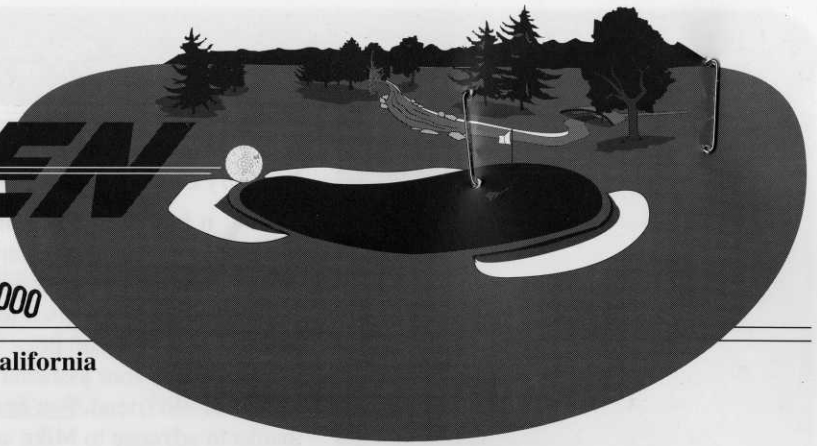


# THRU THE GREEN

July, 2000

JUL - 8 2000



The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California

## Oakmont Golf Club and Mike Clark, CGCS to Host July Meeting

By: Ken Williams, CGCS

The Oakmont golf courses are part of the Oakmont retirement community located in the wine country of Sonoma County. Ted Robinson designed both courses, the West in 1963 and the East in 1973. Ted was chosen because of his experience in land and community master planning. The original developer operated the courses until 1992 when they were sold to 863 resident members and are now semi-private. Mike Clark, CGCS became the Supt. in 1966, after working for prior superintendents, Ed Stocke and Fred Mays.

Mike began in the golf industry at 14, caddying at a 9-hole course where the "greenkeepers" at the time were Ed Stocke and Howard Fisher. After learning the game from Ed and Howard, and seeing how much they loved their work, he made the natural move into the profession. Howard took Mike everywhere to play golf. He even took him to some superintendent meetings when Mike was still a school kid.

Mike's long tenure at Oakmont, 36 years, seems to be the exception today. But when he started in the business, it was the norm. In those days he admired the long tours of duty by Leonard Feliciano at Pebble Beach, Tony Layton at Cypress Point, and Walter Boysen at Sequoyah C.C. Mike is proud of being able to see the development of the Oakmont project to its completion. It was supposed to have been done in 10 years, but actually took 30. As a benefit, Mike enjoyed having each of his three boys work on the course during their high school and

college years. All three graduated from college, but didn't choose a career in golf. "I guess I made them rake too many bunkers," quipped Mike.

Steve Good joined Mike at Oakmont as a partner in 1996. "Steve brought a fresh pair of eyes to the forest that I've been looking at, and his input has been a real benefit to the golf courses." Steve directs the staff and implements the improvement projects at Oakmont. The club just completed a new pro-shop and restaurant complex for the West course. Other projects underway, as funds are available, are converting asphalt paths to concrete, returning bunkers to original shapes, the never ending drainage installations, and sanding of the fairways to improve winter playing conditions. "I say as funds are available, because we don't assess members any money. We are a 'for profit club' and operate on our income only." This is consistent with a club made up of 100% retired members. The courses are open 7 days a week and have 140,000 rounds played on them annually.

The meeting topic of "Poa" fits in well at Oakmont as both courses are predominately Poa annua. The golf courses were originally built to promote home sales and not really maintained in a way to fight Poa, so Poa had a relatively easy time of invasion. Mike says he spends time during each hot spell trying to convince his Poa it really wants to live, not die.

Mike and Steve look forward to your visit in July. If you don't stay to play golf you can still enjoy your visit. There are a dozen or more wineries to visit just a couple of miles south in Kenwood and Glen Ellen. /

## Permacorp To Sponsor July Meeting at Oakmont

Permacorp™ is proud to be a new member of GCSANC and sponsor for the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting at Oakmont CC. The company has made a major commitment to the golf industry with the recent introduction of its subsurface drainage system, Perma Panel™.

Perma Panels are rigid polyethylene panel devices that collect and carry off drainage water, designed by Karl Adamson, a construction engineer, of Grass Valley, California. It was Karl's objective to design a product that would be easier to install and not disrupt the surrounding environment as required by rock and pipe collection systems, while at the same time improving efficiency.

The product **separates the functions of intake and discharge of the collected drainage waters** by using a process called twin sheet vacuum forming. This allows all collected

drainage water to be channeled to a desired collection/discharge area. Additionally, the slot size, and ability to flush a Perma Panel system, **eliminates the need for any geotextile filter fabrics.** Soil fines collected by Perma Panels are typically washed out with the drainage water or may be flushed periodically by incorporating a cleanout at any point in the system.

Perma Panels come in two sizes. The three-inch discharge panel (P-3000) is six inches high and is capable of discharging up to 80 GPM. The four-inch discharge panel (P-4000) is seven inches high and capable of discharging approximately 170 GPM or more.

The benefits of the product include: Less than half the installation cost of a typical rock and pipe drainage system—labor, equipment costs are lower and uses 1/6<sup>th</sup> the backfill media as rock and pipe; easy installation using a walk behind trencher; the compact design allows for a shallow

See Permacorp continued on page 4