

73-Foot Lift Saves Kicks at Orinda

By RAY HAYWOOD

THE days when membership comfort projects were confined to clubhouse facilities are over in Northern California. New golf course construction is making it possible for players to be choosy about what's provided for them.

In addition to a demand for attractive clubhouse accommodations, Northern Californians also seek courses which are easy to walk. If they are both easy to walk and hard to play, so much the better.

The Orinda CC, located in a fog-free belt just behind the Contra Costa County hills from the San Francisco Bay area and Oakland, provides an example of progressive thinking and action.

Orinda had been losing an occasional desirable member — in both the higher age and income bracket — to less hilly courses. It launched a \$150,000 long range improvement program to correct that situation.

First of its Kind

A program feature is a lift the first of its kind in Northern California, which eliminates a 200-yard up-hill walk around an old quarry bank from the 18th green to the clubhouse. That walk caused numerous complaints. It came at a time when the player had no more shots — except the one upcoming in the men's grill — to occupy his mind.

The lift, constructed by the Atlas Elevator Co., climbs 73 feet vertically during a 145-foot run up a 29 per cent grade. Orinda members, realists all, authorized construction because Orinda is a hilly course and physically difficult for some members to walk.

The box-like lift holds six passengers and golf bags. It is powered by a 5 hp

Orinda's new lift begins the trip up the old quarry bank. In the past it was necessary to take a long, 200-yard walk around the cliff to the clubhouse.



electric motor and travels 75 ft. a minute up the almost sheer face of the old quarry. It was completed for approximately \$8,000, Orinda officials say.

In addition to ending the long-walk back to the clubhouse, the lift also drops Orinda professional, Pat Patten, and student directly to the practice tee at the side of the 18th fairway.

Safety Is Automatic

Any members who once had doubts about the downward trip and safety received this assurance from the Atlas people: "The car is equipped with instantaneous gyroscope-operated clamps to grip the rails and stop the car at any time the downward trip exceeds 125 per cent of normal running speed."

The lift, hauled by twin steel cables, is key operated from inside the car. Each member will have a key.

New Tees Built

Orinda, built in the days when grading was a long, tedious matter accomplished by horses instead of bulldozers, also has built numerous new tees to cut down the climbing necessary on the beautiful, oak-girt course.

Other Orinda improvements under the \$150,000 plan include a new parking lot and two tennis courts now in the paving stage, and a renovated pro shop.

New S. Calif. Turfgrass Council Names Officers

Organization of the newly formed Southern California Turfgrass Council has been completed with the election of the following officers: C. C. Simpson, Sr., past pres.; F. W. Roewekamp, pres.; William Beresford, vp.; Raymond Page, secy.; and Gene Marzolf, treas.

Purpose of the council is to advance the growing of good turfgrasses and other ground covers, provide exhibits for scientific and educational purposes, aid in gathering and disseminating information and cooperate with similar agencies in turfgrass work.

Organized Advisory Group

Simpson, long identified with golf as a country club pres., green committee chairman and past pres. of SGA, was instrumental in organizing the original Turfgrass Advisory Committee in 1948 and served as its chairman for seven years. Roewekamp, supt. of Park Development for



Pro Pat Patten demonstrates the new lift for Orinda members, Mrs. Hugh F. MacIntyre (foreground) and Mrs. Robert Merriman.

Orinda officials are confident the money spent will be returned with interest in the form of more enjoyment for members and therefore more money spent at the club.

One thing is certain, Orinda's caddies are enthusiastic about the new lift.

Los Angeles, served as secretary of TAC from 1948 until 1955.

SCTC's board of directors is made up of representatives of each of the following organizations: American Inst. of Park Executives, California Society; American Inst. of Planners; American Lawn Bowling assn.; American Society of GC Architects; American Society of Landscape Architects; Athletic and Recreational Turfgrass assn.; Calif. Assn. of Nurserymen; Calif. Fertilizer assn.; Calif. Inst. of Landscape Architects; California Landscape Contractors' assn.; Equipment Industry; GCSA; Interment Assn. of Calif; Irrigation Sprinklers assn.; LA Board of Education; LA Dept. of Recreation and Parks; LA county Dept. of Recreation and Parks; National Golf Foundation; LA Park Foreman's assn.; Public Link Golf assn.; Seedsmen; S. Calif. Golf Assn.; S. Calif Golf Supts' assn.; and USGA.

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