

# Sod For A Mobile Home

In 1971, there were approximately one million American families living in mobile homes. That figure has already increased immeasurably in 1972 and will continue to go up as more mobile home parks are established and coaches themselves continue to incorporate the spaciousness, convenience and luxury features found in the most affluent of homes.

Mobile home park is really a misnomer, for most people who purchase coaches today see them as permanent homes in a permanent locale. In fact, the "move" factor with mobile homes is less than with conventional housing.

One reason for this: the extensive facilities that are being offered by mobile home park developers. A prime example is Pacific Western Mobile Estates, Inc., a newly opened mobile home community in San Jose.

It is an extensive 72 acre complex, located off Highway 17 at Trimble and Oakland Roads in North San Jose. Really, it is two mobile home parks in one. There are a total of 618 lots, 370 in one are for adults and 248 in another area for families.

Facilities, centered in two clubhouses, include an indoor hydrotherapy pool, saunas, laundrettes, hobby, exercise and billiard rooms, lounges, and large community rooms with adjoining kitchens for the use of all residents.

Outdoor recreation is enhanced by two swimming pools at each recreation center; shuffleboard, tennis,

badminton and volleyball courts, and a 9-hole putting green.

A natural environment is of paramount importance in the planning of a Pacific Western Mobile Home Estates community. It is most obvious in the changes taking place at the San Jose park, as a once bare area is being turned into lush green expanses of lawn, creating a park-like setting throughout the mobile community.

The landscaping itself is being done by Town and Country Landscaping and Supply Company in Los Gatos and it can be called "instant" landscaping in every sense of the word.

Since the mobile home community is already open, Pacific Western specified that the landscaping be completed as soon as possible. To those who are witness to what is taking place, it is almost a miracle to see what "instant" landscaping is all about.

Much of the miracle is being created by Nunes Turfgrass. Town and Country estimates that 50,000 square feet of sod, or nearly two acres, all from Nunes Turfgrass Nurseries in Patterson, will ultimately be used in its landscaping program for Pacific Western, much of it in the area surrounding the man-made lake at the entrance to the mobile home community and the recreation/clubhouse areas that form the nucleus for both the adult and family section.

The entry to a Pacific Western mobile home community has become a trademark for the rapidly-expanding company, a division of the Hallmark Group Companies, Inc. A landscaped avenue marked by an expanse of green lawn on both sides, leads toward the recreation center accented by a graceful fountain illuminated at night with multicolored lights.

During the past few weeks, residents at Pacific Western have seen the expanse of lawn actually become a reality in a matter of hours.

The sod, or instant grass, comes to Pacific Western from Nunes turf growing grounds in Patterson, headquarters for the largest turf-producing company in California.

Town and Country actually places the order for the sod that will be needed for each installation the day before actual delivery. The sod itself is cut the morning of the delivery day.

A Nunes Sod Harvester cuts the sod in precise strips 6 feet long and 18" wide. It lifts the sod from the ground, rolls each strip compactly for delivery to pallets that are then placed on the delivery trucks. Once it arrives in San Jose, the forklift truck unloads each pallet as it is needed by the workmen.

Installing sod is much like installing tiles. Each strip fits end to end, and like tile or carpeting, the sod can be cut to curve around concrete



Completed recreation center lawn increases the appeal of the mobile home complex instantly. It takes a crew of three men, working seven hours, to put down approximately 7500 square feet of sod a day.

# Estate

patios or circle statuary.

In addition to the installation of Nunes Turfgrass throughout the park, Town and Country is incorporating over 1300 trees into the overall plan for Pacific Western, including the planting of several dozen mature olive and palm trees around the two clubhouses and recreation centers.

John Anderson of Town and Country no longer uses seed in his landscaping programs, especially like the one at Pacific Western," he says. A three-man crew, working seven hours, can turn bare dirt into a lush green lawn covering approximately 7500 square feet in just one day. Sod gives a completed look to a new area, a factor of prime importance in an area that is seen by the public daily.

To seed the extensive areas at Pacific Western now being covered with sod would not only take much longer, it would require crews on constant duty to water, fertilize, weed until the lawn is established months later. Nunes Turfgrass is giving to Pacific Western in two weeks what it would take nine months to achieve with seed.

More importantly, it is giving a permanent and established look to a brand new community and also will give immediate use of greenbelt areas to residents. This points up the most dramatic use of turfgrass, and why more and more private individuals as well as commercial firms are turning to sod.



Workmen from Town and Country Landscaping and Supply Company of Los Gatos unroll strips of sod. The bare dirt yard in front of the recreation center at Pacific Western Mobile Estates complex is quickly transformed into lush green grass.



Strips of sod are rolled down end to end to create an "instant" lawn. In a few short hours a bare area can become a site of beauty.



This Nunes sod harvester can cut, lift, roll or slab and palletize more than 1000 square yards of sod per hour.