Cost of developing a new 18-hole facility, including land and clubhouse could easily exceed $3 million. Annual course maintenance costs may range from $85,000 to $200,000 or more. They have tripled in many areas during the past two decades.

It is no secret that there are many golf courses in a for-sale status in various sections of the nation. While this may have happened because of decreasing and shifting populations in certain regions, some may have been doomed for failure prior to opening. Much time and money can be saved by determining the project’s feasibility for the area concerned.

How many golf courses will be built in the 80s? That’s a tough question!

- New courses will always somehow be built where they are needed;
- Golf-oriented resorts and real estate developments will continue to play a major role in new construction;
- The trend of private and public sectors working together in the development of needed facilities for their respective communities seems on the increase;
- Successful existing golf courses will continue expansion programs as they have through the years.

My guess is that the 80s will average from 125 to 200 course openings per year.

A record high of 16 million people are now actually playing golf in the nation. They are also playing more rounds of golf than ever before.

There are more player development programs in action throughout the country than ever before. New junior golf promotion ideas are constantly being initiated. The PGA of America is sponsoring excellent junior golf programs. The NGF has long been involved in developing junior golf play.

The PGA TOUR recently committed $200,000 for the construction of a short course and training center for youngsters between the ages of 6 and 12 at Walt Disney World at Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Says TOUR Commissioner Deane Beman, “Our real need is to expose youngsters to the game who have never swung a club or seen a tournament.”

We of the Foundation feel golf is prepared for whatever the 1980s may bring. NGF has the finest staff ever. NGF is ready to provide assistance in facility development, course management and operation, player development — in fact, in almost anything that will help this great Game of a Lifetime to grow!

THREE NEW HERBICIDES FOR WEED CONTROL

Sencor 50% Wettable Powder is recommended for use only on established areas of bermudagrass turf on golf course fairways and commercial sod farms. This product when applied to dormant bermuda prior to initiation of weed growth, will control the following broadleaf weeds: common chickweed, corn speedwell, henbit, parsley-piert, and spurweed.

Basagran is used for the control of yellow nutsedge in established ornamental turf. In Florida, this includes bermudas, bahia and centipede. Basagran is to be applied as a post-emergence to yellow nutsedge when growing actively. It may be repeated at 10-14 day intervals.

Asulox is labeled for use on Tifway 419, Bermudagrass and St. Augustinegrass only. It may be applied only to fairways and roughs on golf courses. Applied as a postemergence once per season, it will control Bullgrass (Paspalum supinum), Crabgrass (Digitaria sp.), Goosegrass (Eleusine indica), and Sandbur (Cenchrus sp.).