

DeLaveaga Has Short History

The new 6,070 yard par 72 DeLaveaga Golf Course has a brief and colorful history.

The course was designed by Bert Stamps of Cameron Park and constructed by Homer Flint from Sacramento. The two have constructed more than 100 golf courses throughout the United States, and South America.

Some of the better known courses the two have built include Spyglass Hill in Pebble Beach, Incline Village at Lake Tahoe, Silverado Country Club near Napā, Monokai Beach Hotel in Hawaii, Sam Snead All American Golf Course, the Tropicana, Star Dust and TallyHo golf courses in Las Vegas.

A non-profit corporation operates the facility under a special charter provision of the City of Santa Cruz. The corporation, that includes former state Amateur Champion, Eli Bariteau, was formed under state laws to provide assistance to the city by constructing the course.

Activities of the corporation are limited by the non-profit corporation law. It may receive no gains, profits or dividends from the course and at the time the bonds for the facility are retired its total ownership will revert to the City of Santa Cruz.

Other members of the corporation, headed by President Al Tosta, are Tony Foster, Tom Butler and Warren Cottrell.

Funds to operate the course are derived from green fees, the pro shop and restaurant sales. At no time will taxpayer funds be used to either finance or operate the course.

The site of the course was basically laid out by mother nature, who allowed enough room between the rows of trees to place most of the green rolling fairways.

Play began on the scenic course on June 1, 1970.

At that time, the Santa Cruz City Council appointed a Golf Committee whose responsibility it was to recommend and advise on operating procedures relating to the golf course operation. The committee was also responsible for the recruitment and recommendation of both the head golf professional and the restaurant concessionaire for the course.

The job of recruiting a head golf professional wasn't an easy task for the committee.

In cooperation with the Professional Golfers' Association, some 350 applications were sent to golf professionals throughout the western United States.

A total of 70 completed applications were returned and after extensive review and screening the field was reduced to 13 applicants.

The 13 figure was whittled down to the top three for screening by the Santa Cruz City Manager and Mr. Ernest Wicklund, City Council Liaison to the golf course committee for further study.

Based on the entire recruitment procedure, it was the unanimous recommendation of the golf course committee, the City Manager and Wicklund, that Gary Loustalot of Fresno be appointed as the first head professional of DeLaveaga Golf Course.

Since 1966, Loustalot served as head golf professional at the

University-Sequoia Sunnyside golf club in Fresno. Prior to that, he was the associate professional for his father, Ed Loustalot, at Valley High Country Club in Sacramento.

The golf clubhouse is a five-sided, two-story structure which houses the pro shop, restaurant, snack bar and cocktail lounge.

Ellsworth, Lance and John Bei, all of Santa Cruz, were

approved and appointed as concessionaires of the snack bar and cocktail lounge by the golf committee around the same time Loustalot was named.

Joining the partnership was George Vomvolakis, also a local Santa Cruzan who had for a number of years worked for the Pacific Telephone Company.

John Bei was the head chef at Facelli's Restaurant where he

worked for nine years. Ellsworth and Lance Bei were the owners and operators of Bei's cocktail lounge in Santa Cruz.

The most outstanding hole at DeLaveaga is the tenth. It's a 584 yard dog-legs to the left about 35 degrees, with a large canyon that must be crossed between three and 400 yards down the fairway. The hole is known as "The Monster"

because so many good scores have been chewed up by the canyon and its trees.

Across the canyon is a narrow opening guarded by two trees before the hole again widens to a reasonable length. The final 200 yards goes uphill.

DeLaveaga will offer a challenge to all professionals and amateurs playing in this year's California State Open Championships.

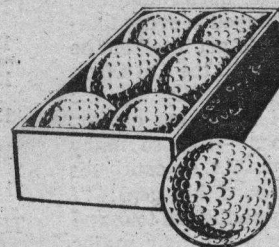
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