

San Jose, California
March 16th 1936

President of the P. G. A.

Dear Sir:

Arriving here last evening, I was well set to take up my schedule in this district first thing this morning, when I drove to the San Jose Country Club at the request of P.G.A. member Ed Duino. There I met the local greenkeeper, who is president of the northern California Greenkeepers' Association, George Santana, a very capable man.

Before we started our inspection I had a fine talk with the president of the club, J. Roderick and three members of the Green Committee, Geo. D. Gilman, C. Pomeroy and E.L. Bronson, all of whom had turned out to meet me. I was able to give them an outline of the motives of the P.G.A. in extending the service. All of these accompanied me until the inspection of the course was completed at about one-thirty, and after we had started we were joined by a half dozen other officials, who followed every comment with unusual attention.

Chief of their problems was the first green, a comparatively new one, which was sloped too much and consequently difficult to hold from above the cup. I gave directions for a proper reconstruction.

I also gave them full directions for the building of an entirely new green for the 140 yards fourteenth and rearrangements of the seventh, eighth, eleventh, twelfth, fifteenth and sixteenth. All of these greens were of antiquated types with sharply sloped banks.

at Los Gatos,

Later in the afternoon I went to La Rinconada Country Club, at the request of P.G.A. member Philip Jefferson. There is also another P.G.A. member at this club, Bert Le Fevre. Here I met also the president of the club, W.C. Sprague, who was most thorough in showing the construction of their putting green turf, which in many instances presents nothing but Chewings Fescue, and in others a combination of this Fescue with Seaside bent. This latter combination they regret and adhere staunchly to the solid Fescue. Those greens are entirely different from any others I have investigated in California. The soil is sandy clay with hard-pan bottom, but in constructing the greens Jefferson wisely introduced an equal amount of sharp sand with the native soil. I was much interested in observing and investigating a dressing of apricot meal, which they claim is very effective. It is a by-product of ground apricot kernels, after crushing to extract the oil.

But one hole on this entire course shows any sand-traps whatever, three showing on the right of the ninth.

Very truly yours

A. W. Tillinghast.

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