

Know Your Host Superintendent . . . by Lee Huang

Fred Mays is a native Californian who was born not very far from the place where he is now superintendent. Fred saw the light of day in San Jose. However, by the age of 6 his family moved to Sebastopol where he grew up and went through high school. After school he did a stint with the US Marines, then he returned to California. This time he was at the other end of the State, Palm Springs to be exact, where he found work on the O'Donnell Golf Course under the supervision of superintendent Kilpatrick. With that much Irish and blarney, you can be assured that golf course was green. Anyway, this first experience with a golf course must have left a good impression on Fred since he stayed with golf courses ever since, even though he did move around a bit. Around 1959 about 2 years after he first started working for O'Donnell Golf Course he got a hankering to go back to good old Sebastopol, and was lucky enough to get a job with Aubrey (Doc) Babson, who was at the helm of the Marin Golf & C.C. Fred stayed with Doc for about 2 years. During that time he got an all-around training in golf maintenance. His wife, however, was from the Southland, and she had a hankering for the good old orange blossoms, so down South Fred went again. This time he ended up in the Indio region on the Indian Wells Golf Course. He stayed there only a year, then came back up North, this time to the Santa Rosa Golf Course. Fred got his chance to become a superintendent with the building of Oakmont Golf Course. He came on as the construction superintendent during the building of the second nine. He remained at Oakmont as the superintendent for about 2 years, and then moved to his present job at the Peninsula Golf & C.C. in San Mateo. Apparently Fred has done enough travelling for awhile. He has been with this club now for 6 years. The Mays family resides on the grounds of the Peninsula C.C. and consists of wife Sandra, and their two boys Trent 7 and Troy 2

THE PENINSULA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB is one of the older ones in the bay area. Originally it was started in 1912. It was then known as the Bearsfert Country Club. The name changed to the present one around the 30's. The original lay-out has been modified many times, and changes are still being made. Fred has been reshaping many of the tees and traps, and has renovated and remodelled several greens. Since 1968 the courses irrigation system has been modernized to a full automatic system, utilizing Febco heads and Griswold valves and controllers. Water for this system is purchased at great expense from the California Water Service. This is potable water. This water comes to a 10,000 gallon tank located in the service yard. From here two booster pumps pump it into two redwood holding tanks with a combined capacity of 550,000 gals. These tanks are located on a hill to give the system the advantage of gravity flow. Even then there are still booster pumps to give the system the required performance for which it is designed. Fred complains