THRU THE GREEN

September, 1998

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

— Committed to Responsible Turfgrass Management —

USGA's Read Featured At Adobe Creek

How many people besides Jack Nicklaus can say that they have been involved in the past seventeen U.S. Opens. Our featured presenter at the September meeting is one, and he's non other than the USGA's Ron Read. The Chicago native who's been involved in the administration of the game for the past 28 years has left his mark on the local golf scene as well with his involvement in the conception of Poppy Hills.

His topic, "Is Your Course Properly Defined" will highlight the meeting portion of the program scheduled for Santa Rosa's Adobe Creek, on the 14th. In his hour and a half presentation Read will cover topics such as: who's job is it to define the course, why is it important, what constitutes ground under repair, where do tee markers belong, where should and shouldn't holes be located and much more.

After a short break for lunch it's off to the golf course where host superintendent Cliff Peterson has been busy preparing the Robert Trent Jones, Jr. design. Arriving on the scene this past January, Cliff had his hands full like most California superintendents contending the affects of El Niño. This spring Cliff and his crew were busy rebuilding the green on the signature 7th hole

One of the objectives of the now five year old facility is to become certified in the Audubon Sanctuary Program. "Adobe Creek, which travels through the course is a steelhead restoration area," said Peterson. With the assistance of the high school located across the street, the creek is stocked and monitored on a regular basis. "This is a very important project as the steelhead populations in our rivers continues to dwindle. This along with many other attributes make Adobe Creek a natural for the Audubon program.

A three year member of the GCSANC, Peterson is currently involved in the Turf Program at Penn State through the internet's world campus. "With the rapid regulatory and technological changes, I believe continuing education is vital for all superintendents," commented Peterson. When asked what's in store for the future Peterson responded, "I hope to be involved on a GCSANC committee, or hold an office."

Fall Is For Football, Baseball and The Institute

For me, one of the earliest signs that summer is winding down is when the annual debate begins over which set of in-laws is hosting Thanksgiving dinner. It's almost like riding shotgun from those teenage years, the earlier you "call it" the better the chance you have of obtaining the rights. I became even more certain that fall was around the corner when last week my wife commented "maybe we should think about buying this for your sister for Christmas." Let's face it, comments like that are usually always reserved for the dog days of summer. There are other signs that indicate summer is waning. Back to school adds, pennant races and exhibition football just to name a few. The closing of one season means the start of a new one. Soon our attention will drift to thoughts of the holidays, the World Series and not be forgotten the GCSAA's Golf Course Institute.

This year's event, returning to the Cocoanut Grove in Santa Cruz, continues the tradition of first rate education, combined with an afternoon of golf and camaraderie. Scheduled for November 9th and 10th the program theme "Managing Your Way to Success" promises to be informative, packed with practical information geared toward making you a better manager.

The program will feature presentations on leadership styles, communication, time management and conflict resolution. Alex Braun, instructor at Mission College will direct the morning and afternoon sessions and former GCSAA president Bruce Williams, CGCS will fill the before and after lunch time slots.

This year's program will emphasize both individual and group discussion throughout the various sessions. "When we developed the program, the committee felt that group participation was essential to maintain interest levels and maximize the learning experience," said Bob Costa. Our goal was not to develop program content that spent 5.5 hours discussing management theory. We wanted real world situations and practical solutions.

On the lighter side the day and a half conference kicks off with an informal golf event at Santa Cruz's De Laveaga Golf Course, hosted by Superintendent Don Paul. The 12:00 noon shotgun will be followed by the opening of the trade show and reception, featuring Hors d'oeuvres, open bar and back by popular demand, Monday Night Football.

So while you're mired in the agony of deciding whose going where for the holidays, take relief in the fact that your choice for November 9th and 10th is a simple one — Santa Cruz and the Cocoanut Grove.