

KNOW YOUR HOST SUPERINTENDENT - Robert H. Ford, Golf Course Superintendent. In 1962 I was a young Oregonian just graduated from high school and sent into the world of job hunting. At that time I wasn't aware of the importance of golf and the Golf Course Superintendent. By chance, I landed a job at the local 9 hole club. After two years I was still working and learning about golf and golf courses.

Time passed and life got more complicated. I've been married to my wife, Diane, for ten years, and have two daughters, July, 7 and Bonnie, 5. To make life more complicated, I decided to go back to college in 1967 and specialize in Turf Grass Management at Mount San Antonio College in Walnut, California. This meant a few hardships for two years, but with the help of a GCSAA scholarship, it was a little easier.

While attending college, I continued the practical aspect of golf course maintenance by working on two courses. These part-time jobs instrumental in my future golf course career. Before college graduation I became the assistant superintendent at South Hills Country Club in West Covina, California. Three months after graduation I became the Superintendent at the same Country Club. I left South Hill Country Club in 1972 and moved to Northern California and became the Superintendent at Almaden Golf and Country Club.

ALMADEN GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB started taking shape in 1957-1958. Twenty investors bought the 127 acres, which was a horse breeding ranch, and reshaped it into a golf course with the help of several local farmers.

The course was later sold to the Del Webb Corporation for further development. While under Del Webb management, Almaden was a tournament stop on the men' pro tour from 1958 thru 1965.

In 1969 Almaden Golf Course became a private club owned by the membership. It was then that the membership found out what problems a golf course can have.

The ground is quite rocky with the exception of lots of sticky gumbo spots. This creates poor drainage and many watering problems. In 1971 a new Toro hydraulic sprinkler system was installed; 1972 a complete fairway overseeding program was completed, and at present a overall master plan of the golf course is on the drawing board.

Everyone come to the meeting and play a round of golf!!

Robert H. Ford
Golf Course Superintendent