

THRU THE GREEN

EDITOR

Brian Bagley

PUBLISHER

DJ King
King & Company
7150 Shoreline Dr., #3215
San Diego, CA 92122
619/558-4769
FAX 619/558-7387

PRESIDENT

BRIAN BAGLEY
The Villages Golf & CC

VICE-PRESIDENT

RANDY GAI, CGCS
Claremont Country Club

SEC'Y/TREASURER

RICHARD LAVINE, CGCS
Peacock Gap Golf & CC

PAST PRESIDENT

RODNEY KILCOYNE
Diablo Creek Golf Course

DIRECTORS

LEON SNETHEN
Saratoga CC

BILL KISSICK

Salinas Golf & CC

MICHAEL BASILE

Santa Clara Golf & Tennis

ROBERT COX

Canyon Lakes CC

Affiliate Advisors

CHUCK DALPOZZO
OM Scott

DAVE WILBER

Wilber Turf & Soil

Office

Barbara Mikel - Exec. Sec'y
550 Main St., Ste G
PO Box 3360
Diamond Springs, CA 95619
PHONE: 916/626-0931
FAX: 916/626-5132

Thru the Green

Published monthly by the
Golf Course Superinten-
dent's Association of
Northern California.

Writing Contest
Winner Announced

Joe Rodriguez of Rossmoor Golf Course was recently selected the winner of the *Thru the Green* Article award for 1993. Introduced in Sep-

tember, the \$250 cash award was designed as an incentive to get member-written articles.

Joe's very interesting and informative article entitled "No Putting on the Greens" was about the difference he

encountered maintaining greens for lawn bowling. It was published in the October issue.

Will you be the next \$250 winner? Be sure to submit an article to *Thru the Green* this year.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As governmental regulations become more and more stringent, the golf course superintendent may be put between a rock and a hard place.

An example is hazardous waste removal. On one side is the club which may not be very excited about paying the expensive fees to have hazardous wastes removed in accordance with various governmental regulations.

On the other side are the many government agencies who are increasingly prosecuting violators.

The following happened to a fellow golf course superintendent. Last December, the District Attorney's office filed a complaint against the superintendent who they allege "misled county health inspectors about the previous location and contents of an underground storage tank."

According to the Deputy District Attorney, who is handling the prosecution of the case, law enforcement authorities were notified of the tank's existence by an "undisclosed source." County health inspectors investigated the club for possible hazardous waste violations in February, 1993.

A county hazardous materials specialist who visited the site several times said the investigators located the crushed and emptied tank in a non-hazardous waste dumpster on club property.

Inspectors later discovered that the tank had been dug up, and the resulting hole filled with soil and covered with a parked truck.

The superintendent was charged with a misdemeanor violation of California Health and Safety Code Section 25195(a) for his alleged role in interfering with the work of Department of Toxic Substances Control and law enforcement representatives.

According to the Deputy District Attorney, the superintendent said that the tank was above ground and contained no (hazardous waste fuel), when, in fact, it was an underground tank that was leaking (hazardous waste fuel). The Deputy District Attorney also said he filed the criminal charge against the superintendent to "send a message that county inspectors cannot be lied to."

The lessons to be learned from this incident are that the golf course superintendent has to:

1. Take responsibility for his actions.
2. Know the laws and regulations
3. Document all communications between himself and club officials, in writing
4. Be careful -- when in doubt, you may want to actually talk with government officials before do something that could get you, the golf course superintendent, in big trouble later.

Before the big spring rush, spend some time reading up on all those new regulations coming your way, as well as the old ones you may not be aware of.

I think the most important point to remember is *not to let yourself be put between governmental regulations and your club*. It just isn't worth the risk.

"The times they are a changin'"

Bob Dylan, 1963

Respectfully submitted by
Brian Bagley
President

Portions of this article excerpted from the *San Jose Post Record*