have a question box in which each member is asked to place one question. We ask them not to sign their questions. In this manner they do not feel that they have made an admission of ignorance, and the one who asked the question can debate the issue.

It is important that your superintendent attend these meetings. We need his experience and he in turn will benefit from the ideas of other superintendents. The most efficient man is one who admits he doesn't know all the answers but strives to learn new procedures.

Upon inquiry, we find that some superintendents have not been attending meetings because of expense involved (travel and lunch). We are sure that your club will benefit **many times over** the small expense outlay that is necessary for your superintendent to attend.

Won't you see to it that your superintendent is one of our regulars at these monthly meetings? Yours for more pleasurable golf through better maintenance practices.

Paul Paulsen, Secretary-Treasure
Golf Course Superintendents Association
of Northern California

The Way It Was (Cont'd)

courses. Later that year, Dr. Allister McKenzie was the featured speaker at Monterey Peninsula Golf Club. At the conclusion of the meeting all were invited to play golf.

And so it was that the Northern California Greenskeepers Association was born gaining in numbers and in strength each year, facing many of the same issues that confront us today. It is a history full of great accomplishments by great individuals who's dedication to the profession paved the way for the prominence we enjoy today. Follow me as we walk together through our rich past.

The Year was **1946**, the war had ended but many supplies such as equipment, fertilizer, seed and pesticides were in short supply. 2-4,D which had been invented in 1942 showed good promise as an herbicide. Bert Graves of the H.V. Carter Company was concentrating on the use of Weedicide a 2-4,D preparation. It was noted that the head greenskeeper and the Golf Professional should work closely together, "this should help the game a lot," it was said.

Two years later in **1948** a survey revealed that the salary range for superintendents was \$225 to \$450 per month.

1949 saw the introduction of the first aerifier for tees and greens. It was invented by Tom Mascaro.

In **1951** a letter was sent to Green Chairmen advising them that it would be beneficial for their superintendents to play golf twice a week. In **1953** a second letter was sent encouraging Green Chairmen to allow superintendents to attend monthly meetings. In the same year the name of the Association was changed to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California.

The use of 2-4,D saw its first challenge in **1955**

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Office Notes (Cont'd)

The board of directors meets monthly accepting membership based on the recommendation of the Membership Committee. Once the membership committee and Board of Directors have reviewed the application a letter of acknowledgment is mailed. This happens usually within a week of the board of directors meeting. The member's name is added to the mailing list. 'Thru the Green' and meeting notices are mailed. We have a 30 day waiting period before membership is finalized. This allows publication in "Thru the Green" of new members names before final acceptance. If anyone has objection to the individual being accepted into the Association this allows time to present the board of directors with objections to the membership. With the acknowledgment I mail a directory and promise to send the card, plaque and badge when provided by our suppliers.

Well, it does take some time for our suppliers to get our cards, badges and plaques finished. They won't just do two or three. We need to give them a minimum number before they process and that may take some time. The same is true for reorder on name badges when you change courses or businesses. We are adding an attestor letter for GCSAA for new Class A and Class B members who need to join GCSAA. /

The Hardest Thing (Cont'd)

are outside of a reasonable range is a waste of both time and money. Yes, the hardest thing to do is nothing at all, but sometimes it is what you must do under the circumstances be patient and wait until the growing environment becomes more favorable for germination and growth. /

Watson To Highlight 65 Year Program

Dr. James Watson, formerly of the Toro Company, will highlight the 65 Year Anniversary Meeting Program with an historical look at golf course maintenance and maintenance equipment. Watson, who served as an agronomist for the Toro Company has an impressive background in the turfgrass industry, earning his Ph.D. at Penn State University in 1950. His many accomplishments include extensive turfgrass research, as well as the authoring of numerous technical articles. His presentation will be a part of a two hour program which will also feature an historical perspective presented by Past Presidents, Cliff Wagoner (1959) (1965) (1967), Rich Lavine (1995) and Bob Hanna. Also slated for the morning program is recognition of all Past Presidents, as well as the presentation of honorary memberships to Walter Boysen and Paul Paulsen. Fifty year pins will be given to Paul Paulsen and Ed Silva. The days events will begin at 9:00 with a continental breakfast and an historical display of equipment and photographs.

The Way It Was (Cont'd)

restricting its use and requiring a permit. GCSANC established its presence on a national level when Elmer Border was elected President of the GCSAA in 1959. Later that same year a motion was passed to consider requiring members to also be a member of the National.

Myrtle Wagoner joins the Association in 1960.

In 1961 a meeting was arranged among the Presidents of the Southern California Chapter, Northern California Chapter, Central Chapter, Hi-Lo Chapter and San Diego Chapter. They would call themselves the California Federation of Golf Course Superintendents.

Public relations was at the forefront again in 1964 when a list of sports writers were sent articles pertaining to the status of the golf Course Superintendents.

1965 saw the birth of the green blazers. Samples were presented to the board by Walter Boysen.

In 1967, GCSANC's very own Walter Boysen was elected as the president of the GCSAA.

The Tarp Program, a joint venture with NCGA received membership support in 1968.

1971 was a particularly noteworthy year. It was determined that badges

Continued on Page 6

**Northern California Greenskeepers Association
Charter Members**

Will Rogers, Contra Costa CC
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Harold Sampson, Burlingame CC
Duncan McFarlane, California GC
Ellis Van Gorder, Stanford GC
Bob Dutton, Orinda CC
Kenneth Cooper, Vallejo GC
E.T. Smith, Crystal Springs GC
Lee Salter, El Camino GC
Bob Anderson, Sequoyah CC
Luis Galetti, Claremont CC

William Mayo, Presidio GC
Tom Nicoll, Los Gatos GC
Joe Mayo, Pebble Beach GC
Roy Hanna, Castlewood CC
Julius Lazzarini, Ingleside GC
Ed McEnroe, California GC
H. Stajohann, Lake Merced CC
Earl Morrill, Berkeley GC
George Santana, San Jose, CC
Manuel Coelho, Menlo CC
Dan Gormley, Sequoyah CC



The Way It Was (Cont'd)

April 18, 1950 Del Paso Country Club - Sacramento

would be provided to all members. A fine would be assessed for those who lost them (\$1.00) or failed to wear them (25¢). It was also noted that the GCSAA certification program was a reality. In October the layout and design for the newsletter was approved. The first of many Christmas parties was held at Rancho Cañada with a new format which included golf during the day and dinner in the evening.

In 1973, the Golf Course Superintendents Institute debuted with a five day event at Asilomar in Pacific Grove. Cliff Wagoner was elected president of the GCSAA and the Association established a dress code requiring a coat and tie at all meetings.

The annual awards were distributed for the first time in 1974. Winners were Cliff Wagoner, Superintendent of the Year, Gurmit Sandhu Excellence in Golf Turf and Joe Sheffield Merit Award.

1977 was a year to honor two long time members. Aubrey Babson a GCSANC since 1934 retired from La Rinconada CC. William Mayo charter member and host of the first meeting at the Presidio Golf Course on June 6, 1932 passed away in August.

The first Superintendent/Pro Tournament was held in 1978 at Sunol Valley CC. Paul Dias and Jim Ross finished first and

second respectively.

1979 saw the dissolution of the California Federation of Golf Course Superintendents and the retirement of Merle Russill after 24 years at Fort Ord.

A survey conducted in 1980 indicated that the average superintendent salary was \$21,665. Also that same year, the California Golf Course Superintendents Association was formed.

Walter Boysen retired from Sequoyah CC in 1983. Also Leonard Feliciano, a member since 1947 passed away.

The following year (1984) brought the passing of yet another of the Association's founding fathers, Ellis Van Gorder, who served as the President in 1935, 1952 and 1961.

1985 brought both joy and sadness. Cliff Wagoner received the Distinguished Service Award from the GCSAA, and long time Christmas party host, Rancho Cañada Superintendent and former boss, Larry Lloyd passed away. A perpetual trophy was established in his honor and awarded annually at the Christmas party. Later that year Cliff Wagoner retired from Del Rio CC where he had worked for 35 years.

September 1987 meeting was a tribute to Bill Davis who announced his retirement.

GCSANC and U.C. Cooperative Extension enter joint agreement to host the Golf Course Superintendents Institute. The event is scheduled at Spanish Bay in **January, 1990.**

1996 GCSANC signs affiliation agreement with GCSAA. Resulting bylaw changes requires dual membership effective July 1, 1997. /

** This article written By Bob Costa, CGCS reflects a brief overview of the organization over the past 65 years. We wish to thank Cliff and Myrtle Wagoner for their contribution in compiling this historical information. We invite you to submit some memories of your own for print in future issues of **Thru The Green.***

Did You Know?

It was reported in 1961 that pleas were made to the membership at virtually every meeting for the prompt return of the meeting registration notices and articles for the newsletter — some things never change.

California Golf Course Superintendents Association Annual Meeting Survey

The board of directors is reviewing the CGCSA Annual Meeting in an effort to increase participation. Please complete this short survey and return it to the CGCSA office by August 20. Fax number 619/566-3555

We need your input!

What chapter(s) do you belong to? (Mark all that apply)

Northern Cal
 Southern Cal

Central Cal
 Sierra Nevada

San Diego
 Hi Lo Desert

Did you attend the 1996 CGCSA Annual Meeting in Palm Springs in May 1996? Yes No

Did you attend the 1997 CGCSA Annual Meeting this May in Santa Clara? Yes No

I have never attended a state annual meeting

Did you attend the GCSAA conference and show in February in Las Vegas? Yes No

Which of the following would make you consider attending the annual meeting more often (Mark all that apply)

Better educational topics
 Better location
 Resort location
 Lower cost
 Better speakers
 More CEUs
 Better golf course
 If it were not held on a weekend day

We are considering changing the days of the annual meeting in order to get better rates and increase attendance. Please let us know the days that you prefer. (Rank in order of preference 1 being highest preference)

Current days: Sunday/Monday
 Monday/Tuesday
 mid-week: Tuesday/Wednesday

Next year's annual meeting is scheduled for May, somewhere in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. The GCSAA Conference and Show will be held in Anaheim in February. How would the scheduling of these two events in the same area in a relatively short time period affect your decision to attend the state annual meeting?

I would probably attend the annual meeting, anyway
 I would NOT attend an annual meeting in So. Cal area, anyway
 I would probably *only* attend the GCSAA conference and show

If the annual meeting were moved to a different location next year, would you be more likely to attend?

I *would* probably attend the state meeting no matter where it is
 I would NOT attend the state meeting when the GCSAA conference and show is on the west coast
 I would be more likely to attend the state meeting if it were held somewhere else

To what area(s) of the state do you prefer to travel to attend the state meeting? (Please rank 1 to 6 with 1 being most preferred)

Northern California

Southern California (Santa Barbara to Orange County)

Palm Springs

San Diego

Central valley

Lake Tahoe

Would you prefer that we choose three or four consistent destinations to rotate the annual meeting rather than the six chapter rotation we currently use?

Yes

No, I think all the chapters should have the opportunity to host the meeting

Would you prefer if we chose one permanent centrally located location to hold the meeting every year?

Yes

No

Would you be more likely to attend the annual meeting if it were held at a resort destination?

No, the city doesn't matter

Yes, the city is a major factor in my decision

Would you consider attending the annual meeting if it were held on a cruise ship (there would probably be other activities rather than golf)

Yes

No

Is the quality or desirability of the golf course a significant factor in your decision to attend the annual meeting?

Yes

No

Do you generally bring your family with you when you attend the annual meeting?

Yes

No

Does nearby activity/entertainment for your family play a part in your decision to attend the annual meeting?

Yes


No

Comments:

CGCSA
Phone: 888/448-4653
Fax: 619/566-3555

Fort Ord's Theis (Cont'd)

spent most of his career honing his turfgrass skills at several courses in the Central Valley. It was last winter when he arrived in Monterey and hit the ground running.

The challenging Bayonet course will be the site for the Anniversary Tournament. Boasting one of the most demanding par 5's in golf, the course has served as the site for numerous PGA qualifying events. Set among the hills overlooking the Monterey Bay, the Bayonet not only offers a true test of golf skills, but panoramic views of the Monterey Peninsula. With its rich history, it is a fitting site for this historic celebration. 

Don't Miss This Golf Tournament!

On Monday, September 8th, the Annual Scholarship, Research and Education Tournament will be held at Mira Vista Golf and Country Club. This year's exciting format includes a four person, net best ball, team competition with prize money awarded to the top four teams; low gross and low net superintendent championship; low gross and low net affiliate championship; closest to the hole on all par three's; long drive competition; betting holes, etc. According to John Holmquist, tournament chair, "this year's tournament guarantees to be one of the year's highlights. Committee members David Davies, Mike Ligon, Steve Franzen, Jim Karrik and Bob Whittaker are currently tracking down tee sponsorships, valuable prizes and other attractive donations that will help make this tournament one to be remembered."

Further note, all net proceeds of this event will assist in the ongoing Scholarship, Research and Education Fund. So mark your calendars, pick your team and keep your eyes open for the sign up sheet that will be sent to you in the mail.

For further information, please call:

John Holmquist at 707-451-9050.

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The Next Step

By Ken Schwark

I reached a major pivotal point in my life. A milestone as some people call it. I am finally turning forty. The event that for so many years I thought would never happen, is about to take place.

Turning forty has set off a chain reaction of events and thoughts. For instance reality has set in. I've learned that I'm not indestructible, that I have certain limitations that I'm aware of, which is good, because now my mind isn't writing checks my body can't cash. Thank God!

As forty approached, I found myself hosting a multitude of questions which for so long I've tried not asking because I was afraid of the answers that I might find. But, these questions were essential to measure who I was, what I've become and where I was going.

I didn't try to hide or run away from the fact that I was turning forty. In fact, I embraced it and viewed it as a special time. I didn't see forty as an age where you realize you didn't do things right and now you're too old to change things. I see 40 as an age where you can objectively look at your past, see what things you need to change, realize the things you can't and hopefully by now have the brains to know the difference. You're still young enough to direct your future.

I've reflected back over the past forty years and had to ask myself, "Could I

have done better? Should I own a bigger house? Should I be making twice as much money as I am right now?" Only we can answer those questions ourselves. I asked myself those very questions and I looked at the friendships I've made over the years, the relationships I've built over the years and I feel good about where I am.

But what about the future? Where do I want to be in 10 to 15 years from now? My focus in life at 40 is totally different than the focus I had when I was 25. At 25 I was trying to land my first superintendent's job. Now that I've made it and I've done that, what's next?

For me it was asking what is the next logical step up from a superintendent's job. It would have to be a management position. Either as a general manager at an independent complex or where the trend is definitely headed, with a management group. These management groups that are managing multiple golf courses are going to need people with good solid management skills, people skills and a good understanding about the business of golf, as well as the game of golf.

The next question that came to mind is how does a superintendent get the proper training and education to make the transition from superintendent to a manager of some kind. To find an answer to that question, I decided to do

some research in this area and I was surprised to find out some interesting facts. I called up the Country Club Managers of America (CCMA) to see what they had to offer in training. They offer quite a lot in the way of seminars and training information. They told me that they would extend their membership rates for seminars to any GCSAA member who wanted to attend. I asked them who could become members and was told only Country Club Managers were allowed to join. They excluded managers from resorts, daily fee and municipal golf courses from joining.

I then called GCSAA to see what they had to offer and found little to nothing, depending on the topic. After talking with a few people at GCSAA, I learned that the business side of golf management was an area they were starting to get involved in. They expressed a real concern for more training in the area of managing a golf complex, whether it be in managing a single complex or working within a management group that manages many golf courses. They admitted that there was a tremendous need for superintendents who understood the politics and had the people skills and who could also manage the restaurant and proshop at a facility. Unfortunately there aren't very many people who have all those skills in one package. It would be far



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asier to teach a superintendent the skills needed to work in a management position that it would be to train a manager to be a superintendent.

Many times I've heard war stories about superintendents losing their jobs because a general manager and the superintendent couldn't see eye to eye on how to go about getting a task done. That's because the manger didn't understand the importance of the task to be done to the overall condition of the course. We, as superintendents who would become managers, would understand the importance of the task and would be very accommodating to the superintendent in getting the task finished with as little disruption to the golfer as possible. I feel superintendents with the proper training would make the best managers in the golf business. That is of course if the superintendent feels that is what he wants to become.

In closing I just would like to say that I have taken this time now in my life to look down the road and took hard at where I'm headed. I see myself making that move at some point in the future and have taken steps on my own to prepare for that welcome change in my life. Management will not be for everyone, but for the people who wish to pursue that path, I want to do all I can to help my fellow superintendent get the tools needed to make that transition as

smooth and successful as possible. So I ask all who feel the same way as I do to call the GCSAA and tell them you are interested in having them put together a program to make that happen and that you encourage them to allow all of the golf course managers that are not wanted by the CCMA to join the GCSAA and to help up strengthen our position in the golf business. 

Quick Quote

"As an Association it should give us great courage and a measure of satisfaction to know that we are gaining in numbers and prestige after being organized for only nine months.

This is rightly so for our aim is not only to better conditions for ourselves, but for every individual that plays golf in this section."

— Will Rogers, President January 1933—

Naumann's NorCal News

Scott Szydloski has left Blackhawk CC in Danville to become the Superintendent/Director of Grounds for Western Resorts. Western Resorts owns Mission Hills CC (2 courses, North and South) which is located in Rancho Mirage, California. Mission Hills CC is operated by American Golf Corporation. Mike Barber will be staying on as Superintendent at Blackhawk until a new Director of Grounds is named . . . **John Flackman** at Bennet Valley GC in Santa Rosa continues to be busy with the reconstruction of two more greens with more on the horizon. **Ed Stocke** is helping John with the project that is being built in-house . . . What do **Mickey, Bill, Ed and Bogey** have in common? They are all Border Collies that are keeping their respective golf courses free from Canadian Geese and Coots. (Corral de Tierra CC; Shoreline GC; Spring Valley CC and Peacock Gap GC).

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