

1932-2007

Northern California Golf Course Superintendents Association

"To Make More Abundant the Pleasures of Golfing"

PRESIDENT
ELMER BORDEN
CLAREMONT GOLF CLUB
VICE-PRESIDENT
JOE GUISTO
LAKE CHARLT GOLF COURSE
SECRETARY-TREASURER
TED DE VATA
805 1034 - WILLIMAR, CALIF.
GREEN HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

DIRECTORS
LOUIS GALLETTI
CLAREMONT GOLF CLUB
WILLIAM SOUSA
ALHAMBRA NATIONAL GOLF COURSE
STANLEY PITCHER
SAN MATEO MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE
JOHN DA DALY
BURLINGAME GOLF CLUB

REPORT OF 1948

The year of 1948 got off to a good start when our president proposed a membership drive. A letter stating the purpose of our organization was drafted and sent to every Greens Committee Chairman, urging them to influence the Golf Course Superintendent to join our association. This drive resulted in attaining 14 new members, thus boosting membership to 71. Of 35 are senior members, 34 associate members, and 2 honorary members.

Our monthly meetings were well attended, and were made very attractive and instructive by educational talks given by invited guest speakers. At one of our meetings Professor Harry Shepherd, professor of landscape design at the University of California, gave a very informative talk on golf course maintenance.

At a joint meeting sponsored by the Northern California Golf Association, we were honored by the presence of Marvin Ferguson, assistant director of the United States Golf Association, Green Section; O. J. Moir, of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission and member of the U. S. O. A. Greens Section; and A. L. Brandon, Secretary-Treasurer of the National Greenkeeping Superintendents Association.

THE NEW LOOK. For better turf and better golfing pleasure the Northern California Golf Course Superintendents Association started a movement to initiate turf culture and research work at the University of California. The moral and financial support of the Northern California Golf Association has been assured, also the whole-hearted support of the United States Golf Association, Greens Section. E. W. Van Gorder, Superintendent of the Stanford Golf Club, Stanford University, and chairman of the turf research program is doing a fine job in promoting this project. The Dean of Agriculture at the University of California has been approached regarding our objective; their desire to be helpful to turf growers has been assured. Turf experimental plots have been started in Southern California, and our efforts to establish them in Northern California will be carried on. The Association is especially grateful for Mr. Van Gorder's untiring effort to expedite this project.

OUR OBJECT: The Collection, Preservation and Dissemination of Scientific and Practical Knowledge, and to Promote the Efficient and Economical Maintenance of Golf Courses

Northern California Golf Course Superintendents Association

"To Make More Abundant the Pleasures of Golfing"

PRESIDENT
ELMER BORDEN
CLAREMONT GOLF CLUB
VICE-PRESIDENT
JOE GUISTO
LAKE CHARLT GOLF COURSE
SECRETARY-TREASURER
TED DE VATA
805 1034 - WILLIMAR, CALIF.
GREEN HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

DIRECTORS
LOUIS GALLETTI
CLAREMONT GOLF CLUB
WILLIAM SOUSA
ALHAMBRA NATIONAL GOLF COURSE
STANLEY PITCHER
SAN MATEO MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE
JOHN DA DALY
BURLINGAME GOLF CLUB

During the past year we have been affiliated with the California Horticultural Council; they are very much concerned regarding our program and have been very helpful.

The By-Laws of the Association have been revised. The name of the Association has been changed to the Northern California Golf Course Superintendents Association; thereby bettering the professional standing of the greenskeeper.

Our first equipment field day show was held at the Lake Merced Golf Club, San Francisco. Various commercial firms exhibited and demonstrated golf course equipment. The show and the lunch furnished by the exhibitors was enjoyed by a large attendance.

In honor of his 40 years service as greenskeeper, the Association held a Louis Galletti Day. Louis, Superintendent of the Claremont golf course in Oakland, spoke of his past experience in golf course maintenance. He received many verbal pats on the back for his fine accomplishments.

In August, a barbecue was held at the San Jose Country Club for members and their families. More than 50 attended this grand affair.

Thirty-four members attended the Christmas party held December 14 at Simpsons, San Francisco. A de luxe luncheon was served and the exchange of gifts brought many laughs.

At our January meeting we were visited by a delegation from Southern California, William Bereaford, president of the Southern California Golf Course Superintendents Association; Bob Adams, Gomer Sims, and Walter Langdon committee men for the National Turf Conference and show to be held February 8, 9, 10, and 11 at Los Angeles; Bill Rogers, charter member and first president of the Northern California Greenskeepers Association. They urged us to support the National Conference and they highlighted on the educational program, exhibits and demonstrations that will take place. All gave very fine talks and were on there feet many times during the meeting. Sixteen of the members present promised to attend the Conference.

OUR OBJECT: The Collection, Preservation and Dissemination of Scientific and Practical Knowledge, and to Promote the Efficient and Economical Maintenance of Golf Courses

H. V. CARTER COMPANY, INC.

FARM, GARDEN, GOLF COURSE AND AIR-FIELD EQUIPMENT
52 BEALE STREET, SAN FRANCISCO 5, CALIFORNIA • SUTTER 1-0562

6 THE SACRAMENTO UNION

Tuesday, April 20, 1954

IT SAYS HERE

★ By BILL CONLIN ★
Sports Editor, The Union



NEW MOWER WILL CUT GOLF SCORES

Say what you will about golf, it is a sport that doesn't stand still.

Yesterday, two of the game's older heads were hailing with infectious enthusiasm an invention which may be the greatest boon to low scoring since steel-shafted clubs.

Frank Minch, the Del Paso professional, and Mike McDonagh, keeper of the best greens in California, stood around the ninth hole at Haggins Oaks and marveled over a newfangled lawnmower.

"It can't entirely eliminate the grain in greens," said McDonagh, "but it almost will. It's the finest machine I ever saw to maintain grass the way you like it."

Said Minch, "I've watched this new machine for a month and it takes the most universal factor out of putting. It provides an even roll and minimizes the factor of the grain. Every golfer—star and duffer alike—can now step up and putt with more confidence. Do you know what that means?"

Ofhand, we'd say that if confidence can be restored to a lot of faint-hearted putters—a state of mind that befalls every golfer on occasion—then it can only mean that golf scores are going to average out at a lower figure.

The new lawnmower is a patented gimmick called the Verticut. It is not an independent operation in itself; it supplements the regular green-cutters.

McDonagh thinks that under Sacramento climatic conditions the Verticut (cost \$870 and worth \$2,000) should be used about 11 or 12 times a year.

The Verticut works something on the principle of the electric shaver. It whacks down on the blades of grass, eliminates a lot of foliage, and by so doing destroys what golfers so frequently call the god-damned grain. When they don't say worse.

After the Verticut machine is rolled over a green, the regular power mower is immediately used. The result of the twin operation is a velvet-smooth surface which Minch and McDonagh claim is as true as a billiard table.

"Certainly it provides the best putting surface I've ever seen," said Minch. And McDonagh said, "Amen."

If a lawnmower can restore putting confidence to dubs, and enable them to step up and address their ball with resolute ease, its advantages are obvious.

But Minch insists that the game's best players will be equally affected and perhaps more so.

"Fellows like Snellie Quick and Lloyd Mangrum," said Minch, "used to come to town and blast us on our greens. Obviously they won't be able to do this anymore, because this new Verticut deal will tend to make all greens uniform. The grain will be removed. I don't mean that putting will be easy. You'll still have uphill and downhill putts, but you won't have to worry about the grain of the grass."

Could the new cutter mean a general lowering in scores?

"It will do just that," answered Minch. "After all, one reason golf scores are lower today than they were 30 years ago is because modern greens are superior. Here is a machine that will make them even better."

Hail the new Verticut Lawnmower! It may take its place with the game's other technological developments such as the gutta percha cover, the caddy cart and the 19th hole electric toolbox.

The above refers to our "VERTI-CUT"

\$345. - We'll gladly demonstrate

Board Room Briefs

The Board of Directors met at Mira Vista Country Club on March 13th.

Superintendent/Pro tournament set for the Meadow Club.

Dr. Frank Wong was a guest at the meeting. He gave us an update on the work that he is doing and then the board voted on donating \$4000 to help with the continuation of his research.

Discussion was held regarding the location and format for the Institute. Details to follow.

A committee has been formed to plan events for the GCSANC's 75th anniversary. They will be meeting in April to begin planning an event that is scheduled for October.