

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** by John Engen, CGCS, Butte Creek C.C., Chico

Thank goodness for September 15th. In the valley most superintendents look forward to the middle of September. The summer problems seem to subside with the cool nights and shorter days. The puffiness of the Penncross greens disappears, the localized dry spots don't need to be hand watered 3 times per day, crabgrass starts to turn red and purple and members compliment you on finally getting the watergrass sprayed, etc.

Now is a good time to evaluate the summer problems and start thinking about what we can do between now and spring to make next summer more bearable. Maybe we should budget a little more and go in with another half rate of crabgrass control or start our verticutting earlier in the spring.

Many things can be done in the next few months - move sprinklers that are not positioned right for better water control, repair that pump that gives problems every year, maybe an extra top dressing or aerifying and so on. Now is the time to prepare for next year.

As I travel around the North State attending meetings, I see many unique ideas superintendents have come up with. I would like to see a Handy Hint Corner in our "Thru the Green" publication each month. How about sending in your ideas. I'll start it.

HANDY HINT CORNER

How about P.V.C. pipe for out of bound stakes? You don't have to paint them white if you use white P.V.C.

Tired of typing flags all the time - use hog rings. Or if you don't want them that permanent use pipe cleaners.

Build utility vehicles out of old V.W.'s. I've sure seen some good ones.

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**DIABLO COUNTRY CLUB** by Byron Lewis, Green Chairman

Diablo Country Club, situated at the foot of Mt. Diablo in Contra Costa County, emerged as a golf course in 1917. Prior to that time, in fact, since 1859 it served as a horse farm, race track, pure bred stock farm and vacation spot for the notables of that era. At one time the farm was composed of some 6,000 acres but over the years was reduced to its present adequate size of 127 acres.

Over the last 10 years a number of improvements have taken place at Diablo. Our water is furnished by East Bay Water District, which even this year has been able to provide a reasonable supply. A toro irrigation system was installed by Ken Pierce in December 1974 which has contributed a great