Baldwin County, Ala. Ground was broken at TimberCreek in May 1992, and the 18-hole course is scheduled to open in the fall of 1993. "They're taking their time and trying not to rush the construction," Archer said. "It's going to be a great facility and I'm looking forward to getting in on the project early."

When it comes to changing scenery, John Farley doesn't mess around. "I'm going to Guam," he writes. Farley recently left Bidwell Park Golf Course, an 18-hole facility in Chico, Calif., for Guam's Leo Palace Country Club, where he will be assistant superintendent.

Russ Krok replaced Farley as head superintendent at Bidwell Park.

Gary Grigg, a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America board of directors, is now at Naples (Fla.) National Golf Club. Grigg was formerly superintendent at Genoa Lakes Golf Club in Genoa, Nev.

Darren J. Davis has been named superintendent at the Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, Fla., and is a spray technician at Augusta National and Golden Eagle Country Club in Tallahassee. Olde Florida, a Rees Jones design, is scheduled to open for play in mid-1993.

Jim Miller

Meanwhile, Andy Troutner has been named assistant superintendent under Steven Sellon at River's Edge Golf Course in Fayetteville.

Finally, Matt Jones, head super at the new Stone Creek Golf Club in Valdosta, has hired two new assistants, Bryan Griffin and Ivey Dyal.

Drop us a line! — We're not kidding! Golf Course News wants to know where your careers have taken you. If you're changing jobs, send us the details (and maybe a photo) to Golf Course News, P.O. Box 997, Yarmouth, ME 04096.

Palmer Maples

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Over that time, he has seen immense changes in the expertise of superintendents and the tools at their disposal.

He particularly pointed to improved chemicals, an array of much-advanced machinery, and a wide selection of grasses that are more tolerant to drought, heat, cold and wear.

"The education of superintendents has grown a lot," he said. "When I came in in the late '50s, maybe one-third had a college education. Through the '60s and '70s more universities started offering training. Today, maybe four-fifths have an education."

The availability of chemicals, he said, has had the greatest impact "raising the level of maintenance at every course."

"We used to have 2,4-D for weed control. That was all," he said. "But, now you have all the post- and pre-emergent chemicals, and you can just about select any one particular grass you'd like to clean out of another. One of the improvements that brought bentgrass to the South was controlling the diseases."

Advancement of equipment, particularly the riding greensmower, was another breakthrough, Palmer said.

Suddenly, one man could cut all the greens in the time it used to take four men. You could use less men on the course, or use those men for additional maintenance procedures.

"We have many, many more tools at our disposal."

Maples had two suggestions for would-be superintendents:

- Know as much about how the turfgrass plant grows as you can.
- Have patience — with people, with equipment, with the organization you're working for.

"The superintendent has to realize that he's working with nature. He has to grow it. He can't go out, put up 2-by-4s and sheet rock, and paint it. He has to put seed in the ground, have it come up, mow it, treat it tenderly.

"And in due time it will be a good turf to play golf on. For the owner who says, 'Let's get that grass out there now, we want to open now,' you're going to have to have patience."