Safe holidays wished for all

My recent November travels took me once again to Southern California where I found the norm for that part of the country... beautiful weather, nice people, good business climate and, it seems, more cars than people. It took me 45 minutes to plod 20 blocks along Whistle Blvd. one afternoon.

I did have the pleasure of visiting a magnificent new facility in the Westlake/Thousand Oaks area. Sherwood Country Club (so named because the area was the locale for the original Robin Hood movie) has been carved out of mountains and cavers that are spectacular in this part of the country.

It took millions of dollars to develop this property before the first fairway was graded. David Murdock and company have created a premier property. Many of the property's ancient oaks were transplanted to make way for the course, which is another Nicklaus sensatio.

I noticed many huge oaks that were wired for stabilization after being moved. Bushing crooks wind throughout the course creating monumental hazards for the average player... Murdock and company have observed the new standard for golf course real estate development; that is, investing tens of millions of dollars in the course, clubhouse, etc. before recognizing the first superstard. Rickie Fowler and his staff did a great job in preparing the course on short notice for the Ronald McDonald Children's Charities Tournament, which was played just prior to Thanksgiving. My short visit was during the pro-am event on Wed-

As Golf Course News winds up its first year of publication, I simply want to thank our readers and advertising clients for the overwhelming response to our new publication.

To you and all those who have contributed to our initial success, have a safe, peaceful and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Charles E. von Brecht
Publisher