

## Turf Specialist

### (Park Maintenance Worker III)

City of Saratoga, Saratoga, CA

**Duties:** Under general supervision or direction performs tasks in the maintenance of the City's sports field and complex.

**Requirements:** Graduation from high school and four years of relevant experience. Golf course maintenance experience is highly desirable, including experience operating and maintaining a reel type fairway mower.

**Salary and Benefits:** \$3,515 - \$4,499/month. The City provides excellent benefits, including 95% paid Medical and fully paid Dental, Life and LTD, and City-paid PERS 2% @ 55.

**APPLY BY: November 15, 2001, 5:00 P.M.** A City application must be filed.

**For application and job description, call (408) 868-1200** or download at [www.saratoga.ca.us](http://www.saratoga.ca.us).

Check our website for additional park maintenance employment opportunities.



*Jack Roddy led attendees to the roping demonstration.*

## For Sale

Toro 4500 fairway unit with parts  
1475 hours - \$6,000.00

**Terry Grasso, Sequoyah CC**  
**510-632-2903**

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Featuring: Bentgrass, 100% Rye,  
Rye Blue, Blue, Fine Fescue, Tifway II  
(overseeded or non).

Greg Dunn 209/993-3329

**WEST COAST**  
**TURF**

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OFFICIAL SOD OF THE SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

*THRU THE GREEN*



## H.V. Carter/Textron Sponsor Superintendent's Institute

**H**V. Carter Company, Inc., originally an automobile firm, was organized in 1915 to sell such famous old-time cars as Marion-Handley, Monroe and Briscoe. The company, located at 724 Van Ness Avenue, on what is now known as San Francisco's "Automobile Row" successfully changed pace and products under the guidance of David E. ("DE") Graves who had previously operated his own road machinery business in Oakland. As manager, DE Graves supervised H. V. Carter Company's conversion from automobiles to specialized Farm, Garden and Golf Course

equipment in 1917.

In 1922 the firm moved to a three story building at 52 Beale Street in downtown San Francisco. That same year the company gave the Jacobsen Manufacturing Company an order for twenty-five 4 acre power lawn mowers, thus becoming the first customer of Jacobsen. This fine relationship has continued for over eighty years.

After the death of H. V. Carter in 1931, David Graves purchased the company from the estate of Mr. Carter and embarked on a program of increased equipment and product distribution.

In 1960, a branch operation was established in the San Joaquin Valley. In 1964 an additional branch was located in the Sacramento Valley. And in January of 1998 a branch was opened in Reno, Nevada to further serve our customers. The corporate office moved from Oakland to Livermore, California in 1992. A Southern California operation in Ontario was opened in 1999.

David E. Graves passed away in 1969 knowing that he successfully managed the company for over fifty years through several wars and depressions. His son, Herbert W. Graves, took over as President

of the company until 1991, then being Chairman of the Board until his death in the year 2000.

Today, the H.V. Carter Company has David A. Graves as its president, the third generation in the management of the company and David's son, Jeffrey Graves in customer service representing the fourth generation.

The H. V. Carter Company has expanded in the past eighty years to the point where it is now a leading Western distributor for top quality manufacturers in the field of Golf Course and Turf equipment. /

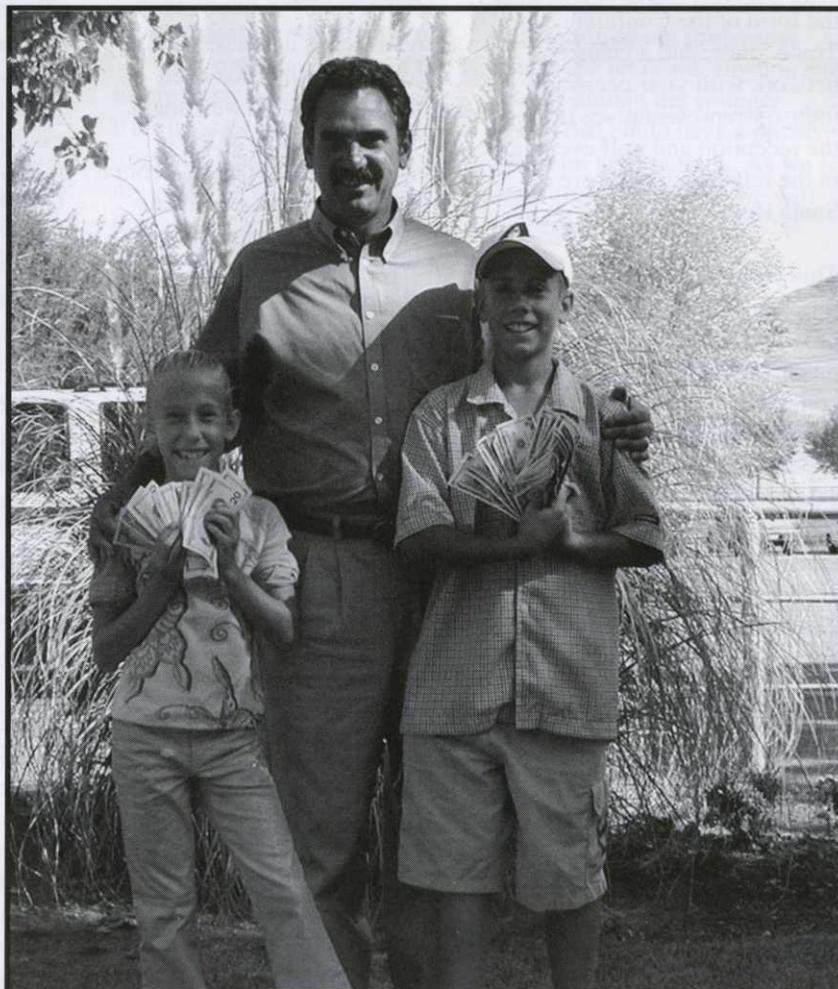
## Joint Meeting a Success at Roddy Ranch

**T**he October 1st meeting of the GCSANC and the Sierra Nevada GCSA was held at the beautiful ranch of Jack Roddy. Sponsored by Turf Star, the meeting took advantage of the wonderful setting in the golden hills of Antioch. Jack Roddy gave a great presentation on the unique workings of his cattle ranch. Each winter he brings in thousands of cattle from the Big Island of Hawaii. He cares for them while they graze and bulk up on his land. He also treated the attendees to a live steer roping demonstration. Mr. Roddy, at age 62, still competes and holds numerous national titles in the sport. Riding a quarter horse, he amazed the crowd with his speed and proficiency in roping the tough Corriente steers.

The meeting also featured a raffle to help the Burnett family, a Bay Area family whose father/husband was taken away in the Sept. 11 disaster. The raffle was won by Sean and Taylor Shafer,

kids of GCSANC VP Jeff Shafer. And in a tremendous gesture, they donated their winnings back to the fund. Approximately \$500 was raised for the fund at the meeting.

Host superintendent Ryan Zuehlsdorf was recognized for his tremendous help in preparing for the event. He had the course in wonderful condition as evidenced by the GCSANC's convincing victory over the Sierra Nevada in the "Ryder Cup" portion of the golf event. The meeting provided a refreshing change to typical meeting formats making it a great fall escape for all that attended. /



Taylor and Sean Shafer donate their winnings.



## Final Thoughts . . .

By Bob Costa, CGCS

### Fall is in the Air

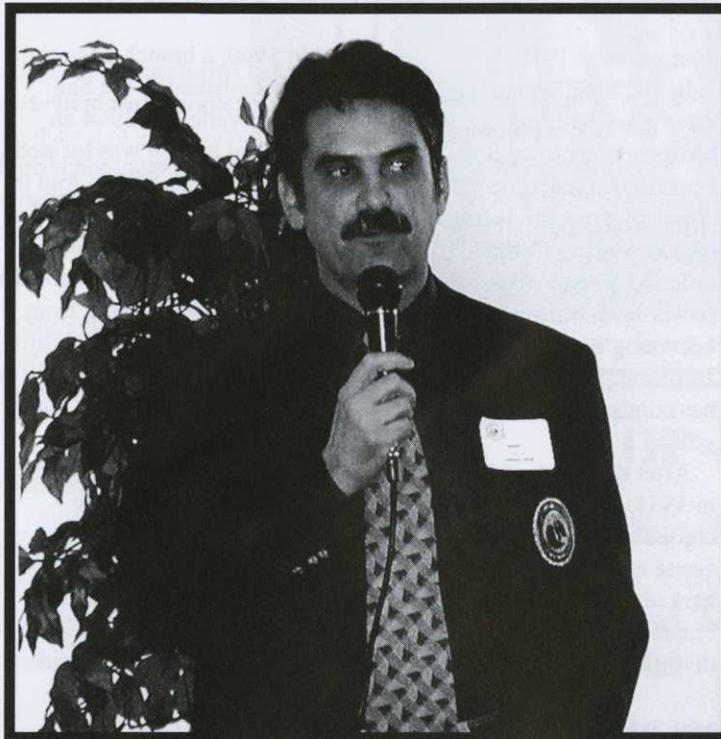
By far, fall is my favorite time of year. More than any other season it represents change. For those of us who work and live along the coast it, means cool crisp mornings and long awaited fogless days. It represents the end of baseball season, the start of football season and gives us our first glimpse of the holidays. Personally, it also means the arrival of the Superintendents Institute, an activity I have been involved in as a co-chair or committee member since it's inception in the early 90's.

What has always made the Institute so appealing, it that it combines quality education, in the form of the Conference and Trade Show, and a chance to network with your peers and industry representatives during the reception and golf event, all in the relaxed atmosphere of Santa Rosa.

This year the conference will rely heavily on information provided by superintendents and mechanics fulfilling the committee's philosophy to make the Institute a practical learning experience. In addition, we are again offering reduced registration fees to Assistant Superintendents and Mechanics. I encourage all of our members to join us on November 5th and 6th, as we continue the celebration of fall with the 2001 Institute.

### Our Survey Says

One of the greatest frustrations I have suffered in my seven years of Board service is the lack of feedback from the membership. I can remember Past President



Dave Davies, in his soft-spoken voice, suggesting that even criticism would be welcomed, demonstrating that at least someone had an opinion. From a Board perspective comments from the membership not only provide direction, but can also be the source of new ideas.

Not being one to easily give up and in the spirit of Dave, shortly you will be receiving a member survey, most likely with your 2002 dues renewal. The survey will contain a few general questions for the entire membership and a handful more by member classification. Please take a few moments when it arrives to fill it out and offer your opinions and comments.

### Reach Out and Help Someone

Unlike like any year that I can remember, several of our members have been affected by health issues or suffered personal tragedies this summer. Where possible the Board of Directors has made an effort to

acknowledge these hardships with a card or small gift. At the August board meeting a recommendation was made to establish a benevolence fund that would be available for GCSANC members in times of need. With unanimous Board support, Pat Finlen offered to explore the logistics of such a program and we will continue the discussion at future meet-

ings. A revenue source is obviously a key component of the funds success. Some of thoughts noted were to designate a percentage of the Scholarship Research tournament proceeds to a benevolence fund and to allow members to contribute through the dues renewal process. Personally I think it is a great way to provide another meaningful service to the membership, particularly to those in need.

Speaking of which, I am pleased to report that the GCSANC has made a donation of over \$1,000 dollars to the Thomas Burnett Foundation. Mr. Burnett was a Bay Area resident who perished in the terrorist plane crash in Pennsylvania. Mr. Burnett left behind a wife and three daughters, all under the age of five. The money was raised by way of a \$500.00 donation from the GCSANC as well as from a raffle held at the recently concluded Joint meeting. The winners of the raffle, Seana, Sean and Taylor Shafer (family of Jeff Shafer) graciously donated their portion back to the pot. Thanks to all who contributed.

## Tournament Results

October 1, 2001

Roddy Ranch GC

Ryder Cup Match: GCSANC 7 1/2, SNGCSA 4 1/2

Gross Division: 1st place Joel Wong 73 (won card off)  
2nd place Ross Brownlie 73  
3rd place Matt Engleman 76

Net Division: 1st place Shane Howe 71  
2nd place Tracy Shanahan 72  
3rd place Mike Farm en 72

Skins: \$250

Hole #4 Joel Wong  
Hole #14 Joel Wong



## The Value of Mentoring

By Gry K. Carls, CGCS

Last week I visited Lawrence, Kansas for the GCSAA Education Committee Meeting. One of the items on the agenda that was discussed was the future of educational programs for the new generation of superintendents.

The superintendent of today has access to more technology than ever before. This technology can provide us with access to tremendous amounts of information without ever leaving our office. You can obtain a degree from the comfort of your home. There are those that believe that you can get everything you need from the internet and the experience of a face to face meeting will be less important in the future.

For many of us who started our careers in the 70's the greatest source of information was from our peers. We gathered at chapter meetings or the national conference to exchange information about what we had learned on our courses. Many

feel that with the new technology this is less important than it was in the past. Much of what I learned came from observing the success and failures of my peers. Although I have a formal education, there isn't a computer in the world that could have taught me half of what I actually learned working out on the golf course with my peers and mentors.

Does that mean that I don't believe the access to new technology is a valuable tool? There is tremendous value derived from computer access. As I stated earlier, there is a great deal of information out there, but you still need the advice of some wise peers to filter out the good information from the bad. Discussion forums such as can be found on the GCSAA or CGCSA websites can be a great source of information. Keep in mind that they can also be the source of a lot of misinformation. This is not to mean that the authors are

deliberately providing false information, only that each golf course is unique in many ways and what works one place may not work in your situation.

The greatest value of a peer or mentor network is assistance in sifting through all the information that is out there. I'm sure we all experienced the value of learning from others as we began our careers. It is also important to understanding the value of teaching those who follow us. I have felt fortunate during my career to work with or have the assistance of the wiser, more experienced superintendents. Perhaps the new generation of superintendents does not see this as important but it may be even more important now than it was 10 or 20 years ago. With all the information available out there it still comes down to one basic question, how does it work on my golf course? I still believe that most often, the answer to that question will come from a

mentor or peer.

We work in a business that is often as much art as it is science. By viewing the work of our fellow artists we are inspired to do new or different things. The valuable lessons learned by our peers will help us all avoid future pitfalls. We have all developed great friendships with our peers over the years and have mutually benefited from those relationships. To some of the younger guys out there, I urge you to attend chapter meetings when possible and seek information from your peers. Start to develop some of those friendships for the future. To those of us who have been around a little longer, try and take some time to meet the next generation of our profession. There is a lot of information and energy among the younger group that could have a positive effect on your outlook. As we all learn from each other, we will all benefit in the end.

## Office Notes

Barb Mikel

November brings a more frantic pace in the office. Some of you are slowing but it is a busy time for the association. This year we are revising the renewal questionnaire. We hope to get more up-to-date information by sending the form separate from the bill. We are also providing a check-off section for subscription to California Fairways and the NCGA Handicapping program. Both are offered free to you with your membership in GCSANC, but not everyone realizes this after the first letter of acceptance into the association.

Please look for the renewal questionnaire, **FILL IT OUT** and **MAIL** or **FAX** it to the office. This information is compiled for the directory, so make sure you fill in all the information. Forward the renewal invoice to your accounting department for payment. A discount of \$20 may be taken if paid by this December 31, 2001, otherwise the entire invoice amount is due.

In addition, a bylaws change will be voted on November 5. It is my hope we have additional bylaw revisions for the January 2002 Annual Meeting. The

Affiliate "Commercial" and Affiliate "Non-Commercial" has never been clearly defined. We have many members that belong to the "brotherhood" of turf grass grower whom belong in the Associate classification. But there is a lack of clarity in the

current classifications. Hopefully this will be resolved in January. The legal requirements have been reviewed and look for material in the December newsletter plus a mailing to the voting membership.

### Hospitality Suite

will be

**Feb.7, 2002**

at the

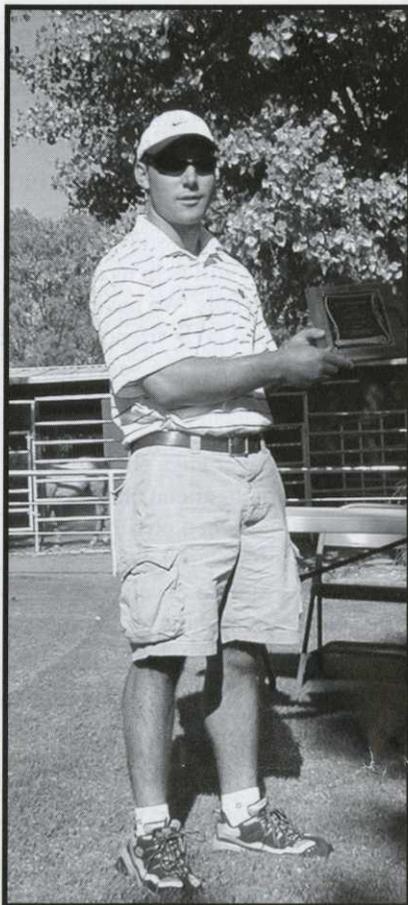
**Universal Studios Orlando**

from

**6:00 to 8:30 pm.**

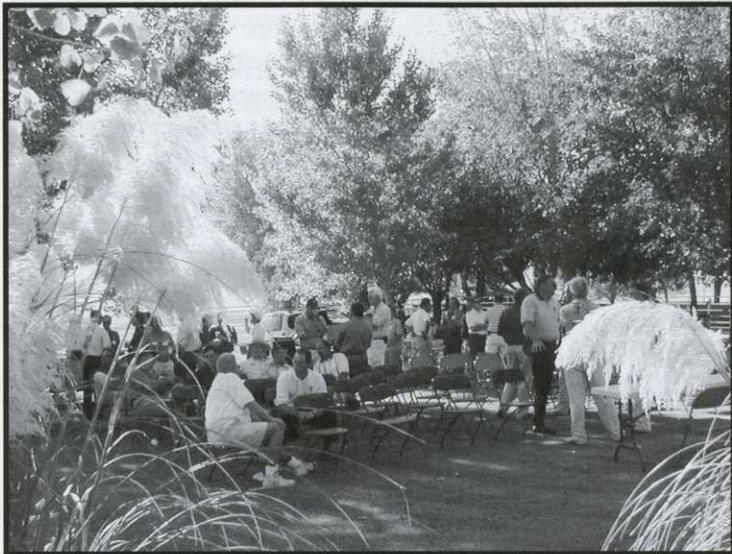


GCSANC and SNGCSA Meeting Hosted by Superintendent Ryan Zuchlsdorf





Was Lots of Fun and a Help to the Burnett Family



*Lots of riding, running, roping and raucus revelry happened at the joint meeting at Roddy Ranch . . . and also a little golf.*

*Congratulations to golf winners Joel Wong, Ross Brownlie, Matt Engleman, Tracy Shanahan, and Mike Farmen.*

*Congratulations GCSANC for winning the Ryder Cup.*



## High Tech Turf

By: Mike McCullough

**F**resh out of the "I can't believe they can do this" file comes a story about how video games and golf course management strategies go hand in hand. For many video game connoisseurs, the new simulated golf games are unbelievably accurate in their portrayal of the golf courses they simulate. Obtaining the information that eventually becomes the backdrop for these video games was at first considered marginal; now it is an exact science.

Some of this technology has been used in the past, but the reliability and accuracy was also in question. A recent example of this would be mapping irrigation lines with GPS receivers. This technology has been in the works for a couple of years, but a company out of Washington State has taken the GPS and robotic mapping to a whole different level. In fact, the level this field is in is actually the field of entertainment. EA Sports, the industry leader in sports video games, contracted out the services of Geodetic Services Inc. of Blaine, Washington to provide them with terrain models of popular golf courses for their video golf games. These terrain models have actually been made from computers based on points oriented from GPS and robotic survey instruments. Darryl Sharp, owner of Geodetic Services, claims that they are the only company in the United States that can provide this type of service relative to the amount of data, cost and speed of mapping a golf course.

Sharp and his associates can map an 18-hole golf course in 3 1/2 days or less, no small feat considering the amount of

information they obtain every day. The crew measures every tee, green, collar, approach and fairway. They also mark every sprinkler head, valve box and drainage grate on the golf course. Some hardscape features such as cart paths, prominent trees in play or rock outcrops also get referenced.

The information points that are generated are then downloaded in a computer. The computer programmers at EA Sports take the information and utilize sophisticated computer software to transfer the satellite derived location points into three-dimensional maps of the golf course. These drawings can outline specific course features such as water hazards, trees, cart paths and slopes. The programmers then add different textures to the grass, sand and other features to generate the finished product, a computer version of the real thing.

To compare the old way of GPS mapping with today's version is like comparing the gutta percha golf ball to the Pro V1. The first time Poppy Hills was mapped for a video game, there were only 5,000 GPS points taken on the golf course. Of those 5,000 points, almost half of the points were not usable. Hence the product was very rough. The last mapping of Poppy Hills generated more than 100,000 points, a 400% increase.

The equipment Geodetic uses is state of the art survey grade equipment. "We have been pioneers in developing techniques that gives us the measurements we need and our customers demand," said Sharp. With \$200,000 invested in equipment, the company claims the measurements provided are within 1 centimeter in accuracy

and can detect a 1/4 inch elevation change. The prehistoric data could have information points as much as 30 feet off line from the original reference point. Unfortunately the data was cataloged only four years earlier.

Geodetic Services has mapped many of the top 100 golf courses in the United States and Canada. Not bad work if you can get it.

So how is this applicable to maintaining a golf course? A superintendent can have a much more detailed set of "as built" to work from. Mapping each sprinkler head can provide some peace of mind in determining the exact spacing between heads. Knowing the head spacing can be beneficial if some coverage issues are prevalent. The information generated from Geodetic Services, Inc. can help in developing maps or data files to enhance the operation of computer based irrigation systems.

In an era where information is king, the data that can be generated by this type of mapping should be classified as

priceless. Small maps can be generated to help orient new employees or troubleshoot a drainage problem on a certain portion of a fairway. The data can also be used to determine exact square foot measurements for tee boxes, fairways or even sand traps. Other applications may include developing a precise hole location sheet for course setup purposes as well as determining the exact length of each hole for yardage book calculations. The cost for obtaining this information for an 18-hole golf course is comparable to other expenses of maintaining and operating a golf course.

The next time you see the EA Sports version of Tiger Woods 2002 being played on a video game, pay close attention to the detail of the golf course. Darryl Sharp and Geodetic Services, Inc. have taken great pains to insure pinpoint accuracy and detail is in every shot.

For more information about Geodetic Services, Inc. go to their website at <http://website.bcentral.com/Golf-Course-Mapping/>.

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**December 7, 2001**

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## USGA Green Section Southwest Regional

### Autumn in the Southwest

Patrick J. Gross, Director

Everyone has been watching the calendar waiting for the first part of October to roll around. Many superintendents heave a huge sigh of relief knowing that cooler temperatures and shorter days are ahead. Here are a few observations and ideas based on our travels throughout the Southwest region to assist superintendents through the autumn growing season:

**Temperature** - Temperatures may be cooling off in many areas of the Southwest, but don't be fooled! Many regions experience hot, dry Santa Ana winds that can desiccate turf and cause stress to putting greens. Monitor the weather closely and fine-tune your irrigation system to stay ahead of any potential problems with the Santa Ana winds.

**Monitor salinity** - This is a frequent admonition in the Southwest region due to typically high levels of salts in soils and irrigation water. Superintendents should continue to monitor salinity on putting greens until the first rainfall. If core aeration is scheduled for putting greens, you may wish to consider leaching the greens prior to aeration to avoid any problems with turf stress and slow recovery. The threshold for salinity on *Poa annua* putting greens is 2.7 dS/m.

**Overseeding** - The desert regions in the Southwest are completing overseeding activities to provide lush, green turf for their winter visitors. Keep in mind that renovation intensity prior to overseeding has a major impact on the spring recovery of bermudagrass.

There has been a steady trend during the past five years to reduce the intensity of renovation and leave more bermudagrass stubble in order to reduce transition troubles. Pay close attention to the travel patterns of vertical mowing and renovation equipment to reduce excessive scalping in turning areas at the beginning and end of fairways. After the seedlings have emerged, it is recommended to keep cart traffic off

the overseeded areas for six weeks. Some courses allow cart traffic immediately after seeding, however, this causes a corresponding decrease in the quality of overseeding.

**Tune-up drainage systems** - Autumn is a great time to tune-up the drainage systems through the course by trimming around surface inlets, replacing drain grates, installing additional drain pipe, and clearing existing drains.

**Special \$75 Membership Offer!**

*To celebrate GCSAA's 75th Anniversary*



.....  
**For more information  
contact the GCSAA Service Center  
at 1-800-472-7878**

### Boost Morale By Listening

Motivate employees by listening to them. Suppress your urge to talk, especially to tell them what to do or think. *Some tips.*

- **Questions to learn**, not to interrogate. Most employees resent bosses who lecture or play know-it-all. Avoid closed-ended questions that call for only one correct answer. *Example:* Replace "Do you know how we tell if a client is profitable?" with "What types of clients do you think we should attract?"
- **Follow up.** When an employee expresses an opinion or concern, don't not and change the subject. Urge the speaker to elaborate. Say "Tell me more" or "That's interesting" to signal you want to hear more.
- **Provide a "chat table"** where employees can talk calmly with you. Instead of listening on the fly when you're rushing down the hall or heading out of a meeting. Invite employees to sit down at a round table in a pleasant corner of your office. Don't have them sit across your desk, where they might feel intimidated.

### In Memoriam

The GCSANC has lost one of its most dignified members. **Gilbert "Pete" Bibber**, of Del Monte GC passed away in mid-October due to complications from heart surgery. Pete was a Past President of the GCSANC and winner of the Association's George Santana Distinguished Service Award.

Family requests memoriam contributions in Pete's name to be directed to the Stanford Hospital.

**Joyce Whittaker**, wife of Lesco Representative Bob Whittaker suddenly fell ill and passed away last month. A bacterial infection that entered the bloodstream was the culprit.

Our deepest sympathies and condolences go out to both families.



## Golf Course & Grounds Superintendent

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### Project:

Spectacular Reese Jones II designed, upscale executive golf course with a striking residential component and a compatible, impressive landscaping. The successful candidate will have not only the knowledge, skill and ability to assist in the grow-in stages of this golf course, and upon completion of this initial stage, have the capability of maintaining the course and grounds in pristine condition.

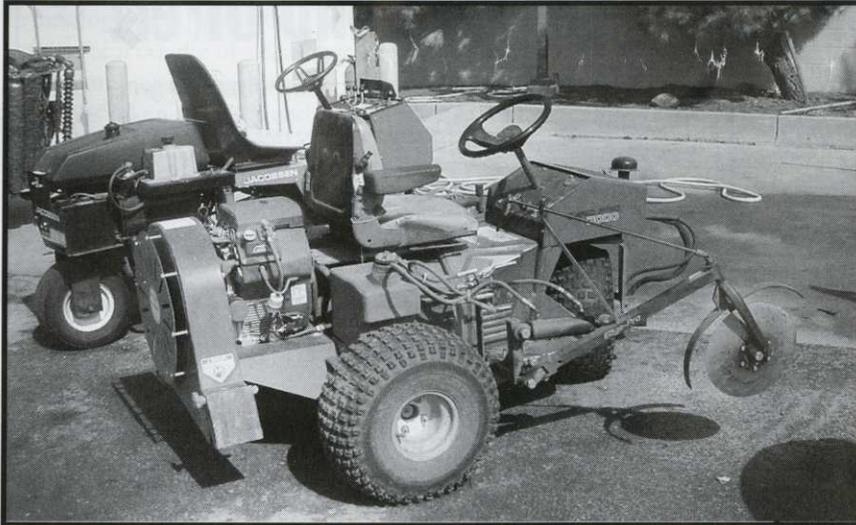
G.C.S.A.A. Membership and Certification; must have Superintendent experience or Assistant Superintendent experience at a reputable level golf course.

Qualified candidates, please forward your resume by November 10, 2001 to: KPMG Golf Practice  
Suite 300, 200 Crescent Court  
Dallas, TX 75201-1885  
Attention: Thomas L. Bruff  
Fax # 214-840-2181

## Naumann's NorCal News

Fall is here and most superintendents are happy about it. With the exception of a hot May and June, this summer's weather has been mild and the amount of summer disease pressure has been minimal.

With this good fortune has come motivation for many clubs to upgrade their facilities. Michael Simpson, CGCS at Los Altos G & CC, is just starting a renovation which will involve earthmoving, re-grassing and a new irrigation system....Joel Ahern, Superintendent at San Jose CC, recently ran in the Chicago Marathon. He had been training for a few months. Now that he is back to work, he is about to start the installation of a new irrigation system....Todd Lyijynen, Superintendent at Diablo CC in San Ramon, has had his hands full with earthmoving and siphon drainage....



## IDEA OF THE MONTH

**The edger is made by Edge Pro.** (pictured at right) Turfstar can order that for superintendents. **The blower is made by Selbro and it is the Pro Blo.** (pictured above) It has mounting brackets that are included. The company is out of Bellevue, OH. Serrano CC used a old sand pro to mount the pieces of equipment. David Bergstrom said that it now takes one guy less than a day to complete the whole course whereas before it took 2-4 guys to 2 weeks to finish up edging carts. It has been a tremendous labor saver and a very valuable piece of equipment in their inventory.

