By Mark Leslie

Don Martinez imagined his homemade invention might see the light of day outside Silverado Country Club in Napa, Calif., where he was mechanic and assistant superintendent. But did he believe it would be standard equipment on machines that the United States to Europe?

Now, thanks to Bob Holland of B.H. Sales in Santa Rosa, Calif., Martinez's hydraulic oil-leak detection device is part of all new Toro Co. 5100 Series triplex mowers, and it is available to be adapted to mowers already in the field.

The result could save golf course crews from "disasters," superintendents say.

Frank Albino, superintendent at Lafayette Country Club in Jamesville, N.Y., said if the unit stops one leak it will pay for itself.

"I wish he had had it on one of his triplex mowers last fall when a hose sprung a leak and, by the time the operator noticed it, 2,000 square feet of bentgrass was destroyed on one green.

"It can be a big disaster," said Albino, who resolded the green. "You put a green out of commission, have to repair it and get it back to the shape it was in. It can take a long time."

"I've seen entire fairways striped up and down with oil," he said. "What you would do in that case depends on what type of fairway you have. Some guys might resod. Others might lay in some sand and go on with it.

"There are all types of products out to minimize the damage somewhat, but once that hot oil hits the grass there's not much you can do."

Sohan Singh, superintendent at Diablo Valley Country Club in San Ramon, Calif., said the same day he installed the Sentinel on a mower he became a believer. The mower

Continued on page 28

GOLF COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY

BOULDER, Colo. — The Business Research Division at the University of Colorado is compiling a "Bibliography of Golf Studies." It is intended to provide a ready source of research references on the business aspects to golf.

It would identify golf information sources by describing studies available on the industry, operations, characteristics of golfers, economic impact of golf, financial performances of golf courses, and the future of the industry and associations.

Contact is Ken Fowler, research assistant, University of Colorado at Boulder, Campus Box 420, Boulder, Colo. 80309-0420; 303-492-8227.

GOOD NEWS FOR PINE TREES

LONGWOOD, Fla. — Dr. Roger Webb believes the pine tree decline in Florida soon may be reversed. The tree pathologist spoke at the recent meeting of the Florida Turfgrass Association at Interlachen Country Club.

Dr. Webb's research indicates that the decline is due to too much salinity from being flushed by ground water high in calcium and magnesium.

His program calls for direct injection of fungicides and micronutrients into the vascular system of the affected tree. The process is expensive, but has shown great promise, he said.

Grounds Training Available

A training manual, videotape and employee handbook comprise the new right-to-know training program that is now available from the Professional Grounds Management Society.

Occupational Safety and Health Association laws mandate that employers compile and maintain information concerning chemicals and hazardous materials in the workplace and to train employees accordingly.

PGMS's training program, available to members and non-members, can be bought in various packages costing from $10 to $295.

JoiL JACKSON AT DISNEY WORLD

Joel Jackson has accepted a position with Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista. Jackson will supervise the grounds of the Disney World Resort Golf Courses.

Bobby Perez has been promoted to golf course superintendent at Islesworth Country Club in Windermere.

GOVERNOR'S LAND NASB HILTON

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — John David Hilton has been named golf course superintendent for the Governor's Land at Two Rivers.

Hilton will oversee construction and opening of the 18-hole golf course designed by architect Tom Fazio.

Hilton previously was course superintendent at the Port America Golf & Country Club in Fort Washington, Md. He also was superintendent at Prestonwood Country Club in Cary, N.C.; Tuckahoe Creek Course at Country Club of Virginia in Richmond; Beau Rivage Golf Course and Cape Fear Country Club, both of Wilmington, N.C.; and Cobb's Glenn Golf Course in Anderson, S.C.

By Peter Blais

Just as in the United States, communication is the biggest problem facing a superintendent working in Japan, according to an American-born superintendent plying his trade in the Far East.

Anytime a superintendent gives instructions to a staff member, even if the two speak the same language, those instructions can be interpreted differently than the superintendent intended, said John Baranski. Baranski is head superintendent at Horai Country Club just inside the clubhouse door. Guests receive a numbered locker key and charge everything through that.

The communication problem is compounded in Baranski's case since his boss, Sohan Singh, superintendent at Diablo Golf Course in Jamesville, N.Y., said if the unit stops one leak it will pay for itself.

"That's a lot different than in the United States to Europe," he said. "We had a typhoon drop 12 inches of rain on the course and we never closed."

"Golf is an all-day event in Japan. Golfers play nine holes, take 40 to 60 minutes for lunch, then finish their round."

"That allows them to send players off the front and back nine. If play behind them is slow, the first golfers off the tee can take an extra couple of beers before making the 2-1/2 to three-hour drive back home."

"They pay at the end of the day," Baranski said. "That's a lot different than in the United States where you pay up front."

"We have two greens per hole. One is planted in zoysia grass for summer play. The other is bentgrass for winter months. Instead of

Continued on page 28

GOLF COURSE NEWS

"I've seen entire fairways striped up and down with oil," he said. "What you would do in that case depends on what type of fairway you have. Some guys might resod. Others might lay in some sand and go on with it."

"There are all types of products out to minimize the damage somewhat, but once that hot oil hits the grass there's not much you can do."

Sohan Singh, superintendent at Diablo Valley Country Club in San Ramon, Calif., said the same day he installed the Sentinel on a mower he became a believer. The mower

Continued on page 28

GOLF COURSE NEWS

"I've seen entire fairways striped up and down with oil," he said. "What you would do in that case depends on what type of fairway you have. Some guys might resod. Others might lay in some sand and go on with it."

"There are all types of products out to minimize the damage somewhat, but once that hot oil hits the grass there's not much you can do."

Sohan Singh, superintendent at Diablo Valley Country Club in San Ramon, Calif., said the same day he installed the Sentinel on a mower he became a believer. The mower

Continued on page 28

GOLF COURSE NEWS

"I've seen entire fairways striped up and down with oil," he said. "What you would do in that case depends on what type of fairway you have. Some guys might resod. Others might lay in some sand and go on with it."

"There are all types of products out to minimize the damage somewhat, but once that hot oil hits the grass there's not much you can do."

Sohan Singh, superintendent at Diablo Valley Country Club in San Ramon, Calif., said the same day he installed the Sentinel on a mower he became a believer. The mower

Continued on page 28

GOLF COURSE NEWS

"I've seen entire fairways striped up and down with oil," he said. "What you would do in that case depends on what type of fairway you have. Some guys might resod. Others might lay in some sand and go on with it."

"There are all types of products out to minimize the damage somewhat, but once that hot oil hits the grass there's not much you can do."

Sohan Singh, superintendent at Diablo Valley Country Club in San Ramon, Calif., said the same day he installed the Sentinel on a mower he became a believer. The mower

Continued on page 28

GOLF COURSE NEWS
California mechanic's oil leak invention hits it big

Sinh explained that his crews oftentimes are mowing before daybreak when it's difficult to see. "Even in daytime often you can't see a leak, especially if it's a minor one," he said.

Lee Scriber, assistant superintendent at Lafayette Country Club, said leaks can easily be mistaken for the mower that are ripping or not cutting correctly.

Holland added that early mowing is often done in fog and with dew on the grass. "Once I saw a course lose 17 greens," he said. Singh said: "In the 20 years I've been here we've probably had a dozen leaks on greens, a couple of times we had to sod quite a few places... Not only is it expensive, but the resodded greens are uneven."

"We've tried everything possible — taken charcoal, washed soap in, used foam, swept it... there's no way to get it out," he said. Holland said crews have followed leaks by verticutting the green and then overseeding. "That's not costly but its not eye-appealing either," he said.

Holland four years ago arranged with Martinez to market the invention. After making some modifications to the unit over the next three years, Holland struck a deal with Toro giving the company exclusive rights to the Greens Sentinel in the new product turf market. Holland retains rights to the "after market," those mowers already in the field.

Toro has 45 distributors in the United States, and officials will talk with European distributors about the Sentinel in April, he said.

Martinez' invention uses a two-chamber tank, whose center chamber has a float in it that allows for the pitch and roll of greens. Hindicates when the oil pump has an air leak on the suction side.

It bolts onto the hydraulic-oil tank or fender and can be modified for use on machines other than Toro's. Holland also expects to tap the market of fishing fleets, road sweepers and the like.

Schmidt

Continued from page 24

green alone."

Schmidt said building Port Ludlow was the ultimate golf course construction job. During the final seeding, they prayed that the fairways and greens would not settle. That would mean destruction of tile and irrigation lines. In two years of moving material, he estimates two million yards of fill were used. Now, almost 20 years later, he says two greens and a fairway are settling.

He stayed at Ludlow as superintendent and director of golf and recreation. The job was expanded to director of golf for Village Resorts' operations in Washington, Utah, Arizona and California. He retains that title as well as that of operations manager at Sun Mountain. He travels to the other courses to oversee the pro shop budgets, sales and policies as well as landscaping and maintenance.

At Sun Mountain, he is responsible for job training, budgets, employee relations, and, he stresses, instilling Village Resorts' "core values": quality, respect and integrity.

"Management should treat employees as it expects the employees to treat the guests," he said.

He looked out from the closed lounge on a deck cantilevered over the valley. Below were hundreds of acres of valley floor, the pristine Methow River ribboning its way across them. Looking at the snow-covered vista, fairly certain that some of it would contain a golf course, Schmidt pondered what he envisioned.

"If," he grimed, "we build a course here, I want it to be a world-class operation — one where word of mouth will draw golfers from all over. Look at this place. It has scenery, serenity. No airplanes, no traffic noise. I want this course to look as though nature, not a construction company, built it. Golf in the Methow on a world-class course would be simply awesome!"

For a PGA pro, GCSCA superintendent, three times Turfgrass Association president and regional GCSCA board member, the challenge seems appropriate.

He's constrained from divulging any information, but in his eyes you could see him thinking, "Let's do it."

Bob Spinack is a freelance writer based in Windthrop, Wash.