

# SMITH RANCH HOMES

## The Site

The 37-acre campus of Smith Ranch Homes is nestled on the north side of the ridge above Smith Ranch Road and borders Silveira Ranch. There is no evidence of development here prior to 1938 when the Smith family leased the area to the Marin Rod and Gun Club for a skeet and trap shooting range.

By the end of 1955, plans were underway to develop a recreation center at the site, and the lease to the Marin Rod and Gun Club was not renewed. The Las Gallinas Golf School and Driving Range and the Las Gallinas Aquatic Club, under different managements, opened in the summer of 1956.

A 9-hole, par 3 golf course was added and opened in the spring of 1958. It was remembered as a great place to learn golf, but you had to stay alert for stray balls on the course and parking lot.

By the late 1970s, the Aquatic Club was renamed Las Gallinas Fitness Center & Swim Club. It had two pools, a clubhouse, fitness center, playground and barbeque area.

Both facilities were closed in 1985 when plans were approved to build a retirement community on the site. Golf balls resurfaced for many years where the driving range had been located.



Marin Rod and Gun Club Skeet & Trap Range are visible within the red circled area in this 1952 aerial image. Courtesy of UCSB Library Geospatial Collection.



Las Gallinas Golf Course & Driving Range and the Las Gallinas Aquatic Club are visible within the red circled area in this 1967 aerial image. Courtesy of UCSB Library Geospatial Collection.

### Gun Club Opens Up New Skeet Field On Sunday

● WITH A LONG list of the finest skeet shooters in this region streaming in, the Marin Rod and Gun Club anticipates a record crowd at the opening shoot at the new skeet field which will be held Sunday. Starting at 9 in the morning, the all-day event will introduce to sportsmen and women of Marin county the popular streamlined style of trap shooting which is gaining widespread interest in this country.

**MANY FINE PRIZES**

"Every class skeeter will have an opportunity to compete with shooters in his own class," Gordon Dixon explained. "Prizes in novice, ladies, juvenile and for members only as well as awards for professional and high guns of the entire field will draw sports enthusiasts from the entire region, we are confident."

Arrangements to have guns and ammunition available for those who have never tried this sport have been made and plans include spectator areas, rest rooms, lunch and soft drink stands which will provide participants and spectators alike with every comfort while attending the opening shoot.

The field is located just east of the Redwood highway about four miles north of San Rafael and will be well posted to direct those who plan to attend.

Mill Valley Record, October 7, 1938

A new golf range is sought on the site of the former skeet range of the Marin Rod and Gun Club north of San Rafael.

Victor Carrara, operator of Victor's Super Market in San Francisco, is seeking a use permit to operate golf driving, pitching and putting ranges, archery ranges, badminton and tennis courts, a swimming pool, trout fishing pool, barbecue, open area dining areas and related recreational uses. The site is located on the Smith Bros. Ranch on the east side of Highway 101 about 400 yards north of the Lucas Valley road.

The Marin County Planning Commission has set 2 p.m. Monday as the time for public hearing on Carrara's request.

Independent Journal, March 1956

### GRAND OPENING Las Gallinas Golf School & Driving Range

Enjoy complete relaxation at Vic Carrara's picturesque driving range. No other range has been so thoughtfully planned and expertly engineered to give the golfer the utmost satisfaction. In this quiet, pleasant setting you will find the perfect conditions for both healthful exercise and undisturbed concentration on your game.

**John Perelli**  
nationally known PGA pro  
AVAILABLE FOR LESSONS

- ALL NEW EQUIPMENT
- AUTOMATIC TEES
- IRON PRACTICE MATS

WALLETS	40¢
WALLETS	60¢
WALLETS	75¢
WALLETS	\$1.00

ASK ABOUT SPECIAL CLASS LESSONS FOR JUNIORS & ADULTS

Open 7 Days A Week 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DIRECTIONS: 3 MILES NORTH OF SAN RAFAEL. TURN RIGHT AT NICASIO SIGN BY LE CHATEAU AND FOLLOW SIGNS... FOR INFORMATION CALL GL 3-4731.

Independent Journal, July 1956

**OPEN YEAR AROUND**  
**Las Gallinas Swim & Recreation Club**

**BEST OF SUMMER MONTHS AHEAD**  
Rates By Family Size  
Family of 4 \$175 per year

- Swimming & Diving Lessons for Children & Adults SESSIONS ARE AVAILABLE
- Synchronized Swim (Instructor: S. F. Merionette)
- Aqua-Slimastics (water exercise) SESSIONS ARE AVAILABLE

**4480 Redwood Hwy., San Rafael** (NEAR LAS GALLINAS GOLF COURSE)  
**CALL 479-8554 - Mary Caverly, For Information**

Novato Advance, July 24, 1974

LEARN TO *Swim* at the **Las Gallinas Aquatic Club**  
Children and Adult Classes  
Under direction of **LYLE COLLET & BERT GUSTAFSON**  
For information call **GLenwood 4-0454**  
Daily 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Located 3 miles north of San Rafael on east side of Hwy. 101 at Nicasio underpass in back of Le Chateau restaurant

Mill Valley Record, June 20, 1957

THE ODDS against making a hole-in-one are staggering, but it doesn't seem so difficult at the Las Gallinas Golf Course north of San Rafael.

Owner Victor Carrara and Pro Bob Silva were talking aces the other day and figured that eight holes-in-one have been made on the par 27 nine-hole course since it opened last October.

Independent Journal, June 5, 1959